

My voice is joined to those calling for the “Intervention” by the Howard government in the Northern Territory to be ended forthwith, not updated. It should be replaced by a radically new approach, involving real consultation with and listening to indigenous elders.

The intervention has not worked. A lot of money has been spent on administering it, with little to show in terms of good effects on indigenous communities. Indeed, it has had negative effects on the indigenous psyche, and thus will create further problems in those communities.

The new laws look very much like “more of the same”. They are not what indigenous people have asked for in consultations. I urge you to abandon the “Stronger Futures” legislation, and instead to place reliance on the proven effectiveness of traditional leaders such as the Senior Australian of the Year 2012 [Laurie Baymarrwangga](#) and Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra who using video addressed the ALP National Conference last year. Such people neither look nor sound like Western educated public servants and politicians, and it would be easy for the ignorant to look down on them, but they hold the key to indigenous advancement.