



Northern Land Council

Media Release

Both sides of politics must support reinstating the Racial Discrimination Act

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The Northern Land Council (NLC) has called on Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Jenny Macklin to not shy away from reinstating the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (RDA) and to give Aboriginal people a reason to support Closing the Gap initiatives into Aboriginal disadvantage.

NLC Chief Executive, Kim Hill today also said that the Federal Opposition should support Minister Macklin because it is the right thing to do.

“Whilst the RDA is suspended Aboriginal people know that they are treated less than equally to every other Australian citizen,” he said.

“This specific issue is a millstone around the neck of improving socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people, and until it is removed Aboriginal people will find it difficult to support any positive government initiatives to improve housing, shops, safety, income, health and education.

“So both sides of politics must support the reinstatement of the RDA, and must support the Minister to ensure it happens sooner rather later.

“Since 2007 the NLC has worked closely with both the former and current federal governments’ to ensure that discrimination towards Aboriginal people does not occur, and we will continue to do so at every opportunity despite the challenges and difficulties presented by the intervention.”

Ends.