

Federal intervention useless, activist says

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A newly re-formed lobby group has described the Federal Government's intervention in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities as patronising and unworkable.

Women for Wik was established 10 years ago in opposition to the Federal Government's 10-point plan and has been re-formed in response to the intervention.

Group organiser Associate Professor Claire Smith says there is a lot of confusion from communities about many elements of the intervention.

She says while child abuse has to be addressed, the Commonwealth is going about it the wrong way.

"Up until now we haven't had the money to deal with those problems, [Chief Minister] Clare Martin's been doing what she can little by little but really she has not had the money to deal with the problems," Professor Smith said.

"Now we're having bucket-loads of money being thrown at it, that's great except that's it not being thrown in the right places to solve the problems, so the problems will still be there and in some cases they'll be exacerbated."

Professor Smith says hundreds of women, including those affected by the changes, have contacted her with concerns about how the intervention is being rolled out.

"People are either angry - the people who are in positions of authority and have a sense of what's going on and what's not going on - or frightened," she said.

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