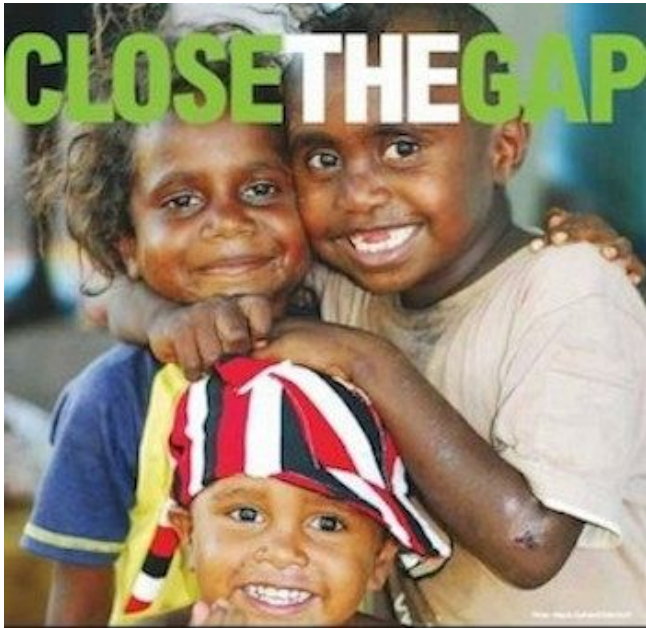


Abbott should be Closing the Gap, not closing communities

By *Natalie Cromb*

12 March 2015



After promising to be a "Prime Minister for Aboriginal Affairs", Tony Abbott copped universal condemnation from Indigenous leaders of all political stripes over his claim that it's not the taxpayers' job to subsidise Indigenous Australians' "lifestyle choices". [Natalie Cromb reports.](#)

JUST WHEN we thought [Colin Barnett](#) couldn't sink any lower with his [plans to close up to 150 remote Indigenous communities](#), he proves us wrong by implying that child welfare is the primary reason for the community closures. Once again, Aboriginal people are demonized as unfit parents. He is not the only one vilifying Aboriginal people; [Tony Abbott](#) has come out in support of Barnett and [said](#):

"...what we can't do is endlessly subsidise

lifestyle choices."

So now, Aboriginal people are unfit parents and sponging off taxpayers?

The Greens have dubbed his comments as racist while the Federal Opposition has [demanded](#) an apology from Tony Abbott — but he remains unabashed by his remarks and reiterated his message.

In fact, when Tony Abbott was a guest on Sydney radio station 2GB he told host Alan Jones he was just being "*realistic*" and "*stating a general principle*".

He went further to state:

racist policies and the

"If you or I chose to live in a very remote place, to what extent is the taxpayer obliged to subsidise our services and, I think, this is a very real question."

Let's not forget that his is the Prime Minister who promised before the election that he would be:

Aboriginal people are guaranteed services to ensure that Aboriginal people receive the same standard of living as the rest of the population. The damage to the reputation of the State is a backward path referring to the portfolio taking



"We see a pattern of broad, unfounded statements about Aboriginal people and he declines our invitation and work out positive solutions

Islander Mark David "Kimberley Aboriginal opposed to community state based

"There is a better way identified a wide range of Aboriginal people and to improve efficiencies, programs, reduce waste, develop employment communities.

"At the same time, people care for their country, providing service to the whole state, we invite government to developing a positive and our communities."

- \$9.5 million cut to

The strategies and Indigenous leadership in favour of the easier option for the government. The fund normalise the community these policies will continue to ripple for decades.

This illustrates that the government is short sighted and that is thriving as a intellectually inflexible by decisions and policies are issued. It further illustrates that the Liberal Party of Australia holds the Aboriginal taxpayer and does not have any intention of making progressive changes

Sure you've all seen this but...ICYMI Noel Pearson blasts Abbott's 'lifestyle choice' comments as 'shameless' <http://t.co/N34mlGqgw7>

— Gabrielle Chan (@gabriellechan) March 11, 2015

It appears that the... Father of the Nation... Indigenous... support of... their tax... choices... Australia is profiting from the dispossession of the Aboriginal people and theft of Aboriginal lands... strong... and land... Kimberley... fielding... people of... attempting... Government... solution to the... that over... homeless... possibly... Earlier... Council... said: This will... their identity and health as a people. Please... "The Prime Minister... abuse of... intention to...

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[Close the Gap](#) quite the opposite. [March 11, 2015](#)
sacrifice and destruction of
Further bidgesession will use the
increase in the Gap and the wealthy
people working grassroots (or at
organisations to be able to wage
suffering of these organisations also
concur with the above opinion that
the Gap in Australia is not
built upon the [blood, tears and
Of Suffering of Aborigines](#) here,
[why are they](#) the 2 Aboriginal
ones under threat?
[Stop it Australia](#) supporting
[Indigenous people](#) as Tony
and other would have us
believe? Not so much.

— Aboriginal Health
(@NACWAustralia) [March 11, 2015](#)
[@TonyAbbottMHR](#)

said about closing
remote communities.
Read the story here:
<http://t.co/U1ruYkSQh9>
<https://t.co/vPmrlpb5nl>

— ABC News
(@abcnews) [March 11, 2015](#)