

I refer to the proposal to extend the NT intervention for a period of up to 10 years. I wish to voice my objection to the proposal.

To me the withholding of welfare payments is a racist action that reeks of our past history of treating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as second class citizens.

I worked for the Commonwealth in the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. All the Health services I spoke to had some contacts with experience of the intervention in the Northern Territory and were of the view that it was a total failure in achieving it's goals.

Feedback I have had from people is that there has been little change to the school attendance. This attendance can be the source of nutrition and ATODS programs and have been used in this fashion in other States. Examples of actions that have better impact involve the motivation of the children. In Queensland Dr Chris Sarra took the Cherbourg attendance from 37% to 87% simply by giving the pride in what they did and rewarding not penalizing behaviours. It is simple Psychology a reward will obtain a result more than a punishment. To remove responsibility from an adults shoulders is seen by all as simple racism by many people. In other schools people like Sam Thaiday and Jonathon Thurston are quietly going around schools encouraging children to read and learn. Communication is a simple way of aiding and assisting people to achieve.

We are all equal human beings and if we want to overcome the problems behind the territory intervention we need to address the problems of overcrowding in houses and lack of employment. The NBN could be used to help train trades people in the communities who can build and maintain the housing that is needed. Such an action would overcome the mental health issues that lead to substance abuse. Further investment in other business opportunities could provide an ongoing source of income and self reliance. We invest Billions in the car industry, the maritime industry and the transport

industry; why can't we commit a small proportion of those funds to providing industry and employment in remote communities.

Let's treat all Australians as Australians.

Kevin Conway