

From: Kristie Dunn  
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2007 10:12 PM  
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
Subject: Inquiry into the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 & Related Bills

I wish to pass on my views on these Bills to the Committee members.

These bills are a farce and so is the one day allowed for your scrutiny.

They have been rushed into parliament and do not allow for thought and due consideration.

The changes will do little to protect Northern Territory Aboriginal children from abuse, are inconsistent with the recommendations of the writers of the Little Children Are Sacred report and are racially discriminatory.

The first recommendation of the Little Children Are Sacred report was for governments and Indigenous community leaders to get together to come with a comprehensive plan to deal with issues of child abuse in Indigenous communities. Federal Government has ignored this advice.

These measures are not considered and ignore decades of advice of Indigenous leaders and experts whose calls for urgent action have been ignored.

Any serious action on Aboriginal child abuse should draw on the Emergency Response and Development Plan developed by the Combined Aboriginal Organisations of the Northern Territory, the expertise of organizations like the Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care and Aboriginal professionals like Professor Judy Atkinson.

This is a serious national issue but these bills do not adequately address the issues and are clearly politically motivated.

Please ensure that these bills are subject to proper debate and scrutiny as befits the role of the Senate.

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