

Subject: Stronger Futures Legislation

I abhor this legislation that the federal government wants to push through - it seems that the legislation currently in place, already discriminates against Australia's First Peoples - I really think they should be listened to first. It appears that this is for political short-term gain - at least, this is the only way to interpret what you are proposing.

I simply cannot believe that you would try to force something like this on people before they have been given a chance to be properly heard....isn't this where you normally start?

Could you explain the haste? Have you seen the documentary OurGeneration www.ourgeneration.org.au and what is your response to this...? Aboriginal Elders are distraught at the lack of courtesy and respect they are looking for.

Barbara Shaw, a strong opponent of this way of dealing with Aboriginal people, has called on the Australian Human Rights Commission to request that the government withdraw its proposed legislation and instead work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people in the NT. Is this such a hard thing to ask of you?

I leave you with these words that I think speaks volumes. I hope it touches someone enough to reconsider the way you are dealing with this legislation.

WHEN SOMEONE DEEPLY LISTENS TO YOU

When someone deeply listens to you
it is like holding out a dented cup
you've had since childhood
and watching it fill up with
cold, fresh water.....
When it balances on top of the brim,
you are understood.
When it overflows and touches your skin,
you are loved.
When someone deeply listens to you
the room where you stay
starts a new life
and the place where you wrote
your first poem
begins to glow in your mind's eye.
It is as if gold has been discovered.
When someone deeply listens to you
your bare feet are on the earth
and a beloved land that seemed distant
is now at home within you.
~ John Fox

Kind regards,

Rebecca Nash