PAPUNYA BOARDS REPORT HANDOVER

December 3rd, 2012

Indigenous Advancement Minister, Alison Anderson, has come full circle with the release today of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority inquiry into the Papunya Boards.

In 2009, when she was Indigenous Policy Minister with the previous Labor Government, Ms Anderson commissioned AAPA to report into the secret and ceremonial nature of the collection and to advise on its future management.

Today, as a member of the Country Liberals Government, she handed the report to her colleague, Arts and Museums Minister Matt Conlan, to assist with the future management of this landmark collection.

The report concludes that of the 226 paintings that make up the Papunya Boards collection, 163 are suitable for public display and that 63 should not be available for public exhibition.

It also recommends that the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory should establish a management plan specifically for the Papunya Boards collection.

“This report acknowledges the tremendous significance of the Boards and validates the very real concerns around culture and tradition that the artists have had over many years,” Ms Anderson said.

“I support its key findings and am relieved this body of work has been completed.

“The report builds on the knowledge base that we already have and lays the foundation for how the Boards will be exhibited into the future.

“The early paintings from Papunya are the beginnings of the major modern movement of Aboriginal art, works we have come to think of as the founding documents of ‘Aboriginal Art’.

“Their significance in the modern history of our people and indeed of Australian cultural history cannot be overstated.

“I would like to thank AAPA for the work that went into completing this report and, now that some of the issues have been clarified, look forward to the works continuing to be an iconic example of traditional Indigenous art.”

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