

# News Release

Klynton Wanganeen  
Commissioner for  
Aboriginal Engagement

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**9 November 2010**

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it will work towards recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

An expert panel will be established to lead a national discussion and broad consultation next year.

"Much is said about closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage but this move by the Prime Minister represents a real step towards that goal," said Mr Wanganeen.

"As one of the directors of the interim National Executive for the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, I look forward to working with this panel and having a genuine conversation about what will be put to Australians at a referendum."

Nation-wide consensus is required to achieve constitutional change and Mr Wanganeen says community support is crucial

"It's vital that both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have their say at every opportunity next year.

"I call on all South Australians to get involved in the process starting today as nominations are being sought for representatives on this expert panel," said Mr Wanganeen.

"This is a bipartisan issue and one that deserves the commitment and attention of every Australian.

"Australia's first peoples have, and will continue, to contribute a great deal to this country."

"It is only right and just that they be recognised in the constitution and I believe this can become a reality if we all work together".