

12th Jan, 2012.

Dear Committee,

There should be no further intervention in Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory.

- The current program is racist as it only applies to aboriginal people.
- There is no consultation with traditional elders in any community. Therefore many culturally inappropriate strategies are being employed further entrenching social disadvantage

Social inequalities need to be addressed across the broad range of all human services including education.

- Bilingual education is recognized world wide as the main strategy to adequately address cultural/language issues faced by indigenous children learning English as their Second (sometimes third or fourth) language. It is currently being extinguished in last few remaining schools trying to hold on to this important strategy.
- Bilingual education allows it's graduated to walk and function in both cultures. It needs support, encouragement and legislation to make it compulsory in all traditional communities.

Christina Dwyer