

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