



22 June 2011

STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS CO-CHAIRS

CONGRESS SAYS PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN NT

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples today called on all Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to have their say on the future of the intervention, as part of a Federal Government commitment to further consultation.

Responding to the release of a discussion paper on the next phase of the intervention, Congress said the Government must uphold and protect Aboriginal peoples' human rights in any remodelling of the program.

The Congress will encourage its Members to put their views forward to the Government as there will be robust debate about the content of the paper.

The Congress will also be focused on the nature and scope of consultations in line with Minister Macklin's commitment in the discussion paper that "*the views of people living in the Northern Territory will be at the centre of shaping what we do next...*".

Inaugural Congress Co-Chairs Josephine Bourne and Sam Jeffries, said Congress had already committed to talking to members in the Northern Territory to help confirm a formal Congress position on the intervention.

Discussions are already underway and will be continued over the coming weeks with individuals, peak organisations and social justice bodies.

The Co-Chairs agreed that there should be a written submission process included in the consultations and that they should be made publicly available where ever possible.

Contact: media@nationalcongress.com.au

To view a copy of the Government's discussion paper: <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/index.php/stronger-futures-in-the-northern-territory>