



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Office of Best Practice Regulation

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Ms Liz Hefren-Webb
Deputy Secretary
Department of Social Services

Dear Ms Hefren-Webb

Regulation Impact Statement – Second Pass Assessment – Cashless Debit Card

Thank you for your letter received on 6 October 2020 submitting a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on the Cashless Debit Card to the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) for formal Second Pass Final Assessment.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of your staff to progress and finalise the RIS.

The OBPR's assessment is that the quality of the regulatory impact analysis in the RIS is adequate to meet the requirements in the *Australian Government Guide to Regulatory Impact Analysis*.

While the OBPR acknowledges the RIS includes early findings from a draft impact evaluation undertaken by the University of Adelaide, the OBPR considers there remains shortcomings in the analysis. The RIS would have benefitted from further depth of analysis to articulate both the costs and benefits of the options, including the likely social, economic and distributional impacts on businesses, individuals and community organisations, including current Cashless Debit Card participants.

That said, the RIS may now be provided to the decision-maker to inform a final decision. To support transparency, the RIS must also be included in the Explanatory Memorandum to legislation giving effect to a decision.

We would appreciate you advising us when a final decision has been announced and forwarding a copy of the RIS in a form meeting the Government's accessibility requirements. The OBPR will publish the RIS, along with your certification and this assessment, on the OBPR's website www.ris.pmc.gov.au.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jason Lange
Executive Director
6 October 2020