

20 July 2018



Good Shepherd

Australia New Zealand

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
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Dear Committee Secretary

Letter of Endorsement: Accountable Income Management Network Submission on the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion) Bill 2018.

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand is pleased to endorse the submission of the Accountable Income Management Network (AIMN), of which we are a member. AIMN is a national group made up of non-government organisations, community groups, researchers and public policy experts.

As a member of AIMN, we have a strong commitment to social justice and human rights and we are deeply concerned about the issues raised by the Cashless Debit Card (CDC) trials, and the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion) Bill 2018. We strongly believe that an expansion of the CDC trials will only serve to further marginalise cohorts of the Australian population who are already experiencing multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage. Indeed, it is our assertion that there is not enough evidence to support this expansion, and that doing so breaches our international human rights obligations. GSANZ is particularly concerned that the expansion of the CDC trials has not addressed many human rights concerns that have been previously raised by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights.

In line with the AIMN submission, we advocate that the CDC trials be immediately abandoned in favour of comprehensive and strengths-based social security support for income support recipients.

Yours sincerely

Stella Avramopoulos
Chief Executive Officer
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

About us: Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand is a community services organisation that aims to disrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage, especially for women and girls. We provide services that address social and economic exclusion and promote policies that reduce poverty, disadvantage and gender inequality. Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand is part of a global network of services and advocates established by the Congregation of the Good Shepherd, with representation at the United Nations as a Non-Government Organisation.

Disrupting the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage for women and girls.