



Income Management for Cape York Welfare Reform and Doomadgee

Income Management in Cape York and Doomadgee

The Cape York Welfare Reform aims to address passive dependence on welfare and support people in the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge to resume primary responsibility for the wellbeing of their family and their community. The key aim of the initiative is to ensure that kids are safe, fed and educated.

Income Management forms part of the Cape York Welfare Reform. In 2015 the community of Doomadgee opted into the Income Management model used as part of the Reform.

What is the referral process?

The Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) can refer a person for Income Management for a period of 3 to 12 months.

The FRC will also advise Centrelink how much of a person's payments will be income managed. It can be 60, 75 or 90 per cent of regular fortnightly payments and 100 per cent of any advances and lump sum payments. However, deductions such as Child Support Payments and government debt repayments will be taken out first.

How does Income Management work in these areas?

Income Management will not reduce the total amount of a person's payments from Centrelink. Income Management will only change the way they receive their payments.

The money managed by Centrelink will be used to pay for basic essentials, such as food, clothes, rent, electricity, medicine and basic household goods. The money cannot be spent on alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling. Centrelink will talk to customers to work out the things that will be paid for out of their income managed money.

People living in these communities can also voluntarily apply to the FRC to have their payments income managed.

Can I apply for an exemption?

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

Further information about the FRC can be found on the [Family Responsibilities Commission's website](#).

Disclaimer

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