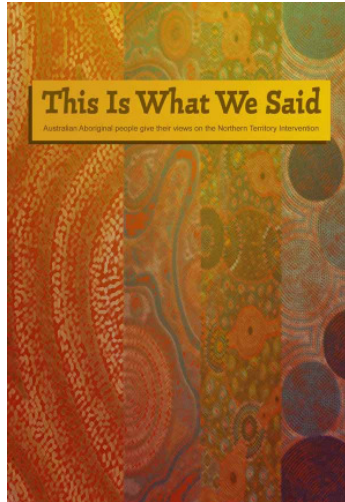


Book Review

“This Is What We Said”

Australian Aboriginal people give their views on the Northern Territory Intervention



ISBN: 978-0-646-52787-1

71 pages, hard cover book with Aboriginal cover design

21 photographs by Canberra documentary maker Eleanor Gilbert of Enlightning Productions

Compiled and published by 'concerned Australians'

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www.concernedaustralians.com.au

“***This Is What We Said***” follows on from the report “*Will They Be Heard?*” which was released in November 2009.

Using pictures and quotations taken from footage of actual NTER consultations at Bagot, Ampilatwatja, Utopia and Yirrkala between June and August 2009, this book provides an account of the depth of frustration and despair of many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory regarding the Intervention.

It is mainly a book of quotes from Aboriginal people giving their own views on the Intervention. Giving voice to Aboriginal people from the Northern Territory is fairly uncommon. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive authentic information about what Aboriginal people really think about the Intervention. It is highly important that these views are heard for they differ vastly from what is often portrayed in the media.

The comments from the Laynhapuy Homeland Mala Leaders at Yirrkala are particularly striking:

'The problems our people face can be addressed through programs and funding targeted on a needs basis alone, under the Closing the Gap policy. We should not be subjected to special measures that separate us out or impose things on us without agreement. Our responses to your questions in this consultation must not be used by the Australian Government to argue for the continuation of the NTER, Intervention or justify what has been done to date.'

Also included in “***This Is What We Said***” are quotes on the Intervention from other well known Australians and UN representatives as well as a brief introduction about the Intervention. It reveals a desire for locally based solutions, rather than applying a top down approach.

“***This Is What We Said***” was launched in various cities around Australia in February 2010.