

Josephite SA Reconciliation Circle in support of Yolgnu Nations Statement

Josephite SA Reconciliation Circle

The Josephite SA Reconciliation Circle, together with our mentor, Kurna Elder Dr Alitya Rigney join our voices with those of the Yolgnu Nations Assembly who released their Statement yesterday, May 2, 2012. Together with the Assembly, we *'reject the Stronger Futures Bill (and those associated) and call on the Senate to discard these Bills in full.'*

Since the inception of the Intervention into the NT in 2007, our Circle has campaigned against this disempowering legislation. Now, in support of the Yolgnu Nations, we once again call on both Federal and NT Governments to work with Aboriginal communities rather than impose their own decisions.

Many of our members have a teaching background so realise the effectiveness of children learning in their own language. Together with the Yolgnu Nations, we therefore also call *'for an end to the Northern Territory Government's Compulsory Teaching in English for the First Four Hours of Each Day policy.'*

'This policy,' says Dr Rigney, *'goes right back to the 1800s. Originally the missionaries were teaching the Kurna kids in their own language at Piltawodli on the River Torrens in Adelaide. Then the SA Government of the day imposed English only teaching.'*

The Josephite SA Reconciliation Circle believes that the *'Stronger Futures In the NT ' Bill totally ignores the reality that community-led and community-owned decisions are more likely to succeed than top-down punitive measures. We therefore join with the Yolgnu Nations as they 'call on both the Federal and NT Governments to end interventionist policies and agendas, and return to a mindset of partnership based on the principles of Self- Determination.'*

3rd May 2012