

Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia



Artwork: Sister Sally Bradley RSM

**Mercy Justice Conference
6 – 8 November 2009**

Introducing our Conference Speakers

Mick Dodson AM

Professor Mick Dodson is a member of the Yawuru peoples the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters in the Broome area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia. He is currently Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University. He is a Professor of law at the ANU College of Law.

Mick Dodson was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity. He served as Commissioner from April 1993 to January 1998.



Born in Katherine, Northern Territory, Mick was educated in Katherine, Darwin and Victoria. He completed a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws at Monash University. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Technology Sydney in 1998. He also holds an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of NSW.

Mick is a member of the New South Wales Judicial Commission and a former special commissioner with the Western Australian Law Reform Commission. He is a board member and Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia and a board member of the Lingiari Foundation. He was a founding member and chairman of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre.

Mick Dodson has been a prominent advocate on land rights and other issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Mick Dodson is a vigorous advocate of the rights and interests of the Indigenous Peoples of the world. He was the Co-Deputy Chair of the Technical Committee for the 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People. He was also chairman of the United Nations Advisory Group for the Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Indigenous Peoples. He served for 5 years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Indigenous Voluntary Fund. In January 2005 Prof Dodson took up a 3 year appointment as a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He was recently reappointed for a further 3 years to December 2010.

Mick participated in the crafting of the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nation Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Inter-sessional Working Group of the Human Rights Commission adopted overwhelmingly in 2007 by the United Nations General Assembly.

In 2009 Mick Dodson was named Australian of the Year by the National Australia Day Council.

Professor Tim Flannery, BA, MSc, PhD



Photo copyright Adam Bruzzone

Tim Flannery is one of Australia's leading thinkers and writers.

A scientist, explorer, and conservationist, he has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers and many books.

For more than twenty years he has worked extensively in Oceania and eastern Indonesia. He has been described by Sir David Attenborough as one of the great explorers of our times, and as 'a scientist who's discovered more new species than Charles Darwin.'

His landmark works 'The Future Eaters' and 'The Weather Makers' have changed the way we think about the environmental challenges facing our world today.

He spent a year teaching at Harvard, and currently serves as a board member of the National Geographic Society Research Grant Committee, and a director of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

In 2006 he co-founded and was appointed inaugural Chair of the Copenhagen Climate Council.

Named Australian of the Year in 2007, he quickly made that role an active one in the global arena, working with governments and business in North America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific to spur action on climate change.

Margot O'Neill



Margot O'Neill is a senior reporter with ABC TV's Lateline program. She has been a journalist for 25 years in television, radio and newspapers here and overseas and has worked on a variety of ABC programs including Four Corners.

Margot has twice won a Walkley Award including for 'Best Investigative Reporting' and has also been awarded a UN Media Peace Award and the national Human Rights Award for TV reporting. She has been nominated four times for a Walkley and three times for a Logie.

Margot is the author of the book called *Blind Conscience* telling the harrowing and inspiring stories of some of the key players in the refugee advocacy movement during the Howard government.

Denise Coghlan RSM

Denise Coghlan is a Sister of Mercy from the Brisbane congregation. She is one of the four founding members of Jesuit Service in Cambodia. With a Cambodian Metta Karuna team she has worked for twenty years for reconciliation, peace and justice and the full human development of people hurt by war, oppression and exile. Programmes include education and social service as well as advocacy.

Prior to this she worked in the Thai refugee camps with Jesuit Refugee Service, was part of the pioneer Mercy group that founded Mercy College Yarpas, Papua New Guinea, and also worked in adult faith education in the Brisbane Diocese.

Denise is very involved in the ban cluster bombs and anti-landmine movements, both in Cambodia (one of the worst landmine affected countries) and internationally. With members of the Cambodia campaign, she was part of a network of non-government organisations and individuals that led to more than 100 countries signing the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, banning the use, stockpiling and transfer of landmines. One of her colleagues who lost both legs to a landmine received the Nobel peace prize on behalf of the campaign. Denise is on the advisory board of the International Campaign, which continues to advocate for funding for survivor assistance, mine clearance and monitoring of international law.

Denise says, *"The grace of Cambodia for me has been the friendship with the people. I admire their resilience, courage, and ability to enjoy the simple things in tune with the seasons"*.

Madge McGuire



Madge McGuire is the Director of Catherine House Inc. which was established in 1988 by the Sisters of Mercy in Adelaide. Catherine House works with women experiencing homelessness; its primary purpose is *solving women's homelessness*.

Madge is a Social Worker by profession. She has spent the last 22 years in a range of senior management roles. In October 2001 she was appointed as Director of Catherine House.

In September 2008 she visited several sites overseas as part of a research study into the establishment of a Social Enterprise to employ women with mental illness.

Madge will speak about the work of Catherine House to end homelessness through a range of interventions; accommodation, housing, case management, training and employment. The organisation takes a holistic approach to working with women, to assist them create a more satisfying and meaningful life for themselves."

Janette Gray RSM



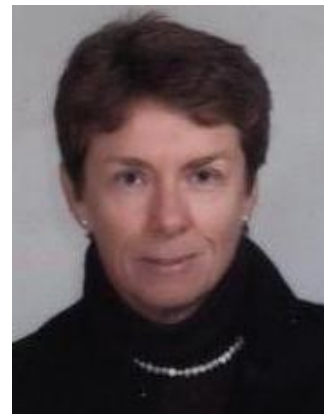
Janette Gray is a Sister of Mercy who lectures in systematic theology at the Jesuit College of Theology in the United Faculty of Theology, Melbourne. She was educated at Macquarie University, Melbourne College of Divinity, and Cambridge University. She previously lectured at Notre Dame University (Fremantle WA), Murdoch University (WA), Edith Cowan University (WA), and at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge (UK).

Her teaching areas are the theology of the human person, Church, the interface between church and contemporary society, Church and social responsibility, feminist theology, and Christian-Muslim relations.

Dr Maryanne Loughry RSM

Dr Maryanne Loughry is a Sister of Mercy in the Adelaide Congregation and a psychologist. Presently she is a visiting research scholar at the Centre for Human Rights and International Justice, Boston College and the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford as well as Associate Director for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia.

Maryanne has served as the Executive Officer of Mercy Works, a work of the Sisters of Mercy Australia incorporating the Mercy Refugee Service. Prior to this she was the Pedro Arrupe tutor at the University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre for over seven years (1997–2004). Maryanne has been associated with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) since 1986 and through JRS worked in the Indochinese refugee camps in the Philippines (1988) and the Vietnamese Detention Centres in Hong Kong (1990, 1992–93) as a psychologist and trainer. In 1994 and 1995 she worked in Vietnam as a trainer with Nordic Assistance to Repatriated Vietnamese (NARV). Maryanne's doctoral work explored the impact of detention on unaccompanied Vietnamese children.



Maryanne serves on several international boards including the academic board of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) and the Governing Committee of the International Catholic Migration Committee (ICMC). She has conducted research and programme evaluation in numerous refugee and conflict settings including: Syria, Northern Uganda, Afghanistan, Kenya, Palestinian Territories, Kosovo, Indonesia and Timor Leste. She has also conducted humanitarian trainings in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Kenya, Cambodia, Vietnam and the UK. Currently she is researching the issue of Climate Induced displacement in the Pacific region.