

Submission re Stronger Futures

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.

After having spent 2011 studying the issues of Family Violence, drug and alcohol addiction, illiteracy, child prostitution, Aboriginal deaths in custody, loss of Spirit and hope within the Indigenous communities across Australia it is obvious to me that an alternative policy to this bill needs to be developed. One based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal people to be able to control their own lives; since this is the only way any real change can occur. The non-Indigenous community needs for this to happen as much as the Indigenous community...it is to our shame that our attitudes and ways of control have led to such disarray and despair in Aboriginal communities.

I agree with the concerns expressed by community groups and national organisations, that the legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations, and that it will further embed the disempowerment and discrimination that was begun under the Northern Territory Intervention.

I ask that the legislation be withdrawn.
Thank you.