

30/01/2012

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee
Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

I concur with the concerns expressed by community groups and national organisations, that the legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations, and that it will further embed the disempowerment and discrimination that was begun under the Northern Territory Intervention.

I ask that the legislation be withdrawn and that an alternative policy is developed based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal people to be able to control their own lives.

The majority of Aboriginal people want to fight poverty, alcohol and drug abuse and lack of access to medical and educational services in their communities, but paternalistic approaches that disregard Aboriginal people's right to autonomy do not and will not be effective and in fact may cause further problems within communities.

Thank you.

Rhiannon Hall