



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

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Executive Board Changes – New Chairperson Installed

25 May 2021

APY and its governing Executive Board are announcing Bernard Singer as our new Chairperson.

Mr Singer has been appointed after Sally Scales resigned in February as Chairperson.

Ms Scales in 2019 became the youngest person to hold the role of APY Board Chairperson, and only the second woman. She resigned after moving permanently from her home community of Pipalyatjara to Adelaide to support her mother and play a more active role in the APY Art Gallery.

For Mr Singer, this is not the first time he has held the position of Chairperson. He resigned from the leadership role after 10 years of service in January 2015, after losing two members of his immediate family. He was re-elected to the Board four months later.

Mr Singer's return to the role of Chairperson comes ahead of fresh elections run by the Electoral Commission of South Australia. Voting day for a new Board is scheduled for 4 August 2021.

The 14-person Board oversees land and culture in the remote 100,000 square kilometre region, which is a 12-hour drive north-west from Adelaide.

Nominations for Board positions close on 31 May 2021. Mr Singer said he was unsure whether he would nominate for re-election.

"I need to speak with my family and consult with all the members of my community before making a decision as to whether I will seek re-election to the Board," Mr Singer said.

"It is very important to consult and make sure you have the support of the people in your community who you will represent. I urge others who are thinking about nominating to first consult with all the members of their communities."

Mr Singer thanked Ms Scales for her service. Mr Singer has worked on finalising a 2021 to 2025 Strategic Plan for APY that will be released soon. He also has worked with Board members on ensuring good governance that has resulted in four consecutive unqualified audits for APY. The new Board will need to focus on the next steps to build a strong economy and jobs for Anangu, Mr Singer said.

"We have worked hard on establishing stability and good governance as a stepping stone to what has to be achieved next, and that is to build a local economy on the APY Lands and create jobs for our young people," Mr Singer said. "The new Board also needs to build a framework that empowers and strengthens community leadership."

For further information please contact:

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APY Executive Board Chairperson Bernard Singer