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## **Media release**

### **MARK YETTICA-PAULSON APPOINTED NEW RECOGNISE JOINT CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leader, Mark Yettica-Paulson has been appointed as the new Joint Campaign Director for RECOGNISE, the awareness campaign for recognition of the First Australians and dealing with racial discrimination in our Constitution.

Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair Professor Tom Calma AO announced Mr Yettica-Paulson's appointment to jointly lead RECOGNISE with experienced campaigner, Tim Gartrell.

"A respected Aboriginal leader, with almost three decades of experience in advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, Mark Yettica-Paulson is an outstanding person to fill this important national role," Professor Calma said.

"With a career spanning years as a youth activist in the early 1990's, Mark has dedicated his professional life to cross-cultural engagement bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians together to drive social change."

"His work has seen him lead projects to drive reconciliation within diverse organisations such as the AFL, NAB, Social Leadership Australia, the Foundation for Young Australians and many others."

Mark Yettica-Paulson has held leadership roles with the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre and with the Office of the Registrar for Aboriginal Corporations.

"On football fields, in company board rooms, in town halls and classrooms Mark's unique ability to communicate and connect with people has made him a powerful champion for social change and reconciliation."

Professor Calma said Mark had been an Ambassador for the RECOGNISE campaign since 2013 and in that time has led conversations in hundreds of communities with thousands of people on the national relay, the Journey to Recognition.

"He has an unrivalled insight and understanding into community views about constitutional recognition and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aspirations and rights."

"I am honoured to have a part to play in this work that spans decades of struggle and activism to achieve rights and recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," Mr Yettica-Paulson said.

"I have learnt and benefitted from the work of my parent's generation, which saw progress in land rights, native title and constitutional reform in the historic 1967 referendum.

Level 12, 50 Goulburn St, Sydney NSW 2000. [www.RECOGNISE.org.au](http://www.RECOGNISE.org.au)

RECOGNISE is the movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to deal with racial discrimination in our Constitution.

RECOGNISE is part of Reconciliation Australia.

“There’s still so much to do and the campaign for constitutional recognition is an incredibly important step. I want to be a part of getting this done to make a better future for my family.”

Tim Gartrell welcomed the appointment and said he was honoured to serve alongside Mark Yettica-Paulson.

“Throughout his career Mark has dedicated himself to campaigning for reconciliation and recognition. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with Mark and continue to raise awareness of the need for constitutional change.”

Mark Yettica-Paulson’s appointment follows the departure of Tanya Hosch who has taken on a leadership position with the AFL as General Manager Inclusion and Social Policy.

**Media inquiries: Kate Meagher 0437 001 027 or 02 8204 1500**

### **Mark Yettica-Paulson**

Mark is an Indigenous man from the South East Queensland and North East NSW regions. He is the founder and director of The Yettica Group which specialises in facilitating Indigenous leadership and assisting groups to work better as Indigenous and other Australians. Mark has many years’ experience in leadership management consulting, community education, leadership training, church and community organising and youth work. He held the role of CEO for the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre and has helped many leading organisations develop Reconciliation Action Plans. In 2009 Mark was recognised by *The Australian* as being one of the top 100 emerging leaders in Australia. In 2011 he won ‘Best Public Speaker in Australia’ on the ABC’s Strictly Speaking program.

He has worked as a facilitator on leadership projects with National Australia Bank, Medibank, Social Leadership Australia, Reos Partners, Desert Leadership Australia, Foundation for Young Australians, Australian Football League, Australia Post and the Australian Football League’s Players Association.

As the leadership and cultural development coach with an AFL Indigenous Development Squad, in 2009 Mark took a group of young footballers – the Flying Boomerangs – to PNG. From there he worked with the young players to develop the AFL’s first ever war cry to help build resilience and pride among the young men. This war cry, in traditional languages, has since been adopted by professional AFL Indigenous players.

Mark lives in Brisbane and is married with three children.