

PRESS RELEASE



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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The Australian Institute of International Affairs' National Executive Director, Ms Melissa Conley Tyler, has been honoured with an award as the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy's most outstanding alumnus under 40. The Fletcher School is a leading professional school of international affairs based in Massachusetts, USA www.fletcher.tufts.edu. Melissa will be presented with her award at Fletcher's 75th Anniversary Gala at the Library of Congress in Washington DC on 11 October.

"Both the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and the Australian Institute of International Affairs are celebrating their 75th Anniversaries this year", said Melissa Conley Tyler. "Both were formed in the belief that greater international understanding can help maintain stability and prosperity in a complex, challenging, and increasingly global society."

"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. I can't think of anything more consonant with my Fletcher education".

Melissa Conley Tyler is a specialist in conflict resolution, including negotiation, mediation and peace education. She has an international profile including membership of the Editorial Board of the *Conflict Resolution Quarterly* and listings in Routledge's *Who's Who in International Affairs* and *International Who's Who of Women*. She is the only Australian member of the United Nations Expert Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution and convened the Third United Nations Forum on Online Dispute Resolution in Melbourne in 2004. She convened a Fulbright Symposium on Peace & Human Rights Education in 2005.

After graduating from the University of Melbourne she worked as a lawyer prior to studying at the Fletcher School, including courses at the Harvard Program on Negotiation and Kennedy School of Government. Following her studies Melissa 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.

Before joining the AIIA, Melissa was Program Manager of the International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne and remains a Senior Fellow in the University's Faculty of Law. She continues to publish prolifically. Earlier in 2008 she was selected as one of the nation's 1,000 "best and brightest" to participate in the Australia 2020 Summit.

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 1600 members and seven Branches nationwide. The Institute publishes the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and the *Australia in World Affairs* series as well as organising over 150 events per year. www.aiia.asn.au