Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

30th January 2012

To whom it may concern,

I have been learning about the conditions and sub-standard of living for Aboriginal People in the Northern Territory straight from the source - from Indigenous people living both in remote communities and in towns in the NT. Each of the people I have spoken to have been opposed to the NT Intervention, due to the disempowerment, lack of sufficient consultation, misinformation, and suspension of the Anti-Discrimination Act.

By removing the self-determination from Indigenous people through income quarantining, intrusive monitoring, insulting accusations, and ignoring many of the beneficial recommendations of the *Little Children Are Sacred* Report, the fate of Indigenous people in the NT can be nothing but bleak.

Surely the fact that thousands of people came together to fight for Aboriginal rights at the 40th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy last week proves that there are major flaws in the current system. Those dedicated people, who I personally met, represent the Aboriginal communities better than any board or committee appointed by the government – they are the ones living through it all.

I urge you to reconsider extending the Intervention, as it is far more damaging to Aboriginal People than allowing them to determine their own future.

Please consider a more thorough consultation process in order to find a better solution to the poor living conditions for Aboriginal People in the Northern Territory.

There are plenty of wise, intelligent and knowledgeable Indigenous People to consult, who have great ideas about how to achieve a sustainable and positive outcome for Aboriginal People.

There is no room for a racist "Protector of Aborigines" frame of mind in this country, please use your hearts as well as your minds in this decision making process. Please, stop the Intervention.

Kind Regards,

Cristel Chambers
2012 Flinders Uni Student Council Environment Officer
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