



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MEDIA RELEASE

Further understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present through undertaking and publishing research, and providing access to print and audiovisual collections

Seminar series focuses on Indigenous Well-being

26 February 2010

The social and emotional well-being of Indigenous Australians and its increasing use in the development of government policy and service provision will be in the spotlight through a series of free seminars commencing in Canberra next week.

Hosted by the Australia Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), the series of lunchtime seminars extending from March to June will consider and discuss a variety of conceptual frameworks and philosophies around Indigenous Well-being.

Attracting a diverse range of speakers and presenters, the seminar series will investigate varied topics including how wellbeing is influencing policy and guiding data collection to examining what is well being in a Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context.

The series will also observe a range of domestic and international case studies to consider wellbeing in a more localised and specific context, such as health provision, caring for country, holistic health service provision, cultural expression, for youth and in the education sector.

Aboriginal Academic, Dr Norman Sheehan, will present the first seminar for the 2010 Series this Monday, 1 March 2010 at 12.30pm.

Dr Sheehan is currently the Associate Professor at the Faculty of Design at Swinburne University of Technology and has taught in Aboriginal communities, TAFE and higher education in NSW, Tasmania and Queensland since 1979.

In his presentation, Dr Sheehan will propose that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional well-being requires all parties to adopt very different and significantly divergent approaches depending on the relation they have to each community context.

Dr Sheehan will consider how the social and emotional well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians has become a crucial area for research scholarship and action. Meanwhile through the NT Intervention proposals for improving action in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have become conflicted, contested and contaminated.

Open to the general public, the Seminars are held in the Mabo Room at AIATSIS on Canberra's Acton Peninsula, on Monday lunchtimes from 12.30-2pm.

The Seminar series will be broadcast live on www.aiatsis.gov.au

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