

Media Statement

Klynton Wanganeen
Khatija Thomas
Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement

6 May 2011

NOELINE CASEY

Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement Klynton Wanganeen and Khatija Thomas will join Aboriginal communities tomorrow to farewell Aboriginal Elder Noeline Casey.

Born in Kingston SE South Australia in 1936, Mrs Casey was a descendant of the Tanganekald, Meintangk and Bunganditj peoples of the South East and was the youngest of five children.

In her childhood and teenage years Mrs Casey was a great sports person and was associated with Largs Bay Sports Club and Taperoo Sports Club. She played netball and basketball and was a great swimmer. She swam the port canal many times, for which she won many medals.

She continued her involvement with sporting clubs in later years and assisted Aboriginal sports groups to raise money to attend carnivals and purchase uniforms and sporting equipment.

“Mrs Casey was a true inspiration and role model. Never one to just sit back and watch, she was always finding new ways to get the community involved”, said Mr Wanganeen.

Mrs Casey’s particular interest in Aboriginal women’s issues saw her become a founding member of the South Australian Aboriginal Women’s Council in the 1970’s.

During her involvement with the Council she would drive the community bus and pick up local Aboriginal families and take them to evening art classes and other events and activities.

Mrs Casey was passionate about protecting and preserving the Aboriginal heritage of the South East and has dedicated many voluntary years to this and in 1988 she became a founding member of the South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Committee.

“Caring for the land was very important to Mrs Casey”, said Ms Thomas, “the protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage was paramount to her and she led the way in taking care of the Kingston SE camping and burial grounds.”

In 1988 Mrs Casey became Chairperson of the Kungari Association, once again displaying her desire to ensure greater recognition of Aboriginal culture and the protection of Aboriginal sites.

Mrs Casey was the only remaining founding committee member of Kungari. The Association was successful in negotiating with the Council to move the towns' local dump which was historically a traditional Aboriginal camping and burial ground. This site has won many awards including the tidy town award.

It was also very important to Mrs Casey that young Aboriginal people were engaged in issues and had positive role models. Mrs Casey and the late Tony Williams instigated and ran the first Aboriginal youth drop in centre in Dale Street, Port Adelaide.

Mrs Casey was well known by many Aboriginal communities throughout South Australia. She was a very caring person and was well liked by all people whom she met. She developed many friendships with other Aboriginal Elders from other communities. She was a Founding Member of the South Australian Elder's Council.

Mrs Casey also looked after the elderly people who camped at the Latare site at Glanville and would frequently visit and take food and share stories with them by the campfire.

Mrs Casey has also been involved in the return and repatriation of Aboriginal human remains from overseas.

Ms Casey is survived by three daughters, 12 grand children and seven great grand children.

Her funeral will be held at 1pm Saturday 7 May at the Uniting Church, Kingston SE followed by a committal service at the Kingston Cemetery.

Media Contact
Sally Kaleta
0413 159 674