

'Generating none! Corporate campaign hides jobs massacre in remote communities'

On Sunday night Andrew Forrest's "Generation One" televised its address to the nation. But Aboriginal rights groups campaigning against the Northern Territory Intervention say the gloss of Generation One hides the massive cuts to Aboriginal employment as Community Development Employment Projects (CDEPs) close down.

Only 26 jobs are listed as available in the Northern Territory on the Australian Employment Covenant website, none of them in remote communities. Over 7500 NT Aboriginal people were employed by CDEP before the program began to be dismantled under the Intervention.

"The way Generation One are carrying on is disgusting, a real slap in the face. They come through town with a fancy road-show while hardworking Aboriginal people are being thrown out of work by the Intervention or are now working for the BasicsCard. Is this the future for the next generation in 'prescribed areas'?" said Barbara Shaw, Mount Nancy Town Camp resident and Intervention Rollback Action Group (IRAG) spokesperson.

"We are sick of the broken promises from government and big corporations. Two years ago Andrew Forrest and Kevin Rudd promised us 50,000 jobs. But our people living under the Intervention have seen nothing."

Under the NT intervention people who were previously receiving over \$1000 a fortnight working in Aboriginal communities are now either unemployed, or compelled to work for quarantined Centrelink payments that amount to between \$4 - 7 cash an hour.

"The Intervention and the introduction of super Shires here in the NT also promised us 'real jobs'. But bureaucrats and contractors have gotten rich while our communities are written off as 'unviable' and pushed further into poverty. Many people do not want to have to move off their traditional lands just to get a job. We want proper employment in our own communities" continued Ms Shaw.

"The hypocrisy from the Gillard government on Aboriginal employment is beyond the pale. They have written a blank cheque for Australia's biggest corporations, but has actually acquired the resources of Aboriginal organisations who used to provide CDEP", said Jean Parker from the Stop the Intervention Collective Sydney.

"Aboriginal people are uniting to fight back. I have just returned from a strike meeting in Kalkaringi attended by more than 200 Gurindji people. This Friday we will rally with supporters around the country to demand an end to the Intervention and Jobs with Justice for Aboriginal workers" concluded Ms Shaw.

A 'Jobs with Justice statement' will be published this Thursday in The Australian, is supported by individuals and organisations including: The Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC, George Newhouse, Rachel Siewert (WA Greens Senator), Warwick Thornton, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, and Unions NT.

The statement calls for an end compulsory Income Management, an end current CDEP arrangements forcing people to work for the BasicsCard, and for the government to provide massive investment in job creation and service provision in all Aboriginal communities.

Rallies to launch the statement will be held around the country on Friday:

- **Alice Springs:** Rally 12.30 Friday 29th October, Court House Lawns, Mparntwe, Alice Springs
- **Brisbane** Speakout outside Centrelink, 21 Cordelia St, South Brisbane 12pm 29 October.
- **Melbourne:** Rally Friday, 29 October 2010 5.30pm, State Library of Victoria Streets)
- **Sydney:** Protest at Sydney Town Hall on Friday, 29 October 2010 – Noon

For comment contact: Barb Shaw (Alice Springs) 0401 291 166, Jean Parker (Sydney) 0449 646 593

For details of rallies in each city go to: <http://jobswithjustice.wordpress.com/>