

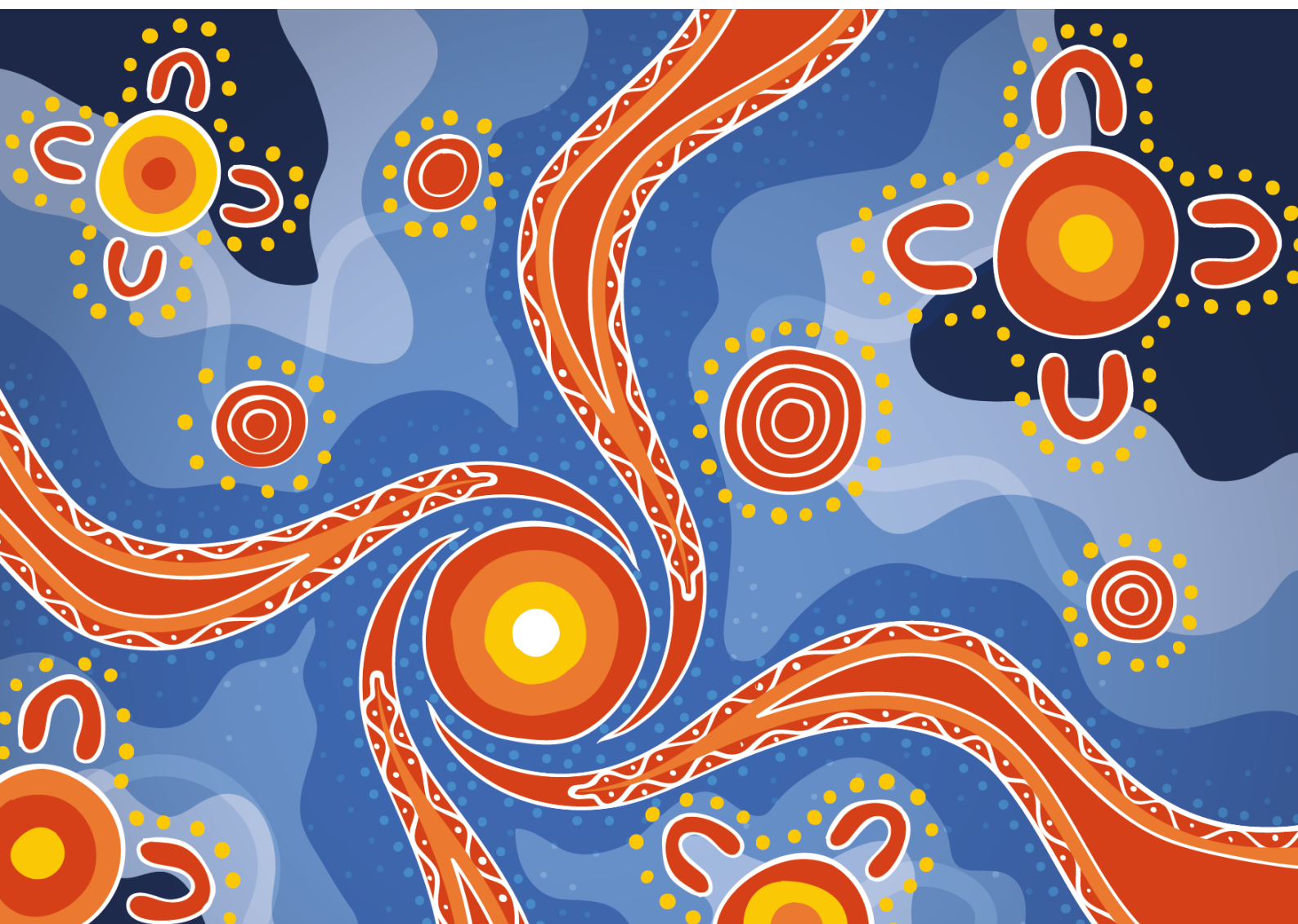


OUTPUT REPORT

Aboriginal Leaders' Forum No. 8

15 November 2017, 8:45am–12:30pm

Tauondi College, Lipson Street, Port Adelaide



Health Performance Council



Government of South Australia
Health Performance Council



Output report prepared by the Health Performance Council Secretariat

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Artwork meaning: The Health Performance Council (shown as the largest main meeting place) watches over the health and care journey of people to make sure that they are getting the proper care in every way. The journey paths emanating to and from the meeting place indicate the distance, while the blue colour variations show the landscape types. Around the central meeting place are many communities. Yellow dots around these places keep the people safe through their journeys, ensuring proper care is achieved for everybody and that their needs are properly met.

Artist: Jordan Lovegrove, Ngarrindjeri, Dreamtime Public Relations, www.dreamtimepr.com.



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the diverse Aboriginal peoples of South Australia and their participation in the life of South Australia. We acknowledge and respect their spiritual relationship with their respective country and we acknowledge them as the custodians of their country and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to them today.



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Agenda

The purpose of this Aboriginal Leaders' Forum was to present and discuss on two key topics:

- Progress of Treaty negotiations between the South Australian government and South Australian Aboriginal nations.
- Update from the Health Performance Council on progress and achievements to date in its 2015–2018 review program.

Keynote presenter

Treaty Commissioner for South Australia, Dr Roger Thomas



Dr Roger Thomas is a senior Aboriginal leader in South Australia. A proud Kokatha, Mirning man, he has enjoyed a successful career in both the private and public sector and is well respected and trusted by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians.

Dr Thomas has extensive experience in conducting public consultations and negotiations with the Aboriginal community and has held various positions on state, national and international advisory committees working on strategic initiatives.

He has presented numerous papers at conferences and forums nationally and internationally in such countries as Germany, the United States of America, Colombia and the United Nations.

Dr Thomas was the inaugural Professor of Indigenous Engagement and Adjunct Professor of Education at the University of Adelaide and the Dean of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies, Wilto Yerlo.



Participants

The forum was facilitated by Klynton Wanganeen who welcomed the following leaders, delegates and guests:

- Amanda Mitchell (Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia)
- Cathy Leane (Women's and Children's Health Network)
- Cephas Stanley (Carers SA)
- Debra Kay[♦] (HPC member)
- Donna Quinn (Flinders University)
- Harry Miller (Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement)
- Jeremy Johncock (Treaty Commission)
- Kurt Towers (Northern Adelaide Local Health Network)
- Lisa Jackson Pulver[♦] (HPC member)
- Lyn Jones (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Women's and Children's Hospital)
- Mark Thompson (Drug and Alcohol Services SA)
- Mark Waters (Reconciliation SA)
- Megan O'Connell (Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia)
- Mike Turner (Pika Wiya Health Service)
- Sharon Clarke (Aboriginal Health Strategy, Department of Health and Ageing)

HPC Secretariat

- Jane Austin (Director)
- Andrew Wineberg
- Jill Fraser
- Nicholas Cugley

[♦] HPC member

Photos from the forum



Photos were taken with participants' knowledge and consent. People were welcome to opt out if they chose.

Presentations

1. Welcome and introductions



Facilitator Klynton Wanganeen opened the forum, welcoming leaders, delegates and guests.

We acknowledge the land that the forum meets on is the traditional lands for Kaurna people and we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present.

Thank you to Aboriginal leaders who travelled long distances to attend the forum.

2. Keynote – Progress of Treaty negotiations

Treaty Commissioner for South Australia Dr Roger Thomas gave the keynote address, updating leaders with progress of Treaty negotiations with the South Australian government.

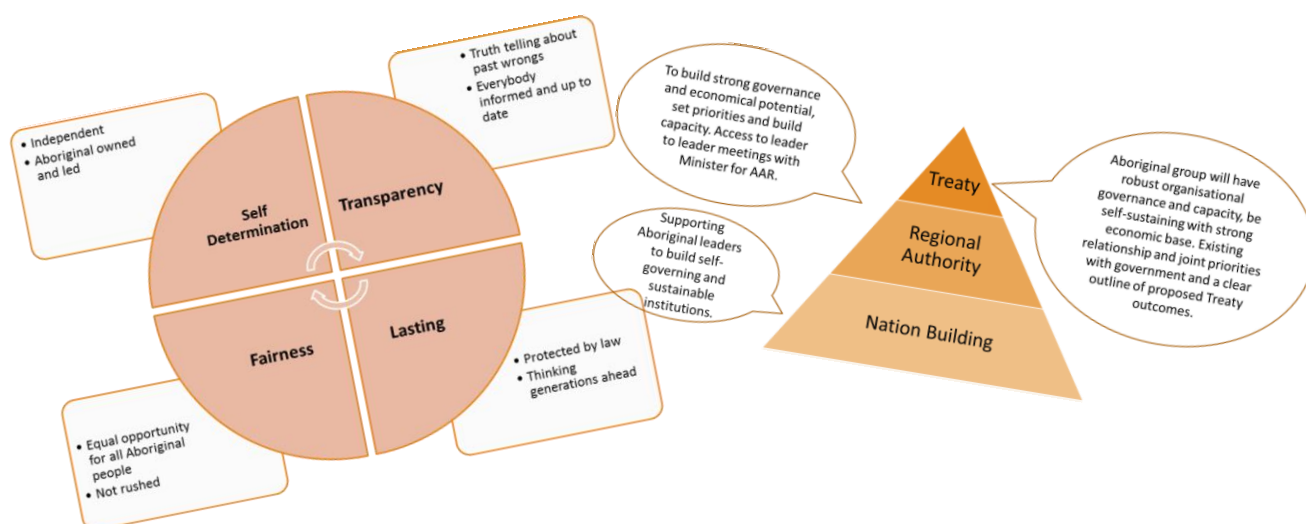



Dr Roger Thomas was appointed Treaty Commissioner in February 2017. The role of the Treaty Commissioner is to conduct broad consultation on suitable framework for Treaty between the South Australian Government and Aboriginal South Australians. The Commissioner leads conversations with Groups/Nations to define their priorities for Treaty and assist them to prepare for Treaty negotiations.

Pathway to Treaty

The South Australian Government is the first Australian government to enter treaty talks with an Aboriginal nation. The State of South Australia has limited powers under the Australian Constitution and may only enter into agreements in line with these powers.

The current administration has committed to support the Treaty process over the next four years (2017-2020). Building the capability of new and existing Aboriginal groups over this time will be required to ensure fair representation of members of the Aboriginal community and ensure meaningful engagement.





The Ngarrindjeri Nation is joined by the Narungga and Adnyamathanha Nations as the first three South Australian Aboriginal nations invited to negotiate Treaty as part of the Government's commitment to building a better and stronger relationship with Aboriginal people in this state. Other Groups/Nations will be invited over the remaining four year period.

The Commissioner provided a report on a possible Treaty framework, "Talking Treaty" to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation in July 2017. This report is available for download at the address: <https://statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/upload/aboriginal-affairs/FinalTreatyCommissionerReport-170721.pdf>

More information about Treaty discussions is available from the Department of State Development website: statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-affairs-and-reconciliation/initiatives/treaty-discussions

Keynote Q&A session

Commissioner Thomas' presentation was followed by a Q&A session, summarised below:

Q: Will Treaty negotiations continue if there is a change in state government?

A: "Treaty should be lasting and placed in legislation and/or the constitution" was a common theme raised during our engagements. Treaties have all the protections afforded under the general law of contract, including substantial damages for breach that would apply. Expect two, maybe three Groups/Nations will have signed treaties by December 2017, so there will be precedent set before March 2018 election.

Q: Has there been any reaction from the Commonwealth government?

A: Phases 1 and 2 of Treaty negotiations have only involved Groups/Nations and the state government. There has been no representation from the Commonwealth government, although local government has been involved in negotiations (in its role as a statutory body). Treaty works within existing Commonwealth agreements/frameworks such as Native Title.

Q: Are there similarities / differences in what each Group/Nation wants out of Treaty?

A: There are similarities – health, education, child development and language are commonalities between Groups/Nations. Differences based on geography of and activity that takes place on Country ie. rivers, coastline and the sea, mining and tourism.

Q: Are we able to measure the health improvements of Treaty?

A: Recognition that current health determinants are not where they should be (ie. Closing the Gap). Researchers will be engaged as part of process to establish a baseline to show benefits of Treaty on health outcomes for our communities and flow-on benefits for South Australia as a whole. Commissioner sees role in bringing groups together for mutual benefit (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal).

Q: Can you provide more information about what you mean by Treaty being a 'living document' and offsets?

A: Treaty is a living document – things that are in now can be renegotiated later. Treaty negotiations aren't a list of demands but rather a list of priorities, led by Aboriginal people, striving for what is best for not only Aboriginal people but all of South Australia.

An offset is a fair return of government taxation resulting from activity on Country such as mining and fishing back to Groups/Nations. Positive outcomes such as self-sufficiency and self-determination will emerge from the economic benefits. Offsets provide a steady income stream, lifting communities off reliance on welfare and grants and promote a more positive relationship with government. The aim of Treaty is to avoid haves and have nots between Groups/Nations – lift all nations up and see flow-on benefits to whole South Australian community.

3. Update from the Health Performance Council

The Health Performance Council (HPC) provided leaders with an update since the May 2017 Aboriginal Leaders' Forum on HPC's publications and review program.

Key HPC publications since the May 2017 forum:

1. [Transforming Health bi-monthly indicator reports](#). Monitors trends in metropolitan Adelaide public hospital activity for specific patient and population groups and between local health networks.
2. [Review of Country Health Advisory Council \(HAC\) Governance Arrangements](#). Revisits HPC's audit after five years to see how well the system has addressed issues identified for HACs to improve community and consumer voice in rural SA health services.
3. [Aboriginal health case study report](#). Updates HPC's 2014 report and provides advice for the Minister and health system on how to address disparities in health outcomes of Aboriginal people.

These reports are published on HPC's website at: <http://hpcsa.com.au/reports>

In 2017-18, HPC is focussing on three major reviews:

1. [Review of End of Life Care Case Study](#). This study will revisit findings from the HPC's 2013 report to update trends in activity and outcomes, determine how well issues identified in 2013 have been addressed and how successful changes have been.
2. ['Perils of Place'](#). HPC is working with Primary Health Networks and SA Health on a large study that will repeat the Grattan (2016) method of evaluating potentially preventable admissions by location. In advance, HPC has prepared its own smaller report looking at variation in hospital admissions and what that might say about regional inequalities.
3. [Post-implementation Review of Country Health Aboriginal Community & Consumer Engagement Strategy \(2015\)](#). Set for publication in August 2018, this HPC study will evaluate the early years of the Country Health strategy.

FORUM CLOSED AT 12:30pm



Thank you to all participants for your valuable contributions



Summary of review card feedback from the forum

Review cards were distributed to seek feedback from attendees on the value of the forum and how the HPC Secretariat might improve forums in the future. Review card feedback is considered by the planning group.

Method

Review cards were distributed on the attendees' seats before lunch. The facilitator reminded people to fill the cards in and leave them with HPC secretariat staff.

Response rate

A total of 21 participants attended the forum consisting of: the keynote speaker, facilitator, 13 Aboriginal Leaders, 2 HPC members and 4 HPC secretariat staff.

A total of 11 completed review cards were collected, including 2 from HPC members at the end of the forum. If we exclude secretariat staff (4) and facilitator from the denominator (as they were directly involved in organising the forum) the response rate is 11/16 or 69%.

Q1. How do you rate the event in terms of its outcomes and outputs?

The average score was 9.4 out of 10, with a range of 8–10.

Q2. How do you rate the event in terms of its design and running?

The average score was 9.1 out of 10, with a range of 7–10.

Q3. What was best about the event?

There was overwhelming positive feedback from attendees about the high quality speakers, presentations and resulting discussions. Three comments that captured the overall tone of responses to this question include:

- “The openness of the discussion by Dr Thomas was wonderful.”
- “Roger's presentation – Information on Treaty development – Priceless, priceless.”
- “Brilliant presentation and conversation.”

Q4. What would you like to have been different?

Feedback to this question can be generalised as “these forums need to go for longer”. Respondents felt they needed more time for discussion.

Q5. What will you tell others?

Again, feedback to this question was very positive. Respondents said that will encourage others to attend as it offers a great opportunity to hear up to date, relevant information with opportunity to feed in priorities. Three typical comments that captured the overall tone of responses to this question include:

- “Great event.”
- “Will be sharing what learnt about Treaty – looking forward to receiving powerpoint and video. Case study (the HPC's 2017 Aboriginal health case study) will inform our work.”
- “This group discussion and information will only value add to individual and/or regional business.”

Q6. What should happen next?

Respondents said they would like to involve young Aboriginal leaders in future discussions about Aboriginal issues. Delegates also told us they would like another update on the progress of Treaty negotiations in 2018. Workforce/employment, succession planning and a report into racism in health were other issues that respondents would like future forums to address.

Q7. One word summarises how you feel now?

Participants were asked to identify one word that best summarised how they felt at the end of the forum. Words were entered into wordle.com. The image below represents the frequency of the word by size. Where a respondent wrote multiple words, or a sentence, the primary word was used (e.g. 'Very informed' was truncated to 'informed').



About the forums

A. Purpose of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums

The purpose of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums is to engage with leaders in the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal people who are leaders in the health system to:

- establish the health priorities of Aboriginal communities in South Australia
- guide the Health Performance Council in its monitoring and review of Aboriginal health status and performance measures in areas where the health system provides a response to Aboriginal people's health needs.

The Health Performance Council regularly co-hosts these forums in co-operation with the South Australian Health and Medical Institute's (SAHMRI) Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit. The sessions are facilitated by Klynton Wanganeen and feature presentations by guest speakers, updates on progress of issues that impact on the health of Aboriginal people in South Australia, and resolution of future directions on Aboriginal health research topics.

B. Previous Aboriginal Leaders' Forums

The inaugural Aboriginal Leaders' Forum took place at Tauondi College on 25 October 2013. A condensed summary of topics covered at previous forums is tabled below:

Forum	Date	Key topics
1	25 Oct 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aboriginal health and Aboriginal leadership▪ The Health Performance Council's role and the purpose of these forums▪ Governance, leadership and Indigenous rights▪ The role of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector in Aboriginal health leadership▪ How Aboriginal Leaders Forums should work in the future▪ Overcoming cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal people
2	29 May 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aboriginal health data stories – Spotlighting the health system's performance▪ What it means to be an Aboriginal leader
3	5 Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How the health system can be held accountable for its Aboriginal health care outcomes using internal and external means▪ How will we hold the health system to account for getting better Aboriginal health outcomes?▪ What specific actions for improving health system accountability for Aboriginal health outcomes will we recommend to the Minister for Health and the Premier?▪ What specific action can we take to continue the momentum of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums?
4	27 Nov 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keynote speaker: Ngiare Brown on Aboriginal leadership▪ Panel discussions with guest speaker Dorothy Keefe, SA Health's Clinical Ambassador for Transforming Health on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– understanding Transforming Health and the directions the government is taking– how Transforming Health can improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal people– how Aboriginal people generally can be made aware of the reforms and be included in consultations and decision-making that affects them
5	18 May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keynote speaker: Daryle Rigney, Dean, Office of Indigenous Strategy & Engagement, Flinders University, on Indigenous governance and nation building▪ Update on progress of Transforming Health, including formation of an Aboriginal Advisory Group▪ Guest speaker: Michael Cousins, Chief Executive, Health Consumers Alliance of SA, on engaging Indigenous consumers▪ Presentation of preliminary results from research topic analysis by the Health Performance Council and Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit

6	24 Nov 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transforming Health – A conversation with Dorothy Keefe, SA Health’s Clinical Ambassador for Transforming Health and Jackie Ah Kit, Chair, Transforming Health Aboriginal Expert Advisory Group on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How Transforming Health is improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people – How Aboriginal people are being made aware of the reforms and included in consultations and decision making that affects them. ▪ Impact of drugs, alcohol and addiction on Aboriginal communities – Presentations and panel discussion with James Ward (Head Infectious Diseases Research Aboriginal Health, SAHMRI), Chris Holmwood (Addiction Medicine Specialist, DASSA), and Mark Thompson (Coordinator Aboriginal Clinical Services, DASSA) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Epidemiology of drug and alcohol use in Aboriginal rural and remote communities – Patient pathways for people presenting to hospital for acute drug abuse – Drug and alcohol services program delivery.
7	31 May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keynote speaker: Lisa Jackson Pulver, HPC member, on findings emerging from the latest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics following the 2016 Census. ▪ Launch of the consultation draft of the HPC’s Aboriginal health case study ▪ SAHMRI’s Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit on the implementation of the Aboriginal heart and stroke, diabetes, and cancer plans

C. Background to the Health Performance Council

The Health Performance Council (HPC) is the South Australian Government’s statutory Ministerial advisory body established under the *Health Care Act 2008* to provide advice to the Minister for Health on the performance of the health system, health outcomes for South Australians and specific population groups and the effectiveness of community & individual engagement.

We publish reviews of South Australian health system performance on our website: hpcsa.com.au.

D. Background to the Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit

The [Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit](#) within the South Australian Health and Medical Institute (SAHMRI) conducts research that is of direct relevance to Aboriginal people in South Australia. Research is focused on the significant gap between the health status and life opportunities available to Aboriginal people when compared to other Australians. Wardliparingga's goal is to generate positive, long-term change for Aboriginal families and communities in South Australia.

