

12:30 pm, Monday 24th October 2011

The Mabo Room, AIATSIS, Lawson Crescent, Canberra ACT 2601

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Haus blo utha? (Whose home is it?): Housing in the Torres Strait

(Lui) Ned David

The housing history of the Torres Strait is a story of the two halves/haves. The one half of have and the other half of have not. The public housing regime is structured to cater for the most needy and the policy is applied consistently across the state of Queensland. The presentation will seek to highlight the gap this policy cultivates and the increasing disparity in the Torres Strait community in terms of employment, education and financial security.

Ned David's homeland is Magan, an area within the territorial boundary of the Kulkalgal Nation (Central Islanders of the Torres Strait). Magan's boundary includes Tudu (Warrior Island), Gabba (Two Brother Island) lama (Yam Island) Zagai (Long Island) Mucarr (Cap Island). He identifies as a Kulkalaig (Central Islander) and has spent most of his life in the Torres Strait. Mr David holds several positions including Chair of the Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council Inc. (TSIREC) and Chair of the Maganilagaugal Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC). He also leads the Torres Strait Repatriation Working Group in the negotiations with UK institutions to bring back ancestral remains to the Torres Strait. In May 2010 he was selected by the Ethics Committee to join the interim Executive Committee of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Ned resides on Thursday Island and works for the Department of Education and Training as the Director of Yumi Education Support Services.

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