

THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS STUDIES, SUPPORTED BY THE
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC LAW, PRESENTS:



ANU-TOYOTA PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2006

THE CONFESSIONS OF AN ERSTWHILE LAND RIGHTS ADVOCATE

Father Frank Brennan SJ, AO

Friday 23 June, 12.30pm

Law Link Theatre, Fellows Road, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

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Late in his term on the High Court, Justice McHugh, one of the majority in the Mabo decision and one of the dissentients in Wik, expressed criticism of the "costly and time-consuming" native title system. He thought it was unable to fairly evaluate the competing legal rights of landholders and native-title holders.

In this lecture Father Frank Brennan will argue that the issue now is not the legitimacy of land rights but determining the cut-off point for recognising native-title rights when other parties also have rights over the same land. He will also argue the importance of matching the remaining native-title rights with the real, rather than imagined, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aspirations.



Fr Frank Brennan is a Jesuit priest, an adjunct fellow in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at ANU, professor of law in the Institute of Legal Studies at the Australian Catholic University, and professor of human rights and social justice at the University of Notre Dame Australia. He was the founding director of Uniya, the Australian Jesuit Social Justice Centre.

He has written a number of books on Aboriginal issues, civil liberties, and asylum seekers. He wrote the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council's paper *The Timor Sea's Oil and Gas: What's Fair?*. In November 2006, he will publish his latest book *Acting On Conscience: When Personal Beliefs and Public Life Collide* looking at the place of religion in Australian politics and law.

The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of ANU or Toyota Australia.

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