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**Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into *Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009* and related bills**

Community Child Care (CCC) as the peak body for community based children's services in Victoria applauds the Government for its intention of improving social inclusion and improving the experience of disadvantage in some Australian communities. However we do not believe that quarantining welfare is the means to reach social inclusion; rather we believe it is a band aid, simplistic attempt to address a highly complex issue.

CCC believes that extending a regime of quarantining welfare will work against social inclusion and instead marginalise those already facing disadvantage, creating a group of second class citizens in Australia.

Rather than extending welfare quarantining, CCC encourages the Government to thoroughly investigate and resource community based and locally responsive answers to the issues facing vulnerable communities that may lead to ongoing welfare dependence.

CCC is particularly concerned that welfare quarantine is a poor example to future generations in vulnerable communities. Children learn parenting skills from their own parents; quarantining of welfare payments sets a poor example for financial management and entrenches welfare passivity which is the opposite of the Government's intention.

CCC is deeply concerned that the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act risks internalising oppression for generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and fails to model respect for the inherent dignity and worth of all people. If children see that the cultural group to which they belong is being diminished or de-valued, the oppression can become internalised and set a psychological boundary to high expectations of themselves. This is a contravention of the inherent human rights and dignity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Thus CCC welcomes the Government's investigation of measures to ensure that the Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation is operating within the boundaries of the *Racial Discrimination Act* to remedy the violation of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However extending quarantining of welfare is not the solution.