Long Term Welfare Payment Recipient and Disengaged Youth measures of Income Management

## What are the Long Term Welfare Payment Recipient and Disengaged Youth measures?

The Long Term and Disengaged Youth measures apply to people who live in the Northern Territory, are on certain welfare payments and have been out of work or study for some time.

## Who is eligible for these measures?

Your payments will be income managed if you live in the Northern Territory, and you're:

* 15 to 24 years of age and have had any of the following payments for three of the last six months:
  + Youth Allowance
  + Newstart Allowance
  + Special Benefit
  + Parenting Payment
* between 25 years of age and pension age and have had any of the following payments for more than 12 of the last 24 months:
  + Youth Allowance
  + Newstart Allowance
  + Special Benefit
  + Parenting Payment

## How do these measures work?

People income managed under these measures have 50 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 welfare 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 get an exemption from Income Management?

You may be able to get an exemption from Income Management for 12 months, unless your circumstances change.

If you don’t have dependent children you can get an exemption if you:

* are a full time student or apprentice
* received less than 25 per cent of your basic rate of payment or the equivalent rate of special benefit for at least four of the last six fortnights
* receive special benefit and
  + is at least 16 years old; and
  + is not a nominated visa holder; and
  + is not the principal carer of a child who is aged under 6 years;

If you have dependent children you can get an exemption if:

* we decide you are financially secure;
* your children’s immunisations are up to date;
* they are participating in age appropriate activities.

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

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

More information

To find out more, visit [Department of Social Services](https://www.dss.gov.au/) website, [Department of Human Services](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/) 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.