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MEDIA RELEASE

ALRM Nominated for Human Rights Awards.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) is proud to announce that it has been nominated for two 2008 Human Rights Awards, offered by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

The ALRM has been nominated for the Law Award and the Community Award, in recognition of the Movement's commitment to overcome discrimination and infringements of human rights, enhance the rights of Aboriginal people, and increase the awareness of injustice and inequality in Australia.

ALRM is a human rights and legal aid service provider that has existed for 35 years and is governed by a Board of prominent Aboriginal community members. It is committed to drawing attention to the aspects of Australian society that continue to result in such a large overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system.

ALRM CEO, Mr Neil Gillespie said the organisation has a proud tradition of lobbying against discrimination.

"ALRM has repeatedly urged both the State and Australian Governments to address the static funding of Aboriginal legal aid, which has become an institutionalised form of discrimination across the country," he said.

"ALRM has struggled to provide its main program of legal aid in an environment of static funding for 12 years – yet remains focussed on, and persistent in fighting to provide this critical service to Aboriginal people amid a climate of increasing demands and reducing resources."

ALRM provides Aboriginal people with a voice, both domestically and internationally. In 2006 and 2007 the ALRM presented at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on human rights in Australia. It has also advocated to several Ministers and addressed the National Indigenous Council on the discriminatory behaviour of Government.

"ALRM hopes to use this nomination to further highlight the need to address the continual discrimination and barriers faced by Aboriginal Australians," Mr Gillespie said.

The 2008 winners will be announced at the Human Rights Medals and Awards luncheon ceremony to be held on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 in Sydney.

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