
NEWS:

PROFESSOR MEGAN DAVIS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS UNSW'S FIRST PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR INDIGENOUS

Originally published on the UNSW Newsroom. Photo by Andrzej Liguz.



Law Professor Megan Davis has been appointed as UNSW's first Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous. She will take up the role on 1 June after her obligations in leading the Referendum Council Aboriginal Constitutional Dialogues are fulfilled. In her role as PVC Indigenous, Professor Davis will have overall responsibility for ensuring that UNSW delivers on its agenda for Indigenous students.

UNSW President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Jacobs said: 'I wish Megan all the best as she begins her work leading important aspects of our 2025 Strategy, working with Nura Gili and its Director Associate Professor Reuben Bolt, with the university executive team and with the UNSW community to deliver our Indigenous Strategy'.

Professor Davis said she was honoured to take on this new role at UNSW. 'I've worked at UNSW since December 2001, when I was Professor George Williams' first employee at the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law. It's an honour to now be the first PVC Indigenous,' she says. 'In particular I'm excited about showcasing and developing UNSW research excellence across many important areas of Indigenous policy that impact communities on the ground and, in particular, nurturing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars.'

Professor Davis, a Cobble Cobble Aboriginal woman from the Barrungam nation in south-west Queensland, is one of Australia's most highly regarded lawyers specialising in public law and public international law. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. Her research work is targeted at law reform in the areas of constitutional law and violence against Aboriginal women. Professor Davis has spent the past decade leading the Indigenous Law Centre and its research agenda through her work on several Australian Research Council (ARC) grants and publishing the *Indigenous Law Bulletin* as well as the *Australian Indigenous Law Review*.

Professor Davis served as an expert member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples for six years including as Chair and focal point for UN Women. She is an Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, and a member of the NSW Sentencing Council. She has served as a member of the Prime Minister's Expert Panel on the Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution and since 2016 has been a member of the Prime Minister's Referendum Council.

Last year Professor Davis was appointed by the NSW Government to chair a review into the high numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care in NSW. She will continue to lead this review over the next 18 months.