



Media Release

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IN HOPE NACCHO CONGRATULATES RUDD

Saturday was a great day for Aboriginal Australians. We now have hope said Dr Adams, Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

Congratulations on such a clear and convincing victory. Australians have clearly indicated they want what you have offered said Dr Adams.

NACCHO and the 141 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services we represent, have great expectations about what can be achieved for our people over the term of this parliament. We hope that there will be a bi-partisan approach that will mean actions taken by the Rudd government on Aboriginal issues will not be blocked by the Senate.

We are hoping for both symbolic actions and practical investment. Symbolic actions such as saying sorry are of extreme importance to create the right atmosphere for real change.

Real investment means more than was promised in the election campaign, much more. The full \$460 million a year into primary care in the 2007/08 budget not more of the same trickle of money that has been the hallmark of the Howard years.

We hope for a real change in attitude. Mr Rudd, now you have been given such a strong mandate by the Australian population, we need a sea change in attitude which will need to come from you and your leadership team.

You need to signal a willingness to create real partnerships between Aboriginal peoples and the government. For my sector this means a partnership agreement between the Department of Health and Aging and NACCHO, where we set ground rules for behaviour and each side's rights and responsibilities. One that recognizes us as equal partners in improving the health of Aboriginal peoples.

We will meet you half way. We are ready to embrace change and play our part. Congratulations on a great win. I look forwards to working collaboratively and constructively with you over the next few months and years said Dr Adams.

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