

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee

I understand that the Territory Bill 2013 will extend the "Intervention" for another ten years and that it is about to be put to Parliament. On the whole I have found the program popularly called "The Intervention" to be very expensive and not of much help to Aboriginal people, especially those who live in remote communities.

I suggest that the Bill(s) be amended to allow local communities to elect (or choose) their own representative councils and that they be allowed to choose the directors who are sent to supervise them. I believe it is important that the assets of the communities not be sequestered by government administrators for other uses and they be kept for the use for the local communities themselves. The government apparatus for administering these programs is far too large and too distant from local communities to be effective. I suggest, if the bill has to pass, that its term of "Intervention" be for only five years or less.

Respectfully yours, John J. Martin