



Australian
Human Rights
Commission



An Australian
Conversation on
Human Rights

Tuesday 8 October
Hyatt Regency, Sydney

Our panel discussions will examine key human rights issues in Australia:

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA WHERE? INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Moderator: Brooke Boney, Reporter, TODAY Show

Join journalist and Gamilaroi Gomeroi woman Brooke Boney as she moderates a panel of eminent Aboriginal voices who will set the tone for the Free and Equal Conference. Thirty years on from the Mabo decision that changed the game for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition, how far have we come and how far do we have to go in terms of the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples? What will the next Mabo moment for Australia look like, and what steps do we need to take to get there? This panel will discuss the big questions around reconciliation, closing the gap to ensure access to basic human rights, and the importance of both history and living culture in helping us find the best way forward together.



FREEDOM TO VS FREEDOM FROM: BALANCING COMPETING RIGHTS

Moderator: Professor George Williams AO, Dean of UNSW Law

In human rights law, rights and freedoms are the fundamentals of the game, but as Dean and Scientia Professor George Williams AO (whose specialty is constitutional law), knows well, balancing competing rights (freedom of speech, freedom from discrimination, or freedom of conscience and religion) can be a particular challenge—even for the more adept players.

As recent public debate has shown, the issue of competing rights can be fraught and furious. Though the discourse can often be combative, the real challenge in human rights law is achieving balance between different freedoms. How can the law help us find the right balance to ensure that human rights is not a game of winners and losers?



UNITY IN DIVERSITY: CAN HUMAN RIGHTS BE OUR COMMON GROUND?

Moderator: Craig Foster, Former Socceroo, Broadcaster, Sport and Human Rights Advocate

Everywhere you look it seems communities are facing a crisis of clashing identities, different priorities, and differences of opinion. Just as the voices of marginalised communities finally rise above the fray, we face a crucial question: Should we break away into our tribal identities and alliances or try to keep to the collective cause? In such a divisive age, what is the glue that holds communities together? Can human rights be our common ground? And if they can, does selling the message of human rights for everyone require a new pitch?

Sports broadcaster Craig Foster heads our community panel in navigating what might just be the major question, and crisis, of our time.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Moderator: Emily Dash, Artist and advocate

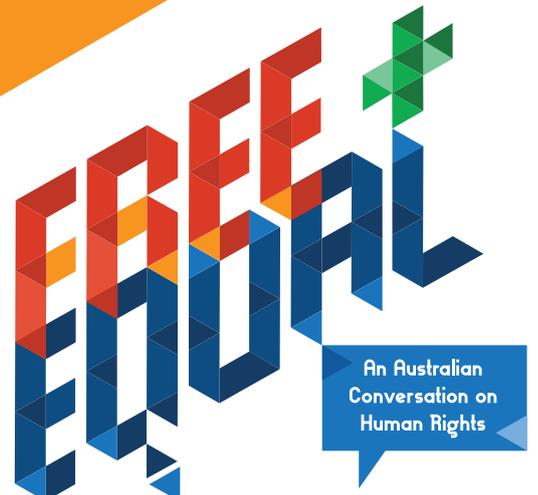
Renowned American anthropologist Margaret Mead once wrote, 'the young, free to act on their initiative, can lead their elders in the direction of the unknown... The children, the young, must ask the questions that we would never think to ask.'

In looking to the future of human rights in Australia, Emily Dash leads a panel of young people who are facing the future head on, and ready to ask the hard questions. What new challenges await in a changing human rights landscape—one in which the footprints of future generations will be as digital as they are real? Will our human rights language need to change to adapt to new realities and ways of thinking? How should we equip ourselves for the challenges of the future, and who do we want to be, as Australians, when we get there?



Attend this high-level event to hear from our keynote speaker:

Michelle Bachelet
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



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Featuring key human rights experts and community leaders, including:



Professor Mick Dodson
Northern Territory Treaty Commissioner



Cathy McGowan AO
Former Independent MP, women's rights advocate and community worker



Marlee Silva
Founder, Tiddas 4 Tiddas



Nyadol Nyuon
Award winning human rights advocate and lawyer



The Hon Catherine Branson AC QC
Chair of the Board of the Human Rights Law Centre and Deputy Chancellor of The University of Adelaide



Aisheeya Huq
Media Spokesperson, School Strike 4 Climate Action



Sam Mostyn
Non-Executive Director and sustainability advisor



The Hon Susan Ryan AO
Former Age Discrimination and Disability Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission and freelance advocate for the rights of older people



Frank Hooper
CEO, Keep Talking NT



Eliza Hull
ABC Producer, Access and Inclusion Coordinator Arena Theatre

And more...



Purchase your ticket now to secure your place and avoid disappointment!

FIND OUT MORE
www.humanrights.gov.au/free-and-equal-conference