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NACCHO to Feds: ‘Work with our health leaders!’

Australia’s peak Aboriginal health body has urged the Federal Government to work closely with national Aboriginal health leaders to ensure community engagement and adequate resourcing are central to Mr Howard’s plans for the Northern Territory.

NACCHO CEO, Dea Delaney Thiele, says that a meeting in Sydney of 13 Aboriginal health groups had encouraged the Prime Minister to read the *Little Children are Sacred* report to better guide his response to child sexual abuse.

“Mr Howard’s response bares no relation to the report’s 97 recommendations—it’s as if he hasn’t even read it,” says Ms Delaney Thiele.

“Principle Three of the report specifically calls for community engagement and on-going consultation with Aboriginal communities and individuals, and that’s clearly not happening as the PM’s task force travels around Central Australia.”

Ms Delaney Thiele says that the NT’s peak Aboriginal health body—AMSANT (Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory)—must now take the lead agency role in coordinating the recruitment of health professionals to the NT.

“AMSANT has the expertise and community contacts to appropriately coordinate the GPs, nurses and Aboriginal health workers who wish to go to the Territory to support the PM’s response,” she says.

[AMSANT’s details for volunteer health professionals are:

Ph: (08) 8944.6666; Fax: (08) 8981.4825, or email reception@amsant.com.au]

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