



PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

8 September 2015

Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion
Minister for Indigenous Affairs
MG. 50
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Review of *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* and related legislation

Thank you for your letter dated 28 July 2015 (received in full on 25 August 2015) responding to the committee's inquiries in relation to the *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* and related legislation. The committee appreciates the information that you have provided addressing its specific inquiries regarding the Stronger Futures measures.

As noted in my previous letter, the committee is seeking updated information about the Stronger Futures measures to assist in its consideration of this legislative package.

While your response provided answers to some of the committee's questions, I note that a number of the questions were not addressed in your response. This is particularly the case in relation to the measures to address alcohol abuse.

As such, I write again to seek your advice in relation to the following questions:

Land reform

1. You advised that community meetings were held in 16 selected communities before the introduction of the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Regulation 2013. Can you advise how many communities in total were affected by the regulation and whether, in relation to the selected communities consulted, these 16 communities were reflective of the type of communities affected by the regulation?

Measures to address alcohol abuse

2. How many alcohol protected areas, which were originally prescribed as a result of the *Northern Territory Emergency Response Act 2007* and continued as an alcohol protected area under the *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2012*, remain?
3. How many Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) have been approved by the Minister in total to date?
4. Where an AMP has been approved, have any rules been made under subsection 27(3) of the *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* (the Act) revoking or varying the original rules so that the area now covered by the AMP is no longer an alcohol protected

area? We understand, based on the example provided in your original response, that some communities have not specifically applied for a revocation or variation of the original rules. However, the question remains as to whether any alcohol protected areas have been revoked or varied under the Act.

5. How many AMPs, if any, have been refused approval by the Minister in total to date? If any have been refused, on what basis were the plans refused?
6. What is the average time taken to approve an AMP once it has been endorsed by the community?
7. If a community within an alcohol protected area does not wish to enter into an AMP and, as a community, decides it wishes to ease alcohol restrictions, what steps can the community take to ensure it is no longer designated as an alcohol protected area?
8. Is there a timetable in place to transition all alcohol protected areas to AMPs?
9. What is the latest evidence as to how effective AMPs have been in achieving their stated aims? Is the 2008 evaluation referred to in your original response the most recent evaluation? Could you provide the committee with a copy of that evaluation?

Income management

10. In relation to the 15 income management sites outside of the Northern Territory, could you provide the specific proportion of those subject to income management who are Indigenous in *each* site? (While we understand that the data is publicly available, it would assist the committee if the department could provide the percentages in each site).

School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform measure (SEAM)

11. You have stated that the SEAM programme evaluation will be available on the SEAM website by the end of July 2015. However, to date it is not available on this website. Could you please provide the committee with a copy of this evaluation?

It would be appreciated if you could provide your response by 22 September 2015, and if you could ensure that the response addresses each of the questions above individually.

I note that the committee is seeking this information via correspondence with you in lieu of holding public hearings. However, in the event that sufficient information is not able to be obtained through our correspondence, the committee has determined that it may be necessary to hold a public hearing of the inquiry.

Should you or your department have any queries, please contact the Acting Committee Secretary, Ivan Powell, on (02) 6277 3066.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Philip Ruddock MP

Chair