



Voluntary Income Management

What is Voluntary Income Management?

Voluntary Income Management helps people meet ongoing needs for themselves and their family. Income management works by directing a proportion of certain income support and family assistance payments to priority items such as food, housing, clothing and utilities.

If people receive a relevant income support payment, they can choose to participate in Voluntary Income Management.

How does Voluntary Income Management work?

People who volunteer for income management have 50 per cent of their income support 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.

How do people apply for Voluntary Income Management?

People who want to participate in Voluntary Income Management will need to talk to Centrelink. If a person volunteers, they must participate for at least 13 weeks. After that, they can cease income management at any time.

What is the Voluntary Income Management incentive payment?

People participating in Voluntary Income Management qualify for a \$250 incentive payment for every 26 continuous weeks they remain on this measure. The incentive payment is automatically paid into the person's income management account.

More information

To find out more, visit dss.gov.au, humanservices.gov.au 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 May 2014.