



Supporting People at Risk measure of Income Management

What is the Supporting People at Risk measure?

Under the Supporting People at Risk (SPAR) measure, a recognised state or territory authority is able to refer people to Centrelink for Income Management.

The Northern Territory Department of Health who is responsible for the Banned Drinker Register is a recognised authority under this measure.

What is the referral process?

The Registrar of the Banned Drinker Register can issue an Income Management order to people who have been placed on a 12 month banned drinker order and who would benefit from being on Income Management. Income Management orders issued by the Registrar will be in place for 12 months.

How does the Supporting People at Risk measure work?

People income managed under SPAR have 70 per cent of their income support and family assistance payments directed towards meeting their basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and utilities. Lump sum payments are 100 per cent income managed.

Income Management does not change how much a person receives. It just changes the way that they receive part of their welfare payments. People participating in Income Management receive the rest of their payments in the usual way.

Income managed funds cannot be spent on alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling.

People can spend their income managed funds by organising direct payments to people and organisations for things like rent, utilities, food or household items, and by using the BasicsCard.

Centrelink meets with people to help them determine how to allocate their income managed funds. Financial Wellbeing and Capability service providers can also help a person to develop budgeting skills and make informed financial choices.

Can I apply for an exemption?

A person can apply to the Banned Drinker Register Registrar for a variation or revocation of an Income Management order. A person can also ask for a review of a decision made by the Registrar through the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

People who disagree with a decision made by Centrelink, can also appeal further (at no cost) to:

- a Centrelink Authorised Review Officer
- the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

More information

To find out more, visit the [Department of Social Services](#) website, [Department of Human Services](#) website or call 1800 132 594 (for customers).

Disclaimer

The information contained in this fact sheet is intended only as a guide. The information is accurate as at June 2019.