

From: Grace & Joyce Dodge

Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2007 10:11 PM

To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Subject: NT intervention

Dear Senators,

I am very concerned about the inappropriate way the Federal Government with Opposition support has gone about remediating the needy situation in so many Indigenous communities in the NT. The initial decision showed a lack of respect for the recommendations made in the report and for the Indigenous people themselves.

I have spent time in a community there and I became very aware of the need to observe protocols and to work with the people. It is essential that anyone working in those communities undertake cross-cultural awareness.

Some of the most insulting and counter-productive decisions are the removal of permits, the seizure of land and the cessation of the CDEP programme.

Please be courageous enough to withhold support for these measures until there has been more consultation with Indigenous people.

Sincerely,

Joyce Dodge