

Submission to the Senate Inquiry - 'Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act'

As a social worker with extensive experience in child protection, 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.

There are many better well researched ways of protecting children in remote communities. First do no harm.

Dr Joan Healy ,