

Inspiring Indigenous rights advocate to deliver 2014 Oration

Thursday, 30 October 2014

An opportunity to hear from a passionate and influential advocate for Indigenous Australian social justice and the rights of women and children is set to attract hundreds of people to an upcoming public address.

CEO of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre and proud Bunuba woman from the small town of Fitzroy Crossing in the heart of the Kimberley, June Oscar AO will deliver the 2014 Menzies Oration, *'Speaking truth to community empowerment: Re-framing the national development agenda with Indigenous civic realities'*.

Menzies Director, Professor Alan Cass said he was thrilled to have Ms June Oscar deliver this year's Oration.

"June is an incredible woman that has made an indelible mark on the fabric of Aboriginal health and welfare," Professor Cass said.

"She continues to identify and drive solutions for incredibly complex and sensitive problems affecting the lives of Aboriginal Australians.

"In 2008, she fought successfully for alcohol restrictions in Fitzroy Crossing. Her focus on Aboriginal children, and her determination that we do not sacrifice the health of our children for the 'right' to buy full strength take-away alcohol, made her a role model for all Australia."

Ms Oscar pointed to the critical need to retain and strengthen cultural and family connections, as evidenced in the Fitzroy Crossing, as a precedent to overcome other seemingly insurmountable challenges in Indigenous health.

"Marninwarntikura, in giving precedence to the women's voice, has created a well-informed, culturally appropriate and evidenced-based development agenda," Ms Oscar explained.

"Through such an agenda, holistic models of interconnected service provision are emerging, which reflect Indigenous family and community structures of collaborative care and intergenerational lessons of respect and responsibility.

"This development agenda, refuses to allow statistics to define Indigenous communities as a deficit, but focuses on strengthening the incredible historical, social, cultural and economic capital of the region.

"This presentation will focus on the need for Governments and other vital stakeholders to engage with the voices on the ground to forge a future of transformational possibilities."

The Oration will be held on Friday, 7 November 2014 from 5.30pm at the Darwin Convention Centre.

The Oration is a free event open to all members of the public. Registration is essential and can be made via the [Menzies website](#).

For more information visit the [Oration event page](#).

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Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's leading Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing. We have a 29-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, partnering with over 60 Indigenous communities across Northern and Central Australia. We collaborate to create resources, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.