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Our report reviews the Intervention as a whole, evaluating its effects on a range of human rights indicators as well as each of the official Closing the Gap targets. Those targets were set by the former Labour government in four key areas: health and life expectancy, education, safer communities and employment and economic participation.

The 2016 'Closing the Gap' report states that the targets of education, employment and life expectancy are not being met Australia-wide. While Year 12 attainment is on track, literacy and numeracy have stalled. These results are nowhere near what they should be.

As a result, overall, we gave the Closing the Gap targets the following scores:

- Health and life expectancy: 4/10
- Education: 5/10
- Safer communities: 4/10
- Employment and economic participation: 3/10
- Incarceration: 0/10

On the human rights front, the results were equally poor. One glaring human rights violation was the suspension of section 10 of the *Racial Discrimination Act* under the initial Intervention legislation. Suspension of section 10 enabled the government to enact measures that clearly discriminated on the basis of race without fear of legal repercussions. The suspension has since been lifted, but discriminatory aspects of the Intervention remain. We gave it a score of 3/10 for discrimination. Other human rights that were trampled included the right to be consulted (3/10), the right to self-determination (2/10) and the right to social security (4/10).

Currently, the trialling of the Healthy Welfare card – a system that restricts how recipients can spend their money – is under way. It raises concerns over the right to privacy, as the legislation that authorises the Healthy Welfare card allows certain people, including bank officers, to disclose information about a person to the government. Other human rights impacted by this system include the right to social security and the right to family and private life.

Prime Minister Turnbull stated ahead of the report's release that "our task must be to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in a partnership that is based on mutual respect." However, the Intervention has been characterised by a lack of consultation and has been a human rights failure on the part of the Australian government. As the author of our report, Centre Associate Dr Stephen Gray, concludes: "The Intervention was meant to improve the lives of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory, but at this rate the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people may never close in many areas". The gap is heightened in the Northern Territory but is by no means limited to it, and Indigenous rights should be a concern of all Australians, especially those in power.

## Five questions for: Alice Fraser



Alice Fraser (yellow jacket) with the *Have You Got That Right?* cast and crew

Alice Fraser is a comedian who stars as the host of series 3 and 4 of the Castan Centre's *Have You Got That Right?* video series. Like most people involved in the project, Alice worked pro bono, and squeezed it in between her sell-out stint at the 2016 Comedy Festival and jetting to the UK to perform. She spoke to us from the departure lounge.

### *How did you get into comedy?*

I tripped and fell one day and then it was like quicksand and swallowed me alive and now all I can breathe is comedy sand. Help, help!

### *What else are you working on at the moment?*

I'm working on my Edinburgh show *The Resistance*, my podcast, *Tea With Alice*, my weekly columns for SBS Comedy, some pro bono legal work and a couple of secret projects that will turn into nothing.

### *What attracted you to the HYGTR project?*

My dad was a crusader for Intellectual Property rights, and the rights of the author, so I grew up around a thirst for justice and someone who was endlessly patiently willing to explain right and wrong and to stand up for it in all circumstances. My dad was never a hypocrite, even in the small ways that most people are. It taught me that it's easy to say the right thing, but difficult and worthwhile to do it.

### *Do you address human rights in your work/shows?*

I wrestle with complicated ideas about moral responsibility sometimes, but my job is to make them funny enough to keep people engaged, and make the ideas digestible.

### *Who is your human rights hero?*

Captain Planet! No, I think my dad is my human rights hero because he was the conduit for that sort of information into my life from an early age. But after that, Aung Sang Su Kyi, Gillian Triggs, the whole of PEN... Anyone who sacrifices their own wellbeing or comfort or time for what is right.