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Moral economies and the Aboriginal future in remote Australia: culture, policy and dependency

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One of the most complex areas of policy in Aboriginal affairs relates to the future of Aboriginal people in remote communities, where in many cases there is very limited economic activity, few people want to move away from them, and even when there is employment nearby, hardly any Aboriginal people engage with it in a long-term way. This is a political as well as a social issue as many Australians in settled Australia are concerned about the material circumstances in these communities. Two moral economies play a central role in reproducing a distance between the remote Aboriginal population and the mainstream economy. Both have their source in the Aboriginal domain and raise the question of whether there are desirable long-term forms of dependency and how these relate to the idea of secular assimilation.