



Stop Press!

Reconciliation Victoria De-Funded?

At the time of printing, Rec Vic has heard from a reliable source within the government that Rec Vic **WILL NOT** be funded beyond June 2009 - ie. We are being de-funded!!

We need all the help we can get to fight a rear-guard action. We need support re getting on-into the media and with pressure being put on the Premier.

The key argument we are told, is that the govt is funding 'Closing the Gap' activity directly via grants to Indigenous community orgs, etc. We fully support any such initiatives if they are wanted by Indigenous community, but this is only one part of what needs to be done. (What follows is from the attached oped written for the Age (yet unpublished):

"A 2007 report by the Australian Medical Association found evidence of inherent discrimination in our health system, at least partly because the medical attention Indigenous people receive is culturally intolerant and unwelcoming. Professor Fran Baum recently reported on a three-year study conducted by Flinders University in South Australia, *In Our Own Backyard*, that found that discrimination based on race commonly led to health problems, including depression. She said that the finding "suggests that the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians can't be closed unless racism is tackled". She added that "only seven per cent of the people surveyed said they didn't experience racism regularly". Another recent report, *The Impact of Racism on Indigenous Health in Australia and Aotearoa: Towards a Research Agenda* by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health argues that that a significant underlying cause of disadvantage and poor health in Aboriginal communities results from prevalence of racism and cultural misunderstanding in the general community."

We need a hundred 'war cabinets' to burst into action **NOW!** We especially need support from the Indigenous community and other 'important' people.

At VERY minimum, please check out the ANTaR Vic website re their "Save RecVic" campaign and act ASAP - also get as many people as you can doing the same. See <http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/saverecvic.html>

The most influential approach is face to face visits to your local MP/MLA, followed by a written letter, backed up with a phone call a couple of weeks later; then emails, which can easily be ignored. Please send us a copy of anything you send out.

Thanks for your support and look forward to being flooded by your approaches to government.

Cheers,



Frank Hytten
CEO Reconciliation Victoria Inc.

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Newsletter Correction

Page 6 - Mang-Mang Project

It was incorrectly printed that the exhibition will be unveiled at the launch of Rec Week in the Atrium, Fed Square, 11am, May 27. At the time of printing the **date and location of the project unveiling and exhibition remain unconfirmed.**

Please stay tuned to the Rec Vic Website for details as they are confirmed. We apologise for any inconvenience.

www.reconciliationvic.org.au