

“Make Indigenous Poverty History”
2 November 2005

- Welcome this evening to the launch of the campaign to ***“Make Indigenous Poverty History”***.
- This campaign follows in the wake of the widespread international *“Make Poverty History”* campaign which focussed on the promise of World Leaders in 2000 to eliminate extreme poverty by 2015. To achieve this aim they set 8 goals, the Millennium Development Goals, to do with combating major diseases, achieving universal primary education, promoting the education, equality and empowerment of women, reducing the mortality of infants and women in child birth and forming collaborative partnerships to work for development.
- The poorest people in Australia are our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. As Graeme Mundine indicated in earlier statements, *all key social and economic indicators show that Australian indigenous peoples are living in poverty ... (their) children are twice as likely to die in infancy, (they) suffer from more preventable diseases, higher unemployment, lower house ownership, lower engagement with education and six times as likely to be murdered.*
- Pope John Paul II in his address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Alice Springs said *What can now be done to remedy the deeds of yesterday must not be put off until tomorrow.* That being the case it is of vital importance that we begin now, to work together to bring Indigenous issues back to the forefront of public discussion and action. This campaign is one way to do this, so nothing gives me greater pleasure than to support Graeme Mundine and NATSIEC in their campaign to eradicate Indigenous poverty and to provide future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with healthy and fulfilling lives.