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

Name: Daphne Naden

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition to the Government's intention to extend the Northern Territory Intervention for 10 more years under the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

Imposed penalties on an Aboriginal individual puts further pressure on his/her extended family. For example: a jail term for a male – pressure is then put on parents, brother or sister who may already have a family, then fends for the jailed male's family.
Example: Welfare Reform in Cape York - penalty for children's truancy, family on basics card which does not allow for purchasing of smokes. A male with a smoking addiction will get his smokes from his brother, father, uncle or nephew (all who may have their own families to look after) putting more pressure on more people in that one community.

When is the government going to learn – **services** are FOR **all Australians** (this is a given)!!!! Services are not the SOLUTION to any specific group's problems – they
are the available resource to be used by the people when required.
Indigenous people in Indigenous communities know what the problems are, why, when and how things happen. Indigenous people in Indigenous
Communities can also come up with solutions to their problems by identifying , what, when, how and why in developing strategies.

This Government should stop this wastage immediately, and work with (alongside) each community to come up with their community plan. This plan should come from the community's articulated vision. When documented it should be similar to a local government plan which is largely about infrastructure: but should include as appendices, the community's health plan, housing plan, education and training plan, employment plan, economic development plan. Social determinants of health will be addressed then through these plans i.e. alcohol abuse and family violence under the health plan.

These plans are developed by working with the whole community through engagement with families, community groups, council etc. Once the strategies are developed – plans can be costed out. Communities are then in a position to identify the most urgent needs, utilize existing resources and work with Government on obtaining further needed resources.

A process such as this fosters ownership, community pride and togetherness, respect, dignity, positive working relationships, and creates opportunities.
Additionally, this process alleviates:- duplication of services, waste, negative stereotyping of Indigenous peoples, employment of parasites who take advantage
of a people's disadvantage for their own gain i.e. working in remote communities looks good on resume's, savings and tax incentives to pay for mortgages etc.

Thank you,

Daphne Naden.