



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

13 November 2008

Men need to be part of the solution says national Aboriginal health meeting

The annual general meeting in Broome this week of the national peak body for Aboriginal health, NACCHO, has endorsed the "Inteyerrkwe Statement" from the July Aboriginal Male Health Summit in Central Australia acknowledging and apologising for the suffering some Aboriginal men have caused in their communities.

The meeting called on all Aboriginal men to think about the statement and to commit to its principals of caring for children in a safe family environment and recognising the need for the love and support of Aboriginal women to help men move forward.

The four day NACCHO annual general meeting includes representatives of over 140 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services from across Australia and concludes on Friday with a series of recommendations arising from the members.

Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO said, "We recognise that most Aboriginal men are responsible family members and committed to providing a secure and comfortable environment for their families, but we also recognise there is a need to address the problems in our communities".

The Inteyerrkwe Statement*

We the Aboriginal males from Central Australia and our visitor brothers from around Australia gathered at Inteyerrkwe in July 2008 to develop strategies to ensure our future roles as husbands, grandfathers, fathers, uncles, nephews, brothers, grandsons, and sons in caring for our children in a safe family environment that will lead to a happier, longer life that reflects opportunities experienced by the wider community.

We acknowledge and say sorry for the hurt, pain and suffering caused by Aboriginal males to our wives, to our children, to our mothers, to our grandmothers, to our granddaughters, to our aunties, to our nieces and to our sisters.

We also acknowledge that we need the love and support of our Aboriginal women to help us move forward.

*Inteyerrkwe is pronounced In-ek-e-wa after the site of the three day summit at Ross River an hour East of Alice Springs

More information on the first Central Australian Aboriginal Male Health Summit is available from www.caac.org.au/malehealthinfo

Media Contacts - National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation:

Chairperson Dr Mick Adams 04 0964 6952

CEO Dea Thiele 04 1704 6692

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Communications Chris Hallett 04 0770 4788