



Complexity in Aboriginal political culture

Implications for government policy

CAEPR Seminar
22 October 2008
Sarah Maddison, UNSW

- 
- Cabinet is aware of **increasing concern** in the Australian community and internationally for the social and economic welfare of Aboriginals.
-

- Cabinet submission 1185, 'National Employment Strategy for Aboriginals', 1977

- I have called this news conference to announce a number of major measures to deal with what we can only describe as a **national emergency** in relation to the abuse of children in indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

- Former Prime Minister John Howard announcing his government's 'emergency intervention' into Northern Territory Aboriginal communities, 2007



Ten areas of complexity

- Autonomy and dependency
- Sovereignty and citizenship
- Tradition and development
- Individualism and collectivism
- Indigeneity and hybridity
- Unity and regionalism
- Community and kin
- Men, women and customary law
- Elders and the next generation
- Mourning and reconciliation