



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

NORTHERN SYNOD

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Dear FAHCSIA

The Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia wishes to endorse the submission from the Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) concerning the Exposure Draft of the instruments relating to the expansion of the Income Management system.

The Uniting Church Northern Synod has consistently opposed compulsory income management and the changes now proposed go nowhere near enough to reflecting a respect for human dignity. It should be noted that almost half the members of the Uniting Church Northern Synod are Indigenous people, most of whom suffer from the "benefits" of income management on a daily basis.

As our organisation has repeatedly stated, what is required is a re-setting of the relationship. This need was recognised in the *Future Directions for the Northern Territory Emergency Response Discussion Paper*, 21 May 2009 by Minister Macklin, see page 5.

However having recognised the need, the responses from FAHCSIA continue to ignore meaningful engagement with Indigenous people and instead seek to rely on punitive regulatory approaches. These approaches are inconsistent with the values of our organisation and as history shows, are also a waste of time and money.

The NTCOSS submission is supported, the exposure draft from FAHSCIA is not.

Yours sincerely

Peter Jones
General Secretary - Northern Synod
23 June 2010