

## PRESS RELEASE 9.6.14

"I am pleased the Boomerang Petition has moved to the next stage" said Mr Norman Miller, principal petitioner and Chairman of the Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. "The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petitions sent me a letter outlining the response from the Attorney-General, Mr George Brandis which was made to the House of Representatives last week on 2 June."

The petition is seeking a public education program and referendum on constitutional change to recognize Indigenous people in the constitution and remove racism" said Miller. "It basically supports the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians. With 2115 signatures, the Boomerang Petition was presented in the House on 12 December 2013 and referred to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister who referred it to the Attorney-General."

Mr Miller said "I am urging Australians to get behind this move to change the constitution which will be just as momentous as when over 90% of Australians voted in the 1967 referendum to have Indigenous people counted in the census and for the federal government to be able to make laws for Aborigines."

"I am waiting for the government to begin its public education campaign after consultations on the form it will take" he said. "Time is running out."

Miller said he was looking forward to the report of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee which has been established to inquire into the steps that need to be taken to progress this matter. It is chaired by Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP, the first Indigenous Member of the House of Representatives and its Deputy Chair is Senator Nova Peris OAM, the first female Indigenous federal parliamentarian.

The Committee will submit an interim report to the Parliament by the end of September 2014.

Miller said "It's important concerned citizens express their views on this matter. On 27 March this year, a review to consider support for Indigenous constitutional recognition commenced. It is required under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act 2013."

The review panel includes former Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party the Hon. John Anderson, Ms Tanya Hosch, the Deputy Director of the Recognize campaign, and Mr Richard Eccles, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

"I am still gathering signatures on the petition" said Miller. "Just as I presented a giant boomerang with the headline 'No Racism in the Constitution' with over 360 signatures on the back to Speaker Bronwyn Bishop in November last year, I am making another giant boomerang. It will have on it 'Australians Making History' and I'll encourage people to sign the back again. I will launch it in NAIDOC Week this year just as I launched the other one in NAIDOC Week last year" said Miller.

"No doubt this boomerang will turn up on the doorstep of Parliament House at some stage" he said. Miller is taking his campaign to Perth and Adelaide in the near future and will be in Adelaide for NAIDOC Week.

Signed: Norman Miller – Ph 0407128199