



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Political parties must act on historic Redfern Statement

Thursday June 9, 2016

Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak representative bodies delivered an historic statement and call for all political parties to listen to them to address the appalling disadvantage faced by First Peoples.

ANTaR, as a supporting organisation to the statement, calls on all political parties to commit to the clear policy platform set out, and for the incoming government and parliament to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their representatives to fully implement it.

ANTaR National Director Andrew Meehan said that the historic statement must be acted on. "This statement is unprecedented – delivered during a federal election campaign by so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak representative organisations, with broad based support by more than 50 other organisations and three national campaigns. It must not be ignored."

Mr Meehan said that it was clear that government approaches over decades have failed to address the unacceptable disadvantage experienced by First Peoples.

"It's past time that the challenges confronting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are no longer shunned to the margins of national priorities," he said.

"This statement offers a clear way forward for all political parties, drawn from the combined expertise of 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations with tens of thousands of members."

Mr Meehan noted that for far too long government policies had been made for and to, rather than with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

He said that the statement can be a catalyst for the type of transformative change that, right across the political spectrum, is agreed is needed.

"Countless seminal reports over decades have delivered recommendation after recommendation setting out the need for First Peoples to have a genuine say in their affairs."

“Government must seize today’s opportunity to act on this prerequisite for addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.”

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

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