



Media Release

10 December 2007

Mr Rudd today is the day to sign

“We have watched with interest and appreciation as Mr Rudd moved forward as a matter of urgency with his promise to ratify Kyoto and we have been promised an apology early next year, but today - the international day of human rights - would be a good day to ratify the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People” said Dr Mick Adams Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

“We need urgently to see that the new government is serious about our human rights. A symbolic action of this nature would set the tone for the work over the next few months and convince us of this government’s real intention to do things differently”, said Dr Adams.

“We still have not had a clear message on what this government is going to do about the Northern Territory emergency intervention which was and is an assault on our human rights if there ever was one.

“We continue to hear statements such as ‘we need to let it continue for some time to see if it is working’. Sorry this has taken away our rights. Even if it ‘works’ at some level it is still unacceptable to the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory and must be rejected in its entirety.

“This is not to say that we do not want more child health checks for instance or more police or more resources for just about anything. But we want those resources to come to the communities in a flexible and collaborative fashion.

“Our members in the Northern Territory have been very clear about this. Yes to more health checks but no to the present way of doing them.

“Mr Rudd must give us a sign today, the international day of human rights, that he is serious about treating us as equal partners in the project of reconciliation and development” said Dr Adams.

For more information:

NACCHO Chairperson, Dr Mick Adams (m) 0409 646 952

NACCHO CEO Ms Dea Thiele (m) 0417 046 692

NACCHO Media and Communications Officer, Dr Margaret Chirgwin (m) 0424644465