



**MEDIA RELEASE: Tandanya NACI announces Interim CEO
Thursday 15 July 2021**

The Board of Tandanya – National Aboriginal Cultural Institute in Adelaide has announced the appointment of Kirstie Parker as the organisation’s Interim CEO.

Deputy Chair Dr Ali Gumillya Baker said Ms Parker, a *Yuwallarai* woman from NSW and former Director of Tandanya, had agreed to a six month secondment from her current senior role in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation policy within the SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

“Kirstie is well known for her advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” Dr Baker said. “She knows us and our community well, and vice versa.

“Under Kirstie’s previous stewardship, Tandanya won consecutive SA Tourism Awards for Indigenous Tourism and entered the SA Tourism Awards Hall of Fame. She was Editor-in-Chief of *Indigenous Arts Australia: KaltjaNOW*, a prestige publication published by Tandanya through Wakefield Press in 2001.

“We’re delighted to have such an experienced pair of hands to assist us in consolidating Tandanya’s proud 31-year history as the nation’s oldest Aboriginal-owned and managed multi-arts centre.”

Ms Parker is currently a member of the Aboriginal Reference Group of the Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre (AACC) planned for Lot Fourteen on nearby North Terrace, guest co-curator of the 2021 Adelaide Festival of Ideas, and director of Reconciliation Australia. Her previous roles include Editor of the *Koori Mail* newspaper, elected co-chair of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, and CEO of the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence.

Dr Baker said that despite numerous challenges in recent times – including managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – Tandanya continues to succeed and new opportunities abound.

“Tandanya is working to maximise those opportunities, with renewed focus on strategic planning with support from our major funder Arts SA, review of our Constitution, and continuing as a key partner of the AACC,” she said.

“We thank our staff team, members and many supporters throughout the Aboriginal community and the broader arts and cultural sector for being part of our journey.”

Ms Parker said she looked forward to helping to cement Tandanya’s well-earned iconic status.

Tandanya encompasses galleries, a retail outlet, theatre, and cafe. Its current exhibition *Our Story* features a large-scale indoor sand drawing created by artists Derik Jangala Lynch and Farron Jampijinpa-Jakamarra Furber and depicting ancient creation stories. Curated by Michael Miller, the exhibition is part of Illuminate Adelaide’s first nations music program *Kinara*, and runs until 24 July.

Deputy Chairperson Dr Ali Gumillya Baker and Tandanya Board