**From:** J&M Stephen <jmqueries@skymesh.com.au>   
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 August 2019 9:15 AM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019

# **I oppose the Australian government introducing legislation to limit cash payments to $10,000 because this same legislation will allow the government to change that amount to any amount the government wants in the future. So it might be $10,000 to start with but this same legislation allows the government freedom to change the amount to $100 or $10 next time around. The ultimate goal being cashless.**

Going cashless is going to cause businesses and consumers grief as electronic transactions are not 100% foolproof. Just today for instance, my local IGA could not accept EFTPOS because the system was down. So all cashiers would only accept cash payments.

Relying on electronic payments is going to increase unemployment because what happens to places where the internet is not accessible? Even with 5G there will be spots around Australia where electronic transactions cannot be conducted. The reliance on electronic payment by limiting cash payment will affect rural communities that do not have access to the internet and how many times have we all experienced online banking not available due to system maintenance for whatever reasons be it cyberattacks or IT failure.

Restricting the use of cash with the ultimate goal of going cashless will affect the following people the most as one study has found:

* Those who live in the country where poor internet connectivity could stop payments.
* Poor people who rely on cash to ensure that they budget properly.
* Anyone in an abusive relationship who may lose financial independence without access to cash.
* People with physical or mental health problems who find using digital services difficult.

Sincerely,

Mary Stephen

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