

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2006

## WHY INDIGENOUS POLICY NEEDS TO BE BASED ON EVIDENCE & NOT HYPERBOLE

### Dr Boyd Hunter

Fellow, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR)

To be followed by the launch of CAEPR Research Monograph No 26 by Professor Larissa Brehrendt, University of Technology, Sydney, titled *Assessing the evidence on Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes: A focus on the 2002 NATSISS*, edited by Dr Boyd Hunter.

Thursday 3 August, 5.30pm

Lecture Theatre 3, Manning Clark Centre, Union Court, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served following the lecture and monograph launch.

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The recent public debate on Indigenous issues has been provoked by historical accounts of the extent to which policies have improved the lives of Indigenous Australians since the start of the modern policy era in 1972. The quality of historical data is questionable, meaning that people need to understand the reliability of estimates for educated public and policy discourse.

Dr Boyd Hunter will outline the need for a considered engagement between politicians, their bureaucracy and the academic sector so that all parties can appreciate the complex underlying causes of Indigenous disadvantage. His lecture will draw together recent research to begin the debate that he argues is crucial: what can and can't the evidence tell us about the most effective policy instruments to address Indigenous disadvantage for the 21st century?



Dr Boyd Hunter is a Fellow at CAEPR where he specialises in labour market analysis, racial discrimination, social economics, crime and justice statistics, neighbourhood inequality, and poverty research. He was a Ronald Henderson Fellow and a Visiting Fellow at the New Zealand Treasury in Wellington. In 2003, he held an Australian Census Analytic Program Fellow that resulted in the ABS monograph, *Indigenous people in the contemporary Australian labour market*.

Professor Larissa Behrendt is Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at University of Technology Sydney and also Director of Ngiya, the National Institute of Indigenous Law, Policy and Practice. She has a Doctorate of Laws from Harvard University, and is admitted to the ACT Supreme Court as a Barrister-of-Law. Her book *Achieving social justice: Indigenous rights and Australia's future* was published by The Federation Press.