



FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION
GENEVA

20 July 2012

Ms Maria Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona
Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

Mr James Anaya
Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

United Nations
Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

OHCHR REGISTRY

23 JUL 2012

Recipients: SPD.....

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Dear Ms Carmona and Mr Anaya

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 2012 concerning the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory legislation.

The *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* has now been passed by the Australian Parliament. Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory is the Australian Government's commitment to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to work in partnership with them over the next 10 years to drive positive change.

The Australian Government's commitment will see continued investment in making communities safer and families and children healthier. It is focused on ensuring children get a decent education, helping create jobs in communities, and giving people living in outstations and homelands certainty that basic services will continue to be provided.

Complementing this investment, the Stronger Futures legislation will help the Australian Government work in partnership with Aboriginal people to deal with the issues they have told us are the most urgent. The Australian Government will work with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to continue to tackle alcohol abuse and the damage it causes. The Australian Government will also work with Aboriginal people to ensure that children go to school every day to get a good education, and that parents play their part in making this happen.