

Dear Senators,

I implore that you exercise your moral obligations to the traditional owners of this land by not lending your support to this offensive, retrograde and discriminatory legislation in the NT.

Your voice, your vote, your credibility and your conscience stands between you and the future of the Indigenous people in the NT today and the days ahead.

**How will the legislation seriously tackle child sexual assault?** It will not! The legislation does not reflect the recommendations of The Little Children are Sacred Report, and enacts far beyond what it is purported to do and what is reasonable or relevant in addressing child sexual assault and long-term issues of social disadvantage.

The simplistic view being peddled by the government and mainstream media - ie 'Aboriginal men = drink alcohol = Rape their children!' falls short of reality.

Having lived and worked in remote NT communities I know this is not the whole truth. Child sexual assault crosses the racial divide and the incidence where indigenous children are victims of assault at the hands of non-indigenous perpetrators needs to be brought to light.

**Why is this not being discussed?**

**How will the removal of the permit system make anyone safer?** It will not! Indeed it will open up those roads to greater traffic and less protection from grog, gunga and kava runners, pornography traffic, pedophilia racketeers and characters that don't fit in wider society who take refuge in remote locations.

**How will abolishing CDEP address child sexual assault & disadvantage?** It will not! Most services to women, and their families is delivered through CDEP funding (meals on wheels, creches, aged care, womens centres etc) as is staff in the schools, clinics, mechanics workshops, community store and council office. Where are all these 'real jobs' Brough speaks of coming from? The nuclear industry perhaps?

**How will the lack of consultation or Indigenous support make this effective?** It will not! The process is bereft of any consultation and without the essential ingredients of Indigenous ownership and support not only is it a recipe for disaster at the outset - but worse it harkens back to the days of dog tags.

Ashamedly, Australia will now come under intense scrutiny from the world as they observe this archaic legislation come into play. This responsibility rests in your hands.

Please use your conscience and do not fall prey to party politics on this issue - it is far too important.

## **SUBMITTORS**

Nadyat El Gawley

Louise Weber