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.

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.

This is the fourth ANU Reconciliation Lecture. The inaugural lecture was
delivered by Patrick Dodson in 2004, the second by Jack Thompson in

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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.