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NSW Parliamentarians Gather to Discuss Treaty and Agreement Making

Australia is the only Commonwealth country that does not have a treaty with its First Nations Peoples.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart called for a Makarrata Commission that would drive treaty and agreement making. Treaty-making has been clearly and consistently communicated as a significant aspiration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and a reflection of rights to sovereignty and self-determination.

Reconciliation NSW is providing a unique opportunity for members of parliament to come to an understanding of what treaty and agreement making might look like in NSW.

Currently Victoria has Australia's first ever treaty legislation and discussions are happening in South Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory.

Reconciliation NSW's Co Chair Professor Lindon Coombes says that this gathering is pivotal in bringing about real change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in NSW.

"NSW needs to develop a strategy and really engage in this conversation and we believe that this panel of experts will allow many questions to be asked and answered, enabling a pathway to treaty that many Australians believe is essential to reconciliation."

Panellists:

- Anthony McAvoy SC, Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owner, Senior Counsel and native title law expert
- Jill Gallagher AO, Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner
- Dr Maria Bargh, Tumuaki/Head of School, Te Kawa a Māui/School of Māori Studies, Victoria University of Wellington
- James Christian, CEO, NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Professor Larissa Behrendt, Distinguished Professor at the University of Technology Sydney

Reconciliation in Parliament 2018: Treaty and agreement making options for NSW

Event date: Wednesday 24 October 6:30pm Parliament House NSW

For Interviews with panellists please contact:

Name: Thea Butler

Email: info@reconciliationnsw.org.au

Phone: 0450 188 554