

Honourable Senators

We believe that the best way to help people is to, first and foremost, respect their integrity and independence, and in the case of the First Peoples, their prior right to land, and their close connection with country.

Whilst 'The Intervention' may be motivated by good intentions, and may even have had some good outcomes, we believe that the imposition of patriarchal bureaucratic measures will not build independence, self-esteem and a good future for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. No other group of Australians is so treated. No other group of Australians would stand for this domination.

What we should be doing is providing the SAME SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES for our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, regardless of cost. No one else is expected to trade land for services. I expect my garbage to be collected, public schools to run, hospitals and doctors to be fairly close, whether I work or not, whether I am ill or well. This is my right as a member of the Australian community. I do not expect 'Big Brother' to bargain with me that these things can only be mine if I behave in a certain way. In this sense The Intervention is a controvention of human rights, and the rights that other Australians take for granted.

Please do not extend The Intervention for another 10 years. Respect the requests of Aboriginal people all over Australia and recommend cooperation, not intervention.

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