

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **A timeline of significant events leading up to and during the intervention**

#### **2006**

**15 May** – ABC's *Lateline* reports on the sexual abuse of Aboriginal children in Northern Territory (NT) communities.

**22 June** – The NT Government announces they will establish an inquiry into child sexual abuse in NT Aboriginal communities.

**8 August** – NT Chief Minister appoints Rex Wild QC and Patricia Anderson to the NT Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse.

#### **2007**

**30 April** – *Little Children are Sacred*, report of the NT Board of Inquiry is presented to the NT Parliament.

**15 June** – *Little Children are Sacred* report is publicly released and concluded that sexual abuse of children in Aboriginal communities had reached crisis levels, demanding that it *...be designated as an issue of urgent national significance by both the Australian and Northern Territory governments.*

**21 June** – Prime Minister Howard announces the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER).

**17 August** – Senate approve the package of legislation: the *Northern Territory National Emergency response Act 2007*; the *Social Security and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Northern Territory National Emergency Response and Other Measures) Act 2007*; and the *Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other legislation Amendment Act 2007*.

**24 November** – Change of government with Kevin Rudd becoming Prime Minister.

#### **2008**

**31 March** – Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, releases his Ten Point Action Plan proposal as a way forward for the Australian Government's NTER.

**21 June** – One year since the NTER began. Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA),

announces a new \$17.6 million trial over three years. Parents who fail to enrol their children or get them to school regularly will have their income support payments suspended until they fulfil their obligations.

**24 July** – Rudd government announces BasicsCard to manage the income of all Aboriginal Centrelink recipients in the NT.

**8 September** – Centrelink begins distributing BasicsCard in the NT.

**13 October** – NTER Review Board provides review of the first 12 months of the NTER to the Australian Government.

**23 October** – Australian Government's release interim management response to NTER Review Board's report.

**24 November** – Income management trials begin in WA estimated to apply to up to 1 000 individuals 2008-09 across the trial locations. The trial gives state child protection authorities the power to recommend to Centrelink that income support and family payments be quarantined and used for the benefit of children.

## **2009**

**3 April** – Australia supports *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The Declaration states that, among other rights, all Aboriginal people have the right to self-determination.

**21 May** – Australian and NT governments release a joint response to the NTER Review Board supporting the majority of the recommendations.

**21 May** – *Discussion paper on Future Directions for the NTER*.

The government release a discussion paper for consulting with Indigenous NT communities on designing a compulsory income management policy which does not require the suspension of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (RDA)*.

**25 May** – Australian Government announces proposal to compulsorily acquire Alice Springs town camps.

**June–August** – Consultations and workshops run by FaHCSIA with Aboriginal people in the NT about future directions of the NTER.

**21 June** – Two years since the NTER began. Protests against the NTER held around Australia.

**26 June** – Centrelink records show that 15 182 customers have their payments income managed.

**3 July** – Australian Productivity Commission report reiterates two key points:

- The need for reliable statistics measuring the effects of government measures, and
- The importance of community ownership of projects and close consultation between community and government.

**15 July** – People from the Ampilatwatja community walk off their land in protest against the NTER ensuring they are no longer subject to the NTER legislation. In August they seek refugee status from the UN as people displaced from their country.

**27 August** – UN Rapporteur's statement on the NTER released.

**1 November** – The government misses the self-imposed deadline to reinstate the RDA in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities.

**25 November** – Australian government announces that it will reinstate the RDA by 2010.

**26 November** – The Senate, on the recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee, referred the provision of Bills to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 9 March 2010.

**2010**

**February/March** – Senate Community Affairs legislation Committee holds public hearings after receiving 95 submissions.

**24 February** – The final report of the UN's special Rapporteur on Indigenous rights, Professor James Anaya, finds the Intervention limits the rights and freedoms of Indigenous people in breach of Australia's international obligations.

**10 March** – Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee release their report recommending the Senate pass the government's bills, recommending that:

...the evaluation of the proposed income management measure in the Northern Territory be well-resourced, include community consultation in the design of the evaluation, feature the collection of baseline data prior to implementation, include robust quantitative data analysis and be undertaken by an independent research organisation.

**21 June** – *The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009* is passed by the Senate. This repeals all NTER laws that suspend the operation of the RDA from 31 December. The administration of income management is

estimated to cost taxpayers \$350 - \$400 million dollars over the next four years, or about \$4,000 per person a year.

**August** – The new scheme is now legally available for all eligible working age recipients of certain income support payments in the NT. Their payments are now category based: time on payments established eligibility for the unemployed, sole parents, some recent immigrants and non-student youth. They could apply for exemptions if they met certain other criteria. Existing recipients who were no longer covered by compulsory schemes were offered incentives to stay on as voluntary income management recipients. It has been rolled out slowly over the past year plus.

## **2011**

**May** - Budget Statement announces five new income management schemes in NSW.