

2010 NUGGET COOMBS MEMORIAL LECTURE

“Contesting the Coombs legacy in Indigenous policy”

Presented by Professor Tim Rowse

Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney

During the years of the Howard Government, and since, those who have debated Indigenous affairs policy have sometimes invoked the names of individual policy intellectuals – Hasluck, Stanner, Coombs – in order to name approaches to policy that they wish to question or to support. Indeed, sometimes this naming is accompanied by an historical explanation: that a policy is best explained as the product of the influence of an eminent policy intellectual. The name ‘Coombs’ has appeared prolifically in these discussions, and for many it signifies a mistaken policy paradigm from which governments and Indigenous Australians must try to recover. In this lecture I will review both what Coombs recommended and what others have taken him to have recommended. Insofar as I can characterize a typically ‘Coombsian’ approach, I will place it in historical context and ask to what extent changes in Australian circumstances should lead us to abandon that approach.

Professor Tim Rowse is a Professorial Fellow in the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney (Bankstown). Since the 1980s his main research interest has been the history and politics of Australia’s relationship with Indigenous Australians.

**Wednesday 18 August 2010, 6:15pm for
7:00pm**

Mal Nairn Auditorium, Building 7 (Red), Charles Darwin
University, Casuarina Campus

This seminar is free and open to the public.