

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee
Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

Odette Nightsky. Writer, counselor and advocate for people with mental health issues. *PO Box Mullumbimby 2482 Australia*

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

I concur with the concerns expressed by community groups and national organizations, that the legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations, and that it will further embed the disempowerment and discrimination that was begun under the Northern Territory Intervention.

I am studying your laws and the treatment of the original people and I find that they are stigmatized so badly and treated differently because of their culture. The intervention is a step back into the white Australia policy mentality and they deserve the same respect as anyone else in Australia.

I ask that the legislation be withdrawn and that an alternative policy is developed, based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal people to be able to control their own lives.

Thank you.

O. Nightsky