

**From:** Tim Murphy

**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 4:57 PM

**To:** Barnett, Guy (Senator)

**Subject:** Government bills are deeply flawed - please take action

Dear Senator,

I am deeply concerned by aspects of the package of Northern Territory National Emergency Response bills currently before the Senate.

Academic research, Aboriginal organisations, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner all suggest that some of the changes proposed - such as the partial abolition of the permit system - could actually exacerbate social problems in Aboriginal communities. The bill also fails to take up the 97 recommendations of the *Little Children Are Sacred* report.

The very serious issue of child abuse in Aboriginal communities must be dealt with effectively. Rushing bad laws through the Parliament will not help to protect vulnerable children. For the sake of the affected communities, it is important to get these laws right.

Unless there is proper consultation with Aboriginal communities and organisations and the bills are significantly amended to address their concerns, I do not support the passage of this legislation.

Please ensure that the Senate does not pass the bills in their current form.

Yours sincerely,

**Tim Murphy**

Postcode: 3052