

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00181

Major, Tania

(1982 -)

Born 1 January, 1982, Kowanyama Queensland Australia

Occupation Criminologist, Youth advocate

Summary

Tania Major first came to prominence in 2004 as the youngest person elected to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. In 2007 she was named Young Australian of the Year. She spoke to opinion makers, the public and government about sexual violence and rape in the Aboriginal community, asking Prime Minister John Howard to help lift the "blanket of shame" that was preventing such assaults being reported.

Details

The Cairns-based indigenous youth advocate, Tania Major, used her profile to draw attention to domestic violence in Aboriginal communities. Her forthright way of addressing the problems focused national attention on them.

She broke the ice of public discussion about a number of issues concerning the welfare of young Indigenous people when she was featured on national television programs such as *Four Corners* and *60 Minutes*. She made some people feel very uncomfortable, and was happy to do so. She spoke directly and very publicly to the prime minister and other opinion leaders about the appalling secrets of domestic violence in her community in the belief that the best way to represent her people was to tell the truth.

"I'm proud to be an Aboriginal Australian and to have been recognised and acknowledged for the work I'm involved in," Ms Major said.

In 2009, Tania Major is the only person within her particular community to complete a university degree; indeed, she is the only one to have successfully completed Year 12. Tania has become a role model not only for Indigenous youth, but also for all young Australian's.

Published resources

Resource

Australian of the Year Awards, National Australia Day Council, 2007,
<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/pages/page310.asp>

Interview with Tania Major, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 2009,
http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2003/20030728_positions_vacant/int_major.htm

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section

Young Australian, Tania Major, Hill-Douglas, Olivia, 2007,
<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/young-australian-tania-major/2007/01/25/1169594432321.html>

Author Details

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