

Cashless Debit Card Trial - Ceduna merchant information

Most merchants won't have to do anything to accept the new cashless debit card. It will look and operate like a regular bank card.

The Australian Government is looking at the best ways to support people, families and communities where a lot of people in a community are on welfare, and alcohol, gambling and drug use are causing harm.

Several communities were asked if they wanted to take part in the trial. On 4 August 2015, Ceduna's community leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government to host the card trial. If legislation for the trial passes in Parliament, then a 12-month trial will start in early 2016.

Community level change

If people already spend their money responsibly, the trial won't really affect them. The new card will help the Government find out if limiting the amount of money which can be spent on alcohol or drugs will reduce harm in the community. The card aims to help people create a better and safer community.

The trial won't change the amount of money a person receives. It will only change the way a person can spend it—80 per cent of welfare payments will be paid onto the card, and 20 per cent will be paid into a person's ordinary bank account.

How will this affect my business?

The new card will look and operate like an ordinary debit card. Most merchants won't need to do anything to accept the card. It will work in all businesses that accept card payments but do not sell alcohol or gambling products. Staff will not require any additional training and there will be no extra paperwork.

People in Ceduna who use the card will have most of their fortnightly welfare payments available to purchase anything other than alcohol or gambling products. That means there should be more money spent on goods and services not related to alcohol or gambling.

Key Points

- People will be able to use the cashless debit card to buy anything, except for alcohol or gambling products.
- If you are a merchant you don't need to do anything differently to accept the card.
- If your business sells alcohol or gambling products as well as other goods, you may still be able to enter into a contract to accept the card.

What if my business sells alcohol and/or gambling products?

If your business sells alcohol and/or gambling products as well as other goods, you may still be able to enter into a contract to accept the card. This will involve agreeing to ensure your customers can't use the card to buy alcohol or gambling products.

If your business only sells alcohol or gambling goods and services, such as poker machines, sports wagering, keno and casino games, you will not be able to take part in the trial.

Where can I find out more?

Contact the Department of Social Services at debitcardtrial@dss.gov.au