



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

26 June 2008

Aboriginal men: part of the solution

Initiatives like the Aboriginal Male Health Summit near Alice Springs next week show Aboriginal men want to be part of the solution and not just seen as the problem in communities says Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO*, the peak body for Aboriginal medical services.

“The summit, *‘Taking care of our children, taking the next steps’* is an initiative of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress medical service in Alice Springs and will examine issues in the Little Children are Sacred report” said Dr Adams, one of the summit facilitators.

“Over 300 Aboriginal men are expected to attend the summit from 30 June to 3 July at the Ross River Campsite outside Alice Springs” Dr Adams said.

The summit’s keynote speaker Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma recently said “Over the last 18 months we’ve seen sustained media coverage of child abuse and family violence, but we’ve rarely seen or heard how Indigenous people and communities across Australia are taking positive steps to respond to this violence, abuse and neglect.”

Dr Adams says “This summit is just one of the steps Aboriginal men are taking to address the issues in their communities and to find long term solutions”.

“Aboriginal men by adopting healthy, responsible lifestyles go a long way to improving the health, wellbeing and vitality of their families and communities.

“Aboriginal men have an essential role to play in improving their communities however we need to confront a range of issues and behaviours.

“The summit, *‘Taking care of our children, taking the next steps’* will include workshops on family and community responsibility, domestic violence, pornography, substance abuse, environmental health, education, employment and income “ Dr Adams said.

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Male Health Unit invites interested men and women, media, families and organisations to attend the **Summit outcomes open session on Thursday 3 July 9am to noon at the Ross River campsite, 45 minutes drive east of Alice Springs.**

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