

22 June 2012

Concerned Australian
PO Box 281
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Dear Concerned Australian

Re: Stronger Futures Legislation

I have read the statement by the Yolŋu Makarr Dhuni dated 24 April 2012, to withdraw the Stronger Futures Bill on the basis that the approach utilised in this Bill continues to negatively impact on the social and emotional well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) acknowledges the importance of consultation and engagement at the local community level to ensure optimal mental health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Below is a list of RANZCP documents that the Yolŋu Makarr Dhuni may find helpful:

- Principles and guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Ethical Guideline (http://www.ranzcp.org/Files/ranzcp-attachments/Resources/College_Statements/Ethical_Guidelines/eg11-pdf.aspx)
- Stolen generations position statement (http://www.ranzcp.org/Files/ranzcp-attachments/Resources/College_Statements/Position_Statements/ps42-pdf.aspx)
- Recognition of Indigenous people in the Australian Constitution (http://www.ranzcp.org/Files/ranzcp-attachments/Resources/College_Statements/Position_Statements/ps68-pdf.aspx)

In accordance with the position stated in these publications, the RANZCP supports the Yolŋu Makarr Dhuni withdrawal of the Bill.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues in regard to this letter, or would like any further information, please contact Dr Anne Ellison, via anne.ellison@ranzcp.org or by phone on (03) 9601 4918.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Tomasic
President

Ref: 2484