



Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA CATCHES UP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is pleased to acknowledge the Australian Government has caught up with the rest of the world, in supporting the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

This *Declaration* was passed by the United Nations in 2007 with only a few Nations opposing it. Australia was one of those nations along with New Zealand, Canada and the United State of America. ALRM understands that Canada is now supporting the *Declaration* and Australia will too.

ALRM CEO, Mr Neil Gillespie said resolution of this issue is important for Indigenous peoples and for Australia.

“Some of the key provisions within the *Declaration* provide for Indigenous Australians to enjoy all human rights and freedoms similar to other Australians, including just compensation,” Mr Gillespie said.

ALRM is also extremely pleased with the commitment by the Rudd Government to honour its pre-election promise on the Apology to the Stolen Generations.

“It is however, unfortunate the South Australian Government is conducting itself contradictory to the Rudd Government by denying SA Aboriginal people’s access to justice – effectively failing to recognise Aboriginal people are citizens.”

“In South Australia, members of the Stolen Generations continue hardships because of a recalcitrant State Government that refuses to discuss a just and fair compensation scheme – despite similar schemes existing interstate,” Mr Gillespie said.

Additionally, ALRM calls on the State Government to declare its position on restorative justice principles – a recommendation of the Mullighan Inquiry and part of the State’s *Strategic Plan*, because recent statements by Attorney-General,

Michael Atkinson suggest there has been a significant policy position change with no consultation.

Although acknowledging the Rudd Government' s actions, Mr Gillespie said an outstanding matter that the Prime Minister needs to honour is Labor's pre-election commitment to increase Aboriginal legal aid to the same level as mainstream legal aid in order to address the appalling discrepancy in funding and Aboriginal incarceration.

ALRM CEO ALRM, Neil Gillespie is available for comment (m) 0417 086 025

FYI: The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc provides legal services and associated activities (legal aid and native title legal services, financial counselling, law reform and advocacy, the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme and community education) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in South Australia. ALRM is an independent incorporated Aboriginal community organization