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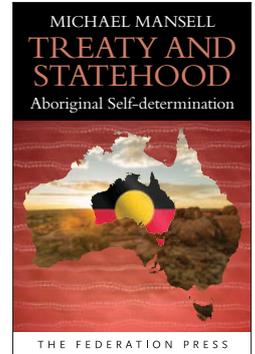
**Michael Mansell**

**AUTHOR  
Q&A BELOW**

If Australia were to have a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, what would it deal with and how would it affect the general public? Can anything other than a treaty achieve reconciliation?

In this provocative new book, Aboriginal activist Michael Mansell answers these questions and more. He argues that designated Aboriginal seats in the Senate and a treaty are constitutionally permissible and outlines the contents of a possible treaty, along with the original idea of a seventh State – or First State for the First Peoples.

"His strongly expressed opinions are always sincere and soundly argued: they may appear at first provocative or over-idealistic, but just wait; in years to come they are likely to be seen as a prescient articulation of a way forward for securing the dignity of our first Australians."  
- Geoffrey Robertson QC, from the Foreword



#### Q: Is the book based entirely on your views?

A: No, I studied the views of three powerful Aboriginal leaders – Neville Bonner, Pat Dodson and Noel Pearson – to understand their policy positions. I then incorporated their ideas into the various models discussed in the book. The First State of Federation is entirely my idea.

#### Q: Were there other limitations you incorporated?

A: Any empowering of Aboriginals or any settlement of the historical dispute must take account of 24 million people in a modern Australian nation. I tried to find models that might deliver some justice to Aboriginal people while leaving the lifestyle and needs of the majority intact.

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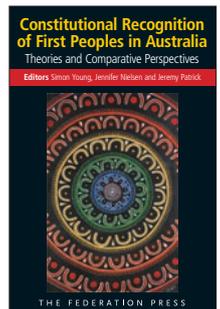
Theories and Comparative Perspectives

**Simon Young, Jennifer Nielsen and Jeremy Patrick (eds)**

This timely new book explores the history and current status of proposals to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution of Australia. It includes work by well-regarded constitutional law scholars and legal historians and features the voices of comparative scholars, who also examine relevant developments in the UK, NZ, US, Canada, the South Pacific and South America.

The book is a critical step in Australian legal and political history and makes an enduring contribution to ongoing dialogue, reconciliation and the empowerment of Australia's First Peoples.

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**Hossein Esmaeili, Gus Worby and Simone Tur (eds)**

"Elliott Johnston was a most unusual lawyer ... Coming generations of lawyers can be encouraged to reflect upon the causes of justice and equality that he so powerfully espoused."  
- The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

Twenty-five years after Elliott Johnston's thorough and prescient Report on the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*, juvenile justice, freedom of speech, racial discrimination, human rights and a referendum on constitutional 'recognition' of Indigenous Australians remain subjects of contestation, national debate and international scrutiny. In this collection, 17 distinguished contributors, who each delivered an annual oration held in honour of Elliott Johnston at Flinders University, show common cause with Johnston.

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Paul Bennett

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