

# NO MORE...

## The Strong Families News



Issue 1 2010



### Minister's Message



Minister Kon Vatskalis

**The Minister for Children, Families and Child Protection, Hon Kon Vatskalis, recently sent this message to readers of NO MORE ... Strong Families News**

Hello readers

I truly believe that looking after our children and helping them grow up safe and strong is the best thing each of us can do as adults. The best thing that our communities and governments can do is to

support families and each other to do this well.

Too many children and families experience the fear, harm and uncertainty that come with violence and a lack of support and care. It's time to stop, think, and change this situation.

As a man, I feel strongly that men need to think about the part they play in their families and in the community. If this means making changes so that things will be better, so be it. Men can link together to give each other strength to carry through with the changes, and by seeking and getting help if they need to.

I take my hat off to the Indigenous elders who initiated the NO MORE ... campaign against family violence and child abuse, and to the men, women and communities who are coming on board with it. We all have a part to play—each adult, level of government, business, community, arts and sporting organisation. I am committed to working hard and together with others to achieve results.

Thank you for anything you can do to be part of the effort, whether it is small or large, in your own family, your team, or in the broader community. Together, we can make the world of difference.

Kon Vatskalis

### NO MORE ... getting out there

The NO MORE... campaign is about Indigenous men working to strengthen families and to stop family violence and abuse. The campaign began back in 2006, when Indigenous men in the Northern Territory said they wanted their voices to be heard in consultations about issues including family violence and child abuse.



Members of the NT Indigenous cricket team link arms to support the NO MORE ... campaign at the Imparja Cup.

Back L-R: Charlie Dick, Darcy Short, Daniel Fett, Guy McLean, Dillion Measures, Lyndsay Newby, Greg Adam

Front L-R: Darrell Lowe (Captain), Adrian McAdam, Andrew Blucher, Curtis Marriott, Jarrod Franey, Dougie McCluire.

In the first stage of its work, the NO MORE ... campaign has built its profile through connections with sport, a major focus for men. The AFL and Rugby League have endorsed and supported the campaign, and at the grassroots, Indigenous men in local football teams across the Territory have joined their high profile brothers in the symbolic linking of arms to say 'No more' to family violence. At the recent Imparja Cup, the showcase Indigenous cricket event in Australia, men from all states and territories stood up publicly to express their support of the NO MORE ... message.



Gurdorrka men say 'No More'



CatholicCare NT

**NO MORE ...**  
strong men make their families safe!

### In this issue:

- Meet the NO MORE ... team
- Grassroots action from across the Territory
- The latest on the NO MORE campaign.

**Register your support for the NO MORE ... campaign and keep up to date with the latest news at our website**

[www.nomore.org.au](http://www.nomore.org.au)

## NO MORE ... getting out there (Continued from Page 1)

Meanwhile, the grassroots aspect of the NO MORE ... campaign has been put into action by the Men and Family Relationships Workers of CatholicCare NT—you'll find out more about them in this issue.

A number of communities have already set up local men's groups to take their own action to combat family violence and abuse, and the plan is to continue to support these groups and establish new ones.

In late 2009, the inaugural NO MORE ... Strong Families Awards gave public recognition to Indigenous men and women working at the grass roots to strengthen families in their communities.

The public face of the NO MORE ... campaign and Chair of the NT Strong Men's Council is Charlie King, the voice of ABC sport in the Territory and White Ribbon Ambassador of the Year. Charlie says there will be no letup for NO MORE ... in 2010.

'We want to keep true to Indigenous men's wish to have a voice and be involved in ending family violence. We'll be reaching out to other organisations doing related work, and starting to link up with women—who have had to carry the burden on their own for far too long—and we're already planning this year's Strong Families Awards.'

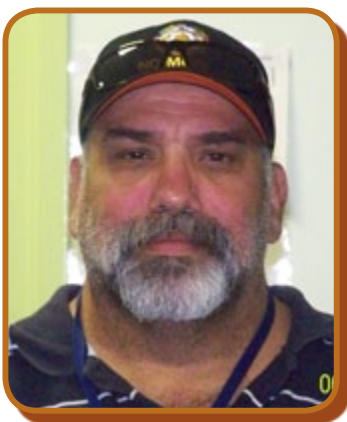
Read on to find out more about what's been happening and what's planned in 2010.



## Meet the NO MORE ... team

The Men and Family Relationships program of CatholicCare NT is the grassroots arm of the NO MORE ... campaign. The program employs three full time Men and Family Relationships Workers, each with responsibility for a region of the Territory. The program has recently recruited three part time community-based workers to help local men work against against family violence. The plan is to build the community-based team up to twelve—all appointed in consultation with their communities. The NO MORE ... team is made up of Indigenous men working together. A lot of the work is breaking new ground and no one expects instant results. However, as the program consolidates and men share their learning about what it takes to stop family violence, NO MORE ... expects to see more results.

So meet the team ...



### Ralph McCoy

Ralph is employed by CatholicCare NT as a Senior Community Development Worker with responsibility for the Men and Family Relationships Program in the Top End. Born and raised in Darwin, he played AFL with North Darwin (now Palmerston) and Rugby League with RSL and Nightcliff, as well as

coaching juniors at Wanderers. Ralph has spent the past year visiting communities, talking to Indigenous men and helping them to set up local men's groups. Ralph says the best thing about his job is giving men a chance to have their voices heard and make a stand. 'A lot of things have disempowered Indigenous men. Many just shut down and don't say anything. As a team, our work is about giving them a chance to be strong by speaking up, and to help them make a role for themselves as strong men. It won't happen all at once but from my conversations with men, I know we're starting to make progress.'



### Jason Lord

Born in Alice Springs, Jason grew up in various places around the Territory and interstate. At the age of fourteen, he took up boxing—in a career of more than 100 fights between 1990 and 2000, he fought all over Australia, in Great Britain and the USA. Jason was Australian Welterweight and Light Middleweight Champion

and represented Australia many times. Boxing taught Jason the importance of training and discipline, and as a strong man he has worked hard to help other men, not only as a boxing trainer but through his employment with organisations supporting men to overcome problems of substance abuse, anger and family violence. As a family man himself, Jason is looking forward to his new role as a Men and Family Relationships Worker focusing on Central Australia.

# Meet the NO MORE ... team



## Errol McCoy

Errol McCoy is a handy guy to have around. He can weld, lay blockwork, fix small motors, maintain office equipment, and drive a forklift or a 22-seater. He's also the Men and Family Relationships worker with responsibility for the Katherine region. Errol knows the region well, having spent eleven years

in Numbulwar as an Education Department maintenance officer. Since moving from there to Katherine, he's enjoyed the chance to get out bush and talk with other Indigenous men, letting them know there's help to make changes in their lives. Born in Alice Springs, Errol went to school in Darwin, played a heap of footy for North Darwin, and spent twenty years working for Perkins Shipping. He loves fishing and, of course, footy. Errol's a family man too, with a couple of kids and a grandson—and plenty of life experience to pass on.



## Francis Hayes (Santa Teresa)

Recruited by same process as Sammy, Francis is a strong young man with plenty of credibility and contacts. A member of the Santa Teresa men's group established in 2008, Francis is well known for his involvement in AFL and was a member of the

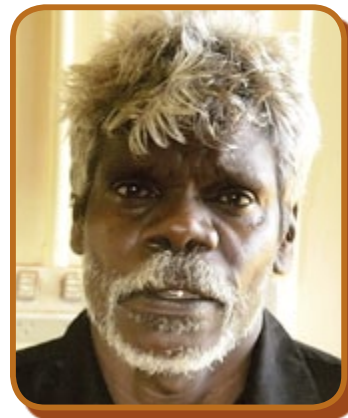
committee that set up the Code of Conduct for the Lytente Apurte (Santa Teresa) football team. Under the code, players who are involved in family violence will not be considered for selection until they can show evidence that they have made a change. NO MORE ... welcomes Francis to the team.



## Sammy Butcher (Papunya)

When the NO MORE ... team went to Papunya to follow up on previous discussions with local men, people identified Sammy as a man with a strong history of taking action against family violence. He is known

and respected for his willingness to talk to other men and to care for victims. After talking with other Men and Family Relationships Workers, Sammy accepted an offer to join the team as a part time community-based worker.



## Reggie Wuridjal (Maningrida)

Reggie is a highly respected Traditional Owner and a strong addition to the Men and Family Relationships team. Like Francis, he has worked with men through football—a passion in Maningrida, which has eight

teams in its local competition—and is often found counselling men on how to be strong on and off the field, by rejecting violence and playing by the rules. Reggie also works at the local men's Safe House, which puts him in a powerful position to know what's going on and to work alongside other men to make changes. Welcome, Reggie!



## Working alongside us

Caroline De Busch and Milly Hardy work with CatholicCare NT's Family Coping Program. The program supports Indigenous families experiencing problems because of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as providing families and other workers with relevant skills and knowledge.

Caroline (L) and Milly

## Disco supports kids in Beswick

On 22 December 2009, Charlie King presented Peter Lindsay and Selina Ashley with disco equipment valued at two thousand dollars—the prize chosen by Peter and Selina as winners of the Inaugural NO MORE ... Strong Families Award. Accepting the prize, Peter and Selina spoke about how it would help keep the kids in the community occupied at night. After the presentation, everyone enjoyed a sausage sizzle and the kids danced to the beat of the disco. Peter works in the community as FAHCSIA Indigenous Engagement Officer and Selina is the Senior Aboriginal Health Worker. Both have worked very hard for many years to support their community and to reduce family violence. Congratulations on a job well done!



## Hawks show support for young Katherine footballers

Hawthorn stars Clinton Young, Max Bailey, Brendan Whitecross and Shaun Burgoyne visited Katherine in February to run clinics and promote AFL in the community. Hawks legend Gary Buckenara, a veteran of four premierships and a strong supporter of NO MORE ... , led the Hawthorn group in coaching and fund-raising activities.

One highlight was the clinic at the town oval, where young players from the Katherine High branch of the Clontarf Academy trained under the watchful eyes of the Hawk stars and listened to their advice on getting to the top.

The Clontarf Academy is a non-profit organisation that aims to improve the health, employment, education and life skills of Indigenous teenage males. To keep their places in the Academy, young men need to show real commitment to their education and training.

The Hawks also got involved in a fund-raising dinner held at the Nitmiluk Visitors' Centre with support from Nitmiluk Tours and the Jawoyn Association. The aim is to buy a bus to enable the Katherine Under 18 team to play regularly in the Darwin competition, where players will have a better opportunity to put their hands up for selection to play with Territory Thunder in the national Under 18 competition.

Katherine football legend Doug Kelly, who played 294 games for Wanderers in the NTFL, spoke about how great it would be to see a young local man playing for Hawthorn in the near future.



*Hawks put Clontarf Academy players through their paces*



*Hawk stars link arms with Ralph McCoy of the NO MORE ... team*

## Strongbala

The NO MORE ... team is building links with other programs that work with men—such as the Katherine Strongbala male Healthy 4 Life Program. Phil Richards of Wurlu Wurlinjang Health Services coordinates the program at the old firing range near Kalano. The bus picks up men from around the Katherine area and takes them back to Strongbala where they are able to have a meal, wash some clothes, do some gardening, play pool and talk to other Indigenous men. The program runs from 8:30am to 2:00pm every weekday.



*Strongbala men stand up to join with the NO MORE ... Campaign*

## Milgurri and Gurdorrka strong men's groups



Ronnie Agnew



Phillip Goodman



The hunting trip

Two Top End communities have recently joined forces with Catholic Care NT and Amity Community Services in taking a stand against family violence and child abuse.

The community of Milgurri (meaning 'water lily'), formerly known as Knuckey's Lagoon, is located near the Stuart Highway just outside Darwin. Not far away, on the Stuart Highway in the Howard Springs area, is the community of Gurdorrka (meaning 'brolga') formerly known as Palmerston Indigenous Village (PIV).

Ronnie Agnew from Milgurri and Phillip Goodman from Gurdorrka are community leaders and role models who have played a key role in setting up strong men's groups in their communities. The groups meet every Tuesday at venues around Darwin, with guest speakers invited, and take part in activities such as their recent hunting trip.

Already, the Milgurri and Gurdorrka groups are giving men a focal point, with a number of strong men and new faces emerging.

## Nguiu Strong Men's Group elects office bearers

In Nguiu on Bathurst Island, the local strong men's group recently elected a committee of office-bearers to organise, run and facilitate meetings:

President	Peter Kantilla
Vice President	Thaddeus Puatjimi
Deputy	Dino Wilson
Deputy	John Ross

## Nguiu strong man Andrew Kelantumama

Andrew Kelantumama is one of the strong men at Nguiu. He goes out of his way to pick up other men to attend meetings and he organizes tables, chairs and the Barbie for every meeting. A happy man who always has a big smile on his face, Andrew is very well respected within his community.



Nguiu strong man Andrew Kelantumama



Coach Carl Gunderson instructs the Tiwi Bombers during a break against Southern Districts



Dean Rioli and Paddy Ryder at the MCG ... two great supporters of the NO MORE ... Campaign



## NT runners for New York Marathon

NO MORE ... has been talking with former Olympian and world marathon champion Robert de Castella about his plan to train six Indigenous athletes to compete in this year's New York Marathon.

Robert De Castella with Charlie King and Ralph McCoy of NO MORE ...

## Imparja Cup showcases Indigenous cricket

February 2010 saw another successful Imparja Cup carnival in Alice Springs. The idea for the competition began in 1994, when Shane and Mervyn Franey and Ross Williams organised the first annual cricket match between Indigenous teams from Tennant Creek and



Imparja Cup



In the CAAMA broadcast box at the Imparja Cup (L to R) Sean Cusack (Commentator), Stuart Tothan (General Manager, Territory Thunder) and Danny Measures (Commentator)



Shayne Frayney looks on proudly during the Imparja Cup Competition he helped to start

Alice Springs. Never in their wildest dreams did they imagine that those games would grow into an annual highlight of Australia's domestic cricket calendar as Indigenous teams from all states battle it out for the prized trophy. This year saw talented cricketers from across Australia—including former Test greats Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden and Lennie Pascoe—coming to Alice Springs to talk, play and coach cricket, and to link arms and give their backing to the NO MORE ... campaign.



Queensland bowls to Victoria



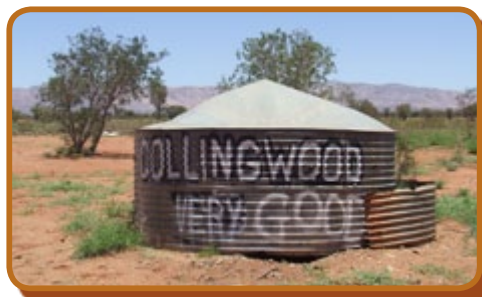
Australian Cricket Association Masters team including Indigenous cricketing greats Lennie Pascoe (L) and Jason Gillespie (4th from L)

## NO MORE ... on the move

NO MORE ... has been on the move in Central Australia, with visits to Papunya and Santa Teresa.



Collingwood's Leigh Brown wonders if lakes are always this deep in Alice Springs



A black and white message at Papunya



Talking about NO MORE ... at Santa Teresa



Santa Teresa men check out the story of the 2009 Strong Families Award

## Got a grandstand in your community?

Send us a photo and we'll publish it in *NO MORE ... The Strong Families News*. Send grandstand photos to [ralphmccoy@catholiccarent.org.au](mailto:ralphmccoy@catholiccarent.org.au)



Santa Teresa grandstand



Rugby Park Darwin

## David Peachey

NRL legend David Peachey is a long-time supporter of the *NO MORE ...* campaign. David was in Darwin recently for the clash between the North Queensland Cowboys and the Gold Coast Titans. More about this game in the next issue.



David Peachey and Charlie King

## Possum footy

Did you know? Long before AFL was invented, Indigenous tribes played 'marngrook'—a game with a ball made from possum skin.



The old and the new



# Campaign action

## Strong Men's Council grows

The NT Strong Men's Council is a forum for Indigenous men to develop their own solutions to family violence and child abuse. As men who care about their families and their children, tired of being sidelined and stigmatised, Indigenous men set up the council so they could play a constructive role. In its meetings to date, the Council has been talking about how to do this.

In 2010, the Council will broaden its membership as the NO MORE ... campaign extends its connections across the Territory.

CatholicCare NT, which receives Northern Territory Government funding to facilitate the Strong Men's Council, is contacting communities across the Territory to identify men who are already standing up to support families and children.

'We are talking with growth towns and local organisations to identify these men,' says Jayne Lloyd. 'The idea is to strengthen regional representation on the Strong Men's Council so that more communities and a wider range of organisations can be involved.'

Broader membership will help the Council to extend its influence and work alongside others who are playing a part—including schools, councils and women's centres.

In a related initiative, CatholicCare has commenced recruitment of twelve community-based part time workers to work with men on the ground in local communities. 'This is the next step for our Men and Family Relationships Program,' says CatholicCare NT Director Jayne Lloyd. 'It's a move to support men making changes where it really counts—at the grassroots.'

## Planning underway for second NT Strong Families Award

In June 2009 CatholicCare NT and the NO MORE ... campaign held the inaugural NT Strong Families Award in Darwin. The Award recognises the many people who work very hard, often behind the scenes, to support families and to make them safe. The inaugural event was a moving and special event. You can read about it by going to [www.nomore.org.au](http://www.nomore.org.au) and clicking on links to download The Story.

This year the Award Ceremony will be held in Alice Springs on the 21 October. The call for nominations will go out in April, closing at the end of May, so start thinking about who you can nominate for the NT Strong Families Award 2010! Look out for the poster coming your way, with details about how to nominate.

For more information, or to discuss partnering with us as a sponsor, contact Karina or Lara on 89442033.



Singer-songwriter Shellie Morris at the 2009 Strong Families Award

## CatholicCare NT – serving families with respect

### Phone us on:-

Darwin	8944 2000
Palmerston	8932 9977
Katherine	8971 0777
Tennant Creek	8962 3065
Wadeye	8978 2515
Nguiu	8978 3921
Alice Springs	8958 2400
Pirlangimpi	c/- PO Winnellie NT 0822

### Family and Community Services such as:-

- Family relationships and violence counselling
- Children's contact
- Aged care advocacy
- Personal helpers and mentors
- Men's programs
- School-based counselling
- Money business – financial education and counselling
- Emergency relief
- Family coping mental wellbeing

**Employment services**, as part of Job Services Australia, working with people to be job ready, or to get work.

**Alcohol and Drug services**, such as adult and youth education, counselling and support.

**Register your support for the NO MORE ... campaign and keep up to date with the latest news at our website**

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*strong men make their families safe!*