

## MEDIA RELEASE



**12:30pm,  
Wednesday 28 September, 2011**

### **ANTaR welcomes Bolt decision**

ANTaR has today welcomed today's finding by the Federal Court that journalist and commentator Andrew Bolt breached the Racial Discrimination Act in articles published in 2009.

"The Federal Court's decision today is an important one for the nation," ANTaR President, Dr Peter Lewis said today.

"Not only does this decision affirm the principle that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be free to 'fully identify with their race without fear of public disdain or loss of esteem' but it puts behind us the days of non-Indigenous people dictating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about who they are or should be."

"As we consider the issue of Constitutional recognition of the First Peoples we need to recognise and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and celebrate, rather than denigrate, Australia's Indigenous past, present and future."

Bolt was being sued in the Federal Court by nine Aboriginal people including former ATSIC chairman Geoff Clark, academic Professor Larissa Behrendt, activist Pat Eatock, photographer Bindi Cole, author Anita Heiss, health worker Leeanne Enoch, native title expert Graham Atkinson, academic Wayne Atkinson and lawyer Mark McMillan.

They argued that a series of articles written by Bolt two years ago implied light-skinned people who identified as Aboriginal did so for personal gain.

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