**JUSTICE MICHAEL KIRBY PLAIN SPEAKING COMPETITION**

Think you’ve got the public speaking skills worthy of Justice Michael Kirby? Well, you need to register NOW for the **USU Justice Michael Kirby Plain Speaking Competition**.

Now in its seventh year, this competition offers students of all experience levels a chance to test and practise their public skills in an environment that is both constructive and competitive. If that’s not enough of a reason to compete, here’s another sweetener: big prizes for the winner and finalists.

The USU will again be holding a separate **English as a Second Language (ESL) Division**. It is open and caters specially to students who don’t speak English fluently enough to participate fully in the main competition (see note on eligibility below). Such students may enter either division of the competition, but not both.

Heats will occur on the Tuesday 30 April and Thursday 02 May in Manning Meeting Room 1. The Grand Final will be held in the Verge Gallery from 1pm on Wednesday 15May.

At each round, you will be judged on your delivery of a prepared speech. Prepared speeches will be 4 – 5 minutes and are chosen by you from one of three topics (topics for the heats will be emailed to you). ESL competitors will not be required to delivery an Impromptu Speech.

To register, get yourself an ACCESS card (if you don’t already have one) then go online to www.usuonline.com and download the Registration Form. Complete the form and email it to [kirby@usu.usyd.edu.au](mailto:kirby@usu.usyd.edu.au) or return it to the ACCESS Desk (Level 1, Manning) or ISL Desk (Level 4, Wentworth). Forms are also available from the ACCESS Desk and ISL Desk. Judging criteria will be available both online and at the ACCESS Desk. **Registration close on Friday 19 April.**

**Eligibility for the ESL division**: if English is your second language and you have limited fluency in it, then you are welcome to enter the ESL division. If however your English is strong enough that it would not restrict you from competing meaningfully in the open competition, then we would ask you to enter that competition. A good question to ask is would your level of proficiency in English put you at a significant disadvantage in the open competition? It's difficult for us to make that decision on your behalf, which is why we are leaving it open for individual entrants to do so. Remember, the ESL division will probably be of a slightly lower standard, making it easier for entrants to reach the later stages of the competition, but the open competition is more prestigious and has a larger prize at the end. There are incentives both ways, so we hope that you will make the right decision based on your own proficiency in English.

*We are trusting entrants to exercise their discretion about their eligibility to enter the ESL division.*