

Council for the National Interest

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FORUM

Keynote Speaker: Gary Johns

Author: The Burden of Culture

Topic: The VOICE: What is it really all about?

The Burden of Culture: Book review; Aboriginal politics are now dominated by demands for reconciliation, self-determination, and acknowledgment of culture. But these concepts – defined and promoted by an urban elite of educated Aboriginal activists – hide the bigger truth that most people of Aboriginal descent today are already integrated into the wider society and are doing well, if belatedly.

More importantly, the Aboriginal industry fails to address the needs of the 20 per cent minority of their population who still live in despair. Those who remain in remote and rural Australia are being asked to build a new Jerusalem on poor lands with ancient cultural habits. This captive minority needs to reach out, literally, but the politics of their leaders keeps them locked where they are.

Dr Gary Johns was a member of the House of Representatives from 1987-1996 and served variously as Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, and Special Minister of State and Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations. He served as an Associate Commissioner of the Commonwealth Productivity Commission 2002-2004 and appointed Commissioner of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in 2017

Books by Gary Johns: The Burden of Culture (2022) Quadrant Books

Aboriginal Self-Determination: The Whiteman's Dream (2011)

Book Chapters by Gary Johns: Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginals (2013) Future proofing Australia:

The right answers for our future; Melb Uni Press

Aboriginal Policy (2009) The Howard Era; Quadrant Books

A Charter of Rights will harm Aboriginal prospects (2009) Menzies

Free Entry, Everyone Welcome

Presentation Address followed by Q&A Session

When: Sunday 21st May 2023

Time: 2.30pm start to 4.30pm finish

Where: Royal Perth Yacht Club, Australia II Drive, Crawley, 6009

Encourage friends and associates to attend this informative, educational, free and open forum.

Be Informed

Ask Questions

Bring a Friend