

To: The Reserve Bank of Australia
The Manager,
Payments Clearing Section,
c/- Box 3947 GPO
Sydney, NSW 2001

To whom it may concern,

As an individual living in a rural centre, a member and current and past Treasurer of a number of Not-for-Profit organizations in Armidale NSW, I am concerned and alarmed that there is consideration being given to the phasing out of cheques as a form of payment.

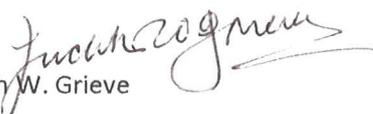
I read with interest that a very small study of 1200 households conducted in 2010 has indicated a decrease in the use of cash and cheques. I do not believe that this decline would be evident in many country towns if such a survey were carried out, nor in a survey of voluntary organizations, nor in any group of 60 to 80 year olds.

The assumption that in 2011, everybody is in possession of a computer and is computer literate and that everyone has a credit card cannot be made. The use of cash and cheques for many individuals is the only form of payment with which they are familiar, the only means by which they are able to conduct their business and their means of keeping track of their finances. In Armidale alone there are many households without computers and people who do not believe that there is a need for them to invest in nor to learn the necessary skills. Many do not trust their finances to credit cards or to direct debit. There is still an important and active portion of the community, certainly in regional areas and I am sure also to be found in metropolitan centres, who have not become part of the technological revolution which has occurred in the last couple of decades. Certainly there is a generation of younger people who have adopted technology as their way of transacting business, but this is less the norm in the older generation and in country areas.

In Not-for-Profit organizations payments by cheque are the only feasible means of transacting business. The backup of two or more to sign cheques is a means of providing security for both treasurer and the organization and cheques provide a reliable means of keeping and verifying correct records. It is difficult enough to find people willing to take on voluntary positions, without requiring special skills and without the system of checks and balances which is provided by business being transacted by cheques.

I believe that a contemplated move to do away with cheques would be detrimental for the above reasons, that it is premature and would have an adverse effect on both individuals and organizations. On behalf of many who would be disadvantaged by such a move, I sincerely hope that the Reserve Bank will respect these concerns,

Yours Sincerely,


Judith W. Grieve

President, Armidale and District Historical Society
Treasurer and Secretary, Dangarsleigh Local Area Group
Secretary, Friends of the Old Teachers' College, Armidale