

## MEDIA RELEASE

25 November 2013

### **AIEF CEO Andrew Penfold appointed to Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council**

**Andrew Penfold has been appointed by Prime Minister Tony Abbott as one of 12 members to the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council announced on Saturday.**

As a former international finance lawyer and investment banker Mr Penfold has advised some of the biggest companies in the world, but never imagined the prime minister of Australia would ask him to be one of his advisors.

"To have the opportunity to contribute and serve the Prime Minister and our nation in this way is a great honour and a once in a lifetime opportunity, and like the Prime Minister, I intend to make it count" Mr Penfold said.

He added: "Almost every Prime Minister for a generation has regretted they didn't do more to address Indigenous inequality while they were in office. Tony Abbott has made it clear he won't join them. Declaring himself the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Mr Abbott has nailed his colours to the mast, and raised expectations. Now we look forward to him acting with boldness and unflinching resolve."

Mr Penfold is passionate about Indigenous children getting access to world-class education because quality education is the key to tackling disadvantage in all sectors of the community.

"Education has always been the key to human progress, irrespective of race, colour or creed. If we are serious about addressing Indigenous inequality we've got to make sure kids go to good schools. Without that there is no hope at all of reversing the spiral of despair for the new generation of Indigenous children." Penfold said.

"We are not individually responsible for the past but we are all now responsible for the future, which means addressing injustice and inequality today. We can be perpetrators, collaborators or bystanders in this injustice, or we can assume responsibility and become part of the solution. That's what I'm committed to doing."

"After a 20 year career as a lawyer and investment banker I know the secret to success in business is to work harder than everyone else – to be focused, disciplined, rigorous and driven by results, never allowing anything to distract you from your mission."

"I intend to bring these private sector principles to Prime Minister's Advisory Council, and with already solid support from the private sector and other visionary leaders, I will do my utmost to accelerate Indigenous advancement.

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**For more information contact:**

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**See also the Media Release from the Prime Minister here: <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2013-11-23/membership-prime-ministers-indigenous-advisory-council>**