MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW MOURNS LOSS OF TREVOR CHRISTIAN OAM

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello MP today expressed his sadness at the passing of Mr Trevor Christian OAM, who died last night after a long battle with cancer.

“On behalf of the NSW Government, I express condolences to Trevor Christian’s sons, David and Grant Christian, as well as to his extended family and friends on the loss of a man who set a fine example and achieved a great deal, including for the Aboriginal community of NSW,” Minister Dominello said.

“Trevor rose from humble beginnings to become a successful amateur boxer and sporting official, as well as a pioneering community leader.

“His sporting achievements included winning the professional junior Middleweight Championship of Australia and being the first Aboriginal person to referee a World title fight. He was also the first Aboriginal person to join the NSW Boxing Authority and played a central role in influencing the ban on tent fighting in NSW.

“In addition to his contribution to boxing, Trevor leaves a lasting legacy of commitment and service to the Aboriginal community.

“In an era of many obstacles, Trevor worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Aboriginal people and had a long and distinguished career of service to the Aboriginal community. As an employee of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, he worked to assist large numbers of Aboriginal people coming to Sydney with housing, employment, education and legal and medical assistance.

“Trevor later worked as a field officer with Aboriginal Legal Service, which opened its doors in Redfern in 1970 as the first Aboriginal Legal Service in Australia. He went on to become co-founder, Chairman, and General Manager of Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation for Legal Services.

“In 2008, Trevor was most deservedly awarded the Order of Australia for service to the Indigenous community, particularly through the Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation for Legal Services, to the promotion of social justice, and to boxing.

“Those who personally knew Trevor have described him as a devoted father and grandfather. His passing is a huge loss to his family and friends, the Aboriginal community, the boxing fraternity and the broader NSW community,” Minister Dominello said.

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