

MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday 16 January 2014

New National Director appointed to ANTaR

ANTaR is excited to announce the appointment of Andrew Meehan as the new National Director after a recruitment process that attracted a very strong field of candidates for the position.

The Board look forward to working with Andrew in leading a strong national organisation supporting justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

"We're very pleased Andrew is taking on the role – he has a wealth of experience in, and passion for, campaigning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights," National President Dr Peter Lewis said.

Mr Meehan comes to us from Oxfam Australia where he leads their Indigenous rights advocacy and policy. He has played a central role in a number of national campaigns for First Peoples' rights including Close the Gap, constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and an emerging national campaign to address the high incarceration rates.

"He's ideally placed to take the organisation forward," Dr Lewis said.

Mr Meehan said that ANTaR had made a huge difference in its work for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over many years.

"I am honoured to be appointed and am looking forward to building a strong national movement."

"More than 300,000 people have put their signatures on a hand in ANTaR's Sea of Hands and helped in its installation in locations around Australia. I believe that many Australians want to support a better deal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Mr Meehan said.

"We shouldn't tolerate a health equality gap of up to 17 years, incarceration rates 14 times that of other Australians, exclusion from the Constitution, or the disadvantage across the board that our First Peoples face," he said.

"There's plenty of goodwill we should harness to work in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for their rights," he said.

Mr Meehan commences the role in May. In the interim, Jane Powles will be Acting National Director.

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