The three R’s of reconciliation: respect, rights and recognition

Wednesday 11 November 2015, 5–7pm

Kevin Rudd is uniquely placed to offer his perspective on reconciliation in the Australian context as the Prime Minister who delivered one of the landmarks of our nation’s reconciliation journey – the National Apology to the Stolen Generations delivered on 13 February 2008, his first Parliamentary act as Prime Minister.

In the 2015 ANU Reconciliation Lecture, Mr Rudd will explore the role of symbols in our cultures and identities, and the fundamental need to link symbolic national gestures like the Apology with substantive actions and measurable outcomes, like the Closing the Gap strategy to overcome Indigenous disadvantage.

Mr Rudd will examine the next step in Australian reconciliation – the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation’s Constitution, and the call for the inclusion of constitutional reforms as part of that process to shift the symbolic to the practical. He will look at the process to date and the need for a respectful, national discourse on recognition and rights. Mr Rudd will offer his own perspective on the need for bipartisan, national political leadership to advance genuine reconciliation in Australia.