

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee

Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

I wish to make a submission to the SCAC in expressing my firm opposition to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

I can appreciate and sympathise with many of the concerns raised by community groups and national organisations regarding the intervention legislation and firmly believe that this legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations.

It is of my opinion that continuation of the program will further embed the disempowerment and discrimination of Aboriginal residents that began to occur in these communities under the Northern Territory Intervention. I therefore ask that the legislation be withdrawn and that an alternative policy be developed, based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal people to be able to control their own lives.

Having lived in remote Aboriginal communities with these wonderful people for many years in my youth, this issue is obviously of great importance to me and my family and so i ask that you take not only the views of the current community residents, but also those of myself and others from non-indigenous backgrounds like me into consideration, thank you.

Regards,

Tobiah Amery (student currently studying in NSW)