

**From:** Carmel Flint

**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 1:47 PM

**To:** Federal.MP's@tpgi.com.au

**Subject:** Please oppose the NT Intervention bills

To all Federal Members of Parliament,

I am deeply, deeply concerned about the bills currently in the Federal Parliament about the Governments proposed Northern Territory Intervention in indigenous communities.

The legislator does not implement even one of the recommendations of the Little Children are Sacred Report, it has been drafted and the intervention commenced without any meaningful consultation with indigenous communities, and it includes measures such as the five-year takeover of the leases of 73 townships and communities that have nothing to do with the issue of child sexual assault and instead seem to simply be part of a Federal Government agenda to undermine indigenous land rights. The Bill will also exempt part of the legislation from the Racial Discrimination Act, which is a matter of grave concern.

The need to address the crisis related to child sexual assault in indigenous communities is indeed urgent, and has been so for many, many years during which time the Federal Government has been notably missing in action with regard to any genuine attempts to deal with it. However, the approach contained in these bills is clearly not a solution to this issue, and it will undermine indigenous communities, culture and self-determination - rather than building them up so that they become more effective at preventing and dealing with such issues in the future.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to oppose these bills. Indigenous communities in this country have suffered enough over the last 200 years, it is unthinkable that they should now face a grave new threat to their rights and their culture, dressed up as 'compassionate' intervention, in the year 2007. A threat that with its paternalism and political chicanery belongs in the 18th century, not the 21st.

We should know so much better by now. Indigenous communities deserve so much better in this day and age. It is unthinkable that all members of both major parties in this country should support these bills. Absolutely unthinkable - and appalling.

There will be enormous and far-reaching implications from the passage of these bills. They will undoubtedly be condemned by history.

Please put politics aside and consider the real impact on the lives of indigenous communities, and at the very least consider their basic right to have a real say in their lives, their problems and how they should be solved.

Please oppose the bills. Stand up for a real solution to child sexual assault in indigenous communities - that does not undermine the basic human rights and culture of indigenous communities. That actually implements the outcomes of the 'Little Children are Sacred' report. That builds a path forward that starts to redress the wrongs of the past, instead of committing yet more wrongs against indigenous communities.

Please oppose these bills. Please speak out against them.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Flint