



NT Intervention - Stronger Futures

8 years of Racist Shame!

Join us for an anniversary march and rally

Sydney Town Hall

3 pm, Sunday 21 June 2015

Followed by a march to The Block, Redfern

Speakers:

Uncle Albert Hartnett, a Wangkumurra man with first-hand experience of child removal

Uncle Ken Canning, Murri writer and poet from the Kunja Clan of the Bidjira Nation

Kyol Blakeney, a Kamilaroi man and Sydney University SRC president

Eva Cox, Research Fellow at Jumbunna, Indigenous House of Learning at UTS

Gerry Georgatos, Human rights and social justice campaigner. Editor of The Stringer.

And more speakers at the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy at The Block

Sponsored by Stop The Intervention Collective Sydney

Contact: Alex on 0449 184 801 or Cathy on 0422 385 852

June 21 will mark eight years since John Howard announced the NT Intervention and sent the military into Aboriginal communities. This was one of the most shameful days in the history of Australia's brutal and racist treatment of First Nations People and has set the struggle for First Nations rights back many decades.

More than \$1 billion has been wasted on bureaucrats and punishment yet government statistics show that since 2007 in the NT incarceration has doubled, reported rates of attempted suicide and self-harm are up almost 500%, child removal rates have increased more than three-fold, and there is more alcohol related domestic violence.

The Intervention removed the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) which provided employment and maintained basic infrastructure in the communities. It removed assets, which are vital to remote communities and which are taken for granted in any other community in this country.

In 2012, the federal Labor government passed the Stronger Futures legislation that extended the main measures of the NT Intervention for another 10 years.

Aboriginal people have continued to be treated as second class citizens: police can enter their homes without a warrant, courts are unable to consider cultural circumstances when sentencing, alcohol and R18+ material are restricted regardless of community wishes and in the NT 90% of people on income management are Aboriginal — about 20,000 people.

The resistance of NT communities and First Nations Peoples and their supporters to these policies has been ongoing.

The Intervention/Stronger Futures legislation is the primary reason that small remote Aboriginal communities in the NT are now so weak and vulnerable to closure. Besides the devastation caused in the Northern Territory, the Intervention has provided the framework for spreading the politics of assimilation and punishment across Australia.

First Nations peoples and their supporters are coming together in unprecedented numbers to fight back against community closures and policies that foster cultural genocide and disempowerment.