

“Stronger Futures” Consultation

Alice Springs Public Meeting

2nd August, 2011

00:19 M H (C?) – Alright, good afternoon everyone my name is M H. I work for the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and I’m based here in Alice Springs. Now welcome to this consultation session here tonight. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and the elders past and present.

[Housekeeping..... water, tea, coffee, exit points, toilets]

01:09 I will just introduce a couple of other people that are here in the room Gap no recording this conversation and those notes will later be fed back to government to inform them on further decisions around policy, so we’ll keep notes but we won’t be attributing comments to any particular person, so your anonymity will be assured, we’ll just keep notes about the issues that are raised.

Sitting in the front here is J M the regional director south for the office as well, and S V up the back the ICC manager. If there are specific issues that arise during the night that can be addressed immediately then I’ll refer those issues to Steve or Jill and you can talk to them after the meeting about those particular issues . You’ll notice that there’s a film crew here over to my right; they are a film crew from channel 4 in UK and they’ll be filming this meeting here tonight and they’ll mainly be working around that side of the room. But I just wanted to let people know that they will be filmed and if there is anyone here in the audience that doesn’t want to be filmed let us know now.

OK so the gentleman down at the back, alright we’ll make sure you do not get filmed throughout the night. Alright, I’ll be facilitating this meeting tonight. I’ll be talking to you for the first 5 or 10 minutes but then I hope that most of the talk comes from the audience and that you provide some information to us about decisions that government can make in the future. It’s really important that we think about where to next and I want to try and keep the meeting focussed on what we do in the future, what government does, some of the areas they should be looking at, but I’ll go through a bit of a preamble and explain to you why we’re here and how we got to this point from where we started around the NTER and we’ll go from there.....

03:47 There we go. So why are we here ? Basically the Australian Government is committed to working with all people in the NT ; that’s a really important point as we move forward. I should also point out that there is some interpreters here. If people do need interpreting then we have L M and I H here. They speak a number of languages and they’re available to assist people that maybe do need interpreting. I’ll just ask them both to come forward and talk in language about their role here tonight. They are assisting government in this process but they’re not working for government they come from

the Aboriginal Language Service and they are here to assist with any people that don't understand English. I'll just ask them to come forward. Maybe L do you want to start.

4:50 L M language ... My name is L, I work for interpreter service and I am here representing.... Not decipherable.... .

5:06 I H Hello I am Isobel Hagan and I am one of the interpreters and will be interpreting if my people need me to interpret in Majura and Western Arunta language..

5:45 M - Thanks so if anyone needs some support with the interpreters just let us know. So why are we here today? The NTER was announced by government in 2007 and the NTER consisted of a number of measures. Some of them were legislated measures and some were funded measures. Those measures came into being in the middle of 2007 and were here for 5 years. It's now 4 years on and we're getting to the point where the government is considering what it does at the end of the 5 year period. As I said government 's committed to working with Indigenous people on the next phase of the NTER and it was really important that we consulted with Indigenous people and the wider community about where to next. So basically we want to talk to you here today about your views on whether you have seen any changes since the NTER where you think we should go into the future, what we could do better what are some of the changes you would like to see.

Some of the measures that came into being under the emergency response included things like alcohol restrictions , pornography restrictions, community store's licensing - they were the legislative changes. Some of the funded measures included additional police, additional teachers, additional infrastructure, such as school rooms and police stations. Now most of these additional facilities and the like obviously occurred out in the communities, but some of the legislative measures such as the prescribed areas also applied to town camps and other places closer to town. When the Intervention or the emergency response was introduced there were no consultation with the anyone, certainly not with Indigenous people, and government were committed this time around to do some consultations. So this is part of those consultations. We're doing public meetings in the major centers of the NT, so Darwin, Katherine, Tennant, Alice Springs and Nhululunbuy. We're also doing individual community consultations in all of the 73 prescribed communities across the NT and they have been going on for the past few weeks. We're also doing individual stakeholder meetings where we might engage with a particular key group of stakeholders. We're also doing meetings around particular themes so in Alice Springs, at a meeting especially around alcohol. Through our government business managers we are also doing one on one consultations in community where we'll talk to individuals, we'll talk to smaller groups, we'll talk to particular groups like women or whatever that want to talk to us and have a say. All those conversations are recorded, people's identity is protected but all those conversations are recorded and it all gets fed into the government process so that they can use that information to make further decisions around the policy.

09:35 Some people would be aware that there was a review done 12 months in or so, in 1998 (*sic*). Government did a review of the NTER and we did a number of consultations during that review. As a result of that, government committed to a number of things. Two of those were that they committed to resetting the relationship with Indigenous people and this is part of that process, so that we do consult

and take Indigenous people's views into account. And they also committed to bringing back the Racial Discrimination Act, so legislation was then brought into parliament and the RDA in so far as it affected the Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation was introduced and passed in parliament. So, to do that, a number of the measures, a number of the key reforms under the Emergency Response had to be redesigned to ensure that they complied with the RDA. One such measure was Income Management. Originally that only applied to people that lived in certain areas. It didn't apply across the whole of the NT. It's now been changed and it now applies to particular people receiving benefits across the whole of the NT, not just Indigenous people and not just if you live in community. So that measure has been changed to ensure it complies. It is now non discriminatory. It is seen as a welfare reform right across the NT. And in fact some of those reforms are also taking place in other states, and other parts of Aust. So they were a couple of changes that were made after the first review of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

11:35 As I said we are going through a rather large process at the moment of talking to a number of people across in the Northern Territory and some other key stakeholders outside of the Northern Territory about where to next. Government has got some priority areas, and in June 2011 the Stronger Futures discussion paper was released and there's copies over near the door if people don't have a copy of it and what to have a read. So this was the basis to start that conversation about where to next. It does outline a number of priority areas and we'd really like to cover off on those priority areas here tonight if we can, but we're not gonna stop people from raising other issues and discussing other issues. If you want to discuss other issues, same deal we're happy to do that, we'll record it and it'll get fed back into the process so that government can consider the views when making further decisions. But it is important that we cover off on the priority areas that have been identified.

12:46 So they're the areas that are identified in the Stronger Futures paper. There's three in particular that are very important to government moving forward that they would really like to focus some of their attention on and that is basically school attendance, how we get children to school so that they can learn to read and write and achieve educational attainment. Economic development and jobs. How do we get more people into jobs and further how do we reduce the harm created by problem drinking in the Northern Territory. So they're three of the key priority areas, but there's a number of others that we'll go through here tonight as well as I say, if you want to discuss other issues we can do that.

13:40 And once again that just outlines some of those areas. And whilst some people have asked why we're doing this specifically in the Northern Territory; it's because of the high levels of disadvantage in the Northern Territory; there's plenty of evidence out there about the high level of disadvantage and so the government is committed to doing something about that in a positive sense.

14:10 So as I say I'm happy to talk about other areas but I think it'd be great if we could start on some of these priority areas. We do have some roving microphones around so I've got R over here and K over that side with roving microphones for people to use. There is a number of people here so it would be good to use them so we can all hear what's going on. There is a number of questions up there (*slide*) that we'd like to examine here tonight and hear from people about their views on this topic. So as I said earlier I don't want to say too much. I'd like to hear from people about how we address some of those questions up there. So would anyone like to start, talk about school, schooling, school attendance, any

issues And keeping in mind that it's about what should we do nextwhat shall we do for the future to improve the quality of education that kids receive and the numbers that are going to school...?

15:25 K – Looks like I shall start... Old uncle. Schooling very important but how you go about it is very, very crucial. You know we're teaching kids economics, computers and all that. But something I hope that they are teaching kids at school, basic survival things like how to grow vegetables , how to farm, how to live off the land. You know because you can't live on computers and this world is going mad on computerisation and the basic simples of life, from what I can understand, is not coming out. You know you can have a brainy kid, you know, we got all this thing you know about I can talk all day about this one, but you, me eyes are failing me, about welfare, you know, putting welfare on people that don't go to school. What happens if a poor mother sends her kid to school and the kid goes thingo, are you going to quarantine their welfare payment or whatever it is? A lot these parents that got jobs some of their kids don't go to school, doesn't matter what colour; they play hunky hunky. I think we got to get more truant officers. But it's up to parents to try and get their people edumacated (sic) as we say and get it back to the way in my day when I was in a boys home you was forced to go or got a flogging. You know, we don't want to go back to them days, we need to get into it in a sensible way because we are going into a highly tech world that is sending people a bit silly and I think we need to get the basic teaching back the way it was.

17:17 M Ok thanks, there's just a lady out there in front...

17:23 White lady 1, glasses, black shirt - Other clinical and health psychologist are also...I'm an educational psychologist. I worked extensively around remote schools around South Australia. I think before we start punishing parents we need to look at schools and why the children don't go to school. There is a lot of reasons for that. But one of them is that the programs that are offered at schools are not appropriate for children. We have very well meaning teachers who are trained to educate children who are well fed, who sleep well , who lead pretty good lives but the children we have out bush in remote communities are often highly stressed, they're sleep deprived, their families are extremely stressed. And that's been going on for generations. Now that effects their capacity to learn and the way you teach them. They can certainly learn but you have to teach them in a very different way to the way they're tried to be taught at the moment and that means you have to recognise that special situation they're in. It 's not even about a lot more money, it's about knowing how to teach children who are in that sort of situation so it's about the way you teach. At the moment from what I saw in many of the schools it does vary a great deal but there's a general theme that many of those children are staying away from school for their own survival. School is a very threatening and emotionally unsafe place for many children the way it's operating at the moment.

19:10 We are often also attracting the wrong kind of teachers. There has been some changes made in attempts to try and change the way they're recruiting but quite frankly the recruiting methods were just insane. And you're getting young teachers straight from college dumped into an environment that they know nothing about. Some kids were having 6 teachers in a term. Now there's no way children will learn under those conditions. 25 to 30 years ago before a teacher was allowed to teach in a remote school they spent some time, 2 to 3 months working alongside existing teachers learning how to team teach with the Aboriginal teachers. That doesn't happen now and it is a skill to be able to team teach appropriately, because the most effective teachers in the schools will be the Aboriginal staff who are

committed to the children and will stay for a long time. So I think you've got to look at it from a totally different angle to just blaming the parents and trying to get them to force their kids to go to school when their children are feeling very threatened and the parents feel threatened and many of the Aboriginal teachers also feeling extremely threatened.

20:24 M Ok thanks. There was a chap down the back. I should also say that some people are very passionate about topics and do want to put in a submissions or get their point across through other forums, you can do that. We're not calling for written submissions under this process but if people do want to write to the minister, and that's the commonwealth minister, Minister Macklin, then people can do that through the normal means and that will get fed into the process as well. Alternatively you can just come and see us up at the Indigenous Co-ordination Centre and we can talk to you about it up there so this is not the only opportunity you will have so by all means if you want to take advantage of those other ways that we have.

21:14 White man 1 – Man standing with glasses a fawn shirt – I'm just looking at all those questions up there and they all look to me like they're questions about how we *make* things happen, rather than asking questions about how will children *want* to go to school and *why*, how would they enjoy being at school and *how* would they enjoy learning and perhaps it's picking up a little bit on the speaker before me, but there're issues of actually turning it around so we're encouraging learning as something people want to do and making it worthwhile for them rather than a set of ways of how can we make this happen.

21:55 M So do you have any thoughts on how we might do that?

21:58 White man – Well I think we've gotta think less about compulsion. That's not to say that doesn't form part of an overall strategy but it seems to me, well all those questions up there seem to be, all in one way or another, about compulsion. But actually everybody loves learning and I'm not an educationalist but I think that's true and any educationalist will tell you that so how do we instil that love of learning and I don't think it'll come from a whole set of compulsions.

22:34 M Ok thanks....just go to...

22:36 White man 2 P – silver hair blue shirt – I would just like to reiterate what a couple of previous earlier speakers said. Curriculum has to be engaging young people and adolescents have to feel a need to be and learn. And there's an issue around chronic trauma that is intergenerational. There're a lot of young people who are growing up in families where there is just chronic trauma that does effect the ways in which the child develops, the ways in which the brain develops and their capacity to actually engage in a formal learning situation when they are more concerned about what's going on at home or food and those bits and pieces. So it needs to be a whole of community approach to engaging kids back into school system and recognising that chronic trauma is an issue.

23:30 White man 3 B – glasses, jacket and grey shirt – Just following what P and previous speakers have been speaking about. I think it's probably underestimating the work of a lot of teachers in the schools and the schools themselves to be blaming them for this situation. Undoubtedly there are kids who can be traumatised by having to go to school and their circumstances that pertain there but fundamentally I think there is a shortage of special needs teachers and other specialised teachers and

psychologists available to those schools. Recently I've worked with 4 communities where the schools are functioning excellently in many ways but the staff aren't coping with the extra demands on them and the lack of special needs teachers that are supplied to them and psychologists supplied to them. I don't think you can say the schools aren't providing a good environment for the kids; it's the fact of so many kids now going with a lot of needs and the schools are under resourced to actually deliver on what they're trying to do. It's good for the Australian government to drag the Territory government at last to making school attendance non negotiable, but I think that both those governments should have to regard proper provision of properly qualified psychologists and special needs teachers as non negotiable as well and that's going to be a fundamental flaw in the system, probably the most fundamental flaw in the education system I think unless it's resolved.

25:05 M – Ok thanks. B did mention Northern Territory government. Obviously they'll have a high level of input into what happens for the future because some of these areas are specifically the responsibility of the Northern Territory government. However the Australian government will be heavily involved in some of these areas as well.

25:35 Aboriginal lady 1 – not filmed – Here we are talking about education of Aboriginal kids and to be honest with all of you and a whole lot of things, issues and mental capabilities of communities to get these....help... A person talked about how traumatised children are and are too scared to go to school. I disagree with you. We need to tell the parents of these children to get their kids to school. That's the only way for our people you know to go forward and be educated so they can speak to the world and sit here amongst everybody and talk speak in English, a language the whole world speaks. There's just a few of us Aboriginal balck fellas here in this room and here we are talkin' about Aboriginal education and it embarrasses me to listen to somebody like yourself who is a professional who studies our people and our children who should be getting educated, who should be kicked up their arses and told to get to school and their parents to support them. If that does not happen we're diminished and I think we have to stop making excuses for our people. Get our people educated that's the only way for us forward and it's sad to sit here and listen to all of that. And I think now that the government's going our consult everybody and talking to everybody out there that has a view we should be looking forward and making sure we all have one voice and make sure that we all try to help our children out in the remote communities, even the ones running around here in Alice Springs, to get them educated, get them into a normal situation like you would have in your home with your children. That's not what our people have. They don't have that, they don't have that structured life that everybody else has. At Yuendumu we've had 10 deaths out there in just 2 months. And there's all these sports weekends that drag all our children away, the parents drag the kids away. You know we've got to make sure that parents understand that education is very important for our children for our you know future because we don't have that.

28:13 Mark –Alright thanks, just up then back there. I should say that having done a number of these consultations education is always a priority for everyone that we speak to about the kids going to school. It's just how we do that is a difficult question.

28:35 Aboriginal lady 2– red shirt T Yeah I'd just like to follow on from the last comments and it is about raising awareness with families about the importance of going to school. I want to articulate and

advocate for some of the hidden work that you guys wouldn't see happen out there. I work with 12 night patrol teams who are trying to move away from the patrolling model of the past and they work with families and schools and they collect young people every morning and take them to school and give the families a bit of a hard time about the importance of getting them to school and why aren't they taking responsibility and that's about the community empowering the community and that's where it has to start.

29:17 M – [Refers to a question on a slide] Ok thanks. One of the questions that is posed....there is a question, should we link welfare payments to school attendance? What do people think? Would that be a useful tool to try and get kids to school?

29:39 Aboriginal Man – not filmed – maybe K above – [low volume, difficult to hear] No because, because if you're gonna link that what about a person whose working right? Are you going to go up to them and take their wages off them? As was clearly said by other people here, we got to encourage our kids to go to school and you know what you've got to look at is welfare. Some people don't want to be on welfare, and they're trying to get out there and make a go. We'll get into that later but you know if you get a mother that's struggling in getting their kids to school, and I live next door to Greatlands?? school as a pensioner and you see that mothers take the kids to school and some of the kids sneak off, little ones, alright and the mother doesn't know, thinks they're at school, until the teacher rings her up. Where's your kid? I don't know. You know because there's so much substance abuse around Alice Springs. I see little darlings, doesn't matter who they are, they break into people's places and get involved in crime. But why target welfare if you're gonna target one, target all you know just because 'Joe Blogs' earns \$1000 a day doesn't mean his kid's any better than 'Mary Lou's' who's on welfare. So you know you have to stop stigmatising that person, stigmatising one people. Because that's what's happening in the Intervention in the territory, just targeting us. For a start in Australia every crime that we're supposed to be doing here happen all round Australia every day. We could go on more about this I could go on every day.

31:21 M Alright, there's another lady over there with her hand up.

31:27 White lady 3 – striped shirt, hair on top – I speak as an outsider to the community of Alice and I'm grateful for the chance to speak and acknowledge the country that I speak from. I have a background as an educationalist and teaching teachers, trainee teachers, pre service teachers and I respect the views that people have articulated here. But I'd like to say one of the issues that I identified and identified in my institutions that I worked in was racism in teachers, their views, often unaware racism, and these were people that were going into schools to teach Aboriginal children in rural NSW and Victoria and I think the training of pre service teachers is an important issue.

32:25 The other issue I think is that it's very difficult for young teachers and given that young teachers are very prevalent in the system there're supports for people like rural doctors coming in and we consider issues about rural doctors and how to support them. And I think if we work with community members in terms of embracing teachers and making it a positive cultural experience. I have taught in the Territory as well and my experience was one of being embraced by community. It was in a different political context and that was a positive experience and fostered my retention in the community. And I think the broader issues to consider in terms of teacher training and issues that we bring unconscious racism in the society in which we grow up and that those views play out in the classroom in terms of

embracing culture. There have been very successful schools in the territory, programs come, programs go and the positive aspects of those programs often are not embedded in community with engagement with Elders, engagement with community and really looking at school as a response to community. Are the hours appropriate and should we change the hours and I think leaving everything on the table. And a focus on student learning - we've removed corporal punishment in school for children for good reasons and I think it would be a very negative move to introduce the equivalent of corporal punishment for parents.

34:04 M Ok thanks, sorry there's....and then over here...

34:15 White Lady 1 - Clinical and health psychologist - glasses, black shirt Ah look, I would just like to reinforce the importance of how the children are taught and how the children want to come to school. In one community I saw a teacher come to the school who's very aware because of her own background of this difficulty that children who are highly stressed have and coming from families and how that affects their development and she taught in a way to accommodate that. Now within a very short time she had everyone from 4 year olds to 22 year olds coming to school, wanting to learn, turning up every day. Their biggest problem was accommodating the children. Now for whatever reason that teacher was removed from the school and another teacher was brought in who had a very traditional approach to learning and within a matter of a week or two we were back to 3 or 4 students turning up. It wasn't that.... the parents were encouraging in bringing the kids to school. These parents and the teachers were very, very committed to those kids coming to school but the way the child were taught, in one way it made the children feel comfortable and safe, they were able to learn, the education was scaffolded for them, and they learnt and they wanted to. Another teaching style and there's no way you could get those children to school. Even if you got them to school, the parents would drag them to school, they escaped within the first hour.

35:50 M Ok, just down the back...

35:55 White Lady 4 – short dark hair, sunglasses on her head Hi, thanks. I just wanted to first talk about...if we're talking about education we need to talk about the figures that have come from the government in terms of what the Intervention's actually achieved for schools and school attendance. And they're pretty abysmal when you look at the figures in the Closing the Gap Report from last year. It actually reports a 5.4% drop in attendance rates across the NT. And this doesn't really add up with the government's constant you know rhetoric about education being a high priority for them and one of the key aspects of the Intervention. So we need to look at the reasons why and there have been a lot of changes in the communities which means that there has been a drop in attendance rates and one of the most alarming figures comes from formerly bilingual education schools like Lajamanu and Yuendumu who record over 20% drops in attendance rates since the Intervention began which leads one to conclude that the cutting of bilingual education programmes and cutting out of people's first language in schools has a massive impact in whether kids engage with those.

36:55 So I think we need to look at first what's happened in the bilingual schools since that was cut and that's not going to feature in these discussions because that's an NT government policy but it's been a massive policy change that we all need to look at as to how do we get kids to engage in the schools. And the other thing...and I've witnessed a number of these consultations in communities that people have

raised at Kintore, Santa Teresa and Amangana (?) has been getting the community involved in the school and it's a really basic thing.

37:21 And one of the things that the cutting of the CDEP programme did and the reforms that came in there was force a lot of the Aboriginal educators out of the schools. A lot of those teachers were employed as trainees or in support roles that were employed through Community Development Employment Programmes and they had a crucial role in getting kids engaged in the school, making them feel familiar with the education process even if it was in English. And they played that crucial role and they've been forced out. And the people that did remain, they're now on the lowest public sector salary rate which means that they've taken an effective pay cut and to me that doesn't mean that we're putting education as a priority in remote communities here if we're doing that to the Aboriginal educators that are remaining in the system.

38:07 So, I think that the reforms to the CDEP program have had a massive impact on school attendance rates and also the cutting of the bilingual education program. We need to look at those two things first. And thirdly, all of those communities that I mentioned, and many more, have raised getting the community involved in terms of going around in the mornings and getting kids on the bus to go to school or walking to school as a group and those kind of really basic things that make kids feel like this is a routine and all those things. And the other key thing that's been left out of this is the situation with the kids at home in terms of massive overcrowding in the houses. Those kind of things don't make a kid school ready in the morning if you're living in overcrowded house where you can't get access to a working shower or you're kept awake late at night and it doesn't provide a space where kids can do their homework or get up in the morning and get prepared.

38:55 So, those kind of things haven't been addressed with the SIHIP program which has been a disaster in remote communities here. And I guess it'll come up again in the housing discussion but we really need to look at that and the overcrowding situation that continues in remote communities as something that's going to persist in keeping the attendance rates low across the board in these schools.

39:15 M Ok thanks. Even though you touch on some things that do come under the NT government policy we'll still be included in this and we will talk, when I say we, the Australian Government, will talk at length with the Northern Territory government about some of those issues moving forward. I wonder if we continue on. You mentioned CDEP in that lot....sorry, I missed you out....yep

39:40 White Lady 5 with glasses Just a small statement, a brief one, but I actually commend the raising of then issue of the bilingual education services and I hope we continue that discussion but....just regarding the disincentive sort of approach in terms of welfare, I think there's also been over the years an incentive based approach to getting children to school that's been around community development issues – things like pools and....i was under the impression that it was...sports ovals, football ovals at the moment. I just want to put it out there that I think those sorts of an issue, whilst they're great in the merit of having community development, I do wonder I think, anything that's disincentive that's out of the focus of education or incentive that's again out of the focus...I think it needs to really be education for education's sake, you know, getting back to the man who sort of started the conversation about it being around the sort of compulsion...Let's keep the conversations about the education rather than initiatives that are sort of trying to bribe. Let's make it purely about the importance of the education because I think it corrupts the whole [?] of what the teachers are trying to achieve.

41:00 Aboriginal Lady 1 wavy brown gold hair Just to the lady in the back there. Look, I lived in a humpy. I got up at 8 o'clock in the morning. My dad dragged me out of the humpy and took me to school. I showered and got to school every day so there's no excuse really. And I survived. And bilingual education? I didn't have bilingual education when I attended Yuendumu school. I learnt to read and write my language after I had been taught English. So what's....we're making too many excuses for our people [previous lady responding but inaudible] And Yuendumu school is functioning well. We have 100 kids the other time I was out.....

CUT OFF DUE TO TAPE CHANGE

41:45 White Man 4 – black shirt (R)and I think we need to make sure we really focus on some of the simple things in life. Academia is not always the answer. Our kids need to be engaged in all different levels – pictorial, hands on approaches and then you'll start seeing some real changes. Let's look for some of the simple things in life, some basic educational outcomes and I think we'll head the right way and again, maam, you are really an inspiration to me.

42:14 M Right, thanks R, we'll go up the back.

42:17 G P – black man Hi, my name's G P. I was born in Alice Springs. I went to Breakening [?] school when that was first built. I grew up in Ross Park. I went across to Sabine [?] Primary school. I then went and got my trade as a carpenter. Then I jumped on the road trains, drove around Australia in the road trains. I've come back to Alice Springs and I came back and I got a job as a youth worker and to go into all the schools which opened the doors to the Aboriginal organisations the youth services. We went in there and we had fun. We had the good things, we had the bad things. But like a few people saying around here, we went in as Aboriginal people just talking from the heart. We're not teachers but I got friends for life now and I'm grateful for that. I've got kids growin' up. I got a 13 year old daughter. She's goin' to one of the high schools now and I'm a bit annoyed because I've had to go in and guide the teachers on how to communicate with my daughter. I've got my son in another school, same principle there. All I'm sayin' is, the government is funding these youth services to go out and work in the schools, why not let that continue? If it is continuing, good on them but I go back.....I read those questions there too and there's no ownership. It might take a bit of fear away but as a youth worker you're goin' into schools. I enjoyed it and so did the kids.

44:10 M Ok G. As I say, we just might move on. We can always come back to education if you have particular views but CDEP came up before. Obviously employment sort of follows on from education. How do we get more people into jobs and jobs into communities and businesses? What are people's views on how we encourage economic participation in some of the communities and even in towns for that matter?

44.43 K Economics! I've always argued with university graduates. What do they know about economics? Politicians don't. We go back to basics. Economics is being able to feed your family. You know, get up in the morning as we....it comes back to education actually. Economics is a policeman got a job there, a youth worker over there. It's not all about one thing that this country's doing at the moment which I think is dividing our people in the bush, which is mining. We've got to get away from one source of economics and start looking at basic skills again you know, life skills, how we hunt the land, how we farm and all that stuff because without basics economics ends up collapsing cos that's what's happening

ion the world. You see America nearly got into strife. We're following because of economics, greed I call it. I don't call it economics, in call it greed. The human race has gotta get back to basics when it comes to economics because you can't eat a computer. You can eat a fish, you can't eat a mineral right...you can eat a you know, a vegetable. We've gotta be able to get back to the best economics that was around for thousands and thousands of years, how to live with Mother Earth. Because economics at the moment as well is driving us nuts. We're going at a great rate that we...it goes back to education. Without that simple, basic economics of survival how can you go on? And that's what the big problem with the Earth is at the moment. And this country is going the same way and we haven't learnt from history. It's time we learnt from history and started getting economics right and thinking of the masses that are gonna come in the future which hopefully we don't get too many people or we're gonna have no food. And we're gonna be running around eating gold and uranium and all that stuff. I don't think so. Let's get on with it.

47:11 M Ok, oh yep T...

47:14 T - red shirt Mine's just a very basic systemic comment. I have 55 positions across the Macdonald Shire that I can fill. I can't fill them cos I have to compete with Centrelink. I don't know all the intricacies but my understanding is that a majority of people even though there are vacancies in community don't necessarily have the same pressure and pushes to apply for those jobs. So, my hat off to the workers that I do have. They're strong community local members but there are still a number of vacancies and I don't know how I can compete with Centrelink.

47:54 M So you're saying that there should be more incentive to get off income support into jobs?

48:00 T Umm, definitely. I mean, those staff members that we have that do really well have strong support from the other local Indigenous people but I'm not sure what the barrier is for those people who can continue to go to the local Centrelink offices as opposed to going and interviewing with my co-ordinators for positions which are available. And nobody's saying night patrol is an easy job but it's a job.

48:30 Umm, B(?)

48:38 White Man 5 – black shirt, silver hair Thanks. There's been a huge move forward in the last decade or so toward partnerships about working together and forming that sense of identity, that mutual identity, in community, in towns, those sorts of things. I think they can be easily strengthened. The stuff that T's talking about, why is it not possible for Centrelink to forge partnerships with some of the other organisations and set those sorts of things up. So I'd be sort of keen to see that process investigated more and given some more strength.

49:16 M Alright, there's a couple more, we'll just go down the front here.

49:24 White Man 6 – long, fair hair, bearded, rear view I was just going to say that there's going to be a lot of opportunities come up with the changing of the economy through clean energy futures and that sort of thing, land management opportunities, clean energy development, looking at ways in which people can ahh...there's quite a bit of money in there. But actually helping people to identify those opportunities. I think it's a big part of it and looking at ways in which people can potentially set up

enterprises and that sort of thing, because I think there's gonna be, in years to come, there's gonna be a lot of opportunities on the land.

49:57 Mark Ok

50:00 White Man 7 – white shirt, glasses, grey hair, rear view (B) Thank you. There are some businesses in town that actually take pre-lease prisoners from the jail, people that are due to be released in 3 or 4 months and we're one of thewe've tried that a few times as well, pre-release. And once the prisoners get out of jail they turn up for work because we'll still employ them after they're out of jail and we're happy to employ them but the trouble is that they work for 2 or 3 weeks and the pressures of the family and the alcohol gets back to them again. So they don't turn up for work. So what I think needs to be done, some mentoring, if there is some opportunity for mentoring them after they get out of jail and then they have a job. I think that needs to be looked at too as well as you can try and find some mentors to look after them after they...and see, the family, and try and engage the family as well to mentor them so they can continue the work. But just the pressure of the work, because a lot of them have a good bank balance once they get out of jail and that's gone once the family gets it, and that's gone within a matter of a week or two. So they need mentoring if it can possibly be, that could be a federal government or it could be an NT government initiative but I'm not sure but it needs to be done.

51:24 [inaudible, some confusion]

51:36 White Man – glasses, jacket, grey shirt (B) I agree with what B and T were saying to a degree but I think Centrelink although it's part of the problem in a sense as T identified, it's also potentially I think a large part of the solution because Centrelink is able to do its job very well and are able to deliver services in bush communities. It has permanent staff present in them a lot of the time. It has the motivation and capacity to help people with things there. Whereas at the moment a huge amount of government money goes into job networks which basically aren't based in communities and aren't able to deliver the services because they don't have the presence or the local knowledge. I think if Centrelink is able to take over that function of the jobs networks performing at the moment and have its own incentives to get people into the many existing jobs that are out there, I think everything would work a lot better.

52:31 M Ok, thanks B. Just go to the middle, yep.

52:37 White Lady 6 – black coat Sorry, I would like to agree with B about the mentoring. I think it's a really good idea. I think what happens with private enterprise employers is the government might give some miniscule funding of an incentive to support somebody that's disadvantaged or going in to a traineeship but in no way does it take into account taking a fully operational person out of the workforce to train and mentor them on an ongoing basis. So if I can give an example of say a mechanic. When you're taking a first year of a mechanic, your tradesman is off-line for probably 90% of the time to train them. And, you know, you can't say while they're going to trade school that they're actually getting that, they're getting the training on the job. So when you're looking at trying to provide mentoring in private enterprise, and even in the government system, that allowance of taking people off-line isn't made and I think that's sometimes why we don't get any sustainability in employment. People are there for the short term. You have the [?] ra ra ra with the incentives, or...not the incentives, the inductions,

but nothing else. So I think there really needs to be a long term commitment to that mentoring both in the private and the public sector. I think it's one of the ways that we lose people along the way and they just don't have that on-going support.

54:12 M Ok, thanks. There's one up the back. And I'd be interested in...B brought up about the job network and suggested that they be with Centrelink from community. I would be interested if people had any views about how the job network or the JSA's [?] are servicing people getting jobs.

54:32 White Lady 4 – dark hair, sunglasses Yeah well, I think when the Intervention first came in the government promised real jobs for Aboriginal people. They said we've got to get people out of these, you know, phoney jobs like CDEP and other things where people are relying on income support. But what have we seen since then? We've seen thousands of Aboriginal people who were formerly on CDEP being thrown on the Basics Card and onto Centrelink so not only are they on Centrelink but half of their payments are quarantined so they've got less access to that money, less discretion and on top of that the government's brought in reforms that tells people you've got to work for the Basics Card now. And we're seeing that right across the board at the height of CDEP you had 75,000 people working across the Northern Territory providing really basic necessary services in communities. As I mentioned before, they were teacher support roles, they were also municipal support roles, fixing houses, maintenance, sewerage, bus runs, all of those kind of things you need for a community to function have been abolished since CDEP was reformed and told you're only getting a Centrelink wage.

55:35 So, I mean, that is a major thing and a major disincentive for people to work. And then on top of that then you've got the government bring in maybe one or two jobs for people that they're qualified to do in the community with the Shire where those two people are earning a proper wage but everyone else in their family is now on income support. There's no incentive to stay in that situation. You've gotta have a massive jobs program funded by the government, the Northern Territory government to start with and then you can look at things like private investment and that sort of thing which you're not going to get in the community since the government announced that they're only investing in 20 communities across the Northern Territory so why would anyone think that there's going to be an investment in jobs or any other sort of infrastructure or housing, the basic things you need for a functioning community across the Territory. It's just not going to happen. So, I think we really need to look at a massive replacement programme for CDEP that actually pays proper wages, gives people proper qualifications, stops people being on income support or at the behest of Centrelink, and recognising those jobs as actually performing a vital function in the communities and giving people a wage and a sense of dignity when they go to work.

56:40 Julia Gillard loves to get up and talk about the dignity of work but she's systematically denied that to people, to Aboriginal people here, who are helping their community to function. So, I mean, that's one of the major things that has seen a massive transfer from people in employment to unemployment now since the Intervention. So, I mean, that's one strong recommendation would be to replace CDEP but give people at least award wages to be performing these roles but that means a turn around for government in actually committing to investing in all communities and committing to a future for those communities for people and that's in training and employment. So, yeah, I mean I think unless people are talking about what we are gonna do when next year the last 2000 people on CDEP earning top up comes to a finish what are we gonna do? Are we gonna let those people remain on Centrelink and see

the kind of depression and dysfunction if you like to call it that results from mass unemployment or are people going to try and push the government to create a sort of investment in people's future where they actually have something to look forward to at the end of the day in terms of a cheque, you know, instead of going to work for the Basics Card where you can't even afford to buy a lunch for you there.

57:53 M Ok thanks, just next...

57:57 White Man 1 – glasses, fawn shirt I partly agree with the speaker who just spoke then but in terms of CDEP, I actually think the CDEP before the Intervention was flawed. I think it's a mess now and yet I think it actually could be something quite useful because it provides some funding and opportunities for thinking about how enterprises could be created in communities with some funding that could take on roles that currently Shires take on and they could be contracted and using CDEP funding in some sort of ways. So I think some re-thinking of CDEP and using it as a transitional form of employment that allows people to get into the workforce and be doing a range of useful things in communities could be a really great way forward.

58:46 M Ok thanks...R..

58:48 R H – black man with hat I'm R H. I'm from old timers camp. I'm president of old Timers. Look, when the Intervention start....umm...I was a policeman. He's, he's my ex-boss, C. And umm, that's where I got my education, when I was a police but I had to get into the police to get my education. Look, I'm opposite of P and ...I didn't go to school. No, I didn't get my education there. I didn't even get my English there. I had to push myself and I think I got my education through the police. I had to push myself to get there. But, umm, when the Intervention started, even when I was a police I had to go back

and go into my family's house and tip all the grog, I couldn't do it. That broke my heart. That's why I left the police. But now we're still in the Intervention, now the police are not doin' it, it changed. Cos I live at the old timers, it's drunk there every night! Umm, I fought over my house, umm not my house, the housing where the Old Timers put me as resident to fight for old timers. Cos they was going to demolish one house and the community rep said no, we need this so we had a big fight with M and I'm saying we didn't win. I think we all know that, I think you all know that, us Aboriginals in the Northern Territory we haven't got human right, we don't win. We never win.

1:00:15 But look...yeah...education. My...I don't drink. I hate grog and I'm trying to push my kids to got to school, I'm trying to give them job. And I'm tryin' every morning at 8 o'clock in the morning, I goota try to wake them up. How long, I dunno, until I get old I think. But I'm not going to stop people and I'm not going to stop fighting for Old Timers camp. I even asked the Minister when she was here. She went to hidden Valley and she was standing in the...there was couple of houses been done up and she was standing outside where they took photos. She didn't even want to come to Old Timers. But a few people know I tell her R H still at Old Timers and I'm gonna be there all my life.

1:00:57 Mark So R one of the issues that you talked about, there was alcohol and that's obviously something that the government wants to look at. Do you have any idea on how we deal with some of those issues?

1:01:08 R H Yes we...sorry C, sorry....yes we do have ideas but it always comes back to you people, the white people, you tell us, you tell us how to live, you controlling our life. I hate grog, I don't wanna see

grog there. But when I ring the police at night they don't even rock up. So, what can I do mate. You know, I'm at old Timers. I'm on my own little canoe, I need to get on a ship with you my boy, somebody...if you got a ship, if you got room there for me. (laughter in the crowd)

1:01:43 Aboriginal Lady – checked shirt, ponytail (B) Yeah, good evening Mark. Could you go back to the other slide clip please. Yep. How can we bring more jobs and businesses into the communities? Well, first of all you need to tap into the IBA and get them to start holding business trainings out in the remote communities. Identify Aboriginal people that are qualified without jobs. Umm, and I agree with Mr H in setting up more mentor in communities and with the job network centres. You either have to go to job network centre, Centrelink, job network, Centrelink, job network, whose gonna actually going to find a job? So, if these job network centres can actually be a mentor as well and keeping support for the people who hold these jobs whether it be in this town or other communities. Umm, and CDEP, you look right through the Territories CDEP worked for a lot of communities, it worked for some organisations, it didn't work for a lot of communities but at the end of the day Aboriginal people had a job, they had a proper income. Today, we go to a job network centre, we can't even find a job. They cannot cater for people who have been in jail, people who have got low numeracy and literacy skills and then we're still stuck on the unemployment line. So, you need to tap into IBA and start holding education and business trainings out in the communities and identify people who will hold these positions in their communities and their local councils.

1:03:25 And, yeah, with the alcohol while I've got the mike. People are actually using the opportunity now to umm enter into their own alcohol management plans. There are 3 camps in this town. You've got others in communities umm...that will work, some won't work but it's up to the government to actually let us get that off the ground and make it work for us because it's actually coming from us.

1:03:59 M Ok thanks.

1:04:07 White Lady 7 – short brown hair, obscured within crowd Sorry Mark, can you go back to the last....I just want to touch on what B's saying about bringing businesses into the communities. I think the NT government's got a great opportunity at the moment on doing the 20 growth towns. But the thing is there's not employment opportunities at the end of the day. I mean they're building new schools and everything else that goes with it but there's nothing for the people, there's no future. And I think they've made it very hard in the NT for business to actually go into a community, set up a business. I mean if, just say myself is a hairdresser wants to start up a business in Yuendumu, it's nearly impossible. One, there's no, umm, there's no accommodation for a business house or anything like that. So there's no provision. I mean I could take on, you know, 3 or 4 apprentices there. Teach the people in Yuendumu a trade and they stay in that community and umm with the opportunity to have their own hair studio or whatever. We're not just talking about a hair studio, I'm talking about everything. Everything a normal community has, these communities still aren't going to have this because there's no...nothing that's been planned for this, there's no employment opportunities. And all it is, is either, as you say, working for a Shire council, not that that's a bad thing, it's a trade, but there's no business opportunities and there's no employment for these people to do what they want. It's not going to be a town like any other town in Australia. It's still going to be an Aboriginal community with just services. There's nothing there. So I think this is a great opportunity for the growth town to go further and actually make it into, you know, a normal town where they have those other services, like hairdressing salons, and you have 'Jack'

the plumber, and you have you know, 'Bill' the tiler etcetera. And once these businesses are in the community they take on the apprentices that leave school and there's some incentives for these kids to go to school. Why would you go to school at the end of the day if there's no employment? Why would you bother? I wouldn't! I wouldn't waste my years, go to school, if there's nothing at the end of it. And these people don't want to leave their home, you know. Why do they have to come to Alice Springs to get employment? So...

1:06:28 M Ok, thanks, I might....up the back, yep...

1:06:40 White Lady – maroon shirt, brown hair What often I feel needs to be out of these conversations is what is proven to work. There's a base to work from, things have been tried, communities have tried different approaches. There's a base to work from. And, I believe, it's important to work from an evidence base. Evidence can come from different places. And I think it's...I feel that there just needs to be a base line. Umm, any report talks to the importance of having Aboriginal people involved in responses that affect them. So, thinking when it comes to employment you know if providing real jobs with appropriate wages and training people in communities actually works I think that's what we need to be funding if...touching back on before...if bilingual education is proven to actually improving educational outcomes then that what needs to be funded. And if pre-service teacher training can be done in a way that delivers results, I just think that evidence base can be lacking often in conversations and I think it's really important for that to be brought in as a through-line.

1:07:54 M (low volume) And certainly, you know in the discussion paper it talks about starting from an evidence based platform and ...(?) certainly Minister Macklin's committed to...especially to the outpol(?). Because there has been a lot of work done in the outpol(?) and there is some evidence out there about what does work and what doesn't so that's a good base line start. But what do people think about the current Emergency Response restrictions and you know, that was one of the legislated measures that came out into force in the prescribed communities out bush and also included town camps. Do you think that they can be improved, do you thin that they're....What more needs to be done? Uncle.

1:08:41 K I'll start it, no one else is joining in. The emergency Response as far as I'm concerned, impeded on rights of fellow Australians in the Territory. This is what people don't understand. It's time that we started waking up that substance abuse, we like to get rid of all of this substance, whether it be alcohol, drugs. While evil rules the Earth we're going to find a never ending battle to get rid of it, it doesn't matter whether it's out bush, in towns. But what should have happened in the (NT) Response, the police, the health workers, all them know who are responsible, that's who should have been targeted right? And the people that were innocent should never have been targeted. To single out one part of this community of Australia, this country, this nation, which we're supposed to be, which we're yet to become, because we keep dividing it, right, to target one specific race of people smacks of hypocrisy of all governments, of all bureaucrats and everyone like that.

1:10:00 Especially when you...get the same...I've travelled this country many a time. In my journeys you get twice as bad as some of our people here but nothing's addressed there. The police know, you see the thing on the TV. Big brawls break out. But do they target the European community? No! Soon as our countrymen do something, whacko. And it seems to be the Territory mainly. You know I think it's time politicians, federal and Territory, start waking up that we're one nation, this whole nation of Australia,

Indigenous, yellow, pink, whoever and stop segregating us because that's what's bringing our people daown in the Territory is your turned us into something we're not. To the men, our men, have been trying to...some of the good men have been trying to do their best through social workers at school, employment and stuff like that, education, but we keep gettin' handed down like we're a second rate citizen of Australia. Now until this nation recognises Territorians as part of this nation and stop targeting us all the time and do the right thing Australia wide, they should know who they are now, who the drug addicts and who the alcoholics and all that. They're the ones you target and try to help them. If they don't then so be it. But don't bring down the rest of the families because of one or two individuals that may be the main cause of it. And that's why the Intervention to me is a lot of crock. It's worked in a lot of ways I agree but it's a lot of crock cos what it's done is taken away the rights of us as equal Australians whose supposed to vote for the constitution and all this stuff in this country when we have a federal election, yet we're treated as separate citizens, and I think it's time we all woke up and started gathering together and get our act together and start recognising us as part of Australia.

1:12:42 White Lady 1 – clinical and health psychologist. Umm, I've been working for the last 12 months with traditional owners in Alice Springs regarding alcohol treatment programs. I'd just like to reinforce what's just been said that the alcohol problems in the Aboriginal community are actually a lot less than they are in the mainstream community. And it doesn't matter where you go in the world, if you're looking at evidence base, the evidence is the way to control or to manage the consumption of alcohol is by its cost and by its availability. So I think if you're really serious about doing something about the alcohol problem that is in this whole population across Australia, not just in the Northern Territory and certainly not just in Alice Springs, then that's what you're gotta do, you've gotta get serious and go with the evidence which is international that it's the cost and it's the availability. (clapping)

1:13:39 M Ok thanks.

1:13:44 White Lady 2 – red shirt (T) I'd just like to remind everyone that prior to the Intervention many of the communities had already spoken in central Australia. Unlike the top and prior to the Intervention we never had wet canteens down here, we had very few permits and they were usually around the Berkeley. My understanding in my work with alcohol and other drugs prior to the Intervention was the communities had already said what they wanted out in remote communities not in Alice Springs. Umm, and it concerns me that FaCHSIA often go out and say we stamp this on you guys and we're giving you an opportunity to revisit that because I actually am concerned it's going to create community divide. Those negotiations around alcohol management plans it's often the loudest squeaks that is heard and it's often the silent people that suffer, that don't speak up in communities who are going to suffer, revisiting this because communities have spoken before and I think we should all remember that.

1:14:43 M Ok thanks.....we might go right up the back...

1:14:55 White Lady 9 – glasses, black hair band, brown shirt, standing I don't believe taking a punitive approach is very constructive. I think the whole Intervention is based on punitive approaches and we haven't had a chance to actually talk about the Intervention in general and it's not based on empowerment. The way forward is to empower communities to come up with their own solutions to tackling alcohol. More money needs to be made available to fund community based programs which Aboriginals run. Look, alcohol is a complex issue. Why are people drinking? This needs to be taken into consideration. There's no room for discussion around rising rates of suicide and self harm that are

happening that have risen significantly under the Intervention. It's depressing to be living under racist policies. The Intervention is racist and a lot of people have lost hope. Umm, I work in the emergency department and a lot of people come in with alcohol related injuries, a lot of people come in intoxicated. A lot of people want to stop drinking but it's really, really difficult. You need to persist with this issue and try to help people to help themselves. And you don't, look, you might say that the Racial Discrimination Act has been reinstated but you don't end racism by rolling out income management in Bankstown. Umm, yeah...

1:16:25 M Ok, thanks umm B...

1:16:35 Aboriginal Lady 1 – light, curly hair (B) Look, we've got carpol(?) here as a rehab centre for the alcoholics or, you know, the prisoners that are released and they have to go and do their time to be rehabilitated back into the community. I don't see anything out in the remote communities and I think we should start looking at that. I think rehab centres should be set up in regionalised actually, one for Walpirri, one for Pindibulkridge(?), one for Arrente, so once, you know, the umm, offenders get released back into the community they got somewhere to go other than C(?). They can then be taken out to their country and be rehabilitated out there amongst their people and their families. You know, why don't governments look at you know, doin' something like that for our people who are the you know, the worst drinkers of them all. All we see every day is you know they line up every day from Monday to Friday over at the you know, to get into the animal bar. What are we gonna do about that as a community of Alice Springs?

1:18:36 You know, are we too scared to talk about you know what happens down there every day 11 till 2 o'clock and from 2 o'clock till 4 they all race down to the carpu(?). You know, what are we gonna do about that as a community of Alice Springs to stop this alcohol sickness in our community? You listen to the mob down the river now you know. So what are we gonna do about it? How is government, both governments goin' to tackle this problem that we have in this community? Instead of pointing the finger at one another why don't we all work together toward helping these...you know, the drinkers down here? Why don't we go and protest across the road from the animal bar? Why aren't we doin' stuff like that? You know, why aren't we telling our people you know why are you drinking every day? What else can you do besides drink, what can we do to help you instead of avoiding them? You know the problem is with Aboriginal people we don't talk to each other about these problems. We just assume that the person is an alcoholic and that's the only problem. You know we don't see that person as a person with other problems with mental illness or something else. They might have lost maybe 10 family members in 2 months you know. Why don't we talk to people and treat them as human beings instead of pointing the finger at them and assuming they're alcoholics and that's all they live for. You know so what are we going to do about it, you know in this community of Alice Springs? We all live here and some of us like our old hole.

1:20:22 M Thanks B...

1:20:24 B Look, I'd like to just bring something else up. I'm disappointed with the Territory government and our alcohol policy that they've launched. And I think it needed more guts to it. What we see is so different, far removed from what they put up as our alcohol policy.

1:20:44 M Ok thanks, umm. Some of those questions you raise is what government is looking for from people, what do we do about those specific issues...and.. B down there.

1:21:00 B – older Aboriginal Lady, grey hair, floral dress (speaks passionately) I am going to stand up because I can think better on my feet. Look there are a whole lot of issues we've walked away from, turned our backs on, we haven't looked at. One, we will never get rid of alcohol because white fellas are the ones who supply the grog, who brew the stuff. You tell me where there's one Aboriginal brewery in Australia, then I will shut up. So that's it, so the government would be afraid to do anything drastic, simply because they will be going against what the breweries want and what the breweries do and how the breweries want things simply because the breweries supply them with money. Now there's money all around the place. And just listening here, oh, there is a whole lot of things. Now talking about the tackling alcohol. You know, that review or, whatever it was, done by Pat Anderson 'our children are scared program'. In that they reported that there be rehab centres set up around the communities and nothing's ever been done. How many responses have been addressed from that report? Probably half a dozen at the most. Now the other thing is and to me it's the most important thing of all, is not one person has addressed the fact that is we have to build pride in ourselves and who we are and what we are and until such time as we build that pride we will not be able to do anything, because we've got so many people telling us that we're no good. You know here's an example. Sure it happened a long time ago but that fella is still not talking to me. We were doing some land rights stuff and I'll mention land rights in a minute....look you too. Look, we had some stuff to sign, it was my mother's side of the family, which is up in the Berkeley tablelands area and he gave me the papers and said here you sign..... Tape change.....places and whatever you want to call it, it doesn't matter, it's there all the time. A fella over there somewhere was talking about Aboriginal people to start work then suddenly about us - we and us, and suddenly he talked about Aboriginal people saying "them." So you know there's that separation all the time. And until we stop separating each other we will not get anywhere. And finally while the land councils are in control you'll never get anywhere mate!

1:24:02 M Thanks, thanks B. You raised a number of issues there. Do you have some ideas or thoughts on moving forward, how we could address some of those issue? And you know I'm not trying to put you on the spot but if you have some ideas...

1:24:19 B I certainly have. Listen, sure...How many Aboriginal people do we have here, put your hands up all the Aboriginal people here put your hands up. And are you going to listen to us? We go back a long way Mark and I am not being nasty but I have always said it for years and years until I'm sick and tired of it. That's the reason I sat here all this time until I was pushed to say something because I am thoroughly sick of it. Talk to us, let us tell you what it is, but then say to us we want to do this from your perspective, the Aboriginal perspective, not the white fella perspective . Because... I can tell you something from the Aboriginal perspective and you'll turn around and hear something different , and when you repeat it to me it's different, and that is what ends up getting interpreted, what's different. And what has to happen it has to be from the Aboriginal perspective . And until such time that happens, we'll never get anywhere, we'll still have this problem way down the track because, you know, the CDU has done a research that by the year 2030 Alice Springs will be 70% Aboriginal population . Are we preparing for that? Nothing. We just sittin' here wondering what the hell we're gonna do.

1:25:53 Mark Ok thanks B. There was one here then move down the back.

1:25:59 White Man 5 black shirt, silver hair, rear view So just a couple of points. It's important not to be paternalistic which I think I've heard a few of the speakers indicate. Consumption of alcohol is an individual choice right. Choice theory suggests that everything that we do is wrapped about conscious or unconscious choice. So it is about individuals who are choosing to throw alcohol down their throat at damaging levels. So it's about giving individuals back that responsibility for the choices that they make. So how else can we stop the damage. It sounds a little bit sort of paternalistic and it is important to get people to, as Auntie B was saying, get them to have a look at why they're choosing to do those obsessive things and see if there are other ways in which we can assist to allow people to make other choices.

1:26:55 M Ok...

1:26:56 Aboriginal Lady in checked shirt - B When it comes to education and tackling alcohol, umm you go to health centres in communities as well as here in town, you got posters, you got pamphlets on the effects of alcohol, but then as a growing child, my eldest child is 13 this year. She did not like what happened earlier on this year with the action for Alice and the youth on the streets. Umm she felt a bit sad about a lot of the kids on the streets and it made her look like a bad child. So what I would like to see as part of an idea around the educational system is having drug and alcohol issues probably put into the curriculum where children that have gone from watching the adults grow up and then mimicking and then being that person stuck in that cycle, I'd actually like to see a generational change where my child can say 'oh, we've learnt about that at school, we know the effects of alcohol and drugs' and then that will probably change a lot of children. Umm, you're not even having these youth that are in detention centres at the moment or juvenile centres relate to these educational centres around health, umm especially when drug and alcohol because a lot of our youth are in jail because of drug and alcohol with the break ins, drunks in the street or youth drunk driving around town and the break ins as well. So that's something that you need to look in, both tiers of government is look in, and local council as well, is looking at the educational changes around the alcohol and drugs when teaching youth to stop that cycle.

1:28:39 Mark Thanks B. Just one here...

1:28:46 White Lady – rear view, part hidden, red brown hair – Thank you, just a couple of comments on alcohol. And umm yes it's a point about people having individual choice but also those people can inflict great harm on others who aren't able to choose and aren't able to assert any control. And a great deal of harm is passed on to children unborn and it actually has a massive effect on their chances to umm grow and develop and then become educated. And I would like to see going back to the area on education a greater focus and awareness on the effects of alcohol and getting greater supports and services in school to help those children.

1:29:30 Mark Ok thanks..

1:29:33 White Lady 1 - Clinical and health psychologist - glasses, black shirt Ah look, I would just like to put a white fellas sort of, we've come late to this understanding of what's just been said but identity is everything and that's what we're now only just discovering how important that is in umm all kinds of behaviours that we'd rather not have whether it be alcohol or drugs or whatever. And the schools, the issues of the...having rehab out in the communities that's absolutely critical in terms of

helping people to really find themselves and find who they are and so that... because when you know who you are it's like an internal guide book that tells you what choices to make. It's all very well to sort of say you have individual choices but you've got to know what your options are and you've got to have some kind of guidance to that. And so in terms of in education, in the schools we have, we virtually have no real respect for Aboriginal culture or heritage being taught in the schools. So the children, the Aboriginal children if that's not taught then they don't see that as necessarily important and those values are not then regarded as important. It's values is that what sustains a culture. The practices often change. Aboriginal people have lived through ice ages and all kinds of changes and have had to make all kinds of adaptations but it's the values that's what sustains them and that's what's been found to be the essence of helping children and people rehabilitate whether it be alcohol, prison or whatever. So, I'd just like to sort of...so, from a white fellas perspective we're only just learning this but what you're saying is absolutely spot on if you want to put it in your language of evidence based treatment.

1:31:24 Mark Ok thanks. Umm, just cognizant of the time and we just talked a little bit before about the harm caused by alcohol and that will probably lead us on into you know, safer communities. How do we make communities safer. Umm under the NTER a number of initiatives were implemented, mainly funded initiatives. How are these things going? Should we do more? Should there be a different focus on particular areas, on safety? Do people have thoughts around that?.....Uncle.

1:31:58 KYeah, look safety of children, community. Umm, We've just talked about alcohol. Uh, how are you going to make the community safe as it keeps growing? You know we increased the police force and yet I've seen youths in this town defying them and the police sit there and go can't do anything about it. So, if the police can't make it safe. How can you make it safe? And I think sometimes it goes back to what we've been talkin' about education, you know the Sacred Children's Report, you know. I think it brought out a lot of stuff in it but the trouble is, no community's safe because substance abuse is continually increasing. And we say it doesn't b ut we know it does because you just gotta walk around towns, right across this country. I'm not just lookin' the Territory but in the Territory yourself, everywhere you go. And you know people are crying out for more police. What, we're goin' to turn into a gestapo thing where you got 40,000 police and 30,000 people. You know something's gotta be done at the education levels been suggested, families, you know, the people that don't drink have gotta try and be role models. Umm, you can get as many police, night patrols as you like, it's not goin' to stop the crime and the problem until you address this...the main problem, that's the substance. And I don't know how you're goin' stop that. Maybe other people...I've started it, let's talk.

1:33:49 M Thank you. Be interested in other people's views about how we might attack some of those...

1:33:57 White Lady – red hair This is a really big one, lots of people probably got lots of good comments. Umm, I understand that policing has made a real difference out in the communities which didn't have police. There's more reporting, people feel safer to report. I think safe houses need to be examined a little more closely in terms of how they can be effective. What kind of models, how they operate, how they're staffed and you know, whether they've got you know umm access to reliable transport and a whole range of other services to support them. And I suggest you ask everyone in this council for a copy of a very detailed report that they produced on safe house models for umm remote communities.

1:34:40 M Ok, B...

1:34:44 B To me, I worked in this field a few years ago until I retired from the umm NT government...J. Umm we're forever looking for safe houses for women to go to. We're always takin' the women away from the house. Why can't we leave the women in the house and have houses where the men are taken to and the men are taken there with umm educational programs or whatever you want, whatever it needs to be, there. To me it's really important that the women are not made...the families, the children and the mothers, are not made to feel they've got to get out of this house because it's unsafe. That house should be safe. That perpetrator, whoever it is, whether it's a male or a female doesn't matter, should be the one removed and put somewhere else, or taken somewhere else.

1:35:45 M Ok, thanks.

1:35:55 B I think our people need to ...understand that they can live a life without violence. You know I don't think that's ever been addressed out in the communities or in the town camps umm because they don't know you know. People have not been...talk about choices...you know. They haven't been given that to actually understand how they can live a life without all this stuffs happening with our people and you know community rooms...(?) safe houses, police, the night patrols, child protection, all that is never even talked about in detail with our mob in places like Yuendumu, Comagna(?), anywhere you know, little Sisters, umm because people are kind of you know in their own environment where there's no such light over there to direct them to...place where they can escape all that. People are left out there to defend for themselves. And I think you know we as a community need to...or Territory, or Federal Government, or the Territory Government need to start addressing the...communities are different you know profiling, communities are still how people understand how...what should happen, how they should work together, because I know that out at Yuendumu you know people kind of secretly think about what's best for their immediate family, they don't think as a whole community for instance. So, they, one person being safely locked away in a safe house, or dealing with police, there's not counselling, no support whatsoever out in these communities you know its...you know these communities lack resources that we have in terms of...like Alice, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin that's what you know we all forget. And that's what I think, maybe that's the direction maybe Jenny Macklin or you know the commonwealth should be looking at tackling all these under....undermining issues that erupt now and then that puts a stop to a community, you know, feuding, you know how can we talk to people about how they can live that life without feuding or trying to killing each other or trying to rape someone or you know just...If people kind of aren't fair dinkum about it you know you need to be fair dinkum and say to people "why do you do it?" you know it's not racist. You know you're just trying to help somebody over here to understand what it's all about. People tend to want to you know point the finger at you know, don't say anything or you'll upset them, no, you should be able to talk to them openly. It would help people through those stages to understand a bit about life and how they can live you know a functional life. That's all I want to say.

1:39:19 M Ok thanks umm R up the back. I should just say that these are complex issues and there's no right and wrong answer and everyone's input is good and appreciated and you know we'll note it down. But, but the government is committed to tackling some of these quite difficult issues that occur not just in Indigenous communities but across the whole community. So, you know, we appreciate people's views and ideas on how to tackle this.

1:39:50 Aboriginal Man R Yeah, oh look...safe community. I had a meeting with umm somebody from housing and the police, this is a month ago, talkin' about, talkin' about umm safe community, the police comin' to have a talk with us. I'm still waiting. It's months now. Look umm, I'm still waiting at Old Timers. I'm gonna wait till they come whenever they come. You can take even 12 months to get there. But I need help. My people need help. Look, I'm outnumbered there. So, look, whenever you might get time if you're community safety come out there and see me.

1:40:32 M Thanks R and those sort of issues will certainly follow on umm. They're the sort of things that you'll see and make sure.....(?)

1:40:40 B With community safety it also goes back to education as well umm so if you've got good alcohol management plans in place, parents are educated on how to keep the children safe then it goes back to what Mr H was saying about having mentors. You know the women's shelter here is always overcrowding you know. At Murrumurra might have had a lot of money spent on that but people can only stay 2 weeks there and at the end of the day you look at the Little Children are Sacred Report, one of their 97 recommendations was to put a safe house in every community and have counsellors in remote communities to actually talk to people with their problems and it still hasn't happened you know so you need to start organising all these services and these peoples that are supposed to be in our communities to educate our people, to protect our people but at the end of the day where's the money for it?

1:41:46 M Ok, thanks. B?

1:41:51 White Man 3 – glasses, grey hair/beard B Umm thank you. Umm just on the issue of police numbers in bush communities. It seems to me that the Territory government at the moment is hedging its bets about taking over some of the positions that the commonwealth is trying to transfer to them. I think that would be a really retrograde step if the numbers went down. They probably need to still increase from what I've seen particularly because there are communities like Docker River, Titchikala(?), Arionga, 2 or 3 others I know about which still do not have police presence. Virtually none of them ever have even an overnight visit by police who's supposed to patrol in those places and a number of those communities are really very upset, very angry about them having missed out on getting the security that other communities got. I think that needs to be assessed and the Commonwealth needs to really make sure that it's doing the right thing by all those communities and not just assuming that because you know another police patrol can go there occasionally that that is sufficient for a place like Titchikala to provide safety for the people who live there, especially the kids.

1:43:01(inaudible voices).....

1:43:11 M Yeah, ok...(inaudible)

1:43:13 Bsame with Docker River, Yalara...

1:43:19 White Man 5 – rear view, grey hair, black shirt Sorry....just something....you're absolutely right. It is about teaching people alternatives and one thing the government can do is look at using positive language. Let's start to promote domestic harmony and stop talking....the issue. Every time we say violence that's what we get. Every time we use that negative language that's what we put out there. If we start to promote social harmony and teach people what that is. A lot of people didn't even...I met

people who have been abused for a long period of time and they didn't even realise that was domestic violence. So let's teach people what social harmony can be and encourage the use of positive language rather than focusing on the negative. Let's put out there what we want not what we don't. (clapping)

1:44:02 M Ah, thanks.

1:44:04 White Lady – mainly obscured, dark hair with headband Umm I've worked with young people here in Alice Springs and I think one of the ways that we can go forward is to look at early intervention in all of...just about every area we've talked about tonight. Umm it...and that takes long term planning. It's not something that happens overnight. Certainly with young people you know we've had to work...we can work for 12 months with a young person and only then begin to see some positive outcomes. That takes a lot of money umm but at the end of the day money that's put into any form of early intervention saves a whole lot of money further on. So, it's just a thought..umm you know these are really big issues as you said that we're talking about but I'm a firm believer that if we start young and we provide alternatives umm then that is a way we can move forward.

1:45:10 H Ok thanks....trying to keep...talk about some of these issues for a very long time...I'm happy to stay longer but some people...other things on...so keep going

1:45:24 White Lady – white hair, M – mental health worker Hello, my name's M. I'd just like to get a few things rounded up. From what I see everyday umm working in Alice Springs and...not necessarily remote areas but I believe that it's the case out there as well umm that until we actually start looking at a community approach and that is not separating Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It's got to be about a community approach. The other thing is about what we've talked about and what I've heard is the need for flexibility. Nobody's actually mentioned that word yet but every, every instance of everything that everyone's said has been about the ability to be flexible about whether it be education in schools, about how children are educated, getting kids to school, housing, has to be about flexibility as well and until we actually get people from housing, health...the crucial four I think is, housing, health, education and umm security and support for the community themselves, I don't think how we can go forward because those four things to me are what makes the community and the community is actually telling you, telling you about what they want and how they feel about all this. And until we actually get all of that together because...I work in mental health. How can anybody feel ok, and we've talked about people with issues about housing, but if you don't have a house or you don't have a job, or you don't have an ability to feel ok which a lot of people don't, then how can any of this change. So it's actually about what we need to do as well and about our attitude.

1:47:29 M Ok thanks. B...sorry...

1:47:36 White Man 7 – white shirt, grey hair, rear view Thanks Mark. I just had a thought on the previous page there where it said Child Protection Workers...and that...you can put that down as mentors again cos I was told of a...I'm not sure where child abuse comes in but a child was taken, a 7 weeks old baby was taken off a mother because their child was having alcohol withdrawal symptoms. And, things like that that's where you need that mentor or that child protection workers or...the word mentor again because the baby was taken off the mother because...she had...the baby had withdrawal, the alcohol withdrawal symptoms at 7 weeks old.

1:48:20 M Thanks...

1:48:22 White Lady – obscured, glasses, short brown hair I'd just like to say something that I think is very important about the consultation process and what happens afterwards because I'm a great believer, a great supporter of this process of talking to people and listening to people and recording what people say and I'm also a great believer of evidence based approaches. But I think we have to be very careful about taking a banana smoothie approach. What I'm concerned about is that after listening on their own situations, to so many people each with their unique take, you can't just take all these ideas and just chuck them together and turn on the blender and come out with something that you can dish out to everybody that will work in every situation because Indigenous cultures are unique, languages are unique, people are unique, communities are unique, families are unique and unless the consultation process means an ongoing conversation with individuals, community groups, families as well as the community as a whole, umm, I think it runs the risk of being wasted all over again and of nothing that actually responds to what individual people in their individual situations wish to happen will ever happen for them.

1:49:49 M (some parts inaudible) Ok thanks. You're right about that and as we do these consultations there are some themes that come out and that's really important I think...government policy...certainly won't take the banana smoothie approach. Ok umm we need to move on, time is sort of getting away and there're still a few other areas I'd like to cover and while some people have raised other issues that aren't up here we acknowledge that but as I said if you feel particularly strongly about an issue there are other.....to provide input into the process. Now that we've moved...

1:50:31 K Hello again, about health. I'll kick it off but...lookin' at your thingo about food, housing – that could all come under one heading really. But if you're going to look at it individually, health. I'll leave this quote from a famous doctor, he did that trachoma program and you can all kick off from here – “it doesn't matter whether you're a Prime Minister, a King, a mayor, a you know governor or whatever. You're all equal when it comes to health.” And this is what we've got to do in this country is you treat everyone with the same equality of health that that great doctor did when he came up here for the trachoma program you know. Until we adopt that policy and get away from following, which we're slowly doing in our health system, privatisation, err you know, the American system, health's going to be a major problem coming down the track for many people. And that's the greatest quote I can quote you from Fred Hollows ok, we're all equal when it comes to health and we should all be treated as equal in every part of health

1:51:53 M Ok thanks. So under the NTER there were a number of health measures that came in the early days with some focused on eyes and ears, some...people think there's been any improvement in that area? Are there any other things we need to be doing? Umm, obviously improving health is very important umm...specific ideas of how we can move forward in the future would be good.

1:52:21 B When you're talking about health there are lots of areas of health that needs to be improved – healthy living, healthy bodies, everything, the...a whole health circle, environmental health, primary health, medical health. So there is a clinic out at Epanara. It was refurbished but the medicines were held in the hall. So even like with medical and medication it's not stored away properly. Umm food is another source of health, eating the right foods, educational health umm around that area as well. Uncle just mentioned umm food storage. The way how our homes and our kitchens have been

refurbished is no place, there is no place in our kitchens for proper storage of food, especially if you really don't want to share with anybody but also keep it away from the mice and the flies.

1:53:32 The kitchen in our houses at the moment in communities, it doesn't even look like it's been refurbished. My kitchen was better at storing food than my kitchen at the moment. I had a look at it today and I'm very not happy at my kitchen. It's the same kitchens as those that my grandfather lives in Ampilatwatja or um Alocarung(?). He's got no storage for his food. So there is no proper storage if you're gonna have a healthy eating life style. The prices of food in remote communities are ridiculous so how can somebody be eatin' healthy food when the prices are high?... and the overcrowding situation still hasn't stopped so where's the health issue around that?

1:54:24 M Ok so one of the things around um one of those areas was community stores and during the Intervention there was a umm community store licensing regime, was one of the legislative measures that came into being where FaCHIA licensed community stores. The idea behind that was to improve the types and standard of food and to drive prices down and to provide just healthier food in communities. Do people have views on that measure whether it's...whether we should continue? R?

1:55:03 R? Alice Springs doctor Yeah, hi, I just want to make a comment about health. Umm I'm a doctor in Alice Springs. I work for the emergency department. I see a huge...(?)..and basically it's all...(?)..poverty, dispossession, dislocation. I think if the government wants to be serious about doing anything around health there are 2 aspects. One is the.. (?).. access to health care services. I was out ..(?)..last week and they're under threat of having their health clinic shut down. And I think we need to improve access to health rather than decrease access to health. And one of the problems with the hub towns is the tendency for services to be concentrated in their hub towns whereas other communities use access to those resources which are so essential. But I think the other thing that's...with health is the public health social determinants of health. And see in Australia we have the highest recorded rate in the world of rheumatic heart disease and that's purely because of overcrowding. We've got massive rates of glue ear also directly related to overcrowding. So if one thing government wants to do is to improve housing in all communities it will have a massive impact on people's health. But social determinants of health is more than just housing, there's education, there's jobs, it's not just any job. It's actually having control over your work place, getting paid a fair wage for a day's work, that's seen internationally that it's really important and the other thing that's really important is having a sense of control over your life which has been internationally shown that the more individual and community control that person has in their life, the better the health. So these are all things that the Intervention has suspended and dismantled. These are all things that aren't been talked about. Those issues of land and language and law, these are not being talked about in these consultations and these are really key things that need to be changed in the governance approach. [clapping]

1:57:07 M Ok thanks. B?

1:57:10 White Man 5 B(P?) I had the opportunity to work with some of the medical teams that came in as part of that Intervention working with briefings and debriefings. Their biggest concern was that they felt like seagulls, that they came in, swooped in, dispensing..(?) and left again. Their big issue was where was the follow up. What they wanted to see was an ongoing commitment by federal government to actually providing umm concrete, ongoing umm whole of the community services and the medical and health services to those communities, and I'm wondering whether that's been happening if you've

got any idea..or people in communities to say whether that's been ongoing or whether your impression is a bit like the seagulls swooping in, staying and swooping out. Does anyone got any information on that, whether it's been ongoing? Ok.

1:58:03 M Yeah B(P?) I mean we can talk about it later. There was certainly ongoing work that was done you know, debatable whether it's enough, if more needs to be done....(?)....so, I know we've sort of moved along but there has been some people leaving so...umm, yep.

1:58:32 Aboriginal Lady – long hair Hello everyone. I'd like to say too on the umm health issues we talk about today. I believe too that when the Intervention did roll out, and umm a person like myself livin' on a homeland out on the Western Macdonald about 20-30 K's off Alice Springs. We did lose our service out there because of how the Intervention, how it was set up, umm and the measures they're actually using on us, and the way we...if I, cos I live less than 100 K's out of where I live today I don't get the service that we used to have out there a while back and that's goin' back so we have to come in and find our way in to town to get the service that we require out there, not only myself. There's a lot of people out there that have umm diabetic sufferers like myself with a lot of disabilities. There're a lot of elderly people out there too as well. Cos we find that we don't have a voice cos we only just a minor people that live out there that...We all grew up in Alice Springs and we've actually moved out on our homelands cos those're our choices that we'd made and that's what our parents taught us to have a choice later in life. We went out and got an education as well. It wasn't much but we still went out there and did that education. We never ever came out with a diploma or a degree. We relied on...today to survivors...a lot of people have been saying today's our life skills and that's where I come from. This is about my life skill and how I grew up in Alice Springs and seen the changes that this community has brought upon us as Aboriginal people and has taken our rights, and our basic rights away when the Intervention rolled out and that's why we speak up so strong as we are today and I believe that this is the only way we gonna keep doing it and we will continue to do it until what the government is, has done and with Jenny Macklin and the Intervention and all that. We have travelled to Canberra. We roughed it down there and umm we've done all that but nothing's changed until people hear from us as Aboriginal people but our voices that we believe that is not heard enough out there. And I believe come to this tonight I can see there are a lot of people that can see the road we're going down and it's our survival now. All we talkin' about is our survival. How do we survive on living out there now when a lot of our services have been cut and even our resource centres when we had CDEP workers out there? So we don't have the service. So we have to rely to come into town into Alice.

2:01:35 Yes I love Alice, I grew up in Alice. Alice is never changed for me like I see it today. But I know there's a lot of things that's been happening. But when does this end? You know. When does our journey as Aboriginal people end because we just gotta keep up with the government and what they're saying and putting out there for us. If we don't, if we sit back, and I say nothing now, we're nothin'! So that's what I believe that I'll keep speakin' up at what's happening, whether it's health and that's what I'm speakin' on behalf of health out there and for us when the Intervention rolled out umm and about the... cars, you know the people that lived out they used to bring the children to the school in vehicles and we live on roads that don't get serviced, and umm they were pulled up, pulled off the road and you know and now we have no bus service. And yet the Intervention said, oh you gotta get your kids to school and that has been happening the past to us. We are accountable people as Aboriginal people we always have and always will be, we have not changed! But what to do with the government is doing to

us trying to make that change in a way they see...that bit for us. We know what we want as Aboriginal people you know. We had little but nothing and we still will have nothing. We don't have the service. And that was our choice to go back and live on the land and make that home for our grandchildren to grow up. Thank you. (clapping)

2:03:21 M Thanks. Obviously the access to service is important when you have...TAPE CHANGE

2:03:28 Kgo home. But umm there's nothing at home for him. He's not from the Territory, he's across the border. Look umm, we've got problem with health dialysis. You know he don't want to live here, he want to go back home. So he wrote a letter but I think he's writing letter to the wrong people. So umm I know him and he need help.

2:03:55 M so more dialysis in places out bush, is that what...(?)

2:03:58 K That's what he want to do. He want to go and have dialysis at home. He'd like to see dialysis mentioned at home, that what he want to do.

2:04:09 M ...at the back

2:04:11 Catholic worker, Indonesian features Thank you. One thing which is missing in the conversation tonight is on the uh spiritual well being of the people which is very important. I'm from the Catholic church and working with the central...Catholic tonight....also learn a lot, the people are very spiritual and through their cultural practices and healing centres his brings a lot of healing. People need healing. Connect with the land and spiritual cultural expression is there. It's like in Santa Teresa one of the healing centres is become a centre where so many people umm people with having difficulties with alcoholism or you know violence here and there. When they come to the centre you know they are, there is some emotional spiritual healing if you feel alright and...we become strong when we are stronger inside. What do you mean – when we feel connected with the land, with the spirit, the culture, we are fully become human you know. We are talking about material things but deep in people's spirituality there, we need also to look at that and perhaps the government can support that. Thank you.

2:05:27 M We might just quickly flip these housing...we sort of touched on....(?) Uncle.

2:05:27 Ki'll have yarn about housing. Yeah housing. When they developed housing in my dad's country they never really listened to what people say, they just slapped them up the way they wanted. That's the government! I think when it comes to housing you gotta go and talk to our people, right. They'll tell you what they want. They mightn't want a flash house they might just want a good place to secure things and to keep the weather off, you know. I've seen houses go out bush there slapped up badly and the family are going "hey, that's not what we want." I think you gotta start talkin' to people about housing. You know don't just go out there and say "this is the way houses are built. You know, we're gonna build it all the same." You gotta go out and say that's what they want and that's how we're gonna build it. And it might...maybe a lot less cost to the government and community. Cos this is what we're getting' about economy now and they might be able to build them themselves.

2:06:58 And then on the food one, security. I'm gonna throw a whammy in here. We're talkin' about food security. This country's in a mess with it's food security at the moment cos we're bringing in so much from overseas that we're forgetting to get back to the basic principles, and what should be

encouraged, and it gets back to the economy now of growing certain crops that are able to in communities, encouraging it. We've talked about it tonight all the way through and it goes with health. We've gotta start getting back to growing our own food in a sustainable way right, and if you've got a store then Harry grows vegetables and Jackie grows oranges or whatever the seasonal stuff is, goes to the store and it keeps the money in the communities. That's what we've gotta get back to. Or we go hunting kangaroo or langua(?) or arorty(?) or whatever you know that's what we gotta get to, the proper healthy living of food. Food security in this country, not just in the Territory. And out in some of the country where I've been sometimes...I don't think it's changed much over the years has it? Take away food. And when they get fresh tucker out there it's...they call it fresh food! Fresh food that's been 10 days, 20 days, 10 years in a bloody freezer! You know. What we gotta do is get back to tryin' to grow in our own communities and then tryin' to bring that self respect, which is a word which hasn't been used tonight, that respect for ourselves to get our tucker back the way it was. In other words farming kangaroo. You know it turns me inside out when you've got European fella south there they do the farming of the kangaroos and our own people are slowly not taking stock. A, you know, economics there with the food security we had the crisis with the cattle up in the...with the live cattle export. Well, what happened to abattoirs in the Territory, you know, stuff like that where we can kill, farm our kangaroo and do and have a cheaper thing. You know I can't go and hunt no more cos I'm bugged. I gotta buy my hunting in the Coles or Woolworths and gee when I look at the price of mycura(?) I freak out! I won't be able to get it any more. So we gotta get back to basic living and that's what's the most crucial, fundamental in all health, healthy food and you start to solve some of these problems. And believe it or not it may also solve some of the alcoholic problems if we can get people back on the land. Ok, housing, you can jump in now.

2:10:08 M Ok thanks.

2:10:14 B The way I see the numbers in this room is that there are four of us that live in prescribed areas and the housing was supposed to fix the problems in our prescribed areas. How can you improve housing...is the wrong question! How do you stop the overcrowdingness. Jenny Macklin she promised or she stated that every family should have a house, every child and parent should have a room in a house. In reality that does not happen. And even when the bedrooms and the houses that are being built today, it's not catering for the extra amount of people. How do you improve the ways of umm the housing and looked after? I look at my house today. I'm not gonna pay the market rent for the house, the job that they've done to my house because I'm not happy with it. When Territory Alliance came through my camp I went with the main co-ordinator that was going through every house and I said I'd like this done and I'd like that done. But what they've done...I've got different coloured tiles in my house. I've got ceramic in some and I've got vinyl in others and that...because money is running out \$672 million spent on housing in the Northern Territory, every house is not up to scratch, every house is substandard and us Aboriginal people are not substandard people! So they should have actually listened to the people or the house boss that lives in these homes about the needs and wants in their houses. And as well every house needs to be catered for people's needs. There are different needs for different Aboriginal people. And to me I don't think anybody in this room should make any comment about our housing when we are the ones that live in the houses that are being fixed in our areas.

2:12:16 Another one, how can people buy homes if they don't have a real job? Jobs should be allocated and directed at Aboriginal people living in these areas so we can have that choice! Once again it gets

back to choice, to buy our homes. I rent mine at the moment. I'm on and off employment every now and then but I wanna find a proper job that'll suit me and my children because of the school hours. And I wanna be able to be happy with my job. And I wanna have that job for the rest of my life. But today there are no proper employment for Aboriginal people so how can we buy our homes if there's no proper employment. We can't buy our homes on income management you know so that needs to change.

2:13:16 M so there's obviously a lot of issues there and I just have to say B that we're happy to talk to you about this specific house but we don't accept that all the houses are substandard.

2:13:25 B Yeah but a lot of the houses are different everywhere you go.

2:13:30 M Yeah...(?)

2:13:32 K Yeah look umm my house at Old Timers house 6, it's umm...(?)....my rent went up, my rent flew up but they didn't even paint it back and I've seen housing people. This is about months ago. But look, they got my rent no worries.

2:13:53 M So is there any ideas on a broader policy that will advance how we address some of these issues around housing when there's an acute shortage across Australia...(?)...how do we address some of those issues?

2:14:11 B Even with the lack of housing and even though these are new houses and houses is getting fixed in prescribed areas there is that issue of homelessness so you need to start tackling the homelessness issue.

2:14:32 M Ok obviously...(?)....governance was the last priority area that they wanted us to cover off on. I know it's getting late. Um but I'd just like to cover off on this and then I'm happy to discuss other issues if that's what you want or just call it a day and Uncle wants to start off again. Is that ok?

2:15:04 K Governance! Oh, terrible subject. Governments, governments, bureaucrats who work for the governments must learn to....like when I was a soldier for 26 years and you're a policeman for a long time. We are servants. You are servants to the people not to the multinationals of the world. That's why a lot of this country is in a mess. Good governance at this stage in this country, I haven't yet to see a good leader I'm sad to say. The good leader is when one will stand up and look after all our people, race colour, creed, whatever, get our act together, right, and start doing what they're paid to do not rely on the big multinationals who are dictating to our politicians how this country should run. That's where we're falling down as a nation and until that happens it's going to get worse for us. You know, even the housing situation which is Australia wide cos the greed factor is what's controlling a lot of this. I've brought this up many a time. And on a final note, over the many years that I've been talking, we've repeated some of this stuff years and years...After I got out of the army I could not believe what was happening in my town Alice Springs. Corporate greed, greed, greed! Get rid of greed and we'll have a sensible society. That's why we're getting people living beyond their means in housing. We have made pour housing so bloody dear that the battler can't get it so that comes down to governance. If you turn around and say to the multinationals and the greedy corporations, "stop being greedy, after all the people own the money they give you to make your business succeed. We own the money" until that is done properly then we're gonna continue having problems the rest of our lives – colour.

2:17:34 M Thank you, yeah L(?) over there...

2:17:40 White Lady 4 – glasses, dark hair, L(?) Yeah, umm First I think it's highly inappropriate for the facilitator to tell people who are being consulted that infrastructure and services haven't deteriorated and gotten worse and people's access to them gotten poorer since the Intervention. If people are saying that in consultation it shouldn't be interfered with especially when they're the people experiencing it. But second of all it's just untrue to say that this hasn't happened, because if you're talking about governance I mean it applies to housing, health services, education, all these things. The Intervention has been about the transference of Aboriginal control of assets and decision-making powers in the community to government administrative bodies. That has happened with the abolition of community councils in the local communities, to the aged Shires which people have a lot of grievances about in communities which aren't being heard. And it's also happened in terms of housing with the transfer of housing stock to Territory housing which has a very poor record of looking after Aboriginal people's needs in housing and providing adequate housing. Umm so those are the kind of massive things that people have lost but in governance as well. The assets of those community councils previously owned which helped the community function, things like a road grader to help when there's rain in a community, or a community bus. At Amorna(?) the people are still fighting for a community bus so they don't have to pay for a private taxi to come in to do their shopping. All these things have massive consequences for people's access to health services, food, education, just any of those basic things. So that transfer of millions and millions of dollars worth of assets needs to be the subject of an inquiry. What has happened to those assets that communities built up over many, many decades that have simply been seized by the Shires who have employed a lot of white fellas but there's not a lot of work goin' on the ground for people.

2:19:23 And you know like, I think if we're talkin' about governance again, the community councils performed a role in terms of, in terms of justice issues and the provision of basic maintenance and municipal services which just aren't there any more. With that mainstreaming approach which is embedded in the Intervention and is right through the Stronger Future discussion paper setting the tone for the whole discussion. You know, it says Aboriginal people can no longer have a say in their coming or the basic running of these basic services. They've got to go to Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Darwin, you know to get a tap fixed in the community and these kind of things. And when SIHIP came through and I think it is important to listen to people when they're criticising the work that SIHIP has done, they took employment from Aboriginal people. There should have been jobs for Aboriginal people in that but there hasn't been. There's been people forced to work for the basics card for building houses in their communities and the houses that they end up with that cost \$450,000 or around that a piece and massive amounts for refurbishments, are substandard. Even Territory Housing has admitted that. They've said most of these don't meet basic health and safety requirements of a Territory dwelling. So, I mean, those are the kind of basic things that people are trying to raise here and I think they're really important for the ongoing future of any of this kind of mainstreaming approach that's right through Stronger Futures. So I think people are right to be suspicious of the consultation process and whether their views are actually going to be in the end resolved if any policy that comes out of this because it says quite clearly in this document that's come out with it and I doubt whether many communities got a chance to read it. It actually says, "The key measures in the Intervention are not up for negotiation." Compulsory 5 year leases are not up for negotiation, neither are blanket alcohol bans, neither is anybody say that community governance in terms of restoration of community councils and

these kind of things. So you know while those things remain in place Aboriginal people are not gonna have a say in the future of the Intervention. There shouldn't be a future of the Intervention, people haven't consented to it and the opposition is growing across the Territory to it.

2:21:30 M Thanks for your comments but I do have to remedy some points that you made that were untrue. Um the government has committed to not extending compulsory 5 year leases, that's made clear so they will not be continuing. The Shire reforms ...

2:21:48 L interjects But they have left the threat of compulsory acquisition on the table which is worse.... **Mark** Excuse me, just let me finish. Um now the Shire reforms whilst we're happy to discuss it weren't part of the Intervention. More than happy to add it to the list and to discussion and I've said to you that things that are brought up will be passed on to government, there is a process by which that will happen. And it will be up to government to take into account the views that are put forward both in this meeting and in the hundreds of other meetings that we're having in the NT.

2:22:28 M Um, it's getting a bit late um there is, you know, it's after seven thirty. I think we need to bring this meeting to a halt. There are other mechanisms that I have discussed with people about um how you can have your say. Um there's still, so there's a couple of people still wanna have a say, if we do 2 more and then I'll just go to the last slide and I'll finish up and then we can go home.

2:23:00 White lady hidden Um could you just briefly tell us, other than the consultations, what are the other mechanisms. So, are people going to be allowed to put written submissions in?

2:23:13 M Yeah, that's right. So I mentioned earlier that whilst the paper doesn't call for written submissions um there's nothing stopping people from writing to Minister Macklin. You can find her address on her website and I'm aware that a number of people are taken that opportunity. You can come and see us at the FaCHSIA office or Indigenous Co-ordination Centre and talk to us there about it and we can record it and send it on for you and there's other consultations that we're doing in communities. And B?

2:23:50 B/B With communities, actually there is no autonomy in remote communities as well as Aboriginal organisations um that provide services to prescribed areas, so one of the things that needs to be done I guess is good governance training. And if you got good governance training you got a good autonomy empowerment for the people. How can governments include Shire councils? Well you look at Shire councils and what it's done to the communities, it's actually taken autonomy away so you've got one community making decisions for another so that needs to be a bit more better um communication between the communities. And how do we get...what is it?...What do we need to get it right? Well, 'ginger bread men', we don't need 'em. We don't need the Government Business Managers when we've got, supposedly, our autonomy back and our decision making roles in the communities. You can't, we can't have that when you've got, a Business Manager, because a business manager's sitting up here watching what goes down and then gets reported. So, example, Auntie E can't make a decision about her homeland because she's got to live there more than 8 months of a year before she can have anything done. Same with roads, better roads to communities not this corrugated roads. You'll get better food delivered, you get your better resources delivered out in remote community. It's all about good governance and empowering people for autonomy.

2:25:34 M Ok thanks B. So what next? I've been over most of these points but um you know these discussions will be ongoing. Um they'll feed into government policy development. The Northern Territory government will obviously have a big say...um they have jurisdiction for a number of these matters. And um it's important that people...if they do want to make a submission, a written submission or have a further say on particular issues that they feel strongly about, I would encourage them to do that through one of those other mechanisms. I'd just like to thank people for coming out tonight. I know it's taken a bit longer than we anticipated but it's been very important and the discussion's been very useful and I must say people have um been able to have their say I think and um people have respected each other in that process so I thank you very much for that and um thanks for coming. (clapping)