

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee

Regarding the proposed Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

Submission from Carol Rose

I am opposed to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

Everything I have heard from Indigenous communities and organisation leads me to question the rightness and the effectiveness of the current Northern Territory Intervention. As I understand it, in the Stronger Futures consultations, Indigenous community groups did not support the measures in the legislation. They fear that the disadvantage and disempowerment they have already experienced will continue under this legislation.

Everything I have heard about compulsory Income Management indicates that it is bad policy and discriminates against the already most disadvantaged. It also appears that the S.E.A.M. policy has not been shown to be effective.

My request is that this legislation be taken off the table and that genuine national and community-based consultation be used to draw up policy that shows respect for Aboriginal rights and recognises their languages, their cultures and their ties to lands.

I would expect that a necessary first step would be to consider the Statement *Cooperation not Intervention - A Call for a New Direction in the Northern Territory*, and to take notice of the number of the number and status of individuals and organisations that endorse that Statement.

Yours faithfully,

Carol Rose