

Keynote Speakers for 2011 National Conference

Tuesday 18th October

AM Plenary session

Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, ACOSS



Cassandra has had an extensive career in the human rights and community service sector in Australia and internationally.

Prior to her appointment at ACOSS, Cassandra was the Director of the Sex and Age Discrimination Unit at the Australian Human Rights Commission where she played a pivotal role in the Inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Act, Pay Equity, national homelessness legislation, reforms to corporate governance to promote women in leadership and decision making roles, and the campaign to achieve Paid Parental Leave.

Cassandra has previously been the Director of the Homelessness Legal Rights Project at UNSW, a consultant to UN Habitat, Senior Executive with Legal Aid in Western Australia and Executive Officer of the Darwin Community Legal Service for five years.

Cassandra has also been President of NTCOSS and Board Member of ACOSS (2001-2002) and was an ACOSS Law and Justice Policy Advisor (2000-2006).

and

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

The proposed route of the Tasmanian government's Brighton Bypass infrastructure project passed through the Lower Jordan River levee, about 20 minutes outside of Hobart. Preliminary heritage reports identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values and recommended further investigation. Detailed follow up surveys revealed the site, kotalayna, as one of the most extensive and best preserved heritage sites in Australia, dating back 42,000 years. Despite this discovery, the Tasmanian government rejected calls to re-route the Bypass around the site and has proceeded with construction.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre will discuss their campaign to prevent destruction of the kotalayna site and the need for reform of Tasmania's Aboriginal Heritage legislation.

PM Plenary session

Shane Duffy – on conflict of interest

Shane is a descendant of the Kalkadoon people from Mount Isa in North West Queensland. He has worked in a number of settings, including:



- youth shelters working with disadvantaged Aboriginal youth who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless because of family breakdown and other social issues,
- Queensland state government working with young people in the children's, magistrates and district courts who were subject to juvenile justice orders,
- Chief Executive of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service in Queensland which provides criminal, civil and family law services, prisoner through care, community legal education and law reform across the state,
- current national Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Forum and
- current Chair of the Australian Legal Assistance Forum.

and

Greg Barns, Barrister



Greg Barns is a member of the Tasmanian Independent Bar and has an active criminal and administrative law practice in several Australian jurisdictions. Greg is President of the Australian Lawyers Alliance, a director of the human rights group, Rights Australia, and spokesperson for the Prison Action Reform Group. He worked in state and federal politics from 1989 to 1999 and was the Chair of the Australian Republican Movement from 2000-02. He has published three books on Australian politics, writes a weekly column for the Hobart Mercury and also writes for the ABC's The Drum and The Age.

Wednesday 19th October

AM Plenary

Robin Banks

Anti-Discrimination Commissioner

and

Jim Ife

Emeritus Professor, Curtin University

Thursday 20th October

Panel Session

A panel of Tasmanian politicians and commentators to discuss the benefits and pitfalls of minority government.