

## MINISTER APPLAUDS TASMANIAN INDIGENOUS PROGRAM

16 April 2010

Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O'Connor, today visited a Hobart intervention project for Indigenous men and youth, funded under the Australian Government's Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) grants program.

"I'd like to commend the Healing our Way project for helping to break the cycle of offending and incarceration of Indigenous men and providing intervention to see Indigenous young people who have offended being supported to develop a positive future," Mr O'Connor said.

The Healing our Way project is run by Colony 47 Inc, established in Hobart in 1973, with a \$441,392 grant from the Australian Government.

"The Government is committed to ensuring that criminal proceeds are returned to the community and used to prevent crime," Mr O'Connor said.

Colony 47's project provides programs that help Indigenous men in Risdon Prison and young people at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre to make a positive difference to their lives and in their communities following their release from prison.

"The capacity of the local community is also being strengthened through extra training to Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers to help meet the needs of their clients," Mr O'Connor said.

The grant to Colony 47 was part of more than \$6 million of funding provided under the POCA program to community groups for crime prevention and Indigenous prisoner through-care projects in 2009.

The Proceeds of Crime Act (2002) enables money from assets of crime confiscated under Commonwealth law to be returned to the community.

The Australian Government has awarded more than \$57 million proceeds of crime funding to 85 projects, 48 of them community-based.

"In December 2009 I announced further POCA funding, with a national call for expressions of interest from incorporated, not for profit community groups and local government associations/agencies seeking funding for crime prevention projects," Mr O'Connor said.

"The Attorney-General's Department has developed a register of more than 1200 expressions of interest, and I look forward to seeing more programs like Healing our Way."

Contact: Senior Policy and Media Adviser, Brian Humphreys 0438 595 567