

Dear Senators,

I wish to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the N.T. Intervention legislation because I think it is racist, punitive and leads to disempowerment of the Aboriginal people.

1. The proposed legislation, rather than providing support and encouragement to the communities, is much more directed towards using a punitive approach in regards to family support payments. There are many reasons why children so not attend school and these have not been resolved by the Intervention.

2. The proposed legislation is a further step towards disempowerment of the communities. Decisions about the various aspects of community life are being imposed through the various government departments. This has the effect of undermining the people's lives and leading to disillusionment, depression and despair. Since the introduction of the Intervention, the incidence of suicide and self-harm have increased, according to the Closing the Gap Monitory Report. (January – June 2011).

I sincerely hope that this regressive legislation will be withdrawn, and genuine consultations with the Aboriginal people be held, as they have requested time and again.

Yours sincerely,
Alex Adam