

TO THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The members of Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace wish to express their dismay at the Prime Minister's statement that Aboriginal people living in remote communities in WA do so as a 'lifestyle' choice. To force people out of their ancestral lands to live in regional towns is unjust and contrary to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. When a community is closed in this way people are separated from their land, heritage, family, culture and spirituality.

The Petitioners therefore request that the Government:

- Apologise to the Aboriginal communities for the insult to their culture;
- Listen and consult with the people before making decisions; and
- Find and fund new creative initiatives to support the communities especially by the use of renewable energy sources for landcare employment and for basic human needs enjoyed by all other Australian citizens.

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