

BARBARA SHAW's VOICE

“Firstly I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this country. Secondly a warm welcome to all the Indigenous brothers and sisters from I live at Mount Nancy Town Camp which is now Prescribed Area under the Federal Government Intervention. I am a proud fourth generation town camper.

I am here today with the full support

from my people of prescribed areas. We will be made to hear our voices as we stand together. They will be made to hear our voices as we stand together against Racial Discrimination.

In June 2007 on the emotive pretext of protecting children from sexual abuse the previous Australian Government announced the Northern Territory Emergency Response (The Intervention Legislation) based on special measures for Aboriginal people only living in designated Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation has got 700 pages which was rammed through parliament in a single day which was brought out only into prescribed areas which had no mention of protecting children from sexual abuse.

The Government of the day suspended the Racial Discrimination Act of 1975 to put in place a legislative policy with punitive measurers that targeted one race of people. The Aboriginal people in prescribed areas are living under the paternalistic control of the Government and the legislation also gives a great amount of power to the **of**

There was no proper consultation before the Intervention and there is still no proper consultation with Aboriginal people today. The Intervention has legally taken away our rights to be protected from discrimination; we aren't able to appeal when we are discriminated against. So what is happening to Aboriginal people is wrong and unjust. It's a redesign of assimilated policy of the past.

It saddens me to see the look on my country men and women faces. Aboriginal people who live in Prescribed Areas have mixed feeling about the Intervention. The majority of Aboriginal people are in