

From: louise sullivan

Sent: Friday, 10 August 2007 2:26 PM

To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Subject: SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE INQUIRY INTO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Name: Louise Caroline Sullivan

Dear Senators,

Regarding the legislation currently before you (ie the Northern Territory National Emergency Response) I want to register my concerns about both the legislative process involved and also elements of the legislation itself.

I believe that the process of passing this legislation is not democratic and the legislation itself is an abuse of human rights, increasing the disadvantage of the most disadvantaged people in our society.

I have lived in Yuendumu, Kintore and Kiwikurru, working as a youth worker and an art advisor for five years. I have also worked with (non-indigenous) disadvantaged youth in Brisbane and Hobart. The levels of sexual abuse found in Aboriginal communities are comparable to the level of sexual abuse found in all socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

The government has failed to explain how the compulsory acquisition of five-year leases over communities and the abolition of the permit system will assist in lowering the level of child abuse. The abolition of the permit system will increase child abuse. The only thing stopping a greater influx of drug and grog runners is the permit system. The abolition of the permit system will also open the floodgates to art carpet baggers and others who take advantage of the disadvantaged position of indigenous people.

Quarantining welfare payments to all members of a specific racial group is blatant discrimination. If this were to happen to all welfare recipients of European heritage it would be totally unacceptable.

I ask you to support the recommendations of "The little children are sacred report." I ask you to not make Australians ashamed of their country. I currently work for Human Rights in Papua Indonesia. I can not continue to do this if the government of my own country implements such an abuse of humanity that the Emergency response plan is. As an Australian I have nothing to teach others about human rights because my own country is such an abuser of them.

Please, allow us to be proud of our country.

Please, look at the facts and listen to your hearts. If this was your community, your family, your children, your country, what would you do?

Kind Regards,

Louise Sullivan

