

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee,

Regarding: the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

Penny Smallacombe, Freelance Indigenous TV Producer

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

I concur with the concerns expressed by community groups and national organisations, that the legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations, and that it will further embed the disempowerment and discrimination that was begun under the Northern Territory Intervention.

I am an Indigenous woman from the Daly River region in the Northern Territory and I have not witnessed any improvement in the lives of my family members living in the region since the intervention began.

I ask that the legislation be withdrawn and that an alternative policy is developed, based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, the respect of Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and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

Thank you.

PENNY SMALLACOMBE