

From: Anthea Nicholls **Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 12:04 PM

To: Rudd, Kevin (MP)

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Subject: John Howard's 'Final Solution'

Dear Mr Rudd

I live and work in the remote Aboriginal community of Ramingining and I am daily hearing stories and questions which reflect confusion and dismay at Howard's response to the Little Children are Sacred report.

Please don't support Howard's legislation. There has to be an alternative voice which speaks for the many people who are appalled at this phenomenally hasty, ill-informed denial of the recommendations of the Little Children report. The acquiescence of the Labor Party so far is becoming a huge puzzle.

Please ensure a thorough review of the proposed Legislation now, before you risk huge, irreversible consequences for NT Aboriginal communities. This legislation would legitimise actions which not only ignore the recommendations, but which have been repudiated by the authors of that report.

It is essential that the intervention Bills abide by the Racial Discrimination Act. The President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Justice John von Doussa, says that if the RDA needs to be sidestepped, then the plan should not go ahead.

The Government has not presented any evidence that seizing Aboriginal land and removing the permit system, will stop child abuse. So what is their hidden agenda?

Focusing on symptoms without addressing the causes does not work. Top down external intervention never resolves underlying causes. Removing control of land and permits can only make Aboriginal people more disempowered and vulnerable. What Aboriginal people are requesting is support to devise and implement their own solutions.

The Senate is to carry out an Inquiry into the Legislation. We ask that you ensure that the Combined Aboriginal Organisations of the Northern Territory Emergency Response and Development Plan is given full and comprehensive recognition in the deliberations of the Senators involved in the Inquiry.

If you just support this legislation because 'it looks like doing something' in response to the huge issues of child welfare, and it seems like it's too hard to separate out the issues, then I believe it will be seen, when history unravels them, as a huge betrayal and cop out.

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