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Native Title Indigenous Youth Forum

Alice Springs Convention Centre, Tuesday 3 June 2003, 9am until 5pm.

The Native Title Conference has grown into an annual event. This year the Native Title Conference 2003 is being co-hosted by the Central Land Council, and will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. The Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation which represents the Arrernte native title holders from the Mparntwe, Antulye and Lrlpme estate groups in Alice Springs will be speaking about what native title has meant for them and discussing the challenges of native title in an urban context. Presenters from across Australia will talk about the avenues available for Indigenous people to address native title concerns, hopes and aspirations.

The national network of NTRBs is very much aware that native title issues, in many parts of the country, have become an increasing part of the experience of Aboriginal people and their communities. With this comes the need for more people to participate in native title claims, negotiations and concerns. Often they have had to move very quickly to overcome the gaps in their understanding and knowledge of native title laws. Many Indigenous leaders now believe that their young people will also be required to develop an understanding of native title and its importance to their future.

The CLC already has an active policy of encouraging young people to develop their skills and understanding of traditional Aboriginal land issues in Central Australia. This policy of mutual responsibility can help to assist communities to prepare young people to pursue an active and positive future roles as traditional land owners and leaders of their communities.

For these reasons the CLC will host a Native Title Indigenous Youth Forum on the first day of this year's Native Title Conference. The Indigenous Youth Forum will be a one-day event of talks, discussions and workshops. It will create an important occasion to engage young people in discussions about the meaning of native title and of the native title concerns within their communities.

Significantly, senior traditional landowners will be present at this forum to explain why young people have to start learning about native title, land and culture. Young people will have the chance to ask their elders what they want to know about native title and to talk about their concerns for the future.

Representatives from the current national Indigenous leadership attending the Native Title Conference will also address the Indigenous Youth Forum. It will be a unique opportunity for Indigenous leaders from different regions across Australia to discuss their understanding of native title with young people; to be able to say what has been gained and to speak about their concerns for the future. They will be able to describe the skills and knowledge that the future Indigenous leaders will require in order to respond to native title issues in their traditional homelands. The forum also provides an opportunity for Indigenous leaders to hear what young people have to offer and their preferred directions.

Some of the questions that young people are asking include:

- what are the outcomes of native title claims and how do young people benefit from these claims?
- why should a young person be interested in native title?
- how do you participate?
- who do you go to for help?
- what is leadership?
- how do you plan to lead and survive the stress of being an Indigenous leader?
- how do you overcome the gaps of inequality? and,

- why bother becoming involved if someone else is doing the job?

The Native Title Indigenous Youth Forum will be a frank exchange of views on the native title vision for the future: how are the steps built to achieve benchmarks, goals, and the realisation of dreams? How do we work together to achieve common goals?

The CLC is inviting the NTRBs, high schools and Indigenous youth groups in Central Australia to nominate young Indigenous people to attend this important forum. This forum provides a space for the future generation of Indigenous leaders to come together and discuss matters of critical importance for the future.

To find out more about the Native Title Indigenous Youth Forum and to register your nominations please contact:

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Agreements Database - the launch

Dr Lisa Palmer

The research team working on the ARC Linkage Project, *'Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements with Indigenous Peoples in Settler States: their role and relevance for Indigenous and other Australians'* is pleased to announce the upcoming public launch of our online Agreements Database. The launch of the first phase of the Agreements Database will be held at the Native Title Conference in Alice Springs on June 4. This database is an important part of a broader project that is examining treaty and agreement-making with Indigenous Australians and the nature of the cultural, social and legal rights encompassed by past, present and potential agreements and treaties. This project will include an examination of the legal history and foundations of agreements and treaties, an audit of current agreements, their purposes, status and outcomes, and will include international comparative research on treaty

and agreement-making. While many of the agreements examined relate to land, the research also includes non-land based agreements such as those agreements made in the areas of health, education and research.

The project began in March 2002 and the research will be conducted over three years. Outcomes of this project will also include the publication of a collection of papers.

It is anticipated that the project will contribute to the efforts of Indigenous organisations to secure political and economic rights through agreements with governments, industry and the broader Australian community.

Along with our industry partner, ATSIC, this project involves researchers from both The University of Melbourne (Professor Marcia Langton, Chair of Indigenous Studies, and Ms Maureen Tehan of the Faculty of Law, and Dr Lisa Palmer, Postdoctoral Research Fellow) and The University of Technology Sydney (Professor Larissa Behrendt of the Faculty of Law and Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning and Ms Lisa Briscoe, PhD candidate). The project is also supported by AIATSIS.

We have written to many stakeholders requesting their assistance with this project. Such assistance may, in the first instance, involve the provision of actual agreements or information relating to agreements for inclusion in our database. We continue to seek any individuals and organisations able to provide information on and/or make available agreements (or parts of agreements) which contain information which could be made available in the public domain.

If you can assist us with our research or if you would like further information about our project please contact us. Dr Lisa Palmer, Postdoctoral Fellow, on 03 8344 3462 or email lrpalmer@unimelb.edu.au or visit our website:

<http://www.indigenous.unimelb.edu.au/atn>
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