Over two decades have passed since the Commonwealth Government of Australia announced its intention to embark on a national process of Reconciliation. The term reconciliation has now become part of the everyday language on Indigenous Affairs, but how far have we actually travelled as a nation on the road to reconciliation? In this lecture, Professor Patrick Dodson reflects on the politics and challenges of Australia’s reconciliation journey.

Patrick Dodson is a Yawuru man from Broome in Western Australia. He has dedicated his life work to being an advocate for constructive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people based on mutual respect, understanding and dialogue. He is a recipient of the Sydney International Peace prize. He was a Royal Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, inaugural Chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and Co-Chair of the Expert Panel for Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians.

Patrick lives in Broome with his family, where he is involved in social, cultural, economic and environmental sustainability through his roles as Chair of the Lingiari Foundation and Executive Chair of Nyamba Buru Yawuru. He is Adjunct Professor at the University of Notre Dame Australia in Broome where he lectures in Spirituality and the Challenge of Reconciliation.

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