

'The Intervention'

Principal Characters

Conway Bush

38 yrs old Conway is a CDEP maintenance team supervisor who works on contract. He is an angry opponent of the Emergency Intervention because he says he is a good family man, the Government should punish bad parents only, and the Intervention should apply not only to Aboriginal People, but all Australians should be included. Conway is glad children in trouble will now get help; he's seen it happen in his community and taught his 7 daughters to be aware and strong.

An enterprising man, Conway wants to start his own business removing waste (everything from rubbish to dumped cars) from remote communities. He's saved enough money to buy a truck on CDEP.

Like everyone in his community, Conway was called into a meeting with Centrelink where he & his wife were expected to give consent for half of his family support income to be quarantined. He says 'What right has the Government got to put their hands in my wife's purse and manage 50% of our income.'

Irene Fisher

Irene is the Chief Executive Officer, Sunrise Health - based in Katherine. Sunrise is an Award winning organization that provides Health Centres in all remote Katherine communities.

Irene is completely disillusioned about The Intervention. Inference that Aboriginal kids are medically neglected and sexually abused under her watch has been very upsetting personally & professionally.

She believes The Intervention is a furphy for a land grab and a reversion back to assimilation. Irene is a member of Stolen Generation, and at the start of The Intervention she was flooded with the same fears and sense of disempowerment that she remembers as a girl when she was removed.

Davis Turner

Davis is a night patrol tour guide & operations supervisor. He tells us that out of the 28 staff, only 10 men will get a job with the phase-out of CDEP. Many will have to work for the dole. Davis is the Operations Boss and he says his stress levels are 9 out of 10. But he still laughs.

He says lots of people and many drunks have moved into the town camp thinking they can escape the Intervention. The Night Patrol service is stretched to breaking point. However, Davis believes strongly in helping his people by providing a service that saves his countrymen from being 'terrorised and harassed by police.'

Tanya Karpany

Tanya is in her late 20's. She lives in Binjari, with her 2 daughters and her mother. Tanya's concerned that The Intervention " just bundles everyone into the same package'. She doesn't like having her money managed. She doesn't have the freedom to spend it whichever way she likes.

Lilly

Now in her late 80's, Lily lives with her sister and another old lady in a corrugated 4x4 metre square tin shack, window glued shut, her bed surrounded by images of Jesus' mother Mary, and with age old newspaper to protect her from wet season storms. The shack boils in 40C weather. It has no bath-room, no kitchen, no sink, and no running water.

Lily worked her whole life on various Lord Vesty stations for rations and remembers the Strike. She doesn't understand The Intervention but she hopes and prays one day she will get a proper house.

Rachel Willika

Rachel has two small kids under 3.

Rachel pays \$200 for a place in a taxi so she can go and shop in Katherine every week. There is no local shop in the community and no public transport, She lives very much on the limit of her resources.

Her pension is managed and she only has access to half her money in cash. It's from this small amount that she must pay the taxi fare.