



12th Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance

Just say “Yo”; Navigating the path to a post-colonial state

Tony McAvoy SC

Admitted as a Barrister in NSW in 2000

Appointed Senior Counsel in 2015

A fellow of the Australian Academy of Law

Alternative Dispute Resolution practitioner

Former NT Treaty Commissioner

PUBLIC ORATION – DARWIN

Thursday 6 July 2023

5.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Grand Ballroom, Hilton Darwin

32 Mitchell Street, Darwin

Attend in person or online

RSVP - cdu.edu.au/events T: 08 8946 6554

This event may count as MCLE/CPD points.

Abstract

In the shadow of a referendum seeking amendment of the Constitution to insert recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people it is timely to consider the objectives of First Peoples self-determination, what that might look like, and the mechanisms for its achievement. This will include an examination of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the proposed constitutional amendment and the various treaty and truth telling processes underway in Australia.



Tony McAvoy SC

Tony McAvoy SC is a Wirldi man, from the Clermont area of Central Queensland, he specialises in native title, treaties, commissions of inquiry, administrative law, discrimination law and criminal law. He is also an Alternative Dispute Resolution practitioner. In 2011-2013 he held an appointment as an Acting Part Time Commissioner of NSW Land and Environment Court. He was appointed as Senior Counsel in 2015. In 2016/17 he was Co-Senior Counsel assisting Royal Commission into Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (Don Dale). In 2018 he was recognised as QUT Alumnus of the Year. In 2021/2022 he held an appointment as Acting Treaty Commissioner for the Northern Territory. In 2022 he was awarded a Doctorate of Laws (Honoris Causa) by UTS, and in 2023 he was recognised by the Australian Disputes Centre as National Indigenous Mediator of the Year. He currently holds positions as Commissioner on the NSW Independent Planning Commission, Co-Senior Counsel assisting the Yoorrook Justice Commission, member of the Voice Referendum Working Group, member of the NSW Bar Council, Director of NSW Aboriginal Legal Service, founding member First Nations Clean Energy Network, interim director of the Queensland First Nations Tourism Council, a fellow of the AAL, and membership of various other committees and advisory bodies.