



The people involved in the Malpa Project have walked and worked with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters for many years. We have witnessed the terrible impact of the blunt tool called the Intervention which has effectively disenfranchised them from participating in decisions that affect their lives. It was clear from day one that this was a simplistic response to a complex range of issues whose possible solutions had been carefully laid out in the considered recommendations made in the 'Little Children are Sacred' report.

The Intervention has failed in nearly every way and has created havoc and trauma. The prospect of it being entrenched for a further decade is shocking to contemplate. The Intervention flies in the face of the wise counsel of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders. It should be a source of shame to a nation capable of much better.

We fully support the statement of the Yolngu Nations Assembly and the people of the Eastern Alyawarr Region.

We believe progress can only be achieved together with the people and the government pulling in the same direction. So we call on the government to be the healer of wounds, not the cause of them.

We implore the government to re-think their plans, to allow Aboriginal people to be at the centre of decision making and enable us all to walk into a better future.

Don Palmer  
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