

29 January 2009

The Editor
NT News
GPO Box 1300
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Sir,

A bouquet to the NT News for exposing the Casuarina retailer involved in the display and sale of those tacky T-shirts.

Of course the T-shirts are offensive and divisive. It's unworthy, and downright shabby, for the retailer to deny responsibility because she doesn't manufacture the shirts.

Patriotism and national pride are fine, but are never an excuse for indecent treatment of people and/or a denial of the basic human right of everybody to participate equally in society.

A healthy civilised community treats people on their merits, and respects and tolerates cultural difference. It does not tolerate tacky T-shirts which serve to sharpen difference and create disharmony.

Governments may legislate to encourage community harmony until the cows come home, but without widespread community support the fight against intolerance and unfair treatment is unwinnable.

Tony Fitzgerald
Anti-Discrimination Commissioner