

SUBMISSION

STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY BILL 2011

This Bill is an extension of the Intervention. There is nothing in it that will make the future for Northern Territory Aborigines stronger. It is the most blatant land grab and genocidal act this country has seen since colonization.

There have been no consultations. Listening to people on the government payroll and pretending they speak for the Bush Mob in the Northern Territory is a sick joke.

Under the Intervention, which this Bill is an extension of, incarceration rates have risen, suicides have risen, employment has dropped as there are and never will be enough "real jobs" for the Aboriginal Bush Mob who cannot and will not leave their traditional lands. Bring back CDEP.

The situation of the Bush Mob has not improved under the Intervention. Thousands still remain homeless. Punishing parents who cannot convince their children to attend irrelevant school classes does not help anyone. Bring back bilingual education. The Bush Mob children begin school speaking only their mother tongue. How can they be expected to learn in a language that is totally foreign to them. You might as well have all Australian school children have their first 4 hours of schooling in German! It is no different.

The situation in the Northern Territory is heart breaking. The manner in which the First Australians live is heart breaking. The way they are treated is heart breaking.

The Labour Party has betrayed the First Australians. You promised to end the Intervention and yet you give it a new name and extend it. We are not fooled. Genuine consultation is what is needed. Ask the Elders how best to solve the problems, not just your Jacky Jackies.

Shame on the Labour Government for it's betrayal of the First Australians.

Leonie Nampajinpa Chester
Adopted Member of the Warlpiri Tribe of the Central Desert