

Subject: Submission regarding the Northern Territory Bill 2011 and Two Related Bills

Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs,
Parliament House,
Canberra Australia.

Dear Senators,

I wish to make a brief submission to the Senate Enquiry into the N.T. Intervention Legislation. I consider this legislation to undermine the rights of the Aboriginal peoples to have a direct influence over how they live their lives and conduct their affairs.

1. I am aware that Northern Territory Elders have publicly stated that they will not support the extension of Intervention under any name.
2. I understand that Aboriginal peoples in the Northern Territory are seeking a return to control over their own communities, with an increased emphasis on self-determination.
3. I consider the legislation undermines the capacity of Aboriginal peoples to be actively engaged in initiating and planning the future direction for their lives. It seems to me that the current high levels of disillusionment, despair, and depression will increase to an even higher level if the legislation is enacted.

I hope that the legislation will be withdrawn, and that genuine consultations can occur with the Aboriginal peoples, as they have requested many times.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Skilbeck