

# Media Statement

Klynton Wanganeen  
Khatija Thomas  
Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement

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24 August 2011

## Passing of Aboriginal Elder Malcolm Anderson

Aboriginal communities in the South East of South Australia, today farewelled much loved Nukunu Elder, Malcolm Anderson.

Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen and Khatija Thomas said his passing is a huge loss to the South East community.

“He was committed to helping the South East community in so many ways and for the past 20 years he has been a highly respected, positive role model for the Aboriginal youth in the region,” said Mr Wanganeen.

He was past Chairperson and a regular visitor of Pangula Mannamurna, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Mount Gambier. Chief Executive Officer, Ms Karen Glover, said Mr Anderson had a sense of humour, was loved by all and will be sadly missed.

Mr Anderson was also past Chairperson of the South East Nungas Club and taught and worked with the Aboriginal Dance Group.

He would regularly visit local schools and do storytelling and was Chairperson of the South Australian Aboriginal Education Consultative Board, Department of Education and Children's Services.

“Mr Anderson believed that everyone deserved a second chance and he worked with young offenders and prisoners and was well known by the local council and government agencies in South East “, said Ms Thomas.

He was a political activist and had concerns about the quality of life for Aboriginal people and just before his death he was planning a visit to meet with the Prime Minister to discuss Closing the Gap.

Affectionately known in the South East as “Wombat”, it was his role as a radio announcer and DJ on 5GRT Radio, 'Deadly Sound', Mount Gambier, that gave him his nickname.

“He even had his own fan club”, said Mr Wanganeen.

Mr Anderson was a man of many talents. He was a football umpire and coach, he was in a 3 piece band and he would often entertain aged care groups and people with disabilities.

He was actively involved in Reconciliation and has received numerous awards in recognition to his contribution in Aboriginal Affairs.

### **Media Contact**

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