

From: Keelin Turner

Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2007 10:22 AM

To: Abetz, Eric (Senator); Adams, Judith (Senator); Allison, Lyn (Senator); Barnett, Guy (Senator); Bartlett, Andrew (Senator); Bernardi, Cory (Senator); Birmingham, Simon (Senator); Bishop, Mark (Senator); Boswell, Ron (Senator); Boyce, Sue (Senator); Brandis, George (Senator); Garrett, Peter (MP); Gash, Joanna (MP); Georganas, Steve (MP); George, Jennie (MP); Georgiou, Petro (MP); Gibbons, Steve (MP); Gillard, Julia (MP); Grierson, Sharon (MP); Lawrence, Carmen (MP); Ley, Sussan (MP); Lindsay, Peter (MP); Livermore, Kirsten (MP); Lloyd, Jim (MP); Macfarlane, Ian (MP); Macklin, Jennifer (MP); Markus, Louise (MP); May, Margaret (MP); McArthur, Stewart (MP); McClelland, Robert (MP); McGauran, Peter (MP); McMullan, Robert (MP); Melham, Daryl (MP); Mirabella, Sophie (MP); Moylan, Judith (MP); Murphy, John (MP); Nairn, Gary (MP); Nelson, Brendan (MP); Neville, Paul (MP)
Subject: Northern territory indigenous bills

Dear Senator,

I urge you to oppose the bills and ask for more detailed investigation of this legislation.

Please consider the complex issues that are involved in sexual abuse within indigenous communities in the NT. In families and communities where alcohol abuse is prevalent, so is childhood abuse, and this is not a case specific to indigenous populations, although of course they have high rates of both.

In order to manage this terrible situation for our black people, I believe it is essential for you to scrutinise the bills closely, with due consideration to the recommendations of Indigenous leaders from all over the Northern Territory. It is my understanding that they are the experts in this situation, and that they oppose the legislation as it threatens their culture. Meaningful consultation will lead to better policies and a healthy environment for our black families.

Please ensure that in your voting you are not complicit in continuing the abuse of indigenous land and human rights in our country, and seek every means you can to improve the health and wellbeing of indigenous people so that issues such as sexual and alcohol abuse are ameliorated.

Thank you for your time,
Keelin Turner