



## **Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre elects first female Chairperson**

Canberra – July 2017

**A Wiradjuri woman from NSW has become the first female Chairperson of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC) – the nation’s leading provider of accredited Indigenous leadership education.**

Cath Brokenborough, who was elected to the position on July 1, replaces outgoing Chairperson Charles Prouse who has stepped down to pursue educational opportunities in the United States.

Ms Brokenborough is the Executive Lead of Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation at LendLease and brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously held positions on a number of Boards and Committees.

“I am both humbled and excited to become the Chair of such a prestigious and important organisation as the AILC,” Ms Brokenborough said.

“Many Indigenous Leaders have emerged from the AILC Leadership courses and I see that there are so many talented, committed and capable Indigenous people ready to walk the same path.”

A new Deputy Chair position on the AILC Board has also been announced with John Paul Janke - a Wuthathi (Cape York Peninsula) and Meriam Mir (Torres Strait) man - elected to the role.

Mr Janke has worked in Indigenous Affairs for three decades and is currently the Director of the AIATSIS Foundation at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra.

“I’m looking forward to working with my fellow Board members to continue unlocking opportunities for Indigenous people of all ages to develop their careers and expand the ways they contribute to the community.”

Mr Janke has previously sat on the ACT Indigenous Elected Body and is currently a member of the National NAIDOC Committee.

Mr Prouse welcomed the new Chair and Deputy Chair, and said he looks forward to seeing them lead the AILC into a new era.

“It’s fantastic to have Cath and John-Paul take on the leadership roles on the Board. I know that together with our CEO, Belinda Gibb, they will take the Centre to the next level. They bring a new dynamic and energy to the organisation,” Mr Prouse said.

“I joined the Board as a graduate of the AILC and have seen many changes over the years. The Centre equally, has been a significant part of my own leadership journey, and I am supremely proud to have made a contribution to our community through the Centre.

“I’d like to thank all my fellow Board members for the opportunity to work with them and be inspired by them. I’d also like to thank all the staff that have worked at the AILC for their commitment and passion.

“And of course, I wish all my fellow alumni every success. We already change the world. Let’s change it some more.”

Additional changes saw Professor Peter Raddoll and Ms Karen Mundine join the AILC Board as Directors over the weekend as well.

Professor Raddoll is a highly respected researcher who also holds the role of Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy at the University of Canberra.

Ms Mundine holds more than 20 years of experience in community engagement, public advocacy, communications and social marketing campaigns, and is the newly appointed CEO at Reconciliation Australia.

Indigenous owned and run, the AILC has enjoyed great success in delivering positive outcomes for its graduates since 2001.

The AILC specialises in place-based education, delivering courses to locations across Australia with flexible teaching models to cater to people from a wide range of backgrounds.

The AILC has an expanding network of alumni with more than 2,000 students having now received accredited qualifications in Indigenous Leadership and Business (Governance).

**For more information, please call AILC CEO Ms Belinda Gibb on: (02) 6251 5770 / 0418 881 755**