



# An invitation to the Elliott Johnston Memorial Lecture 2013



Flinders University Law School and  
Yunggorendi First Nations Centre

## Putting meat on the bones of the UNDRIP: Letters Patent and regional governance

presented by

**Professor Megan Davis**

Last year we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ('UNDRIP'); since its adoption by the UN General Assembly the UNDRIP has inspired expansive academic commentary reflecting anxiety about its binding status and domestic 'implementation'.

Yet in many ways and for a long time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have been leading states in 'putting meat on the bones' of the UNDRIP.

This lecture will explore some examples with reference to the advocacy work in South Australia on Letters Patent and especially the regional approach to governance. Professor Davis argues that Indigenous activity and advocacy on the UNDRIP in Australia should be aimed at capturing this 'implementation'.

**Tuesday, 8 October**  
at 5.30pm

Flinders University Victoria Square  
182 Victoria Square (cnr Flinders Street)

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP: 2 October at:  
[flinders.edu.au/events/](http://flinders.edu.au/events/)  
or contact Claire Treacy on 8201 5028,  
email: [claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au](mailto:claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au)

**Professor Megan Davis** is based at the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales where she is also Director of the Indigenous Law Centre. Professor Davis holds a Bachelor, Masters and PhD in Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Australian History from the University of Qld (UQ) and the Australian National University (ANU). Professor Davis is a Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, a member of the NSW Sentencing Council, the NSW Child Death Review Team and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

Professor Davis is also an expert member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2011-2016) and holds portfolios including Administration of Justice and Gender and Women. In 2012 Professor Davis was elected the Rapporteur of the UN Forum and also elected the Rapporteur of the UN's International Expert Group Meeting on Violence Against Women and Indigenous Youth in 2013. Professor Davis participated in the drafting of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as an international lawyer from 1999-2004.

Professor Davis teaches and researches in Public Law and Public International Law. She was a member of the Prime Minister's Expert Panel on the Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution and continues to be involved in legal discussions on the constitutional issues relating to a referendum model. Professor Davis is an admitted solicitor of the Supreme Court of ACT but currently not practising. Professor Davis was the 2010 NAIDOC Scholar of the Year and in 2013 was awarded the National Australia Bank/Women's Agenda Inspirational Ambassador Award. Professor Davis is a Cobble Cobble Aboriginal woman from south-east Queensland.



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