

Media Statement

Klynton Wanganeen
Commissioner for
Aboriginal Engagement

15 November 2010

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen has congratulated Vincent 'Jack' Buckskin and Vince Coulthard for being honoured in the last week.

The only young Aboriginal person to teach the endangered Kurna language, 24 year old Vincent Buckskin was named South Australia's Young Australian of the Year for his commitment to the preservation of his traditional culture and language.

"Vincent knows that the loss of traditional language will inevitably lead to the loss of culture and I applaud him for working so hard to keep both alive, particularly amongst the younger generation," said Mr Wanganeen.

"His dedication to learning the Kurna language and then passing it on to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is admirable."

"He is also sharing his culture through dance and has founded a traditional dance group - another step towards his goal of keeping the stories of his people alive."

"As a fellow Narrunga man, I wish Vincent all the very best of luck for the national awards that will be announced in Canberra in January next year."

Vince Coulthard has been shortlisted for the Australian Human Rights Commission's 2010 Human Rights Awards.

An Adnyamathanha man and this year's National NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award winner, he is one of 200 activists nominated from around Australia for their commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

"Vince has been nominated in the Community (Individual) Award Category for his efforts in working to overcome discrimination and increase awareness of injustice and inequality," said Mr Wanganeen.

"He has spent his life advocating for the rights of the Adnyamathanha people and for all Indigenous Australians."

"Last year marked the culmination of over 16 years work by Vince and his people as they won consent determination over 41,000 sq kms of their land."

"I wish him luck in Sydney on 10 December when the 2010 Human Rights Award winners are announced."