

National Centre for Indigenous Studies

Speech by Vice-Chancellor Professor Chubb

Wednesday 4 May 2005: National Europe Centre

Your Excellencies

Welcome includes Ambassadors of Royal Norwegian Norway and Embassy of Finland who are joint sponsors of the Saami visitors

It is now my pleasure to call upon Mrs Matilda House, Ngunnawal Elder, to give the Welcome to Country.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this third ANU Dialogue. The Dialogues are a continuing initiative of the University, which assists us to fulfil our International role. The special guests on this occasion are Mr Pekka Aikio, the President of the Saami Parliament of Finland, and Mr Jan Henry Keskitalo, the Director of Saami Special Education Support, Norway

The aim of the ANU Dialogues is to bring together the representatives of the international community in order to discuss with selected academics both from our own institution and others, issues that are important ones for us all to understand.

When the University was established by Act of the Federal Parliament in 1946, the Minister of the Day, J J Dedman, envisaged an institution that would 'advance the cause of learning and research in general, and take its rightful place among the great universities of the world'.

We have met those expectations.

As one of the national institutions, the University contributes in a significant way to the fostering of Australia's national identity. It also contributes in a significant way to Australia aligning itself, as Dedman put it, with the great and enlightened nations of the world.

We are fortunate to be located in the National Capital, with ready access to the other national institutions, the Federal Parliament and to you, the international community.

I'm delighted to announce also that our recently established National Centre for Indigenous Studies has continued the tradition already established by the Australian National University Institute for Indigenous Australia in continuing a Dialogue with the Indigenous Peoples for co-hosting this important event with the National Europe Centre and the National Institute for Social Sciences and Law. I thank also the most generous support of the Embassy of Finland and the Royal Norwegian Embassy for their assistance in bringing our visitors to Australia.

While again welcoming you all to this third Dialogue, I now invite Professor Mick Dodson, the Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, to introduce our speakers.