



Catholic Religious support the Yolŋu Nations Statement

6 May 2012

Catholic Religious Australia acknowledges with respect and fully supports the Yolŋu Nations Statement.

Catholic Religious Australia supports the Yolŋu Nations' call to reject the legislation of the 'Stronger Futures Northern Territory 2011 Bills'.

"We have joined with the many Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other Australians who have often spoken about the need to consult Aboriginal people and their Elders in the planning of actions and recommendations that will affect their lives rather than legislating and imposing obligations and rules."

Catholic Religious Australia urges the Federal Government and the Northern Territory Government to listen to the Yolŋu Nations and their requests to abandon this legislation, to honour the legitimate role of the Land Councils and to end interventionist policies.

The Yolŋu Nations clearly state that the way forward is through partnership based on the principles of Self-determination.

"We strongly support the Yolŋu Nations request for sustainable social and economic development of their Homelands and education with instruction in their Yolŋu languages through all levels of schooling."

(Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) is the peak body for leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life resident in Australia. Our membership comprises more than 180 congregations of over 8,000 Sisters, Brothers and Religious Priests living and working in all states and territories.)