

Submission to Stronger Futures legislation

There has never been any proper consultation with the Aborigine people over the intervention right from the beginning when John Howard's government first introduced it.

A very large proportion of Aboriginal Elders bitterly oppose the erosion of their rights as citizens of Australia including the Income Management which infantilises them and does not solve their problems and the introduction of a large, costly and often inefficient bureaucracy over the last few years which has little contact or knowledge with the local culture.

The taking of land in the name of the intervention - initially because of the so-called crisis of child abuse - since completely disproved- is an incursion into the rights of indigenous people and would certainly not be tolerated if the same measures were used against white Australians.

The intervention has largely failed, as statistics and surveys show conclusively. (See the extensive work in this field of esteemed sociologist Eva Cox) One of the most important measures- of child health- is a disturbing example of this failure.

Proper long term consultation should be undertaken to right the wrongs, solve the serious problems and heal the communities - not a measure pushed onto the people from above for reasons which can have been since disproved using measures which are now largely discredited.

Dr Rosie Scott