



2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference

Vancouver BC Canada June 2012

LINDA BURNEY



The Honourable Linda Burney is an Australian politician, first elected to the New South Wales (NSW) Legislative Assembly in 2003. She was a senior Cabinet Minister in the NSW Labor Government, and is currently the Shadow Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Heritage and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Linda Burney was the 2008/2009 National President of the Australian Labor Party. She is the first Aboriginal person to serve in Australia's oldest parliament and is the most senior Aboriginal politician in Australia.

In her inaugural speech to the Legislative Assembly, Linda Burney referred to the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) Act, 1967: "I am a member of the mighty Wiradjuri Aboriginal nation ... For the first 10 years of my life, like all indigenous people at that time, I was not a citizen of this country. We existed under the Flora and Fauna Act of New South Wales. Growing up as an Aboriginal child ... was difficult and alienating."

Linda Burney's commitment to Aboriginal rights spans more than 30 years. She was an executive member of the National Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, a Director-General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, President of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, and participated in developing and implementing the first Aboriginal education policy in Australia.

At the 2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference, Linda Burney will lead a workshop on *Women in Leadership* to share insights and strategies for Indigenous women in leadership roles, based on her unique experiences as an Indigenous leader and politician.