

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**8 May 2006**

### **Michael Kirby to speak in Brisbane: Local leaders to be honoured**

Distinguished High Court judge the Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG will be the keynote speaker at a gala event for the local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community in Brisbane in June.

Justice Kirby was recognised as New South Wales Australian of the Year 2006 for his humanitarian work in services to the law, law reform, learning, and the community. He is the youngest male to be appointed to federal judicial office, serving as the first Chair of the Australian Law Commission and becoming a High Court judge in 1996. A year later, he was identified as one of the ten most creative minds in Australia. Michael's opinions are sought and valued by a broad range of community groups, governments, corporations, charities, and individuals, both here and overseas. His work for the UN and in establishing judicial systems for new or struggling nations brings him international respect.

The meeting will also celebrate the achievements of two local heroes of the GLBT community.

- Dr David Bradford, a leading Cairns sexual health medical practitioner, was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent honours list. Dr Bradford was recognized for his service to medicine by educating the medical profession and the community, and for his leadership roles in professional organisations.
- Mrs Shelley Argent, President of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent honours list. Mrs Argent was recognised for service to the community through raising awareness of issues of acceptance, tolerance and equality for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, and to support for their families.

The event is organised by Freedom2B and the Metropolitan Community Church Brisbane (MCC) with the support of the Queensland AIDS Council. Freedom2B is a support group for gay and lesbian people of fundamentalist Christian and Charismatic backgrounds. MCC Brisbane is part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches with a welcoming outreach to all those who are excluded or having difficulty in reconciling their spirituality and sexuality.

The event will be held on Tuesday 20 June at 5.30pm, at the Owen J Wordsworth Room, Level 12, S Block, QUT Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane City.

As seating is limited, bookings are required and can be made by phoning 3891 1388 or emailing [pastor@mccbris.asn.au](mailto:pastor@mccbris.asn.au).

Media Contact: Phill Wall (Freedom2B) on 0409 033.645  
Rob Collins (MCC) on 0413 205 499