## The Point Recap: What defunding the police means<sup>1</sup>

includes

## [13 Years Northern Territory Intervention]

Source: The Point /NITV, Neil McMahon, 26 June 2020

On Wednesday night, The Point brought home the issues debated around the world in recent weeks - law enforcement, Black Lives Matter, and where to go from here - including the debate over defunding police forces. ...

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The program also examined the 13th anniversary of the Northern Territory intervention by the Howard Government.

"It saw the Racial Discrimination Act suspended and the introduction of a spate of restrictions impacting Aboriginal people's lives," Mr Janke noted. "From banning alcohol and pornography, to income management programs and the compulsory leasing of land."

"All of this was justified by what was labelled at the time as a child abuse problem in remote communities and to address other social issues."

"Many of the most extreme allegations have since been refuted by reports and investigations, including by the Australian Crime Commission," added Ms Hocking.

Last week, there was a panel held including traditional owners who had lived under the intervention laws.

Aunty Pat Ansell Dodds told the panel "no matter what we do, it's always been, 'Oh, they're Aboriginal, they must have done something wrong'. We're tired of it. But we want to move forward and start telling our kids to be proud of who they are. We want them to go back to country and let their old people teach them the culture."

Warlpiri elder Harry Jakamarra Nelson said the biggest amount of money ever spent on Yuendumu "was more than \$7 million to build a new police station. We've got more police than ever and more people in jail than ever."

"The welfare mob keep taking children away, [they] don't respect our extended families ... everything is done in English. We have no say in running our own lives on our own land. It is like we are under occupation by a foreign power.

"We want our local council back. We want our houses back. We want police to respect us and stop wearing guns."

The conversation following with Larissa Behrendt AO and Teela Reid important. The full <u>The Point</u> program of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 program here; 2 minute footage of NT Elders from the program here

The full video of the forum can be found on the on <u>cA website</u> / http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/

On You Tube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-ypjehkCiM&feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-ypjehkCiM&feature=youtu.be</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2020/06/25/point-recap-what-defunding-police-means? fbclid=lwAR260Olni4VzbmpD3QqzGL3sX2RD4pByjXCVCtmDoEQBh8Mchmr5IB90Lrs