

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee
Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011
I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition
to the proposed
Stronger Futures legislation.
I would like to submit the strongest possible opposition to the
continuation of the
intervention. I do not believe the intervention has provided Indigenous
Australian's with
better conditions or improved their health and well being - especially
the children in any
way whatsoever. In fact I believe it has had the opposite effect. It
has
disenfranchised those Aboriginal people who had strong connections to
their Homelands and
who used their country as a place to rejuvenate and instil a sense of
pride and community.
As an early childhood Professor and technical and research adviser for
UNICEF
International on children's right and child protection I have had the
opportunity to see
first hand and talk to Aboriginal people about the intervention and I
have not heard any
positive outcomes from the experience of seeking to take away the
communities role as
decision makers and caretakers of their land and its people's. Based on
the supposed child
abuse cases that were suspected but never proven to actually be true,
the intervention was
intended to protect those most vulnerable in communities - children.
Yet I see no changes
in the living conditions of children - houses that were to be built to
allow children and
families proper sanitary conditions haven't been completed - in fact as
far as my
understanding goes it seems that government houses have been provided
for those staff
being employed to head up the intervention strategies and the very
people who needed the
housing still go without.

Margaret McIntyre