



**For immediate release**  
17 June, 2008

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ALRM CELEBRATES FUNDING BOOST**

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement says the announcement of new Commonwealth funding for ALRM will go directly to improving service delivery for Aboriginal people across the State.

ALRM CEO, Mr Neil Gillespie said funding of \$300,000 will go towards meeting the immediate demands of child protection as a result of the Mullighan Report into Child Abuse on the APY Lands and \$895,000 will help attract ALRM staff to regional and remote centres and purchase properties for staff accommodation in Ceduna, Port Augusta and Murray Bridge.

“The Rudd Government is proving its commitment to Aboriginal equity across of range of areas – much more so than has been experienced in years under the Howard Government,” he said.

“This offer of funding recognises the need for funding for Aboriginal law and justice. ALRM thanks the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Rudd Government Ministers for responding to this area of critical need.”

“This additional funding is on top of the \$240,000 approved by Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Bob Debus Debus in April 2008 which averted ALRM's planned withdrawal of court services for May and June 2008,” he said.

Mr Gillespie said ALRM's planned formal complaint to the United Nations Human Rights Council on the underfunding of ALRM's legal aid program will now be delayed. Mr Gillespie said that whilst ALRM's main program of legal aid has had static funding since 1996 due to a demarcation of responsibility between the State and Commonwealth Governments, ALRM has decided to delay its complaint pending the outcome of the July 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys - General (SCAG).

“What we now want to see from this funding announcement is a similar commitment to addressing inequity for Aboriginal people from the South Australian Government. There is still so much more to do to close the gap,” Mr Gillespie said.

ALRM Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neil Gillespie is available for interview.  
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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 organisation.