



Media Release

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NEW HEALTH MODEL FOR ABORIGINAL PRISONERS

A report 'You do the Time, You Do the Crime' launched today by the ACT Chief Minister sends a powerful message about how prisons can become healthier places - based on the experiences of Aboriginal prisoners and Aboriginal holistic health services.*

The report, by Winnunga Nimmitjiah Aboriginal Health Service (ACT) describes a best practice Holistic Health Care Prison Model to be delivered by the Winnunga Prison Health Service Team to the new ACT Alexander Maconochie Centre which will open in mid 2008.

"The Model provides holistic care during incarceration and planning for release, post-release health service coordination, and family and community reintegration strategies. It also provides early family and other intervention strategies in managing the cycle of incarceration" says Ms Julie Tongs, Chief Executive Officer of Winnunga Nimmitjiah Aboriginal Health Service.

"The Model recognizes that a strong sense of identity and the contributing factors of a person's environment whether inside prison or in the community, their safety, community support and their physical and psychological wellbeing are paramount," she said. The Model builds on services already provided by Winnunga Nimmitjiah Aboriginal Health Service to two NSW prisons and the ACT Belconnen Remand Centre.

"The CRCAH is proud to have been involved in this project, which reflects the importance of evidence-based planning and long-term collaboration between Aboriginal organisations and governments," says Mr Mick Gooda, CRCAH Chief Executive Officer.

"This Model will be regarded as a template for Aboriginal prison health models nationally and we hope health and justice systems in other jurisdictions throughout Australia will also learn from it."

*This message coincides with the launch of the Report 'You Do the Crime, You Do the Time', the Community Report, and the Brochure 'Keeping out of Prison' at 11am, Wednesday 1 August 2007 at Winnunga.

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