



Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

MEDIA RELEASE

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Statement by Sharron Williams, SNAICC Chairperson

The passing of Mr Nelson Mandela

On behalf of the SNAICC National Executive and staff, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Nelson Mandela, who passed away today.

In his quest for equality and self-determination, in his drive for reconciliation and with his amazing powers of forgiveness, Nelson Mandela transformed and unified his country.

But his battles over many decades and ultimate triumph inspired not just the people of South Africa. They inspired those seeking justice and equality across the globe, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their supporters across Australia.

Mr Mandela will continue to give hope to people in this country striving for the rightful recognition of the history, cultures and rights of Australia's First Peoples.

It takes an extraordinary leader to inspire the re-birth of an entire nation and have a profound influence in communities across the world. Mr Mandela was such a leader — one of the giants of history.

Our condolences and thoughts are with Mr Mandela's family and the people of South Africa.

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