

News Release

Klynton Wanganeen
Commissioner for
Aboriginal Engagement

16 December 2010

KLYNTON WANGANEEN WELCOMES PART-TIME COMMISSIONER FOR ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

Klynton Wanganeen has welcomed the appointment of Khatija Thomas who will join him as one of two part-time Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement.

Mr Wanganeen said the change to the role means that he and Ms Thomas will be part-time Commissioners as of January 2011.

“This is a wonderful opportunity that will strengthen our advocacy role,” said Mr Wanganeen.

“We greatly complement each others skills and experiences. Whilst Ms Thomas will focus on specific Aboriginal communities, I will continue to identify the barriers Aboriginal people face when trying to access the services of the government and private sectors”.

“As a solicitor with the South Australian Native Title Services Inc, her knowledge of the issues that confront Aboriginal communities will hold her in good stead in this new role.”

“I look forward to working with her on representing the views of Aboriginal communities and providing valuable independent advice to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation,” said Mr Wanganeen.

Mr Wanganeen has held the position of Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement since January 2008 and has worked alongside the Aboriginal Advisory Council to provide advice to the State Government on Aboriginal matters.

He has also worked with the Commissioner for Social Inclusion Monsignor David Cappo to reduce disadvantage in the Aboriginal community with a particular focus on homelessness, school retention and youth offending.

The creation of two part-time Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement will allow Mr Wanganeen to continue as one of the directors of the interim National Executive for the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.