

PRESS RELEASE



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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Ms Melissa Conley Tyler has been appointed as National Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Melissa is a graduate of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and has worked in conflict resolution in the U.S., South Africa and Australia.

“Australians need to be constantly monitoring international developments and evaluating their effect on us and our place in the world. The Australian Institute of International Affairs provides a forum to inform and educate on the events and issues shaping our time”, Melissa Conley Tyler commented.

“Like the Royal Institute of International Affairs based in Chatham House, London, the Institute has no ‘agenda’ on world affairs: what we do is provide a venue for the best of informed debate through our events and publications. This is a valuable service in a time where information may be readily available but insight may not”.

Ms Conley Tyler has had a busy career during her 35 years.

After graduating from the University of Melbourne she worked as a lawyer prior to studying conflict resolution in Boston. Her studies included courses at the Harvard Program on Negotiation and Kennedy School of Government as well as the Fletcher School at Tufts. Melissa has worked for the Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation in South Africa and the International Peace Academy in New York. She recalls her toughest job as volunteering as a community mediator in the Bronx.

Since returning to Australia, Melissa has contributed on poverty issues with Sydney City Mission, on indigenous issues with Reconciliation Australia and on refugee and asylum-seeker issues on the Committee of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture.

Melissa comes to the Institute from the International Conflict Resolution Centre and Faculty of Law at the University of Melbourne. She is a member of the United Nations Expert Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution and co-convened a Fulbright Symposium on Peace and Human Rights Education in 2005. She will be dividing her time between Melbourne and Canberra in her new role.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs is Australia’s only nationwide, independent body promoting public interest in international affairs. It was formed in 1933 and has over 1300 members and branches in every State. The Institute publishes the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and the *Australia in World Affairs* series. www.aiia.asn.au