

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**May 7, 2009**

# **RICHARD TRUDGEN GUEST AT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONVENTION**

Chief Executive Officer of the Indigenous organisation, Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc (ARDS), Richard Trudgen has been invited to speak at the Northern Territory Rural Clinical School (NTRCS) Community Advisory Board meeting tonight.

Speaking on key medical and health issues in East Arnhem Land, Richard will be coming off the back of the highly successful first round of Bridging the Gap seminars. With over 28 years working with Indigenous communities, Richard will discuss capacity building in areas such as Health along with the principles and pitfalls in forming partnerships in the area of Health Service.

Rural clinical schools offer medical and allied health students the opportunity to complete part of their clinical training in rural and remote sites. The Federal Government Department of Health and Ageing fund fourteen Rural Clinical Schools across rural and remote Australia as part of the Federal Government's long term strategy to increase the rural and remote medical workforce.

Speaking from ARDS Nhulunbuy office Richard strongly believes "that for medical and health education to be effective it must be delivered in the language of the people" he continued "anything else was just a waste of human and monetary resources."

This annual meeting is an opportunity for community members, local advisory board members and academic staff from our learning sites in Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy to gather with representatives from State and Federal Departments of health senior staff from Flinders and Charles Darwin Universities and other important health and educational institutions.

Richard continues the Bridging the Gap seminars in most major capital cities around Australia and has just announced a Broome Seminar on July 30/31 plus a second Darwin seminar which will also include a one day workshop specifically on Health.

Richard has been the CEO for ARDS for over 6 years, is Author of acclaimed book "Why Warriors Lie Down and Die" and is the driving force behind capacity building and Bridging the Gap in Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

To hear Richard speak at the NTRCS Community Advisory Board meeting contact Deborah McIntyre, Campus Administrator NTRCS on (08) 89873570.

To find out more about Richard Trudgen's Bridging the Gap seminars to go [www.ards.com.au/seminars](http://www.ards.com.au/seminars).

*ENDS*

**For interview opportunities or photos please contact:**

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