

From: Chalmers, John
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2007 3:23 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject:

Honourable Senators: Members of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

I applaud the recognised urgent need to ensure that Australian children are kept safe and protected from abuse.

However, I urge the Honourable Senators to get the proposed legislation right. It is likely that there will be significant, unanticipated consequences for Indigenous children and families if Legislation is rushed through Parliament with undue haste. I urge a slow-down in the process of passage, allowing adequate time for the Senators to submit the proposed legislation to rigorous public comment. I particularly urge Senators to seek consultation with the people who, both now and in generations to come, will be most affected by this legislation.

Fr John Chalmers
Director
Centacare Pastoral Ministries