metro migrant resource centre

Head Office
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Inquiry: Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011 and two related bills.

Metro MRC provides a range of settlement and support services to communities and families across our region with a special emphasis on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, newly arrived migrants, refugees, humanitarian entrants and Aboriginal communities. Our service area includes Bankstown, Canterbury, Marrickville and the Inner West.

Metro Migrant Resource Centre is opposed to the Government Income Management. We have concerns as a service provider to the Bankstown LGA, of the implementation of Government Income Management commencing in July 2012.

Our organisation works to address disadvantage by providing casework, information, referrals, social programs and material support to help people to become resilient. We engage in planning processes and work to build the capacity of local service networks to meet the needs of our community. We monitor emerging issues and advocate for appropriate services and resources.

We believe this approach is short sighted and bad public policy. A system which dehumanises and punitively micromanages a person's below the poverty line income does not ensure children are protected from harm nor does it stop people gambling , experiencing mental health problems or homelessness.

We know about the shame, humiliation and hardship caused by Income Management in Aboriginal communities living under the Northern Territory Intervention. The United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has condemned this measure as a breach of fundamental human rights.

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This money is badly needed to raise incomes above the poverty line and provide services and employment opportunities that can actually support struggling people and indeed ensure sustainable outcomes.

We strongly urge you to repeal legislation which allows for the imposition of Income Management and focus on programs which will help build a positive future for our community.