

Re Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bills, 2011

The following submission to the Senate comes from the undersigned Elders and other community members of Ramingining, NE Arnhemland

Yol\u culture is like this: when you talk to someone you have to listen to each other, not taking one side. We respect each other's dh^wu (message) and we value each other's sayings and decisions. But we feel that Balanda are not listening. Government doesn't listen to Yol\u .. has no second thought. They hear, they ignore, forget, go back home, write what they think. Our messages are not going into their thinking. There is a middle place between the good and bad, and we expect Government to listen to us and value our messages to the Government.

The intervention has been here for 5 years and what did it do? We got fences on our houses, but no new houses. Not for Yol\u, only Balanda. No extra jobs. What do those Centerlink and ITEC people do? It costs a huge amount of money to send them here but there are still few jobs.

We can see that there are some good decisions in the Stronger Futures plan. For example, the law called, 'Business Management Area Powers' is being removed. But it still feels like a new version of the intervention and that Government is not listening to us. Why?

It doesn't address a huge elephant in the room. The NT Intervention, the removal of our Town Council, the cancelling of our kava license, and recent decisions about our Resource Centre, have all taken control away from Yol\u people. Without control over their lives people get tired and sick. So this is what we are saying.

1: Community Governance:

We want our right to self-determination. We don't want to be controlled from the outside.

We want our community councils back, and our assets returned.

We want to be able to have a say in the foundation of any laws that effect Yol\u in our communities.

We want action on the Ramingining Local Implementation Plan. We already worked on that and agreed to that.

We are glad that the law called "Business Management Area Powers" is being removed.

2: Hub Town Model:

Ramingining is not a Hub Town.

Giving money to some communities and not others is wrong.

We want all communities to be funded properly – Homelands and bigger communities.

We want all communities to receive services like schools, health care facilities and housing.

3: Leases and Housing:

Making Yol\u sign leases so they can receive housing is wrong.

We need help with housing and we appreciate Government help with housing but we shouldn't have to give up our land.

We want all communities including homelands to be given new housing.

4: Education:

Punishing people if they don't go to school is wrong.

We want bilingual education brought back. Every study shows that it is better for our people.

We want elders to have a say in curriculums so it is relevant to our lives.

We want community members on the School Council, not just staff.

5: Jobs:

We don't want to work for the dole.

We need proper jobs with proper wages.

We need a new job creation program that replaces CDEP (now work for the dole). We want this to be run by community organisations.

We can do a lot of the work that goes on in our community. If we don't have the skills, we can learn.

6: Racism, Basic Card, Alcohol:

Making laws targeted at Aboriginal communities is wrong.

We want to be allowed to choose if we keep the basics card or not. If Yo\u you want to keep the basics card, they can. If Yo\u you don't want to be on the basic card, they must be allowed to get rid of it. If Communities down south want it, they can keep it. This is Ramingining. Not all communities or towns are the same just because they are Aboriginal.

Making laws saying all Aboriginal communities cannot have alcohol is wrong.

We had already decided that we don't want alcohol here. When Government makes laws for all Aboriginal people, they are calling us all alcoholics.

7: Rom:

We are glad there will be some recognition of customary law in relation to damage to sacred sites or objects, but we need our laws to be recognised along with Balanda laws.

Our law is the basis of our society.

We want our law recognised. We want our law holders to be recognised.

We are the land holders in our communities.

It is our land, it is our community and it is subject to our law.

We will not be assimilated by these policies.

WE CHOOSE SELF DETERMINATION.

This submission to the Senate comes from the following Elders and other community members of Ramingining. Forty-four of the 68 people who signed have also included their photos. These photos were taken by Matthew Dhulumburrk between January 10-12, 2012.

	Land Owner		Community Members, cont.
1	Judy Ganinydja	33	Ronald Dhurumarra
2	Rose Wurrugu Wurrugu	34	Silvia Yipiny
		35	Norman Yanbulul
	Elders	36	Ricky Gulibirr
3	Matthew Dhulumburrk	37	David Gurruminnga
4	Trevor Djarrakaykay	38	Paula Wurrpunbun
5	Jane Miyatatawuy	39	Dianne Nundaya
6	Jennifer Banaka	40	Matthew Naki Naki
7	Gilbert Walkuli	41	Kathy Gowak
8	Richard Bandalil	42	Margie Mutiltja
9	Judith Dhoru	43	Johnathon Melmarimirri
10	Peter Djumbu	44	Martin Garrangunung
11	Alber Waniny Marr	45	Joy Rupu
12	Peter Gambung	46	Veronica Buninymurruwuy
13	Matjarra Garrawurra	47	Tolbert Dharramanba
14	Ronnie D Garrawurra	48	Samantha Daluma
15	Dorothy Wiliyawuy	49	Doris Rangimula
16	Jimmy Djamanba	50	Judy Warrnginy
17	Bobby Bununggurr	51	Wendy Bambatngu
18	Stanley Barrwitj	52	Jacinta Malibirr
19	Peter Buwanba	53	John Gawumalawuy
20	Peter Walarri	54	May Yamangarra
		55	Ralph Baymonunbi
	Community Members	56	Jennifer Guyuthulul
21	Jocelyn Garrawurra	57	Molly Dhamarrandji
22	Selma Garrawurra	58	John Mayathun
23	Silvia Manytjurrpuy	59	Gwen Wanybu
24	Bernadette Bidalka	60	Linda Wulumana
25	Gerald Yawulkpuy	61	Jane Leti Dhamarrayndji
26	Glenda Bulwarrngu	62	George Gurulana Gaykamangu
27	Silvia Gukuda	63	Dorothy Yiminda
28	Rhonda Malibirr	64	Peter Nyanyuk
29	Judy Waybalk	65	Daisy Banaka
30	Joy Barruwa	66	Tessa Rrarrawu
31	Roger Galinybirr	67	Tommy Yumunungbi
32	Anita Ganbu Ganbu	68	Andrea Gaykamangu

Elders (14 out of 20 who signed the submission)				
Judy Ganinydja	Matthew Dhulumburrk	Trevor Djarrakaykay	Jennifer Banaka	Judith Dhoru
Peter Djumbu	Peter Gambung	Matjarra garrawurra	Ronnie Garrawurra	Dorothy Wiliyawuy
Jimmy Djamanba	Bobby Bununggurr	Peter Buwanba	Peter Walarri	
Community Members (30 out of the 43 who signed the submission)				
Selina Garrawurra	Silvia Yipininy	Paula Wurrpunbun	May Yamangarra	Matthew Naki Naki
Kathy Gowak	Samantha Daluma	Martin Garrangunung	Margie Mutiltja	Linda Wulumana
Judy Waybalk	Judy Warrnginy	Wendy Bambatngu	Sylvia Manytjurrpuy	Joy Rupu
Johnathon Melmarimirri	John Gawumalawuy	Jocelyn Garrawurra	Rhonda Malibirr	Jennifer Guyuthulul
Tolbert Darramanda	Jane Leti	Gwen Wanybu	George Gurulan	Dorothy Yiminda
Ronald Durrurrnga	Doris Rangimula	David Gurruminnga	Ralph Baymonunbi	Veronica Buninymurruwuy