

A Decision to Discriminate

Australian Government Process Fails Aboriginal Peoples of the Northern Territory, and Everyone Else

A new book to be launched in Sydney on 5 November shows how our democratic processes failed Aboriginal peoples of the Northern Territory.

On June 29th the Stronger Futures legislation package was passed imposing discriminatory and unjust legislation on Aboriginal peoples of the Northern Territory, effectively extending the failed Northern Territory Intervention for another ten years.

More importantly it shows the process which led to decisions were badly flawed, miserably failing the people who provided evidence to its inquiries by disdainfully pushing the legislation through the House of Representatives before the Senate Inquiry report had been completed.

Hon. Alastair Nicholson AO in the foreword to the book makes the point,

What I find almost equally disturbing as the policy of ignoring the participation and input of Aboriginal people into the decision making process is Government willingness to perpetuate and cloak racial discrimination against them as so called 'special measures' purporting to protect them, while at the same time abandoning any semblance of compliance with international obligations.

'**A Decision to Discriminate**' follows in the footsteps of 'concerned Australians' earlier publications. It uses quotes as a way of recording what the people have said, e.g. Dr Gondarra OAM, Dhurili Clan Nation:

"... please do not let us down and say, 'This is the legislation we are going to deal with, because the Aboriginal people are naughty boys and naughty girls and so we need to look after them and we need to treat them this way.' No, we do not need that. We are not a puppet on a string. You do not play around with us. We want to be a free people. We want to determine our dignity and pride in being a people. That is the message that we are giving."

This book documents:

- How the majority of those providing evidence to the Committee held similar adverse views in regard to the Stronger Futures legislation
- How Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory are being denied the right of taking responsibility for their communities
- How the Senate Inquiry Committee failed to offer constructive alternatives for Government consideration through recommendation that genuinely reflected the views of the people

We are pleased that the book will be launched by:

Graeme Mundine, Executive Officer, ACM Sydney Archdiocese

Deni Langman, Uluru Traditional Owner

Jeff McMullen, CEO (Honorary) of Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth

The launch will take place at gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe at 6.00 for a 6.30pm start.

Contact: gleebooks 02 9660 2333

www.concernedaustralians.com.au