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.

After recently returning from a trip to the Northern Territory,seeing still the relevant enduring effects of colonialism represent many layers of pain, alienation, and frustration that have contributed to generations of trauma, I believe it will further embed the disimpowerment and discrimination that was begun under the Northern Territory Intervention.I concur with the concerns expressed by community groups and national organizations,that the legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations,There is more need for Government officials to put in strategies for the implementation of more education and training for Aboriginal people to work in their own communities. There is a need for Government officials to implement a better health scheme for traditional Aboriginal communities, that is a better socioeconomic based scheme for Aboriginal people so they can become more self reliant for themselves in making decisions on how their health, housing.education and employment issues can start to slowly improve their lifestyles.

We as a society in both Indigenous and non- Indigenous agencies (government)and communities must empower Aboriginal people to take back their self determination and autonomy that have lacked for so long, only then will Aboriginal people have stabilized input into culturally effective health ,education, employment and housing! which in turn will empower and benefit the Aboriginal people their families and their communities.

I ask for the legislation be withdrawn and an alternative policy is developed, based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of All Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal People to control their own lives.

Thank you

Dawn Gordon

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I wish to acknowledge and pay my respects to my ancestors and the traditional owners of this land that I work and live on.