



**Global Indigenous Youth Leadership in Action:
Building the next generation of HIV Prevention Revolution across Australia and the
Torres Strait Islands**

July 18, 2014 - We are thrilled to be announcing the creation and launch of the Aboriginal Nations and Torres Strait Islanders HIV Youth Mob - ANTHYM! This dynamic team of Indigenous youth from all across Australia and the Torres Strait Islands have come together in the spirit of peer mentorship to lead the current generation of youth leaders in the footsteps of our ancestors for culturally-safe Indigenous HIV prevention, education, support and treatment.

'Our Story, Our Time, Our Future: [2014 International Indigenous Pre-Conference on HIV and AIDS](#)' will see the official launch of the Aboriginal Nations and Torres Strait Islanders HIV Youth Mob (ANTHYM) committee. The launch will take place on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation in Sydney during the Pre-Conference. The formation of ANTHYM is part of an ongoing legacy of Indigenous Youth Leadership councils created to lift up the voices of Indigenous youth in the HIV response. This began with the [National Aboriginal Youth Council on HIV/AIDS \(NAYCHA\)](#) in 2009, and the creation of the National Native American Youth Council on HIV/AIDS (NNYC-HIV) [launched at the International Indigenous pre-conference in 2012.](#)

Tara Liddy, co-chair of ANTHYM had this to say:

"I think that our first step should be around educating people on how to prevent infection and to break the silence on HIV/AIDS! We must bring this issue to the surface and encourage people to participate in open communication about HIV/AIDS without fear of rejection or discrimination – and in our case, in a way which is culturally appropriate!"

Throughout the pre-conference, Global Village and main conference this year, youth delegates will share visions, strategies and best practices in Indigenous youth peer leadership across Indigenous communities in Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

"Our Leading Generation" is the title of the Indigenous Youth Plenary happening at the Indigenous Pre-Conference of AIDS 2014 on Friday, July 18. This plenary is about recognising and celebrating the global works of innovation and initiatives of Indigenous Youth and the launch of

the Aboriginal Nations and Torres Strait Islanders HIV Youth Mob (ANTHYM) at the Indigenous Pre-Conference of AIDS 2014.

Brent Huggins, Chair of NNYC-HIV said; *“The National Native American Youth Council on HIV/AIDS (NNYC-HIV) is encouraged to see fellow Indigenous youth across the globe take action to end HIV in their communities. As Indigenous youth, we’ve witnessed the disproportionate burden of HIV/AIDS. Together, we celebrate and partake of avant garde HIV prevention and treatment methods and the commitment of Indigenous youth to finding a cure for HIV.*

We stand united by doing the following: 1. Brainstorm new HIV prevention strategies 2. Address the stigma associated with HIV diagnosis and treatment 3. Establish local and global collaborations with youth partners

Presenting a united front against HIV will be key to turning the tide on this pandemic for the generations beyond our own. We look forward to building on best practices and Indigenous models of healing and culture to spark ideas for new strategies for treatment, outreach, and prevention.”

As a national network of Indigenous youth, the Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) is excited to be a partner and support for all 3 Indigenous Youth Councils who are continuing to pave the way for intergenerational community organizing. Krysta Williams, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator at NYSHN said; “We are so honored to be part of this amazing family of youth leaders, constantly creating new relationships and partnerships to strengthen an already fabulous movement!”

Tommi Hill, member of the National Aboriginal Youth Council on HIV and AIDS (NAYCHA) said; “We are Indigenous youth taking care of each other, to show other youth that we do care, that’s why we’re here. We are the future, it lies with us to carry this work forward.”

The Aboriginal Nations and TSI HIV Youth Mob (ANTHYM) is a network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth that work across issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice, across Australia. We are a group led by us, for us. Our role is to help promote messages of safe sex and safe injecting practices in the hope of reducing the rates of HIV infection within our communities. www.anthym.org

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The Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) is an organization by and for Indigenous youth that works across issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice throughout the United States and Canada. www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com

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