

From: Michael Rowan

Sent: Friday, 10 August 2007 4:43 PM

To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Cc: Elizabeth Oram

Subject: Australian Centre for Child Protection submission

Dear Sir/ Madam

The submission from the Australian Centre for Child Protection in relation to the Inquiry into the Northern Territory Emergency Response Bill 2007 & Related Bills was discussed at a meeting of the Centre's Advisory Council yesterday afternoon.

The discussion focused on both the immediate crisis facing Aboriginal communities in relation to their capacity to provide safe environments for their children, and the likely long term effects of the Commonwealth Government's current intervention in those communities. Our conclusion, put in slightly more colourful language than the submission, is that stealing away from these communities their rights to land, the control of access to their land and the protection of the law against racial discrimination, is unlikely to prove more successful than our earlier policy of stealing the children themselves.

I commend the submission to your attention.

Yours Sincerely

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