



Australian
National
University

The Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture 2014

Is Australia big enough for reconciliation?

Monday 1 December 6 – 7pm (followed by refreshments)

The Hon Fred Chaney AO

Arc Cinema National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton, Canberra



The Australian community has to an unprecedented extent become involved in reconciliation through Reconciliation Action Plans and other initiatives. There is acceptance that there is a broad responsibility beyond governments to help close the gap. At the same time we have sharpened political and government focus with a Prime Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, massive reorganisation of how the Commonwealth goes about its business, and all party support for Constitutional recognition. In these respects it can be said to be the best of times. But the wide community support this suggests is support for equality, that we all become the same in a social and economic sense. Reconciliation is about more than equality. It involves recognition of the possibility of continuing difference as well. The continuing place of the world's oldest

living cultures is still unfinished business. Reconciliation here requires more than the legally mandated post Mabo requirement to deal with the Aboriginal native title collectives, identified by Indigenous law and custom. It requires a largeness of both mind and heart and preparedness to allow space for Indigenous people to determine what collective identities they wish to maintain as they rightly enjoy equal citizenship. Beyond that we need to settle the relationship between those first nations and the rest of us. Are we big enough to see beyond assimilation?

The Hon Fred Chaney is the founding co-chair of Reconciliation Australia and an early advocate for Aboriginal voting rights, Fred's contribution includes establishing the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation, which supports Indigenous young people to reach their potential. Fred's long history of public service is rooted in his fierce commitment to social justice and a belief in the inherent equality of people. Fred inspires others to work collaboratively, respectfully and ambitiously to overcome the barriers that inhibit people's full economic and social participation in Australian society.

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

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Presented by

National Centre for Indigenous
Studies, ANU College of Law,
Reconciliation Australia and
National Film & Sound Archive

Registration essential

RSVP: eventbrite.com.au/e/2014-annual-reconciliation-lecture-tickets-13980200155

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This lecture is free and open to the public

