

Dear Senator of Community Affairs,

The recent Universal Periodic Review of Australia at the Human Rights Council, Geneva (Jan 2011), made specific mention of the NT Intervention and its violation of human rights. The Australian Government then made a public pledge, recorded also in Hansard, to consult with appropriate Aboriginal groups in all matters affecting them (UPR, recommendations 86.25 - 86.26, plus recommendations 86.101, 86.107, 86.109 - 86.119).

Consultation with the Aboriginal children affected is also demanded by Australia's being a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This proposed 10-year legislation has failed these basic criteria of justice and international law, not to mention fair play and common decency. The protection of children and the relief of poverty cannot involve the violation of human rights.

I oppose this new legislation, and ask you to consult with the appropriate Aboriginal groups and the Aboriginal Children concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Brother Moy Hitchen cfc