



The Hon Jenny Macklin MP

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

invites you to welcome

Professor James Anaya



UN Special Rapporteur
on the situation of human rights and
fundamental freedoms of indigenous people



Including a Special Address by
Mary Victor O'Reeri
from the Billard Aboriginal community

Monday 17 August 2009
12.00pm – 1.00pm
Visions Theatre
National Museum of Australia, Canberra

A light lunch will be served 1pm – 1.30pm
Please RSVP by Friday 14 August 2009
to Di Smyth on (02) 6121 4819 | email Dianne.Smyth@fahcsia.gov.au
This is a free community event



Mary Victor O'Reeri

hails from the Billard Aboriginal community on the Dampier Peninsula in the remote north-west Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In July 2009 Mary and her father Stephen Victor Snr invited 150 people from across Australia to Billard for a Blank Page Summit on Suicide. For the first time the new Western Australian Government, the Australian Government, Indigenous people and others sat down on the pindan of the Kimberley to talk about ways to stop Indigenous people killing themselves. This event blossomed into a challenge for all of us to see ourselves and others with new eyes.

‘We can change many things for our people if we have the will and wisdom to do it—everything is possible. We’ll hold up our future if we keep hanging on to the past. It’s time for a new conversation about what matters most for our people in the 21st century’.

‘Friends and countrymen, when we lost not one but two boys—our brothers and my parents’ beautiful sons—we could have become the walking dead ourselves. We could have benchmarked suicide as a fault line within our family. But our resolution was not to get stranded.

[This Summit] is about more than hope—it is about recasting the die at the highest level within ourselves. Today has come about because we decided as a family to move out of the shadows and trust our instinct’.

Mary Victor O'Reeri
27 July 2009, Blank Page Summit