



Wednesday 2 May 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Quakers in Australia support Yolŋu Nations Assembly's rejection of Stronger Futures Bills

Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia support the Statement made by Yolŋu Nations Assembly (see attachment) to the Australian Federal and Northern Territory Parliaments calling on the Senate to discard the Stronger Futures Bills in full.

We also endorse the call made by Yolŋu Nations Assembly for the Federal and Northern Territory Governments to 'end their interventionist policies and agendas, and return to a mindset of partnership based on the principles of self-determination'.

Following our Yearly Meeting in Perth in January, the Society wrote to the Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott, and the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin asking the Government to comply with the international obligations Australia entered into when we signed the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We believe that the Stronger Futures Bills and the way they may be applied does not adequately protect appropriate rights to self-determination for the groups and communities to whom it applies. These rights to self-determination are defined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxine C Cooper".

Maxine C Cooper
Presiding Clerk, Australia Yearly Meeting

Australia Yearly Meeting

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