

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

I have heard 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 and as an Australian citizen wish to voice my concern. 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 urge Senators to resist the 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 whether Aboriginal or non – Aboriginal have the rights to the security that the name implies.

Yours faithfully

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