

THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS STUDIES,  
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW AND  
RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA PRESENT:



THE ANNUAL ANU RECONCILIATION LECTURE 2007

# RECONCILIATION, JUSTICE & EQUAL RIGHTS

The Honourable Elizabeth Evatt AC



Monday 4 June 2007, 6–7pm  
The Hall, University House, Balmain Crescent, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.  
A reception will follow the lecture.  
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The 2007 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture celebrates the fortieth Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, which saw more than 90 per cent of eligible Australians vote 'yes' to acknowledge Indigenous Australians as full members of the Australian community and give the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws regarding Indigenous people.

The premise of this Reconciliation Lecture is that respect for human rights, equality and justice must be at the heart of reconciliation. When the British settled Australia, they used their laws to dispossess and oppress the Indigenous people of this country. Two centuries later, growing acceptance of human rights principles has enabled Australia to turn its back on earlier oppression and to use its laws to promote equality and justice for Indigenous people. However, this process is far from complete and it must be a goal of reconciliation to achieve fully the equal enjoyment of all human rights – civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural – by all Australians.

This is the fourth ANU Reconciliation Lecture. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Patrick Dodson in 2004, the second by Jack Thompson in 2005, and the third by John Hartigan in 2006.

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The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.

After graduating in law from the University of Sydney and Harvard University, Elizabeth Evatt practised law in Australia and England. She chaired the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, was the first Chief Judge of the Family Court of Australia, 1976–1988, and went on to become President of the Australian Law Reform Commission. Elizabeth has been a part-time Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, a member of the UN Human Rights Committee, and a Judge of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal.

Elizabeth was Chancellor of the University of Newcastle from 1988–1994, and conducted a review of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* for the Australian Government. In 2003 she became a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists, based in Geneva.

