

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

Name: Heike Hamann

Dear Senators,

I wish to register my concern about the “Northern Territory National Emergency Response” legislation. While I am happy that issues regarding the Northern Territory Aboriginal people are being addressed, I am deeply alarmed at the ‘emergency’ nature of the legislation. There are many long standing issues that need to be addressed, yet addressing them in this ‘emergency’ fashion may make matters far worse. We all need more time to have an informed debate and for consultation with the communities to take place. Both these things are in themselves already part of a solution. On top of this, it allows for solutions to be put in place that address the root causes of the issues.

Whilst there is an urgency around these issues, let’s not make matters worse by rushing in with ‘solutions’ which do not address the root causes of the issues, and in some cases seem not to even be related to achieving the stated goal of creating safe environments for Aboriginal children (eg changes to land tenure).

I ask that you take my concerns into account during the process of your one-day Senate inquiry into the “Northern Territory National Emergency Response” legislation.

Yours faithfully,

Heike Hamann