



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTaR acknowledges Mick Gooda's work as Social Justice Commissioner

National advocacy organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, ANTaR, today recognised the work of Mr Mick Gooda as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner over the past six and a half years.

ANTaR National Director Andrew Meehan said that Mr Gooda, a Gangulu man from Central Queensland, had been an extraordinary leader during a difficult period for First Peoples.

"Mr Gooda's strong focus on the relationship among First Peoples, between First Peoples and government, and with the broader community has led to him being respected across the board," Mr Meehan said.

He noted that this focus allowed Mr Gooda to have the difficult conversations, advocate for better outcomes across a range of areas, and act as a bridge to government and others for First Peoples. Mr Meehan also said that while much of this work had gone unnoticed, it had been critical to getting improvements to poor policy.

"In the public sphere, Mr Gooda has played a leading role in shining a light on disadvantage for First Peoples in countless areas, particularly in relation to high incarceration rates, disability, health, welfare, education, child removal, and safer communities," he said.

Mr Meehan applauded the role the former Social Justice Commissioner had in leading discussions on foundational issues for First Peoples – implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, constitutional recognition, protection from racial discrimination, Native Title and land issues, and representation.

"Mr Gooda has steadied the ship in very troubled waters for First Peoples, and built the foundations for a more respectful relationship going forward," he said.

“ANTaR thanks Mr Gooda for his leadership, advice, collegiality and friendship over the past six years. We wish him well for the critical work he is taking on as Co-Commissioner for the Royal Commission into the Child Protection and Youth Detention Systems of the Northern Territory.”

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About

ANTaR is the only incorporated non-Indigenous organisation dedicated solely to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working to educate the wider community, shape public opinion and speak up for justice, rights and respect for Australia’s First Peoples. ANTaR is a member of the Change the Record campaign - people can take the Change the Record pledge to show their support for addressing the incarceration crisis of First Peoples - <https://antar.org.au/webform/change-record-pledge>