



Media Release:

17.11.08

Tom Calma to Deliver Eric Johnston Lecture

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission, Tom Calma, will deliver the Northern Territory Library's annual Eric Johnston Lecture at 6.30pm this evening, Monday 17 November 2008.

Northern Territory Library Director Jo McGill said the Eric Johnston Lecture series was established in 1986 to fill a gap in Darwin's cultural calendar, as the city had no lecture series dealing in depth with the Territory's culture and history.

"The tradition continues to this day and guest speakers generally alternate between a prominent Territorian and a reputable interstate or overseas personality," Ms McGill said.

"Whilst the topics of the lectures can vary greatly the central theme must still relate to the Northern Territory.

"Guest speakers possess valuable knowledge in their subject area and provide the public with the opportunity to learn in areas of personal or professional interest.

"Mr Calma was invited to present the 2008 Eric Johnston Lecture and his speech will be about 'A human rights agenda for the Territory'.

"Although now located interstate Mr Calma retains close links with the Territory – he is an Aboriginal elder from the Kungarakana tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja tribal group whose traditional lands are south west of Darwin and on the Coburg Peninsula.

"Mr Calma has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level and has worked in the public sector for more than 30 years.

"He was ranked number one in the Indigenous category for the Bulletin magazine's Power 100 for 2007 which selects people for their ability and desire to drive change."

Minister for Arts and Museums Marion Scrymgour will be introducing the lecture this evening at 6.30pm, Monday 17 November 2008.

Bookings are essential to attend this evenings lecture and can be made by phoning 1800 019 155.

The lectures are made available to the public by the Northern Territory Library through its Occasional Papers series – up to 1996 in the traditional printed form – and thereafter on the Internet at www.ntl.nt.gov.au.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Jo McGill on 8999 5562

Issued: 3.50pm Monday, 17 November 2008