

Hi,

I vote NO to the new legislation!

I support the civil society support groups and vote for 'Cooperation not Intervention in the NT,' and everywhere else in Australia too. Yes, young people are dying Australia wide, but only because the system to date has failed them.

Worst of all many could have been saved if initial notification of issues or complaints were followed up on properly.

As a graduating educational professional, I do not wish to see any child, woman or even a man violated, abused or discarded as a lost cause, as it is neither humane or long term productive to our society's future.

Personally, I found the original process and intervention in the NT disgusting. Not only was it disempowering for Aboriginal people but racist toward them. There are many communities and Australian people who have not done the right thing by their children in the past (many of which are white Australian's). They did not have to endure this humiliation and autocratic government policy intervention behaviour. If government bodies are incapable of funding, staffing and utilising their current systems in place such as DOC's, our legal, health and court systems in a manner that works, then they need to look at re-directing more of the millions of dollars we send overseas, to look after other countries issues of poverty and inhumane treatment of people, and spend it on our own people and systems that work, first!!!!

Govt. bodies and legal systems that are apparently fair for all Australians' are supposed to be able to administer and oversee issues that the the Intervention processes were brought in to deal with.

Government needs to employ many more honest, caring and non-judgemental people to administer help in struggling communities. Such help only comes via education, mental health, employment opportunities, training, sustainable community development and health services to fix such issues. There are so many trained people leaving our universities every year with no jobs to go to, and they really want to make a difference in our world. It is time that the government sees graduates as the way to start fresh community changes, so that we can look after our own people first and foremost, both black and white. This also includes the unemployed and homeless in our country.

If these employment, training, mental and health services provided, were more open to being non-stereotypical, non-judgemental and set in their ways and opinions, many more people would seek help willingly.

I hope that my vote helps stops this continual ludicracy. I am bewildered that the government wants to recognise Indigenous Australians in our Constituion on one hand finally, yet on the other hand still wants to dictate and treat them differently by making further unnecessary and unconstitutional govt. policy on the other hand. Perhaps this was their final attempt to control Indigenous Australia by writing in such a autocratic policy before the contitution is changed?

One of my solutions is to **make every Australian** answer a referendum questionnaire about all the issues, unresolved matters and things in our country at present. Then they could truly see what the people want, instead of just the politicians which are in each others pockets, protecting their long standing power and ability to make decisions on all of our behalfs, that are often not democratic and ethical at all!

GOOD LUCK!

Norma Andrews