



Aboriginal Support Group

Manly Warringah Pittwater

To the Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Submission on the Stronger Futures Legislation Package:

The Social Security Legislation Bill 2011,
The Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Consequential and
Transitional Provisions) Bill 2011 and
The Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

We wish to state our objection to the Stronger Futures Legislation package for another ten years. The extension of these measures, continue the massive human rights violation towards Aboriginal people – our First People. Since its inception The Intervention which required the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act has been racial discriminatory, dehumanizing and disempowering. All solutions have been imposed by Governments, who seem unable to hear the voices of many people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. To us, two particularly humiliating aspects are compulsory income management and the loss of bilingual education. Loss of language is loss of culture. How ironic that at the same time as some in regional areas are going through the slow, difficult and in some cases impossible procedure of language retrieval, the cessation of bi-lingual education is taking place. This ensures more Aboriginal languages will be lost. The Expansion of the Schools Enrolment and Attendance Measure means that families with chronic school attendance problems could lose some Centrelink payments. To us it seems humiliating, and counter-productive.

The Intervention hasn't worked. It ignores in many aspects the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We ask that the legislation be withdrawn and that an alternative policy developed, based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal people to be in control of their own lives.

Yours truly

Lizzie Landers and Anna Bell on behalf of ASGMWP

