

The “Stockholm Syndrome” is a serious mental illness. It affects people who have been held captive and enables them to maintain a sense of control of their situation by identifying with their captives. My album, “An Indigenous Youth and the Chief Justice” documents a case where an 18-year-old male was “kidnapped off the streets” by the Northern Territory Justice Department and thrown into a Darwin prison with psychopaths and murderers for 7 years. As a result, to maintain a sense of sanity, he has rejected his rescuers and identifies with his hostage-takers.

The Dan Murphy's case draws attention to another case which has been thoroughly analysed by defense lawyer, John Lawrence in 1995 before the Supreme Court in “The Crown v Helen Secretary”.

This is not the place to discuss the intimate personal details of the above case; however, if the “Stockholm Syndrome” or a similar affliction affects wider issues of public interest, something must be said.

Since 1993, unscrupulous developers, including the Federal & Northern Territory Governments themselves, has been taking advantage of a vulnerable person for their own perceived financial advancement, with the added advantage of avoiding public scrutiny behind a “Pandanus Curtain”.

The exploiters of a vulnerable person include: Citiland Pty Ltd (Jape); MacDonald's Restaurants Pty Ltd; Halikos Construction (John Halikos & Shane Dignan); Ernie Chin and his Dragon Lady Pty Ltd; Even Lynne; Gwelo Investments Pty Ltd and Arafura Harbour Pty Ltd; lawyer Michael Chin; John Howard and his “Shared Responsibility Agreement”; Charles Darwin University (Mudla Crabs); North Australian Aquaculture Company & Safcol; Dave Tollner MHR; Chief Minister Adam Giles; adviser Steve “the Godfather” Doherty and known others who have more successfully hidden their tracks.

Finally, and blatantly, there is Stephen Donahue of the Endeavour Group (Dan Murphy's).

To understand how we got to this situation, we must go back to the 1970s when land rights activism made the return of Larrakia land at Kulaluk inevitable. As a result, the Whitlam Government sent a young legal adviser named Gareth Evans to Darwin to investigate how the land could be returned without setting a precedent for other language groups claiming land rights in cities. The conclusion became clear in the final report, which was confidential at the time.

In his report to Whitlam, the young Gareth Evans suggested that the Kulaluk situation in 1973 would be “DEFUSED” by defining the return of the land (more than 300 hectares in suburban Darwin) as a SPECIAL CASE, granted as an ACT OF GOODWILL to a NARROWLY DEFINED GROUP of people. His report encouraged the GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE FROM ABORIGINAL PEOPLE by being PROACTIVE and granting land at Kulaluk, in a bold step that placed Kulaluk in a UNIQUE POSITION while leaving MANY ISSUES UNRESOLVED (the subtexts being “aren't we kind” and “divide and rule”). The end result is a constant theme of these pages, but illustrated in the oft-repeated comment, “It's none of your business!”.

After self-government for the Northern Territory in 1978, the return of the land became an even greater cynical exercise when the land was handed back to an Incorporated Association with an off-the-shelf constitution in August 1979. The constitution was amended and signed off by Michael Chin in 2006 to further restrict membership.