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| UCA Logo - Print Version | **Uniting Church in Australia**NORTHERN SYNOD |

**Intervention/Stronger Futures Statement**

Proposal: That Synod authorises the Moderator or General Secretary to write to Minister Macklin advising that:

1. Government acknowledgement that the Intervention needs to be “examined” is welcomed, as is the further opportunity to comment on what should happen next;
2. The view that “we must work in partnership” is also welcomed as this has not been the approach used to date;
3. Our Synod has great concerns about the process to be used, ie the “consultations” to be held from late June to mid August as this is an unrealistic timeframe. We also have great concerns about the process of these consultations, where there is minimal time for another flyin/fly out visit to major communities which sees bureaucrats collecting a series of ideas they do not understand and taking these back to Canberra to design Intervention mk2;
4. While we will make some specific suggestions as requested, in the *Stronger Futures* Discussion Paper, our major concern now, as it has been every year since 2007 is; stop telling us and doing things to us and start to work alongside us in partnership. This will involve a resetting of the government – Indigenous relationship and for government to start to use different approaches.
5. The World Council of Churches (WCC) *Living Letters* visit as well as the recent visit by the UN Human Rights Commissioner continues to show the Intervention is mostly wrong and needs substantial change.
6. For how much longer do we need to tell our story?

Rationale

Each year since the Intervention commenced in 2007, Synod has made a statement about the NT Intervention. As the Intervention is still impacting the lives of many of our members it is necessary to make a further statement. The government has already partly acted in response to previous concerns about; compulsory income management, suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, the offensive signs may be removed, but our major concern about a working relationship in partnership continues to be ignored.