

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee,

I am a final year law student at Monash University, Melbourne. As part of my study of law I have undertaken considerable research into the 2007 Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation, the 2010 amendment and the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011. I would like to express my opposition to the new Bill both from a human rights perspective and also from a practical perspective ie- it is not evidence-based policy that I believe will improve the disadvantage suffered by any Aboriginal Australians in the Northern Territory (including men, women and children), if indeed that is its objective.

More broadly I would like to express my growing shame to be an Australian as I witness continuing acts of government (both Liberal and Labour) having devastating impacts on Aboriginal people, the first Australians. My dream for Australia is to see a government leading the country by example, providing white Australian's with the opportunity and inspiration not to be racist but rather compassionate and open-minded.

I have attached a paper I submitted in October 2011 for assessment in International Human Rights Law, detailing the human rights violations of the current Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation and that proposed under the Stronger Futures Bill and the reform required to bring the legislation in line with Australia's international human rights obligations.

Thank you,

Anna Gibson.