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Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 2:26 PM
To:
Subject: FW: submission FIFO workers

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From:
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 9:07 AM
To: Committee, Reps (REPS)
Subject: submission FIFO workers

30/3/2012 Susan Chalcraft

Mr Tony Windsor,MP

Chair
Standing Committee on Regional Australia
House of Representatives
PO BOX 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: INQUIRY INTO USE OF FIFO WORKFORCE PRACTICES IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission on FIFO workers. One of the main problems I see is simply that FIFO workers don't come from the areas they are destroying and therefore do not care if they are destroying ancient sacred sites or communities. FIFO workers have no investment in these communities, many of which are very isolated and rely on each other more than the average community in an urban setting.

"Numbers of short-term mining industry workers in the Pilbara region are causing havoc in some communities, leading to fights in overcrowded taverns, public urination and more rubbish on the streets, an inquiry has heard.

The federal parliamentary committee looking into the impact of fly-in, fly-out workers on local communities today held its first WA hearing in Karratha, 1535 kilometres north of Perth.

Point Samson Community Association representative John Graham, who has lived in the Pilbara for 16 years, told the House standing committee on regional Australia that transient workers hired for oil, gas and mining projects were having a detrimental impact.

Many lived in mining camps but were bussed into Point Samson community, 60km from Karratha, on weekends.

"They were falling out of the buses and urinating in public," Mr Graham told the inquiry.

Fights in overcrowded taverns were common, and local women were outnumbered by the men.

"It's changed the whole setting of this area ... women especially don't feel safe walking around," Mr G"

<http://www.facebook.com/1.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.abc.net.au%2Flocal%2Faudio%2F2012%2F03%2F29%2F3466693.htm%3Fsite%3Dkimberley&h=AQGcZfJyLarge>

cases of HIV are on the rise in Western Australia; up from 46 in 2002 to 101 new cases last year. Les says that there isn't enough education about the risks for FIFO workers.

Les says the FIFO lifestyle poses risks when workers party hard on an RDO after working hard. "There's stories roaming around about things

that have happened. And if anyone out there thinks it doesn't they should have a good look at themselves."

He also says the threat extends to the partners of FIFO workers

"They're none the wiser unless their partner comes back with crabs or something. Read more:

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/flyin-flyout-on-its-death-bed-pilbara-study-20090903-f9e8.html#ixzz1qVHIx4Dq>

The report cited family dysfunction, guilt, loneliness, substance abuse, depression and reduced commitment to mining operations as downsides for workers.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/flyin-flyout-on-its-death-bed-pilbara-study-20090903-f9e8.htmlp>

Please consider how remote communities are impacted by drunken, possibly drugged miners, perhaps looking for a bit on the side if they are married or have girlfriends, or maybe just far from home and lonely. In a state like this they probably wouldn't think much about who they got into their bed or the misery of broken marriages and relationships they leave behind in these remote communities where cohesion is so important.

There is also the question of how much damage is done to the environment just by the constant flying in and out of these workers on a constant basis. If Aboriginals had a real say in how their country and culture must be approached; if small communities were able to make the rules on behaviour of the mining companies and their FIFO workers when they come into their towns, instead of being left powerless in the flood of drunken, disrespectful miners, the communities would not be left with a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness. Yours sincerely, Susan Chalcroft

Bad habits expose FIFO workers: disease risk from sex drugs and tattoos
www.abc.net.au

The fly-in fly-out (FIFO) worker inquiry will hear a submission from the Order of Perpetual Indulgence that FIFO workers are at risk from blood-borne diseases being transmitted by unsafe sex, drug use and Asian tattoo parlours.