

# Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory

An alliance of the CLC, NLC, CAALAS, NAAJA and AMSANT

Select Committee into the Abbott Government's Budget Cuts

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Via e-mail to: [budgetcuts.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:budgetcuts.sen@aph.gov.au)

19 September 2014

To the Select Committee,

**RE: APO NT's Submission to the Select Committee into the Abbott Government's Budget Cuts**

Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Select Committee and is grateful to the Committee for granting APO NT a lengthy extension.

This submission reiterates many of the views and recommendations provided in APO NT's submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into the Social Services Bills as well as the concerns raised by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Australian Council of Social Services submissions to the Select Committee on the Abbott Government Budget Cuts.

APO NT contends that the Government's proposed changes to the Aboriginal legal services, access to health services and to the welfare system will have a significant, detrimental impact on Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. Such budget cuts run counter to Australia's efforts to Close the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage, particularly in areas with weak labour markets and a lack of job opportunities. This is of serious concern especially considering where there appears to be an enormous impact on people that are not in the labour force, this includes the elderly, students and those engaged in home duties.

If you wish to discuss any of the above in further detail, please contact Brionee Noonan by phone on (08) 8944 6672 or via e-mail to [researchofficer.apont@amsant.org.au](mailto:researchofficer.apont@amsant.org.au) for further information.

Yours sincerely,



John Paterson

CEO

AMSANT, for:

David Ross Director CLC	Priscilla Collins CEO NAAJA	John Paterson CEO AMSANT	Patricia Miller CEO CAALAS	Joe Morrison CEO NLC
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