

**MEDIA RELEASE**



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**Stronger Futures defies Aboriginal community aspirations**

“The passage of the Stronger Futures bills through Parliament defies the aspirations of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory for more control over their lives and represents a failure of political leadership”, said Ms Jacqueline Phillips, National Director of ANTaR.

“The Government's refusal to subject the laws to human rights scrutiny shows a lack of respect for Aboriginal communities, their local and national leaders and the United Nations, all of whom have supported calls for human rights scrutiny.”

Their concerns regarding the bills have been echoed by more than 42,000 individuals who have signed a petition calling for the bills to be withdrawn and for a new approach based on partnership and respect.

“Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory have not given their support to this package of measures, which would extend key Intervention measures for a further 10 years.”

“The future of NT communities should be negotiated on a basis of respect, good faith and trust. Any long-term strategy should demonstrate a mature nation's commitment to listen, partner with and support Aboriginal organisations and communities to take control of their futures”.

“ANTaR is concerned that the passage of the Stronger Futures Bills represents a betrayal of trust. These laws are likely to cause further hurt and suffering in NT communities without delivering promised improvements to health, education or employment.”

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