

**From:** Julie Pearson

**Sent:** Thursday, 9 August 2007 3:58 PM

**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN); Abetz, Eric (Senator); Adams, Judith (Senator); senator.joyce@aph.gov.au; Birmingham, Simon (Senator); Trood, Russell (Senator); Parry, Stephen (Senator); Sterle, Glenn (Senator); Troeth, Judith (Senator); O'Brien, Kerry (Senator); Polley, Helen (Senator); Sherry, Nick (Senator)

**Cc:** Coby Clark

**Subject:** Proposed changes to the NT Land Rights Act

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Regarding the bill going before the Senate Committee, tomorrow with a view to vote on the proposed changes in legislation:

I urge you all to consider the actions of the government of today and how it is rushing you all to make such an important decision with huge ramifications. It would appear that no one has been allowed the time to really think and provide due consideration which these changes deserve.

It is very difficult to see how the proposed changes will protect Northern Territory Aboriginal children from abuse. We are still waiting for the recommendations by the writers of the Little Children Are Sacred report to be adopted.

This knee jerk reaction, alone raises ALL communities alarm bells and fears.

Please, I urge you to take a principled stand. Aboriginal child abuse should draw on the Emergency Response and Development Plan developed by the Combined Aboriginal Organizations of the Northern Territory, the expertise of organizations like the Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care and Aboriginal professionals like Professor Judy Atkinson.

*Julie Pearson*

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