

Mark Fordham, an eloquent native Australian speaking in New S Wales in November 2010, said that indigenous people in the Northern Territory were second-class citizens. They did not have equal freedom to live, work, and associate.

The Capital Development Pool Programme and the Humanities and Arts Linkages Programme were typically top-down, and little understood.

Closer to home, the BASICS Card was seen as discriminatory as bringing in white friends and relations to fill job vacancies right down to garden labouring and office errands, at town-level wages.

Random skills were being taught, such as the use of power tools. Other, more useful skills, as for vehicle licences and the building trade, were not. Those jobs were not for indigenous people of the Northern Territory, who were there to manage the shovel, the rake, and the broom.

The several trade skills that Mr Fordham himself had acquired were not available to young men living under the Intervention.

- Chester Graham