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Congratulations and hope from Aboriginal Commissioner

South Australia's Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen, today said that the people of the United States of America and President-elect Barack Obama were to be congratulated for making history this week.

However, he said it also highlights how far Australia has to go in achieving greater Aboriginal representation in politics.

"I am confident that Barack Obama will make a fantastic President," Commissioner Wanganeen said.

"It is inspiring to have a black man elevated to the most influential position in the world by people who have managed to overcome prejudice.

"It gives me hope that one day Aboriginal people in Australia will have greater representation within our own political system, but it's obvious there is a long way to go."

Commissioner Wanganeen pointed to South Australia's inability to lay claim to a single Aboriginal Parliamentary representative as evidence the state is not doing enough to encourage Aboriginal political involvement.

"While all other states and the Northern Territory have at least at different points in time had Aboriginal Parliamentarians, South Australia is yet to break that ground."

"Do we really want to be the last state or territory in Australia to have an Aboriginal person take their place in Parliament?"

"I would call on all South Australian political parties to consider actively recruiting Aboriginal members with a view to eventually having Aboriginal representation within Parliament in this state," Mr Wanganeen said.