

Press Release

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Labor policy announcement a step towards 'Redfern Statement' calls

ANTaR - national advocacy organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, has today welcomed the release of Labor's Closing the Gap policy platform in Redfern.

National Director Andrew Meehan said that it appeared that Labor had heard and responded to the historic 'Redfern Statement' made by 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak representative organisations, supported by more than 50 other organisations and three national campaigns.

"The Redfern Statement is a landmark call for government to listen, engage and act, and it is positive that Labor has responded by acknowledging it, releasing its policy platform, and committing to reset a relationship based on engagement."

Mr Meehan said that it was pleasing to see that Labor has acknowledged that the key to better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is getting the engagement right.

"Re-funding National Congress of Australia's First Peoples as the national elected representative organisation, committing to a national Indigenous Leaders Summit in the first 100 days, and supporting other key Aboriginal alliances and peak organisations are positive commitments to important mechanisms for engagement," he said.

"History has shown time and again that policy developed without genuine engagement with First Peoples through their own representative institutions is destined to fail. The commitments in the announcement today start to rebuild that engagement."

Mr Meehan said that ANTaR, as a supporting organisation to the Redfern Statement, is calling for all political parties to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives on the basis of the clear calls for action in the Statement.

"The Redfern Statement makes clear that the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not be left at the margins of political considerations. It sets out a clear path to address disadvantage and place Aboriginal voices at the centre of decision making. These should be goals of all political parties," he said.

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