

Urban Seed strongly supports Yolngu Nations' rejection of Stronger Futures Bill

Urban Seed strongly supports the Yolngu Nations Assembly statement rejecting further extensions of the Northern Territory Intervention through the Stronger Futures legislation.

Urban Seed supports the right of First Australians to self-determination. We note that the Yolngu nations have clearly communicated their rejection of this legislation and therefore to proceed with it would contradict that right. The points made in the statement clearly outline why the Stronger Futures legislation is unhelpful and undermines community cohesion and health. In particular we support the Yolngu Nations Assembly's call for "both Australian Federal and Northern Territory governments to end their interventionist policies and agendas and return to a mindset of partnership based on the principles of Self-Determination."

Our experience in almost twenty years of working with marginalised people around Victoria is that empowerment can never result from top-down intervention; it must be actively embraced by the people themselves. We therefore call on the government to adopt policies which partner with local communities for their health and wellbeing, and respect local land and culture.

Aboriginal people have endured and survived more than 200 years of colonialist intervention which has disrupted their way of life and connection to land. The Northern Territory Intervention continued that history. It is high time Australia put an end these policies, listened to the First Peoples of this land, and partnered with them into a shared future. We ask that this legislation be rescinded and any future legislation be the fruit of healthy, equal partnership agreements.



Chris Lacey
Executive Director