



TRINITY COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Trinity College to Host Inaugural Indigenous Tertiary Education Conference

In 2015, Australian Opposition Leader Bill Shorten sparked controversy when he [stated](#) that ‘a young Aboriginal man of 18 in Australia is more likely to end up in jail than university.’ There is no doubt that the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians’ access to higher education is [significant](#).

Since 2001, Trinity College, has sought to make a positive difference in educational outcomes for Indigenous students at tertiary level. Today more than 8% of the current students in Trinity College’s Residential College come from an Indigenous background, and all are enrolled in faculties of the University.

On 18–19 November 2016, the inaugural Indigenous Tertiary Education Conference is being held at Trinity College, the University of Melbourne.

The two-day conference has been convened by Trinity, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, as a forum for educators, researchers, policymakers, students and the community to share information and knowledge on how best to support and improve outcomes for Tertiary Indigenous students.

Chaired by Professor Ian Anderson, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) and Foundation Chair in Indigenous Higher Education at the University of Melbourne, the conference will focus on the theme of *transitions*.

The Conference Ambassador is Trinity College Fellow and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton.

‘Trinity College is a leader in enabling tertiary education of young Aboriginal women and men from around Australia, especially through its residential college programs. This conference, hosted by Trinity, is the next step in sharing expertise and understanding on how best to support transitions into, within, and from tertiary education for Indigenous students,’ Professor Langton says.

Keynote speakers include Rachel Perkins, filmmaker, producer and screenwriter, with a guest presentation from Stan Grant, journalist, social commentator and activist.

Other speakers include academics and educators from around the world including Professor Shaun Ewen, Foundation Director of the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, the University of Melbourne; Professor Elizabeth McKinley, Indigenous Education, the University of Melbourne; and Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Indigenous Education, the University of Waikato.

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