Review an Important Step in Closing the Gap

Chief Minister Paul Henderson has welcomed the Australian Government’s review of the Northern Territory Emergency Response as an important step in closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

Speaking at the opening of the Barunga Cultural Festival, Mr Henderson said his Government is supportive of the goals of the intervention.

“Building safer communities, improving housing conditions, and boosting education and health outcomes are essential in closing the gap on indigenous disadvantage,” Mr Henderson said.

“There is no silver bullet for these issues, and that’s why my Government has committed $286 million to the Closing the Gap strategy for the inter-generational change needed to achieve these goals.

“We will recruit an extra 26 teachers for remote classrooms and build 15 extra classrooms, expand programs targeting hearing loss and preventable chronic disease, and put 40 additional police into remote areas and the Child Abuse Taksforce.

"My Government will continue to work with the Federal Government to deliver a $647 million joint housing upgrade program in 73 indigenous communities and some urban areas.

“The same goals of closing the gap of indigenous disadvantage are also at the centre of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

“The Rudd Government’s independent review of the Emergency Response will help determine which measures of the Intervention are proving effective.

“For example, measures of the Intervention such as the proposed removal of permits and the $100 alcohol law play no part in protecting children.
“It is these elements my Government has not supported and a submission to the review will be made to that effect.

“My Government supports the Emergency Response and we will work cooperatively with Review Board and the Australian Government to deliver an ongoing commitment to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.”

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