

I have simply forwarded this submission from a form letter, not because I am imitating another person's opinion but because **it so closely reflects my own opinion.**

As an Australian citizen, I have been concerned to hear various reports over the past two and a half years about the NT Intervention and the effects on Aboriginal people in the 73 prescribed communities. Many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory report that every aspect of their life has been controlled under the Intervention. Of particular concern has been the continued suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) to allow various discriminating measures like blanket Income management to the 16,000 Aboriginal people originally under the Intervention. Understandably this suspension in particular, has brought national and international criticism to which the Government is responding by this current Bill. I urge Senators to ensure that the restoration of the Racial Discrimination Act is done in an authentic manner, genuinely respecting the human rights of Australian citizens.

I am surprised and concerned that the Federal Government seems to be responding to criticism of the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act by proposing to simply get around the RDA. This it hopes to achieve with this current Bill, partly by extending Income Quarantining to various disadvantaged non Aboriginal people from chosen 'disadvantaged areas' across the nation. It is also of grave concern that 'the Minister may, by legislative instrument determine that ' a specified state, Territory or area 'is a declared income management area'. Such a declaration and others within in the Bill give a great deal of control to a Minister over the lives of the citizens, Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal, of our country. I urge that Senators ensure that such unchecked powers whether by a Minister or by bureaucrats, have no place in our democratic nation.

I understand further that one of the effects of the Bill will be that Aboriginal people already under Income Management will have no redress for at least a further 12 months. Of course there are likely to be many other similarly disadvantaged Aboriginal people besides non Aboriginal people living within the newly chosen 'areas of disadvantage', particularly but not only in the Northern Territory which I understand is the first designated such area. I urge Senators to resist this continuing erosion of the basic human rights and entitlements of Australian citizens proposed in the Bill; rather recognising that those citizens on Social Security Entitlements have the rights to the security that the name implies.

It is strange how easily the truth is recognized when it applies to a 'white' Australian situation. There are many other ways that the disadvantage could be redressed, but all must be chosen by the Aboriginal people themselves.

Thank you
Pauline Small