



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION
NACCHO

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Sincere sorry a step forward

“Today is an important milestone in the recovery from the damage done, due recognition of the responsibility the Australian community has for its policies, and for addressing their effects says Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO, the national peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

“There is much sadness today for the families reflecting on the pain inflicted by forced removals” Dr Adams said.

“The forced removals of children and the grief, loss and trauma suffered by families continue to have a profound effect on the Aboriginal community.

“There is much frustration that the need for a journey of healing for the stolen generations and a formal apology from the Australian government was made clear in the *Bringing Them Home Report* ten years ago yet it was ignored by the Howard Government.

“So many people revealed the tragic effects of the breaking up of their families in the inquiry and report, that to have it rejected by the Federal Government was especially hurtful.

“I welcome that Kevin Rudd, on behalf of the Australian government has now said sorry and apologised to the stolen generations and their families. I also acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition’s bipartisan support given today.

“Today’s sincere sorry to the stolen generations and their descendants will go some way to help heal the wounds of Aboriginal families.

“It is the right thing to do. It allows us now to move forward and work together with respect on addressing Aboriginal disadvantage in areas of health, housing, education and employment.

“NACCHO, representing Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in more than 140 communities throughout Australia, knows what is needed to ‘close the gap’ and deliver equality in health for Aboriginal people within 25 years.

“Our detailed plan is supported by numerous respected health sector organisations and NACCHO will discuss the plan further with the Federal Government in the coming months.

“It entails raising primary health care infrastructure, funding, staffing, service provision, planning and housing to a level that will begin to ‘close the gap’ for this generation of Aboriginal people, and prevent the need for future apologies. “Dr Adams said.

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