

# MONTHS IN REVIEW

## MARCH-APRIL

Compiled by Divyangana Dhankar

**04/03** Dr Ngiare Brown is appointed Deputy Chair of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.

**06/03** CEO of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre, Rachelle Townt is presented with the *Emerging Leader in a Not-For-Profit* award at the 2014 NAB Women's Agenda Leadership Awards.

**07/03** The Western Australian ('WA') Government makes a \$1.3 billion Native Title compensation offer to the Noongar people. The draft bill includes \$600 million of compensation and 320 000 hectares of government land to be used for non-exclusive Indigenous purposes. The Noongar people have six months to consider the offer.

**13/03** ABC's *Lateline* program investigates the issue of intellectually impaired people being detained without trial. The program highlighted the case of Aboriginal woman, Rosie Anne Fulton, who had been languishing in a Kalgoorlie prison for 18 months after being declared unfit to plead due to an impairment associated with foetal alcohol syndrome.

**12/03** The Ngarla people of WA's Pilbara region celebrate a High Court win following the ruling of the Court that native title is not extinguished by existence of a mining lease.

**14/03** The community of Pirlangimpi in the Northern Territory ('NT') becomes the fourth and final community in the Tiwi Islands to sign a 99-year township lease.

**20/03** The Gudjala people of Queensland are granted two consent determinations awarding non-exclusive native title rights and interests to 11 500 square kilometres of land near Charter Towers.

**21/03** The Australian Law Reform Commission releases its Issues Paper on the Native Title Inquiry.

**23/03** Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Nigel Scullion, calls for the expansion of the truancy program following an increase of 614 children attending school, through the Commonwealth Remote School Attendance Strategy ('RSAS').

**25/03** Federal Attorney General, George Brandis, releases a draft exposure bill for changes to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) ('RDA') including repealing sections 18B, C, D and E of the RDA.

**25-28/03** The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies ('AIATSIS') celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a three day conference in Canberra, which commenced with a performance of the ancient and sacred Lorrkton ceremony from the NT.

**27/03** The central Queensland community of Woorabinda takes first steps to re-introduce alcohol into their community following a vote with 213 votes in favour and 38 against.

**31/03** The parliamentary inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities hears from non-government organisations in Central Australia, including the effectiveness of the NT's Banned Drinkers Register.

**31/03** The Federal Circuit Court becomes the first court in Australia to adopt a Reconciliation Action Plan. The plan will introduce hearings in informal settings for Indigenous people by next June, as well as the creation of a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family law wing.

**02/04** The Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council holds its third meeting in Sydney. The meeting discussed issues such as school engagement and education; community safety and juvenile justice; and employment and economic development.

**02/04** The WA Government established a Youth Justice Board and Youth Justice Division. Its role includes promoting stronger engagement with Aboriginal families and communities.

**03/04** Alison Anderson, Larissa Lee and Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu from the NT Country Liberal party resign, citing racial discrimination from their own party as one of their reasons for walking out of the Legislative Assembly during Question Time.

**08/04** The Productivity Commission releases its draft *Access to Justice Arrangements* report. View the report at: [pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/access-justice](http://pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/access-justice).

**23/04** Nominations for the national NAIDOC Awards close.

**30/04** Community consultations for proposed changes to the RDA close. Submissions can be emailed to: [s18cconsultation@ag.gov.au](mailto:s18cconsultation@ag.gov.au)