



Australian
HEALTH
PROMOTION
Association

Secretariat
University of the Sunshine Coast
Maroochydore DC Q 4558
Ph: 07 5430 2873
Fax: 07 5430 1276
Email: abpa@usc.edu.au

Media Release

International Health group acknowledge the decision by Mr Rudd to say Sorry.

Prime Minister Elect Rudd's decision to say Sorry is an act that not only denotes a new way of thinking about politics in this country, but also gives all Australians hope that we are for once getting it right when it comes to dealing with the unresolved business for our nation's First Peoples – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – and to establishing positive race relations.

The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) is a global non-governmental organisation with a mandate to address and defend social justice globally. Our membership, which includes the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA), is encouraged by this promise, and looks to the implementation of effective new programs to begin an era in which the 17 year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous Australians and their non-Indigenous compatriots will be closed.

It is our view that the first step towards closing the gap is an apology – expressing both sympathy for the terrible harm that has been caused to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, and communities since colonisation, and acknowledgement of the responsibility of the Commonwealth of Australia for past policies and practices and their consequences and now, for the future.

We encourage the Australian Government to identify examples of effective approaches from within Australia and abroad, to learn what has worked, and to use this learning as the basis for energized investment and sustained action. Some examples in Australia include the Family Wellbeing Program, the Families First home visiting program for new parents, and the NT Living with Alcohol Program. There are many more. Only long-term investment in community-led initiatives will be effective in closing the gap in life expectancy.

We offer to engage, through our professional Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous membership, and in partnership with relevant communities and stakeholders, to work with the Australian Government to start healing the trauma of the stolen generation and their children and grand children.

Media information contact:

Anne Bunde-Birouste, IUHPE Vice President, 0407957039

June Redman, AHPA CEO, 0419702357
