

Policy: Child Protection Measure of Income Management

Policy Purpose

To ensure Case Managers know when it is appropriate to refer individuals for compulsory income management of their income support payments under the Child Protection Measure of Income Management Australian Government initiative.

Policy Statement

By virtue of Section 123UC of the [Social Security \(Administration\) Act 1999](#) (Cth.), Case Managers authorised under the [Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#) (the Act) are able to refer individuals for compulsory income management of their income support payments under the Child Protection Measure of Income Management (CPMIM) initiative.

The Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) between the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government regarding CPMIM clarifies the governance and legal framework for implementation of CPMIM and commits both governments to work in partnership to improve outcomes for children and families through the application of CPMIM across the Northern Territory.

The objectives of CPMIM are to:

- Promote responsibility and strengthen families by ensuring that income support payments are spent on the essentials of life and in the interests of children;
- Direct more money to food, clothes and housing and ensure that less money is spent on alcohol and gambling and other excluded products (e.g. cigarettes) and services;
- Promote personal responsibility, responsible parenting and positive social norms; and
- Enhance financial literacy by helping people to budget and encourage their access to financial management support services.

Case Managers must refer an individual for CPMIM where the individual is the primary carer of a child who is the subject of a substantiated child protection investigation:

- Due to neglect; and
- Where factors of concern include substance abuse, failure to thrive and/or gambling; and
- The Family Risk Assessment has identified that the case should remain open for ongoing child protection casework to address the concerns.

An exemption may be approved by the Executive Director where there is no evidence that the carer's use of their income support payment is contributing to the child protection concerns.

Case Managers may consider an individual for CPMIM where:

- Reunification is planned or occurring with a child who has been placed in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as a result of Carer neglect or as a result of concerns which included substance abuse, failure to thrive and/or gambling. Refer to the topic Case Management of Children in the CEO's Care for further information on planning for reunification and to the [CPMIM Practice Guidelines](#) for more information.
- A young person is transitioning from the care of the CEO and the manner in which the young person is using their income support payment is having a significant detrimental effect on their health, safety or development.

Refer to the [Policy: Leaving and After Care Support for Young People](#) and to the [CPMIM Practice Guidelines](#) leaving care section for further information.

The Team Leader must approve the referral of a carer or young person for CPMIM using the CPMIM Decision Form.

Carers and young people must be fully informed of the decision to refer them for CPMIM and of their rights to seek a review of the decision, and to appeal the review decision. Interpreter services, cultural brokers or Aboriginal workers must be engaged where necessary.

Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Social Security Administration Act 1999 section 123UC](#)

Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice](#)

Authorised by:

Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:	16/03/2015	Active from:	16/03/2015
Version 1.0	To inform Territory Families staff about the Child Protection Measure of Income Management (CPMIM) and the requirement for referring individuals for CPMIM.		

Current Version v1.01 Policy: Child Protection Measure of Income Management

Active from:	6/02/2017	Authorised by:	Director, Policy
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