

Mr. Hardy Schimmel  
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12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

The Hon Nicole Manison MLA  
Treasurer  
GPO Box 3146  
Darwin, NT 0801

Dear Ms Manison

#### Universal Welfare

I understand the NT economy is, putting it bluntly, up the creek. I am always disappointed when I see governments increasing taxes to solve their economic problems so I have to give you a low score for that one.

On a positive note I have an idea which might be helpful to you. Please consider universal welfare. I understand that welfare and income tax are the domain of the Federal government but you could champion it and offer the Territory as the testing ground. I believe it has massive economic upside and will assist with the poor state of the governments finances.

I am pulling this figures out of the air but lets just say for arguments sake that we are talking about \$10 000. This would mean that every person from the bum on the street to the richest person in the NT would receive \$10 000 per year. It would immediately bring money into the Territory and you being a very smart person would lobby the Federal government to pay for all the implementation costs. The exact amount is for the clever boffins to work out. No doubt there would need to be an adjustment to income tax as well.

There are lots of upsides.

- Improved job participation. The current system discourages anyone on welfare to look for a job. I can't tell you how many times I have heard someone say. 'I can't get a job because then I would loose my child support or austudy or welfare'
- Improved efficiency in government agencies administering welfare. Ie cost saving
- Provides incentive for people to leave the cash economy. Ie governments get more tax.
- Government could use it to attract people to the NT.
- If done well it could bring an immediate cash injection into the NT.

I hope that you give my idea some thought and that it brings about a positive change to the Territory.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H Schimmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

(Hardy Schimmel)

cc

Gerry Wood MLA