

MEDIA RELEASE – ALICE SPRINGS – 24th January 2012

Central Australian Aboriginal Rights activist, Barbara Shaw, has called on the Human Rights Commission to support her campaign for the ‘Stronger Futures’ legislation, currently before a Senate Inquiry, to be withdrawn.

Ms Shaw is concerned that the proposed new laws are not in line with what Aboriginal people have asked for in recent consultations and believes such laws would only worsen an already serious social situation in the Northern Territory.

In June last year Ms Shaw presented the Federal and Northern Territory Governments with an 11-point plan “Rebuilding from the Ground Up” which is a proposal built on years of working with people in prescribed areas living under the intervention. It outlines a detailed plan for people to resume control of and take responsibility for their communities.

The proposal has to date been ignored by both governments.

“These Stronger Futures laws will set us back 50 years. They will entrench discrimination. These are not special measures to advance Aboriginal people, it is a total takeover of our lives,” states Ms Shaw who is currently in Canberra to take part in the National Congress People’s Forum followed by celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

Issued at Alice Springs, 24th January 2012, by the Intervention Rollback Action Group.

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Attachment: Barbara Shaw’s letter to Commissioner Gooda of the Australian Human Rights Commission.