

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### **Genuine partnership based on trust and respect is a must**

ANTaR, national advocacy organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, supports calls made by the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and its member organisations for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his Ministry to establish a sound relationship based on trust and respect.

"Under the previous administration, we saw Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being continually let down by an environment of chaos and reduced engagement that caused immense anxiety. The new Prime Minister has an opportunity now to reset the relationship," said Jane Powles, Acting National Director.

"I am pleased to hear that Prime Minister Turnbull is taking this opportunity seriously and has committed to meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' elected representatives at the earliest possible opportunity".

ANTaR calls on the Prime Minister to show strong leadership to ensure the Government respects the right to self-determination and that all members of his Ministry are committed to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Ms Powles said "The Prime Minister and his newly appointed Ministry now have the challenge of addressing key issues within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs that have stagnated or been left in chaos. This must be addressed as a matter of priority."

ANTaR welcomes the appointment of the Hon Ken Wyatt, the first Aboriginal person to be in the Federal Ministry and hopes that as Assistant Health Minister he will be playing a key role in ensuring a nationally co-ordinated response to addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequality.

It is imperative that the Prime Minister listens to the First Peoples of this nation and sets a strong foundation for a positive relationship.

ANTaR is a national advocacy organisation dedicated specifically to the rights - and to overcoming the disadvantage - of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.