

To whom it may concern,

re Social Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2011
Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Consequential &
Transitional Provisions) 2011
Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

I wish to join my voice with those quoted below. I ask that before legislation is passed that time be given to consult with leading elders, community services and agencies.

It seems we keep repeating the same process with legislation from above and not the dialogue that creates partnerships and responsibility for decisions taken.

I have seen so many lost opportunities because of the need or perceived need to act quickly. Yes we all need to act but lets take the time to work with the people and reconsider the legislation.

“We don’t want another decade of discrimination here in Ramingining. The government is extending and strengthening laws designed to assimilate Aboriginal people. We will not sit back and watch these attacks on our lives, our future, our culture and our law,” said Mathew Dhulumburrk, a 67 year old Gupapuyngu man.

“After 5 years, it feels like the water level has climbed up to our neck. Another ten years will bring it way over our heads. The government is drowning us slowly and wonders why twice as many of our young people are attempting suicide. There is no valid reason to discriminate against Yolngu in this way.”

Yours sincerely,
A Cabassi

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Sr Alma Cabassi rsj
Diocesan Family Support Worker