

Thursday 11 December 2014

ANTaR welcomes reappointment of Mick Gooda as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Advocacy organisation ANTaR today warmly welcomed the reappointment of Mick Gooda as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

National Director Andrew Meehan said that Mr Gooda had been a tireless advocate for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for decades, and that his work over the past five years as Social Justice Commissioner has been extremely important.

Mr Meehan said that “The Commissioner has engaged consistently at an international, national, state and local level on rights issues and has played an incredibly valuable role in leading some of the important national discussions.”

“As Co-Chair of the Close the Gap Campaign for health equality, as Ex-Officio member of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians, and through his involvement in helping establish a campaign to address unacceptable incarceration rates, he has been critical to pushing these issues in front of the nations leaders and keeping them on the table.” He said.

“Debates surrounding the Racial Discrimination Act, incidents of racism, lateral violence, alcohol management plans, and many other issues have benefited from Mr Gooda’s leadership and ability to bring people together,” he said.

Mr Meehan noted that the Commissioner had continually championed and supported community driven solutions and the need for real engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“The Commissioner’s work with the Bourke community in NSW to establish a justice reinvestment approach to address high incarceration rates, has been a great example of this community level work,” he said.

“The reappointment is recognition of the high regard for, and value of, the Commissioner’s work,” he said.

Mr Meehan congratulated Mr Gooda and said that ANTaR looked forward to continuing to support the work of the Commissioner in the coming two years.