



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

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Rudd Government rights the wrong call on UN Declaration

Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO, the peak body for community controlled Aboriginal medical services has congratulated the Federal Government for today formally endorsing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and for the government's aspiration to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are in control of their destiny.

Dr Adams said, "The declaration sets out important principals to guide the relations between indigenous peoples and national governments and are in line with universal human rights endorsed by Australia as a member of the United Nations".

"Each of the over 145 Aboriginal community controlled medical services across Australia, their elected state and territory peak bodies and the elected board of NACCHO, the national peak body that I chair, are all committed to the principle implicit in the UN declaration that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right he right to full participation in the health service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation that is integral to closing the gap in health outcomes.

"Our members were bitterly disappointed in 2007 when the former Federal Government refused to endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"Many Aboriginal people involved in our sector also contributed to the drafting of the declaration as a natural extension of the philosophy of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector.

"As one of the initiators of the Close the Gap campaign to achieve health equality NACCHO asks that the Australian Government support the development of a National Framework Agreement between the Department of Health and Aging and NACCHO to ensure Aboriginal people are in control of their health" Dr Adams said.

This would give effect to the following words of Minister Jenny Macklin at today's ceremony:

We want Indigenous peoples to be our partners in closing the gap. Indigenous peoples must have the opportunity to develop and drive solutions if we, as a nation are to achieve real, lasting change.

The right of Indigenous peoples to improve their economic and social conditions, in the areas of education, employment, housing and health is central to achieving this.

Dr Adams also said he looked forward to Minister Macklin carrying out her promise to lift the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act in the Northern Territory.

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