



Media Release - February 13, 2018

Cashless Debit Card trial extension will protect vulnerable Australians

GenerationOne, as part of the Minderoo Foundation, today congratulates the Australian Parliament on extending the trial of the cashless debit card to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Tim McDonald, chief executive of Minderoo's GenerationOne initiative, said the decision would create lasting benefits for at-risk communities.

"The Australian Parliament has listened to the communities around Australia that are calling for help to break generational welfare dependence," Mr McDonald said.

"We know the cashless debit card helps to reduce excessive alcohol consumption, drug use and gambling. We thank Parliament for making the tough decisions necessary to empower vulnerable Australians and protect communities dealing with these issues."

GenerationOne works to end the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through sustainable employment – creating real opportunities in education, training, mentoring and the workplace, and removing the obstacles to this achievement.

The legislation will allow the cashless debit card trial in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia and Ceduna in South Australia to be extended to 30 June, 2019 and be rolled out to a third site, the Goldfields region of Western Australia.

"Representatives from GenerationOne are in Canberra this week to back in this parliamentary support. We are meeting with key individuals across the parliamentary divide to discuss the community consultation process, which we consider an important next step," Mr McDonald said.

"We are joined by community members from the Goldfields who are keen to explain why they believe this initiative has the potential to create lasting, positive change for their communities."

GenerationOne looks forward to working collaboratively with all major parties to continue to consult with communities on whether the cashless debit card could work for them. ENDS.

Media contact : Tess Ingram +61 448 922 364 tingram@minderoo.com.au