



**FATSILC**

FEDERATION OF  
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER LANGUAGES & CULTURE  
(CORPORATION)

## Statement regarding Stronger Futures Bill and Northern Territory Policies

The Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Corporation (FATSILC) is the national peak body for community based Indigenous language programs in Australia.

The organisation was established in 1991 in response to the Australian Language and Literacy Policy, to promote the maintenance, retrieval and revival of Indigenous languages and culture, through the support of community based language and cultural programs.

Our members consists of many Individuals, small communities, Organisations, Educational institutions all over Australia and other global Indigenous people who are working to maintain and revitalise language and culture at the grass roots level.

We proudly, stand with the Yolngu Nations Assembly and strongly support the eight (8) points they made in their statement on 24 May 2012 to the leaders of the Australian Federal and Northern Territory Parliaments.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we do not consent to the laws proposed in the Stronger Futures Bills and we call on the Senate to heed our voice and reject the legislation.

These laws are not needed. They treat us like children and after five years of the Intervention they have done more harm than good to our brothers and sisters in the NT.

We also draw your attention to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples articles 46 and quote;

### **Article 46**

*"1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.*

*2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law, and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.*

*3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith."*

**Respect us, Listen to us, Understand us**, by working with and through our Elders. Support our development by investing in our future in education that promotes our languages and cultures and give us confidence to manage our own affairs.

Barbara McGillivray

Chairperson, On behalf of Board or Directors and Members of FATSILC Corporation

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