

# WELFARE

## WHAT IS THE MEASURE?

The Social Security Act (Cth) introduces a system of income management for welfare payments including income support, pensions and baby bonus.

Under the system a portion of welfare payments can be set aside and managed by Centrelink in certain situations as follows:

TRIGGER	WHO	WHERE	% OF WELFARE MANAGED
declared NT area	all persons	NT area declared by Minister	50%
lack of school enrolment	parent or carer	school area determined by Minister	100% (or lower amount specified by Minister)
lack of school attendance	parent or carer	school area determined by Minister	100% (or lower amount specified by Minister)
child neglect as specified by a child protection officer	parent or carer	NT	100% (or lower amount specified by Minister)

## WHAT IS A DECLARED NT AREA?

A declared NT area can be:

- Aboriginal land granted under the Land Rights Act (Cth)
- community living areas granted under Lands Acquisition Act (NT)
- town camps declared by the Minister
- Aputula or Kalkarindji
- any other area in the NT declared by the Minister

## WHEN DO THE NEW POWERS START?

18 August 2007

The Australian Government has indicated it will roll out changes community by community. There is a significant amount of money allocated for increased Centrelink staff to administer this system.

## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS?

The trigger for a declared NT area covers everyone without any way out for responsible people.

The triggers for lack of school attendance and child neglect **are not well defined**.

There are no rights of appeal for Aboriginal people in the NT.

## WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Social Security Act 2007 Schedule 1



Central Land  
Council  
Alice Springs