

To Jonathan Curtis,

Submission to Aboriginal Affairs Inquiry

A situation that needs to be addressed at the highest levels has affected our community for many years. Being informed of your inquiry I trust that you will look into these consent moral anomalies.

Abuse of women and children, families under the guise of culture.

These abusers appear to have sanction within the Aboriginal Legal system and beyond.

This has created division and distrust in an otherwise aboriginal and multicultural sensitive and supportive community.

One present situation involves a blatant known offender who through the legal service would appear to be able to dictate his own release conditions and present in the court system questionable support from members of the Bungalong elders council that would not stand up the wider community, black and white. Misuse of aboriginal culture? Some associated recognised bodies are knowingly or not shielding some of the worst ongoing criminal behavior in this area.

Is this to be the accepted, condoned behaviour that our youth are already picking up on?

Or continually pasted over because of the sensitive aboriginal cultural issues or climate?

Maybe just another form of social genocide?

Unsolved murders, disappearances, abductions, assaults, intimidation, drugging, rapes, deaths threats all in the all too sensitive areas of 'no go aboriginal business.' How many more unreported ones?

Ongoing social problems impact from these situations onto the whole community. My own family has felt that impact possibly more than some because the father of my youngest children is aboriginal and does not tolerate the abuse of aboriginal culture.

One of the most concerning aspect of the present situation is that this particular offender seems to have even the local police intimidated to the point of non-apprehension and him informing them of his altered AVO conditions. What because he claims aboriginality? Which has been questioned? Or maybe it is the support of a wider network of what appears nepotisticly linked aboriginal organisations?

It is this **grey** area that is escaping law in all eyes, shielding crime.

Too much has been unaccounted for.

Thank you for this chance to direct this huge community concern to your inquiry, which I trust, will lead to a better future for all.

Yours sincerely
Helen Rodriguez