



**“Our Indigenous future
must be based on
Indigenous-led solutions...**

***Please, lend your hand
to help make it a reality!”***





***Self-determination* – our right to take responsibility!**

Dear friend,

The current period of our history is a particularly destructive one, with so many hard-won achievements being rolled back, particularly by the current Federal Government.



But the entire history of Indigenous Australia since colonisation is a story of our survival against incredible odds.

So I ask you not to be disheartened. Today's negative government policies are not the end of the story!

There are many positive initiatives at the local and regional levels which are flourishing in spite of Government indifference. Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are steadily working together, nurturing and building on the many achievements:

- A culture of agreement-making is developing over a wide range of matters critical to the lives of Indigenous Australians – health, service delivery, employment, criminal justice issues, native title – the list is long.
- The national, state and territory ANTaRs and many smaller community groups across Australia are always active, making detailed submissions to recent Senate Committee Inquiries into the stalling of the reconciliation process and the Government proposals to greatly weaken the Human Rights Commission.
- ANTaR is supporting youth initiatives, such as the ReconciliACTION Network, a leading force for the future of Indigenous social justice.
- ANTaR has begun work with Indigenous leaders and the Fred Hollows Foundation to develop a strong campaign addressing the appalling health and living conditions of many Indigenous Australians.
- And ANTaR continues to fight tirelessly on on-going issues such as a just reconciliation and native title.

Indigenous people take great heart from knowing that we do not stand alone.

Through the campaign for direct negotiations, ANTaR is also joining with us in fighting back against the Federal Government's ongoing attacks against Indigenous self-determination.

continued overleaf...

There is no right more fundamental for Indigenous people than that of self-determination.

Self-determination is the right of Indigenous people to take responsibility for policy and other decisions which affect our lives. It is about Indigenous-led solutions and about creating strong communities that can overcome disadvantage. It is also a right Indigenous people possess under United Nations instruments to which Australia has committed itself.

Successive federal governments have only ever conceded a very limited form of self-determination, through an ATSIC structure starved of both funds and responsibility.

And now, the Federal Government wants to abandon even that small concession.

Once again the Federal Government is leading us backwards – back to the assimilationist policies of half a century ago.

Government policies which preclude self-determination can only be destructive to Indigenous communities. As Noel Pearson recently explained,

“government must relinquish responsibility in order for there to be a restoration of responsibility in (Indigenous) society.”

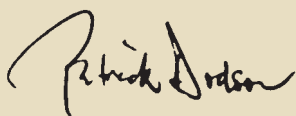
The Australian, 28 April 2003

We will continue to fight for policies and programs formulated by Indigenous people, for Indigenous people. Our hand is greatly strengthened by ANTaR at our side.

But ANTaR can only do this vital work with the generosity of individual supporters like you.

One of the best ways you can **support ANTaR's important work is by becoming a regular monthly donor** through ANTaR's **Sea of Hands Partners program**. Regular donations greatly reduce administrative costs and ensure that your support is maximised where it is most needed.

Please join us. With your help, we really can make a difference!



Patrick Dodson
Chairperson, Lingiari Foundation
Member of ANTaR's Indigenous Reference Group

PS. ANTaR's recent National Congress set out an Action Plan to build on its work at the local, state and national levels. To find out more, visit ANTaR's website at www.antar.org.au.

HOW TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED

ANTaR is a national network with groups in each State and Territory. For more information about our many current activities or to join and become involved with your local ANTaR group, contact:

NSW	ACT	VIC	SA	QLD	WA	TAS	NT
02 95556138	0403 863548	03 94193613	08 82270170	07 38449800	08 93717844	03 62390218	08 89992845

or visit our website at www.antar.org.au

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YES! – I would like to become a Sea of Hands Partner & make a monthly donation of: <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 per month <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 per month <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 per month <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per month <input type="checkbox"/> other \$_____ (min \$10) per month	YES! – Please accept my single donation of: <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> other \$_____

* Monthly donations help Antar reduce administration costs and spend more on urgent campaigning.

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BSB No: _ _ _ Account No: _____ <small>(6 digit number)</small>
Account in the name(s) of: _____
<p>Direct Debit Request: I/we authorise Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation (ANTaR) Inc, to arrange for funds to be debited from my/our account at the financial institution identified above. This authorisation is to remain in force in accordance with the terms described in the service agreement below:</p> <p>1. Direct debiting is not available on the full range of accounts. Please refer to your financial institution. 2. Please check your account details with your financial institution. 3. Your account will be debited on or before the 15th of each month or the nearest working day. 4. It is your responsibility to ensure sufficient clear funds are in the nominated account. If the transaction is returned unpaid, we will contact you seeking your instructions. 5. Should you wish to cancel, defer or make alterations to the direct debit arrangement, please contact ANTaR. 6. We will give you 14 days notice if we vary any of the debit arrangements. 7. Should you have any queries or dispute any Debit Item, please contact ANTaR in the first instance. 8. Your records and account details will be kept private and confidential.</p>
Signature: _____ Date: / /
Signature: _____ Date: / /

Thank you for your support for National Antar!
 You can also contribute to your local ANTaR. See over for contact details.

- ☐ **YES, I'm interested in being an ANTaR volunteer.**
☐ **Please send me information about including ANTaR in my Will.**
☐ **Please remove me from your mailing lists.**