

## The Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture 2010

# POST NORMAL RECONCILIATION – Using science to reframe the reconciliation agenda

By Dr Kerry Arabena, Inaugural Co-Chair of the Congress of Australia's First Peoples and newly appointed CEO of the Lowitja Research Institute



**Thursday 11 November**

5.15pm for a 5.30pm start followed by a reception and a performance by the Zenadh Kes Mari Torres Strait Island Dance Group from 6.30-7.30pm  
Arc cinema, National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit Acton ACT

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### The Lecture

In Australia, 'normal' reconciliation builds mutually respectful relationships that provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the opportunity to contribute to Australian society equally as fellow Australians. Expanding the term and application of reconciliation is required to go beyond the 'normal' due to the increased number of environmental, global monetary and political uncertainties in our global and regional contexts. Whilst some of the answers can and will be found in the humanities, science can also contribute to new thinking about the reconciliation agenda. Post-normal science utilises the involvement of an extended peer community and the deliberation on many ways of knowing. In the same way, post normal reconciliation could broaden the current reconciliation program, enabling our society to better respond to complex, interrelated issues in these uncertain times.

### The Lecturer

Dr Kerry Arabena, a descendant of the Meriam Mer people of the Torres Strait, has recently been appointed as the CEO of the Lowitja Research Institute. Dr Arabena has just been awarded a PhD on human ecology, which included development of the Universe Referent Citizen, through The Australian National University (ANU). She is currently the inaugural Co-Chair of the Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

Dr Arabena's work history includes work in remote areas and in policy in Aboriginal health, but also internationally, with contributions to Australia and the Asia Pacific region in cross-jurisdictional areas such as gender issues, social justice, human rights, violence, access and equity, service provision, harm minimisation and citizenship rights and responsibilities.

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