



1 June 2012

To Whom It May Concern

For decades now, many Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians have quite rightly asked why it is that we can spend so much on Aboriginal policy reform for such futile outcomes.

It is because we have failed to engage in a high expectations relationship and persist with policy approaches that have done things 'to' Aboriginal people, not 'with' them.

The Stronger Smarter philosophy demands relationships that honour the humanity of others, and in so doing, acknowledge their strengths, capacity and human rights emancipatory opportunities.

The extent to which the Stronger Futures legislation does this is seriously questionable.

It would be most helpful if Government were prepared to start again by withdrawing the current legislation as suggested by the Yolngu Nations Assembly and in a genuine partnership with Aboriginal Peoples of the Northern Territory allow them to determine their own way forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Sarra'.

Dr Chris Sarra
Executive Director

Stronger Smarter Institute