



**Australian Consulate General– New York  
invites you to a conversation on:**

**The new approach to exploitation: *The vision of  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples***

With Les Malezer, Co-Chair elect of the National Congress  
of Australia's First Peoples

**When:** 6:00 - 8:00pm, Wednesday 25 May 2011

**Where:** Australian Consulate-General  
150 East 42nd Street, 34th Floor

**RSVP essential:** (212) 351-6550

***Building security requires photo id for entry***



## Les Malezer

Les Malezer is a member of the Butchulla and Gubbi Gubbi peoples of the Mary River and Fraser Island region on the eastern coast of Australia. He has extensive experience in campaigning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, from being chosen early in his career as a national Indigenous youth representative for an international Commonwealth scholarship, to working as the Secretary General of the National Aboriginal Conference at its peak operations. He has trained in both the federal and Queensland public services, rising from base grade positions to positions in the Senior Executive Service, including Head of the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs.

Les has worked in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and been elected to represent community interests at the local, State and national levels. At present, Les is Chairperson of the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA) and in that role he is a delegate to United Nations forums on Indigenous issues. Until recently he was the national coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples Organisation network and chairperson for the Pacific Indigenous

In 2008 Les was awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal for his commitment to the issues of human rights, social justice and equality. The medal was awarded in recognition of his ability to overcome significant barriers to improve the status of Indigenous Peoples and advance human rights and justice worldwide. His work in coordinating Indigenous Peoples advocacy for the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the UN General Assembly is well known and respected.

One month ago Les was elected, along with Ms Jody Broun, as the national Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. They will officially take up their positions for a two-year period from July 2011. The National Congress has been formed since the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and it is designed to work for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rights and interests in Australia. The National Congress is expected to build a successful relationship with the governments of Australia to address the political, economic, social and cultural development of the first peoples of Australia.