



# ARDS

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc.

16 October 2008

## EDUCATION RESTRUCTURE IN NORTHERN TERRITORY SCHOOLS

Richard Trudgen, Chief Executive Officer for Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (ARDS), today commented on the October 14 release by the Marion Scrymgour, Northern Territory Government, on the restructure of Education throughout Indigenous Communities.

Speaking from Adelaide Trudgen said "It's good to see that the Government is focusing on a restructure of Northern Territory schooling to deliver better outcomes for remote Indigenous communities. I agree with the Northern Territory Minister that the current education results for these remote Indigenous schools are just totally unacceptable."

Trudgen, author of *Why Warriors Lie Down and Die*, has wide experience as to why problems like health, education and unemployment persist today amongst Indigenous communities.

"But how can you improve attendance rates and lift numeracy and literacy results by forcing all schools to teach in English for the first four hours of each day. It needs to be remembered by all those involved in this debate, for Indigenous people like the Yolngu of North East Arnhem Land, that English is their fifth or sixth language."

Trudgen emphasis's that by giving 'our Indigenous children the best possible chance to learn' it's imperative we have constructed English lessons not forcing children to sit there for four hours listening to a language they cannot understand. "This strategy can only increase the failure syndrome that many Indigenous children now experience in NT Schools."

*ENDS*

*For interview opportunities please contact:*

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