

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to suggest a change in the sort of words used to refer to the Government's commitment to actively participating in developing futures in the Northern Territory.

(I have over forty years involvement with First Australians, including as the trainer of development workers working in remote communities.)

I am convinced that the first and most important element in successful co-operation is RESPECT, mutual respect. "Intervention" is widely seen as a term of contempt, a despised shaming label.

Why not use terminology that has echoes of past functions of government and mission support? For instance,

"Assisted Community Development Services" "Staff Recruitment and Training for Community Support"

"Liaison and Co- operation with Community and Regional Councils."

"Dialogues with National Representatives of First Australians."

Of course, to impose any of these or other "projects" without real, wide-spread consultation with the people, whose lives will be affected, would destroy the pretence of mutual respect.

A source for understanding the force of the dynamics of mutual respect would be the book "The Dynamics of Management", see on line.

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