

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

I am very concerned that the proposed Stronger Futures legislation is not based on adequate consultation with the people most concerned. Aboriginal community leaders have reported that they were not given sufficient notice that meetings were to take place, key members were not always present and usually there were no interpreters.

In the area of education it is essential to find out what is wanted by the community and most appropriate for the ongoing wellbeing of that community. This comment is based on my experience of working in education in the NT.

Any legislation should be respectful enough to be based on the needs and wishes of Aboriginal communities and not that of outside bureaucrats.

Joyce Dodge