

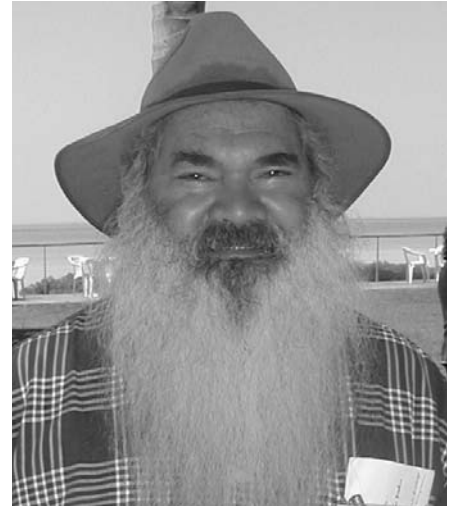
## Patrick Dodson Joins Castan Centre Advisory Board

Patrick Dodson, a life-long proponent of the rights of indigenous people, has agreed to join the Castan Centre's Advisory Board, which includes pre-eminent human rights scholars, advocates and jurists from Australia and around the world. A full list of the Advisory Board is at page 13.

Pat is currently chairman of the Lingjari Policy Centre, a non-government organization committed to developing independent and informed thinking to improve the lives of indigenous Australians. He was a commissioner of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1980, having previously been a Catholic priest (he was the first Aboriginal priest). He

was appointed Chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in 1991 until he resigned in 1997, stating that "I fear for the spirit of this country".

When asked about the centre, Mr Dodson said "The Castan Centre bears the name of a great Australian who truly understood the need to protect and defend the Human Rights of all the world's people. I commend and support the work of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and look forward to being able to assist in its work particularly at a time in this country where Human Rights are seen in many quarters as peripheral to our national values."



**Patrick Dodson, Member of the Castan Centre Advisory Board**

## Book Release: Human Rights 2004: The Year in Review

The Castan Centre has recently released the second in its annual Year In Review series. The book, *Human Rights 2004: The Year in Review*, is a collection of papers presented to the centre's annual conference of the same name, held in Melbourne in December 2004.

The conference honoured the twin anniversaries of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (20 years) and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (25 years) and featured some of Australia's most important feminist academics and jurists who reflected on the huge hurdles still standing between women and equality.

The current Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Pru Goward, and Professor Margaret Thornton both critique the Sex Discrimination Act and conclude that, although it has had certain successes, it has also failed to provide the bridge to equality between the sexes. Although the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission has made a large contribution towards equality,

the right to maternity leave remains ill-defined, childcare costs are prohibitively expensive, women earn substantially less than men and have about half of the accumulated superannuation of men.

Heisoo Shin, Vice Chairperson of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, writes about the international law system as it relates to gender, while Elizabeth Evatt of the International Commission of Jurists compares international law with the Australian system and both women likewise see success and failure. Ms Evatt focuses on those parts of CEDAW which were not included in domestic law, while Ms Shin documents the many obstacles standing in the way of the Committee.

A particularly pernicious activity affecting women is people trafficking and Anne Gallagher discusses the practice and documents the fact that Australia is now a destination country for traffickers.

This collection also contains two pa-

pers on other "hot button" topics of 2004. Debbie Mortimer SC reviews the various Australian vilification laws and asks whether they have caused as many problems as they have solved. To conclude the volume, Richard Bourke takes a unique look at the serious issue of the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, concluding that "like a spider web, it is simple enough to step around [the] Geneva [Conventions] or gently pluck one's way through. However, like a crazed child, the Bush administration has set about attacking the spider web and now finds itself covered in sticky strands that advertise to all the world its crime."

*Human Rights 2004: The Year in Review* is a lively and informative collection of papers covering many of the most important human rights topics of 2004.

To purchase the book, visit our website at [www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre](http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre) and follow the links, or phone Kay Magnani on 9905 3327.