

I'm a senior citizen now and very proud of my Australian heritage. I was deeply appreciative of Mr Rudd's apology the Indigenous people when he became Prime Minister. I've been disappointed though with the on-going oppression of the people through the NT intervention and the suspension of the RDA.

I am upset 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 current Bill seems to be a deceptive way of getting around the criticism that many are levelling at the government for this undemocratic stance. The extension of Income Quarantining to various disadvantaged non Aboriginal people from chosen 'disadvantaged areas' across the nation is also causing grave concern. 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. It seems wrong, morally wrong to me.

I've just travelled through Israel and seen what the Palestinians are suffering because they are being treated like second-class citizens.

I sincerely hope that the many negative aspects of the Bill will fail so that there be a genuine restoration of the Racial Discrimination Bill. Thank you for receiving my submission.

Yours sincerely,  
Genevieve Ryan