

Ms Khatija Thomas



Since October 2006, Ms Khatija Thomas has worked as an Outreach Solicitor with the Women's Legal Service of South Australia. The Women's Legal Service provides a free and confidential legal service to women in South Australia. Khatija's work often takes her out of Adelaide to rural and remote communities in the north of South Australia. She has spent the last year working for the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement in the Native Title Unit.

In 2005-06, Khatija worked for as a duty solicitor for the Civil Section of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM), also in Adelaide. ALRM is a non-profit organisation that provides a legal service and social justice for Aboriginal people and their communities. The Civil Section of ALRM handles equal opportunity, family issues and separations, workers' and other compensation, police complaints, and community and corporate issues.

In 2004-05, Khatija completed a twelve month Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) placement as a legal advisor at the Community Legal Education Centre in Phnom Penh. The Centre is a non-government organisation that provides legal training, education and advocacy in labour law, election law and natural resources law. Her work was primarily in the Land and Natural Resources Team on indigenous land titling, land law and natural resources law issues. She trained indigenous representatives from North-East Cambodia in their rights under land and natural resources law. The assignment also involved advocacy at a national level for a better legal framework for the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights.

Khatija completed a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice from Flinders University of South Australia in 2000. During her studies, Khatija was a cadet with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in the National Native Title and Land Rights Branch. She has also worked as a Research Associate for the Federal Court of Australia. Her experience at a national level led to a desire to work and contribute at the local level.