To the Senate Community Affairs Committee
Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

Ella Ryan, concerned citizen

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

The decision to extend the Northern Territory Intervention will be the worst decision Labor Government has made in recent history. I have spent a long time in Aboriginal communities in the NT living under the Intervention and I can tell you that every single person I met opposes the Intervention on the basis that a) they had little or no say in it and b) the measures are discriminatory and are clearly not having the planned impact. I am currently living overseas and when I tell people about the Intervention policies, they are completely and utterly shocked at the level of discrimination that our current Labor Government is responsible for. Nowhere else in the developed world does a Government treat it's Indigenous people with such disrespect. I feel ashamed to be an Australian because of this.

I agree and support the voices of community groups and national organisations that wish for an alternative policy to be developed. Aboriginal people have known what problems their communities face for a long time. They have been calling out for help for a very long time. I think our Labor government owes it to them to develop a new policy based on genuine consultation and community empowerment. Without these essential criteria, Aboriginal people cannot take ownership of their lives, and the Labor Government continues with the neo-paternalistic policies of the past.

Thank you.