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To: Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

Dear Secretary

I am opposed to the extension of the NT intervention on the grounds:

- that the Indigenous Peoples of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, have a right to live in traditional lands, maintain and enrich their culture and ensure that their traditions are strengthened and passed on for generations to come
- I believe that the 'intervention' brings feelings of shame and embarrassment to Aboriginal people and robs them of the ability to achieve the above.
- that the current approach has not been proven to be effective and that cogent data has not been collected showing success of reaching the desired outcomes.

I urge the Australian government to:

- end the “Intervention” and to instead engage in proper consultation and negotiation processes which are genuinely inclusive of Aboriginal Peoples, which will better empower and enable them to

identify their own aspirations and issues of concern and which will involve their full participation in creating and implementing solutions
- ensure that policies affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples comply with international conventions and, in particular, conform to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the International Labour Organisation's *Covenant 169*.

I feel deep sadness that the intervention approach attempts to resolve problems in a way that devalues the Aboriginal men, women and children whose source of suffering is underpinned by white man's lack of understanding of Aboriginal culture and lack of awareness of how to work with Aboriginal people.

I share the concern of those who brought about the intervention, but not the methods used to solve the problems.

We have the opportunity to turn this around, by engaging the wisdom of Aboriginal elders and communities, but must overcome our own cultural ignorance if we are to do this.

Your committee has the power to start a new era of collaboration with Aboriginal people, so that they again become the architects of their lives and their futures.
I ask you to bravely face the issues by working together with Aboriginal and non aboriginal Australians by recommending against the extension of the current legislation.

Yours Sincerely

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