

Churches lead call for recognition



JOINING FORCES: Church leaders Rev Peter Sandeman of Anglicare SA, Rev Andy Hogarth of the Uniting Church, and Prof Michael Sostaric of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry with Kaylene O'Brien from Project Recognise.

Picture: GREG HIGGS

SOUTH Australian church leaders have joined with thousands of people trekking across the nation to raise awareness for recognising Indigenous people in the Constitution.

The Journey to Recognition walk - which aims to build momentum towards and public support for a national referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution - arrived in Adelaide yesterday.

Walkers had already travelled more than 700km from

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ADAM HEGARTY



Melbourne, where the walk kicked off on ANZAC Day.

A series of events was held in Adelaide over the weekend to welcome the campaigners, including an ecumenical service at St Peter's Cathedral.

Church leaders, including

Anglicare SA chief executive the Reverend Peter Sandeman, wanted to put their weight behind the movement.

Others included Dean of St Peter's Cathedral the Very Reverend Frank Nelson, Uniting Church Senior Minister the Reverend Andy Hogarth and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry's Michael Sostaric.

The Rev Sandeman said referendums were rarely successful, so in order for this one to be there had to be numerous groups behind it.

He said the movement was about bringing on change so states could not "legislate on the basis of race".

"If we can get the wording agreed, then with the good will of the Liberal, National and Labor parties, we should be able to put a referendum to Australian people at the next election (after this year's election)," he said.

"It'll need a good two years or so to build momentum ... and build understanding that this is long overdue."