

## SUBMISSION

The Senate Inquiry into Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill, Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2011 and Social Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2011.

The Intervention is a failure. Its implementation breaches the rights of Indigenous People and communities which governments claim it was to benefit.

National emergencies, social political and environmental, have for hundreds of years been the springboard for government interventions into the rights of citizens. Health and education issues are still used to justify dismembering families; quality of housing, access to services and employment opportunities are variously used to justify moving communities. Emergency and the paternalistic interpretation of **needs** has been and still is the public face and justification for removal of rights of Indigenous Australians. Australia supports International Conventions but twenty countries made submissions at the UN Periodic Review of Australia's Human Rights record on treatment of Indigenous Australians. We have been found wanting, but the Strong Futures legislation serves to increase the ways in which we breach the rights of indigenous Australians.

The proposed *Strong Futures* legislative instruments **breach** the Rights of Indigenous Australians, which governments are obligated to uphold by international treaty.

The evidence base for this legislation may or may not have credibility. Nevertheless NO emergency, NO perceived need, NO belief by Government that its responsibility to any group or community EVER warrants the removal of their civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights.

The Stronger Futures set of legislation should be cancelled.

The major initiatives in this legislation contravene the provisions of

# the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Articles 22 to 28.

# the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Article 1.

# the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

# the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW].

All actions by our government must be with community consent, community support, and community cooperation. Only then will rights be preserved and our international obligations upheld.

Sincerely,

Ms Alma Dawe – February 2012

