



For Media

POSTHUMOUS HONOUR FOR GREAT RECONCILIATION CHAMPION

Former Reconciliation Australia Board Director Dr R. Marika, who tragically passed away last May, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list for 2009.

As a Director of Reconciliation Australia, the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the Yothu Yindi Foundation, Dr Marika had a great gift connecting with people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and communicating essential, cross cultural lessons about respecting difference and recognising our shared humanity.

Dr Marika's outstanding contribution to her community and the Northern Territory overall was recognised in 2006 when she was named Northern Territorian of the Year, making her a finalist in the 2007 Australian of the Year Awards.

Reconciliation Australia (RA) Co-Chairs Mick Dodson and Mark Leibler said today that Dr Marika provided an outstanding example of reconciliation in action that RA strives to emulate.

"Dr Marika was always very generous in sharing her experiences with the wider Australian community to bring about further positive outcomes for Indigenous people," said Professor Dodson. "The reality is that her achievements demonstrate so many things that can and should be applied nationally across Australia.

"They show how progress can be made with determination and vision and courage."

Professor Dodson and Mr Leibler said it was wonderful to have Dr Marika honoured alongside another of Australia's most inspiring reconciliation champions, Dr Faith Bandler. "Faith, and fellow campaigners for the 1967 Referendum, showed how Indigenous and other Australians working side by side for change can achieve great things for us all."

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