

# News Release

**Klynton Wanganeen**  
Aboriginal Engagement  
Commissioner

---

**Friday, October 17, 2008**

## **Collaborate to stamp out Aboriginal poverty**

Aboriginal poverty in South Australia could be largely stamped out by 2020 if the mining industry, Government and Aboriginal people work together, Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement Klynton Wanganeen said today as Anti-Poverty week comes to a close.

Mr Wanganeen will ask the State Government to lead a South Australian collaborative approach to Aboriginal employment and enterprise development after recently hearing at the Sustainable Development Conference in Darwin about the benefits that can flow to Aboriginal communities from the mining industry.

“Now is the time for us to prepare to take advantage of the mining boom that is coming, in a way that will benefit not just Aboriginal people but also the wider community,” Mr Wanganeen said.

“Mining companies in Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory have already found successful ways to work with local Aboriginal people.

“They are employing them within their operations or as contractors in associated industries -- achieving the two-fold benefit of providing jobs and addressing the skills shortage.

“Aboriginal enterprises are training and employing local people and enjoying commercial success in everything from land rehabilitation, earth moving and machinery hire to civil and housing construction.

“Mining companies have successfully trialed a new assessment instrument - the Q Test -- that overcomes language, communication, literacy and cultural barriers to measure the learning potential of indigenous job applicants.

“This test could be used utilised in the schooling and training sector.

“Mining has created a world of opportunity for Aboriginal people and their communities in the north and west – opportunities that we can re-create here in South Australia if we work together with mining companies and government, and support Native Title holders to be included in the process.

“I also look forward to working with the State Government, Aboriginal communities and mining companies in participating in South Australia’s contribution to the Australian Employment Covenant that looks to move 50,000 Aboriginal people into full-time work in two years.”