

**Submission to the Inquiry (Social Security/Fahcsia)
Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

The following are points of deep concerns I would like to submit to the Inquiry:

Reframing the contraventions to the RDA as "special measures" seems to be an excuse to reinstate the discriminatory measures that have been strongly condemned by such agencies as Amnesty International, UN and others, leaving 16,000 Aboriginal Territorians suffering their 3rd year of punitive measures which look to be extend to many more Australians - Aboriginal and non Aboriginal.

Many reports (.including from Olga Havnen Australian Red Cross....) show that the blanket quarantining of welfare payments has created enormous hardships, harming the most vulnerable people it is designed to protect.

The amendments to the Family and Community Services have for the first time taken away the inalienable right and inalienable benefit to people's eligibility for Commonwealth benefits. Up until now anyone who had Australian citizenship was eligible for Commonwealth benefits and payments.

I have received reports about

- ** very high prices asked for fresh food;
- **systems used for shopping with the special cards breaking down and which can only be repaired when people are flown in to do this,
- ** no shopping available till these are fixed.
- **People having to travel 100s of Km to 'accredited' shops and cannot return to their homes as their money has run out on travel, putting strains on families who put them up or campsites on the outskirts of the towns.

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