

**From:** John Burke [mailto:jpburke@bigpond.net.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 12:38 PM

**To:** Birmingham, Simon (Senator); Trood, Russell (Senator); Parry, Stephen (Senator); Sterle, Glenn (Senator); Troeth, Judith (Senator); Nettle, Kerry (Senator); Evans, Chris (Senator); Ferguson, Alan (Senator); Hutchins, Steve (Senator); Johnston, David (Senator); Faulkner, John (Senator); Hogg, John (Senator); Carr, Kim (Senator); Wong, Penelope (Senator); senator.campbell@aph.gov.au; Fifield, Mitchell (Senator); Chapman, Grant (Senator); Fierravanti-Wells, Concetta (Senator); Colbeck, Richard (Senator); Cormann, Mathias (Senator); Crossin, Patricia (Senator); Wortley, Dana (Senator); Ray, Robert (Senator); Scullion, Nigel (Senator); Stephens, Ursula (Senator); Allison, Lyn (Senator); Barnett, Guy (Senator); senator.bernard@aph.gov.au; Humphries, Gary (Senator); Eggleston, Alan (Senator); Patterson, Kay (Senator); Ronaldson, Michael (Senator); Siewert, Rachel (Senator); Fisher, Mary Jo (Senator); Hurley, Annette (Senator); Conroy, Stephen (Senator); Coonan, Helen (Senator); Webber, Ruth (Senator); Watson, John (Senator); O'Brien, Kerry (Senator); Polley, Helen (Senator); Sherry, Nick (Senator); Abetz, Eric (Senator); Adams, Judith (Senator); Joyce, Barnaby (Senator)

**Subject:** NT legislation

Dear Senators

Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation strongly supports the priority being given to tackling child sexual abuse in the Northern Territory.

However, we are dismayed to see that extensive legislation is to be rushed through without the opportunity for proper examination.

We are convinced this is a complex matter, requiring sensitive engagement with local communities based on proper respect for Aboriginal people and recognition of their rights.

We also believe a bipartisan approach is essential.

We urge you to ensure a **two-stage process**, such as that proposed by the Combined Aboriginal Organisations of the Northern Territory, is adopted - allowing **quick passage of legislation for short-term action** and **better grounding of a longer-term approach** in appropriate consultation and debate.

John Burke

Convenor, Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation Inc