

Re: reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 in the Northern Territory

I wish to view my concerns over the fact that whilst in opposition, The Rudd Government condemned the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 by the then Howard Government to allow its Intervention— yet despite a large petition of 4156 signatures tabled by the Australian Greens and huge public outcry – the RDA has yet to be reinstated.

It is interesting to note that today (February 3, 2009) a media release was made to Sky News stating that Sydney based Human Rights lawyer George Newhouse, and former Federal Court Judge, Ron Merkel , are working on taking the fight against the Federal Governments' Intervention in the Northern Territory to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Surely, this is yet one more blight on our already less than ideal treatment of our Indigenous Australians.

One of the major objectives of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 is to make discrimination against people on the basis of their race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin unlawful.

There is no doubt in my mind that the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 eighteen months in the Northern Territory is indeed in direct violation of Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986.

The reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 must be acted upon immediately.