

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee  
Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011  
I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition  
to the proposed  
Stronger Futures legislation.  
I would like to submit the strongest possible opposition to the  
continuation of the  
intervention. I do not believe the intervention has provided Indigenous  
Australian's with  
better conditions or improved their health and well being - especially  
the children in any  
way whatsoever. In fact I believe it has had the opposite effect. It  
has  
disenfranchised those Aboriginal people who had strong connections to  
their Homelands and  
who used their country as a place to rejuvenate and instil a sense of  
pride and community.  
As an early childhood Professor and technical and research adviser for  
UNICEF  
International on children's right and child protection I have had the  
opportunity to see  
first hand and talk to Aboriginal people about the intervention and I  
have not heard any  
positive outcomes from the experience of seeking to take away the  
communities role as  
decision makers and caretakers of their land and its people's. Based on  
the supposed child  
abuse cases that were suspected but never proven to actually be true,  
the intervention was  
intended to protect those most vulnerable in communities - children.  
Yet I see no changes  
in the living conditions of children - houses that were to be built to  
allow children and  
families proper sanitary conditions haven't been completed - in fact as  
far as my  
understanding goes it seems that government houses have been provided  
for those staff  
being employed to head up the intervention strategies and the very  
people who needed the  
housing still go without.

Margaret McIntyre