



Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release, 9 October, 2009

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is surprised to learn through the media that the Aboriginal community is allegedly harbouring the criminals involved in the spate of recent crimes across Adelaide.

It is ALRM's view that:

- The Aboriginal community does not like our people being involved with any sort of crime - let alone what's happening across Adelaide at the moment.
- We do not believe anyone in our community would intentionally harbour people involved in crime. On the occasion that some immediate or extended family may be involved, it is not known in what way?
- We note various media reports suggesting that the SA Police believe the Aboriginal community is harbouring people involved in crime. It is our view that this is grossly overstated, inappropriate and completely irresponsible.

It seems that these reports make no reference to non-Aboriginal families or communities and are therefore discriminatory.

- ALRM is prepared to assist people and their families who might be caught up in this recent criminal activity to do whatever it can to respond to issues.
- ALRM also offers to assist Government departments to address issues of crime prevention and intervention including SAPOL. We call upon both the Commonwealth and State Governments to work with organisations like ALRM to address these issues, through the national compact and social inclusion partnerships.
- It is imperative that governments fund crime prevention and intervention, restorative justice and other youth programs and provide the resources that will put real effort into addressing the issues that result in people coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

The blame game and demonising of Aboriginal people has to stop and real, concrete initiatives implemented to address the social disadvantage that is the root cause of our young people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal being involved in crimes.

For interview

Neil Gillespie CEO ALRM 0417 086 025

FYI: The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc provides legal services and associated activities (legal aid 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