

# Can remote area and rural discrimination be recognised?

## Abstract

This research examines how current treatment of 'remote' and 'rural' areas in human rights and anti-discrimination norms are under-optimised for human rights in these areas. The research centres on exploration and theory building through dialogical inquiry with: • human rights-engaged ACCO and non-ACCO NGOs (national and NT) • human rights regulators (national and NT) • Northern Australia scholars, and • diverse peers (domestic and international) for participatory rights framing gap analysis and e-atlas making. This non-representative, qualitative mapping of the regime complex of 'remote' area and 'rural' rights governance, will help illuminate how normative practices and instruments to advance human rights are allowing injustice to make its way through. Using actor-network theory to consider this injustice as actor, the characteristics of this 'remote' area and 'rural' discrimination ('RARD') towards these populations will be visceralised. For example, situations where RARD advances purportedly inclusive words like 'for all' in advocacy or normative artefacts, onto-epistemically negating any reason to visibilise geo-demographic subalternisations. How RARD convinces contributors, legislators and international human rights drafters, is quite remarkable - revealing RARD as successful, mobile, seemingly immutable, discriminatory, logic. The research aims to increase the contributions of theory, language, imagination, arguments and tools to counter domestic and international practices of remote and rural area human rights derailment, attenuation or extinguishment. Chronic shortfalls in duty-bearer responses to poverty and living conditions in these areas will be de-reasonablised. Human rights norms and practices will be challenged to become de-coopted from peripheralizing and penalising practices, to enact de-subordinating solidarity with remote and rural populations.