



SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE**

MEDIA RELEASE

**APPOINTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONER**

Today I announce the appointment of Ms June Oscar AO as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner in the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Ms Oscar is a Bunuba woman and community leader from the Central Kimberley region of Western Australia. She is currently the CEO of the Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing.

Ms Oscar has an outstanding record as a determined, courageous and pragmatic advocate for the rights of Indigenous Australians. Her experience in Indigenous policy spans across language revitalisation, native title, health, women's issues and, most notably, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Ms Oscar was instrumental in the successful community-led campaign to restrict the sale of full-strength takeaway alcohol in the Fitzroy Valley. She also initiated a partnership to conduct the first study in Australian history into the prevalence of FASD.

Ms Oscar was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2013 for distinguished service to the Indigenous community of Western Australia, particularly through health and social welfare programs, and was awarded the Menzies School of Health Research Medallion in 2014 for her work with FASD.

Ms Oscar's appointment demonstrates the fundamental role Indigenous women play in fostering social change, at a community, national and international level. I am looking forward to the contribution Ms Oscar can make on important issues impacting Indigenous women and children.

Ms Oscar will bring deep knowledge and experience in dealing with the problem of alcohol abuse in Indigenous communities, and strategies to mitigate the effect of that abuse on women and children in particular.

The Government looks forward to working closely with Ms Oscar and the contribution she will make to the work of the Commission.

Ms Oscar's appointment will be for five years beginning on 3 April 2017.

9 February 2017

Contact: Office of Attorney-General: T: +61 2 6277 7300 E: agmedia@ag.gov.au

Biography

Ms Oscar is a Bunuba woman and community leader in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. She is currently the CEO of the Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing.

Ms Oscar has represented interests of the Kimberley community in a number of roles, including as Councillor for the Derby West Kimberley Shire, Deputy Director of the Kimberley Land Council and Chair of the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and the Kimberley Interpreting Service.

Ms Oscar has been a Member and Director of several eminent Aboriginal organisations, including as Director of the Lowitja Institute, Board and Council Member of the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and an appointee to the inaugural Board of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in 1990. Ms Oscar holds a Bachelor of Business.

In 2007 Ms Oscar led the successful campaign to restrict the sale of full-strength takeaway alcohol in the Fitzroy Valley. She was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2013 for 'distinguished service to the Indigenous community of Western Australia, particularly through health and social welfare programs.