



Media Release

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ANZ Reconciliation Action Plan an Australian first

ANZ has announced the most significant Indigenous employment targets of any leading Australian company as part of its Reconciliation Action Plan launched today.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr John McFarlane, said the Action Plan sets out the steps ANZ would take to help improve the lives of Indigenous Australians for the benefit of all Australians.

"The strongest contribution we can make is to work with Indigenous people, families and communities so that they can gain greater control of their finances and have meaningful employment opportunities," Mr McFarlane said.

"Financial literacy, access to appropriate banking services and employment in real jobs are all vital in enabling more Indigenous Australians to improve their wellbeing and choose the life they want to live."

The Action Plan contains specific and measurable commitments to:

- Recruit 300 young Indigenous trainees (100 each year) by end 2009
- Promote 20 Indigenous employees on merit to management positions by end 2014
- Expand the reach of ANZ's financial literacy and inclusion programs for Indigenous communities
- Develop better understanding of Indigenous cultures within ANZ.

Reconciliation Australia Chief Executive, Ms Barbara Livesey, commended ANZ on its plan of action to promote reconciliation.

"As the first major company to launch a Reconciliation Action Plan, with many more to follow, ANZ's Plan demonstrates how every Australian can play a role in closing the 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

"From the Board, management and throughout ANZ, we have been struck by the authenticity of their approach. As we approach the 40th anniversary of the 1967 referendum, we are reminded what can be achieved when Indigenous and non-Indigenous people work together," Ms Livesey said.

Indigenous leader and First Nations Foundation Chair Mr Paul Briggs said: "Implementing this Plan will make a real difference to the lives of Indigenous Australians. ANZ has taken a leadership role and I'd encourage other organisations to take a similar approach to securing Indigenous futures."

A copy of ANZ's Reconciliation Action Plan can be found on ANZ's web site at <http://www.anz.com/aus/values/community/Reconciliation.asp>

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