



Northern Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

Calls to continue the Australian Crime Commission are ‘divisive’

5 March 2009

Northern Land Council CEO Kim Hill today challenged recent calls by Warren Mundine and Marcia Langton for the Australian Crime Commission to continue operating in Indigenous communities in the Top End.

“It’s very disappointing to see Indigenous leaders perpetuating the myth that Indigenous people are overwhelmingly criminal in nature” Mr Hill stated.

“These sorts of statements are untrue and divisive - it puts out a very negative perception of our people and I don’t think their comments are necessary or appropriate.

Mr Hill also stated that there was no evidence to support the claims first made by former Howard Government Minister Mal Brough, that paedophile rings were being run by powerful Indigenous men throughout the Northern Territory.

“I cannot see any factual evidence base supporting the work that the ACC has done. Where are the arrests? Where are the outcomes? Can Mr Mundine, Professor Langton, the ACC or anyone else produce proof of these claims?” he said.

Mr Hill added that he was particularly disappointed that the real opportunity to overcome Indigenous disadvantage was being missed by some commentators.

“We have the national apology to the Stolen Generations, Mick Dodson as Australian of the Year and high levels of goodwill from all corners of the community – and yet we continue to be dogged by these hysterical, baseless accusations about paedophiles.”

Mr Hill also stated that if Mr Mundine or Professor Langton had any evidence of actual child abuse, then they should refer it directly to *the Northern Territory Police*.

Ends.

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