



**Hon. Robert McClelland MP**  
Attorney-General

**Hon. Jenny Macklin MP**  
Minister for Indigenous Affairs

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**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 8 December 2011

**APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS COMMONWEALTH  
JUDICIAL OFFICER**

Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin today welcomed the appointment of Australia's first Indigenous Commonwealth judicial officer.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr Matthew Myers as the first Indigenous judicial officer of a Commonwealth Court. Mr Myers will be sworn in as a Federal Magistrate of the Sydney registry in January", Mr McClelland said.

"Mr Myers brings an in-depth understanding of family law to the Court; his cultural background will also make an important contribution to the diversity of the Court," Mr McClelland said.

Mr Myers was one of 89 candidates considered for appointment to the Federal Magistrates Court.

Mr Myers is a Gadigal/Wiradjuri man who said he is proud to be the first Indigenous lawyer appointed to a federal court. Mr Myers hopes to be seen as a role model for young Indigenous people considering law as a career.

Ms Macklin congratulated Mr Myers on his appointment.

"This appointment will encourage and inspire Indigenous youth to take on leadership roles and make a positive contribution to the lives of all Australians", Ms Macklin said.

Mr McClelland, today announced appointments to the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia.

**Contact:        Desmond Ko (McClelland)    02 6277 7300 or 0457 754 122**  
**Keely Bell (Macklin)            02 6277 7560 or 0417 297 157**