

MEDIA RELEASE

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National Native Title Conference Registrations Open

Registrations are now open for the 11th annual National Native Title Conference, to be held in Brisbane from June 1-3 at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Convened annually by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and co-convened this year by Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS), the conference will be hosted by the Turrbal, Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul Peoples, the traditional owners of the wider Brisbane area.

AIATSIS Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson AM said the conference this year will include greater participation through daily dialogue forums where the audience can ask with questions from the floor.

“The Native Title Conference is the flagship Indigenous conference, attended by more than 500 delegates annually,” Professor Dodson said.

“We have responded to some positive feedback and built up the opportunities for delegates to listen to and participate in debates on native title’s hot issues with experts in policy, community and specialist areas.”

QSNTS CEO Mr Kevin Smith said the conference provides an excellent chance to explore native title amidst unprecedented legal, political, environmental, economic and social change.

“On the 19th anniversary of the historic Mabo decision, we’re seeing huge diversity along the native title continuum. For people at the beginning of the process, the need for reform and streamlining of the native title system is incredibly significant, but on the other end of the spectrum we’re seeing second generation native title issues associated with the dire need to build capacity and capability.

“The Conference brings together these traditional owners to share their unique experiences and provides an exciting platform to debate these current and emerging issues,” Mr Smith said.

This year’s conference theme is “Our Country, Our Future” and the Mabo Lecture will be delivered by Torres Strait Islander, Dr Kerry Arabena, while Andrew Leach of British Columbia, Canada and a member of the St’at’imc Nation and Kevin Smith the CEO of QSNTS will deliver keynote speeches.

Online registration is now open at the conference website via www.aiatsis.gov.au

Media contact

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<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/nativetitleconference/conf2011/conf2011.html>