

# DELEGATES INFORMATION



## Aboriginal Male Health Summit 2008-2020

*Taking care of our children, taking the next steps*

[www.caac.org.au/malehealthinfo](http://www.caac.org.au/malehealthinfo)

**ROSS RIVER CAMPSITE: June 30-July 3 2008**



**"POSITIVE STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY ABORIGINAL MALES"**



## OUR SUMMIT MISSION



*The 2008 Male Health Summit will focus on males understanding their roles as fathers, uncles, brothers and sons in caring for children in a safe family environment that leads to a happier, healthier, longer life that reflects opportunities experienced by the wider community.*

# Congress

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc



HOME PAGE



Aboriginal H Draft May 12 2008

### Male Summit leadership group:

John Little- Congress Male Health Coordinator

Bruce Loomes-Congress Male Health

Sponsor/project funded by-Department of Health and Aging



### Male Summit event registrations, management and marketing:

Arrernte Workforce Solutions; Alice Springs

Colin Cowell-Summit project manager

**SUMMIT ENQUIRIES:** TEL:89 500 114

MOB:0401 331 251

Email: [malehealthinfo@caac.org.au](mailto:malehealthinfo@caac.org.au)

FAX: (08) 89 500 150

**Register today as we have limits on numbers**

# WHY A MALE HEALTH SUMMIT?



“Over the last 18 months we’ve seen sustained media coverage of child abuse and family violence, but we’ve rarely seen or heard how Indigenous people and communities across Australia are taking positive steps to respond to this violence, abuse and neglect.”

*Tom Calma Human Rights Commissioner April 2008*

## **Where the idea for a summit came from.**

The idea for this summit came about as a result of the input of clients to Congress male health workers on the current situation facing Aboriginal males in Central Australia today.

Discussions highlighted the need to bring males together to

1. Better understand issues being faced by children in communities
2. Address the stereo type casting “labels” (drunk, unemployed, paedophiles just to name a few) that have been placed on all Aboriginal men since the release of The Children Are Sacred report and the subsequent NT intervention.
3. Address the fact that many males have never experienced a stable family life themselves to allow them to learn good parenting skills, healthy nutrition, how to manage lifestyle choices etc. Difficulties are often compounded without first addressing issues of substance misuse and coming to terms with issues such as relationship breakdown, childhood physical and sexual abuse and neglect, stolen generation issues, and symptoms and associations with violence that include; psychosis, acquired brain injury, depression, anxiety, trauma, and personality disorders.

There are numerous cries for assistance in dealing with issues raised, but few services around that can provide appropriate help and for males to take the next positive steps

## **Current male health indicators released April 30 2008**

The health status of Indigenous Australians has shown little improvement in recent years, and remains considerably below that of non-Indigenous Australians:

- Indigenous adults are twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to report their health as fair or poor.
- Hospitalisation rates are higher for Indigenous Australians, particularly for conditions that are potentially preventable such as diabetes and kidney disease.
- The mortality rates of Indigenous people in 2001-2005 were almost three times the rate for non-Indigenous people in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, the only jurisdictions for which coverage of Indigenous deaths was deemed sufficient to report.

Other findings from the report include:

- Indigenous people were half as likely to complete Year 12 as non-Indigenous people.
- Indigenous adults were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to smoke regularly.
- More than half of Indigenous people were overweight or obese.
- Indigenous people face barriers in accessing health services, in particular primary health care.

*Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Health Report*

## Outcomes from summit

**1.FROM THE INDIVIDUAL:** There will be positive recommendations that would provide a clearer understanding from individual males as to their needs to support behavioural changes and to address long term issues raised by the intervention and the NT “Our Children are Sacred report-“Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle”

**2.THE COMMUNITY:** Locally based action, local resourcing, local control to make real changes

**3.THE NATIONAL AGENDA:** We will support the national new ideas 2020 by submitting and contributing our summit ideas to the national agenda



*"Taking care of our children, taking the next steps!"*

## Goals of the Summit

1. Acknowledge the hurt caused by a proportion of the male community against family and community members through violence acts, which are not historical cultural practises, which is shaming many Indigenous males who are not violent;
- 2.Acknowledge males who already contribute to provide a safe healthy environment for their family, while reinforcing that; pornography, child abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and violence are not acceptable;
- 3.Provide knowledge to enhance the individual's capacity to make behavioural changes in their community or family environment, to provide adequately for their children.
- 4.Reinforce the goals of the NT Intervention and the changes that are being implemented to assist them in making their family or community environment safe for their children;
- 5.Provide recommendations to government and organisations on changes and support males believe are required to allow them to reach their true potential and take their place along side the wider community.

## Project outcomes

- 1.200-300 Indigenous males attend a summit that increases their knowledge of the responsibilities required of a parent or community member in providing for their children;
- 2.Delegates have increased knowledge of services and resources available to make responsible behavioural changes to better provide a supportive environment for children;
- 3.Delegates have an enhanced understanding of changes required under the NT Intervention to support children and their families;
- 4.Recommendations that provide a better understanding of the support males believe would assist them in their taking on the responsibilities to become good fathers, uncles, brothers and sons.

# WORKSHOPS-Engagement to positive outcomes

How this summit will achieve its objectives simply and effectively;

- 1.All delegates/participants will complete 8 specialist workshops (see next page)
- 2.Participants will be asked to identify the issues and develop solutions.
- 3.To make life easy the facilitators will move between the eight workshop sites.
- 4.Outcomes from these workshops will then be consolidated and presented to visiting government agencies, parliamentarians, and the media on day 3.

	<b>DAY 1 Jul-01 Tuesday</b>	<b>DAY 2 Jul-02 Wednesday</b>	<b>DAY 3 Jul-03 Thursday</b>
Jun-30 Arrival Day Males	Males Only Workshops	Males Only Workshops	Open day Visitors
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Site Set up	Session 1 Morning tea Session 2	<b>Welcome</b> Session 5 Morning tea Session 6	<b>Welcome visitors</b> Present Reports THE NEXT STEPS
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Facilitators Workshop Training	Session 3 Session 4 Afternoon Tea Day Wrap up	Session 7 Session 8 Afternoon Tea Create report for next day	<b>Delegates Leave</b> Press Conference
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
Bar B Que Welcome to C Entertainment	Wok	Farewell dinner Entertainment	

**JUNE 30 Delegates arrive late afternoon for welcome dinner**

**JULY 1 Day 1 Workshops MALE DELEGATES ONLY**

**JULY 2 Day 2 Workshops MALE DELEGATES ONLY**

**JULY 3 Day 3 Open forum for visitors and media to hear outcomes**

## 2.REGISTRATIONS FOR DELGATES AND DAY 3 VISITORS

Attached please find a registration form where you can register Aboriginal Male delegates for the 3 day summit. All other visitors will be only visiting the summit on Day 3. If you have any problems completing registration call Colin Cowell  
Telephone: 89500 114 mobile 0401 331 251

[WEBSITE/ONLINE REGISTRATIONS COMING SOON](#)

1. CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

The NT Intervention  
Children are sacred report  
Child Abuse

2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: WHITEFELLA LAW- BLACK FELLA LAW

3. PORNOGRAPHY

4. MALE HEALTH/PREVENTION

5. GROG AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSES

6. ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH: HOUSING/COMMUNITIES

7. EDUCATION/ EMPLOYMENT/INCOME/BUSINESS

8. ABORIGINAL CULTURE/LEADERSHIP/THE FUTURE

# Background Congress Male Health Program

Congress Male Health is the only service that exists for Indigenous males in Central Australia who want to, or need to, change their often violent behaviour.

Central Australia and Alice Springs in particular, has distressingly high rates of inter-personal violence, between partners, within families, between families as groups and between individuals.

Males from remote communities, town camps and town houses are self presenting to the two Male Health Psychologists in increasingly higher numbers for help in dealing with issues from their childhood that lead them to repeat behaviours they have learnt as children..

Group discussions involving the police, government departments, community organisations and individuals, on child abuse, sexual abuse, child neglect and other forms of violence have resulted in requests for ongoing educational sessions at the centre to better understand acceptable behaviour.

It is difficult for a person to secure and retain employment and provide a safe family environment, without first addressing issues of substance misuse and coming to terms with issues such as relationship breakdown, childhood physical and sexual abuse and neglect, stolen generation issues, and symptoms and associations with violence that include psychosis, acquired brain injury, depression, anxiety, trauma, and personality disorders.

Congress has provided Sex Offender rehabilitation in the Alice Springs Correctional Centre in an attempt to reduce recidivism and heal families on their release. A workshops facilitated by Male Health for community workforces such as the Police, Community Corrections, Legal Aid Commission, and Community Organisations provided increased awareness of dealing with sex offenders.

A further workshop resulted from that initial workshop in an attempted to raise awareness and provide additional skills for dealing with adolescent sex offenders, which is increasingly common in CA. As a result, Police and Community Corrections have sought help from Congress in addressing this issue as there is no alternative support service in the community. Centre Care has identified adolescent offenders in a further three communities and NPY Women's Council have recently sort help.

As we are aware "The Little Children Are Sacred Report' highlighted physical and sexual abuse of children as being endemic in all communities consulted. Many of these offenders have been victims themselves. There is no help available. We must break the cycle.

Many males have never experienced a stable family life to learn good parenting skills, healthy nutrition, or how to manage lifestyle choices etc. The Health Education provided to Male Health clients builds on regular counselling sessions provided to males to provide the knowledge and support to learn those parenting skills, form strong father / son and father / daughter relationships and provide a safe family environment.

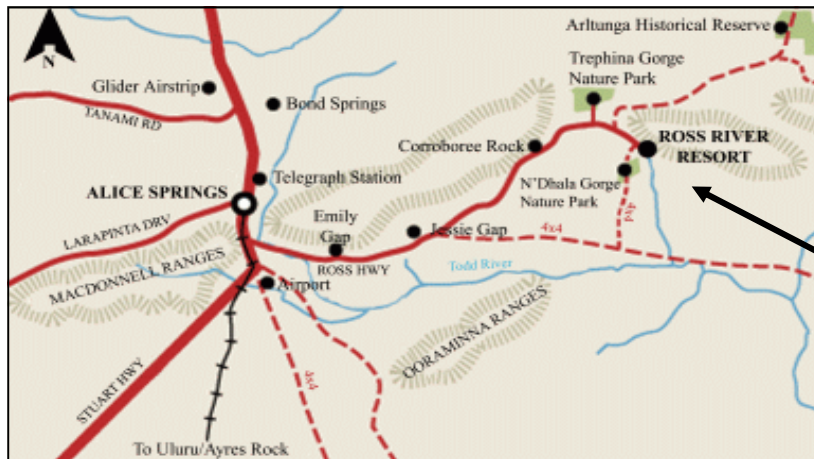
There have been a number of requests to provide outreach services to remote communities to allow male residents to also benefit. Congress does not have the capacity to provide services, but help is required if issues effecting children's futures are to be addressed.

This summit can raise government and community awareness as to what is needed to provide that support.

# DELEGATES TRAVEL MEALS AND ACCOMODATION

## The SUMMIT campsite...an oasis in the desert

The SUMMIT will be situated 80 kilometres east of Alice Springs at a permanent camp established next to the Ross River Homestead. The site has a fully grassed powered camping spot and there is a large toilet block with lots of showers and toilets. Through out the site, there is lots of shade....so you can stay cool in the day  
And at night lots of fire buckets so you can stay warm.



### Accommodation – swags or tents ?

You will need to bring your own swag and/or tent .Any problems talk to us.

### Meals – all meals provided free

From Monday evening through to Thursday lunch time, the Alice Springs Arrernte Catering will be providing beautiful healthy nutritious meals, including Breakfast, Morning and Afternoon teas, Lunches and dinners. All the other times we will have operating a café, where you can grab a coffee , tea or cool drink or snack. The nearest shop is 80 kms. away, so we suggest you bring what you need.

### Communications at the camp.

We are making arrangement s with Telstra to have an emergency phone at the site for incoming and outgoing summit calls

### Special needs

Please advise the organisers or if you have any other special needs.  
Medical, meals, handicap access, language

### The MALE SUMMIT WELCOME/FAREWLL DINNER

There will be a special welcome dinner on Monday and a farewell dinner on Thursday with excellent entertainment.

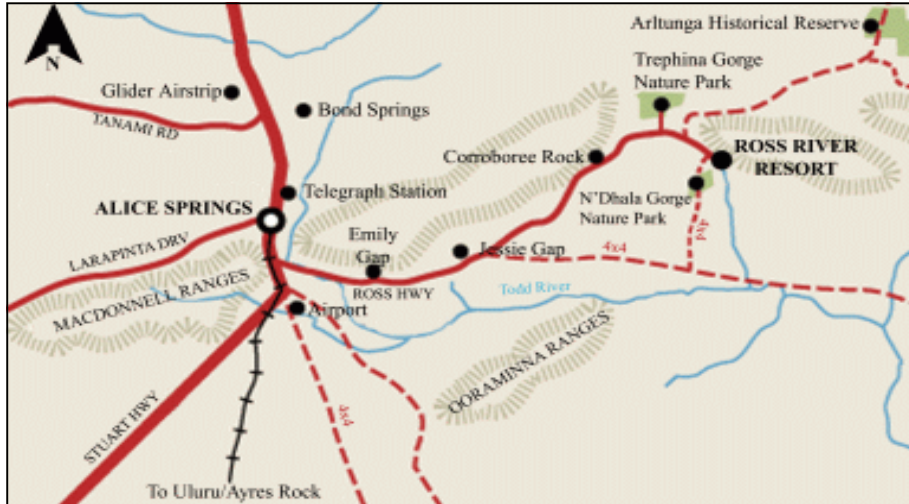
### 10. How to register

Complete the attached registration form and get it back to us as soon as possible

If you have any queries contact Colin Cowell  
project manager for the summit:Tel. **89500 114**

# Transport and how to get there

Support for community groups to travel to the summit is available  
 Please fill out the attached application form so that we can approve support for your travel.  
 Need help call : Colin : 89 500 114/0401 331 251



FAX BACK THIS APPLICATION FOR 89500 150

## MAIN CONTACT

ORGANISATION	
POSITION	
MAIN CONTACT	
TEL	
FAX	
EMAIL	

**FROM -**

**TO**

ROSS RIVER CAMP

**KM**

**FROM**

ROSS RIVER CAMP

**TO**

**KM**

Total kms. to be travelled

TYPE OF VEHICLE:

Number of Passengers:

Any other needs



## MALE HEALTH SUMMIT REGISTRATION

### FAX BACK TO 89500 150

*YES: I/WE WILL BE ATTENDING THE MALE HEALTH SUMMIT*

TYPE OF REGISTRATION		Total
1.DELEGATE:	MON/TUES/WED/THURS.	
2.FACILITATOR:	MON/TUES/WED/THURS.	
3..SUPPORT STAFF:	MON/TUES/WED/THURS.	
4.VISITOR:	THURS.	

### MAIN CONTACT

ORGANISATION	
POSITION	
MAIN CONTACT	
TEL	
FAX	
EMAIL	

	NAMES OF DELEGATES IN YOUR GROUP	Age	SPECIAL NEEDS
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Special needs;1.Vegetarian 2.Handicapped 3.Translator needed (language)