



MEDIA ALERT

Thursday 13 June 2013

National forum discusses the concept of civility and what it means for Australian lives

The issue of civility and its broader implications for Australian society will be in the spotlight at the CHASS (Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) Forum 2013 to be held at Parliament House on June 20, 2013.

A who's who of social commentators and industry experts will be speaking at the forum, including **Dr Tom Calma AO** (National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking), **Professor Rosalind Croucher** (President, Australian Law Reform Commission), **Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA**; **Tony Grybowski** (CEO, Australia Council for the Arts), **The Hon John Howard OM AC**, **The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP** (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), **Jeannie Rea** (National President, National Tertiary Education Union), **Donald McDonald AC** (Former Chairman of the ABC), **Andrew Tink** (Author, Historian and former NSW politician) and **Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs** (President, Australian Human Rights Commission).

Highlights of the forum include:

- A session on **Civility and Democracy**, which will aim to discuss the the current state of civil discourse in Australia and the level of civility displayed in political discussion;
- A session on **Civility and the Arts**, which will aim to discuss the powerful role played by creativity towards building and fuelling social and sustainable societies;
- A session on **The Borders of Civility**, which will aim to discuss issues around negotiating citizenship and respecting the international laws of human rights
- A roundtable discussion on **Soft Power and Public Diplomacy**

"This exciting forum is an opportunity to learn from and engage with the latest thinking from Australian experts around the values of civility and the positioning of the HASS sector in cementing them as the cornerstone of our democracy," said CHASS Executive Director, Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM.

EVENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIARY/CALENDAR AND EVENTS PAGES:

What: CHASS National Forum 2013 'Civility in Australia'
Where: Parliament House
When: 20 June 2013
Cost: Free
Web: <http://www.chass.org.au/forum>

For more information, interviews or to attend the forum as media please contact Divya Das, CHASS on 02 6201 5996, 0452 189 184 or membership@chass.org.au