

I saw a program on Dateline a couple of weeks ago showing that India is providing meals each and every day for 120 million poor Indian children at a fraction of the cost of the silly nonsense of "quarantining" money from aborigines as if they are small, stupid children.

It has wasted over \$72 million so far to do this and achieved not a single thing, not a single goal and businesses and other parts of the communities and towns are being adversely affected.

Wouldn't it be cheaper and simpler to set up kitchens run by aboriginal men and women to provide nourishing, healthy food for breakfast, lunch and after noon tea for all the aboriginal children in each town while providing medical counselling about alcoholism.

This provides the dual purpose of excellent and better care and food for the children as they are in India and health care for everyone at a fraction of the cost and waste.

With the townspeople running the food and school programs Centrelink won't be needed to go and party, sacred sites won't have toilets set up on them and surely to god a trade school for aboriginal kids can be set up in Katherine and another one in Alice Springs to train and provide jobs to all the children who need them.

Have we so lost our imaginations that these simple things cannot be done when every one will benefit? Surely if India can manage with 120 million kids we can manage this with a few thousand?

Marilyn Shepherd
Kensington 5068