
MONTHS IN REVIEW

JULY–AUGUST

Compiled by Emily Haworth

01-31/07 Blak History Month is celebrated. For further information, visit: www.blakhistorymonth.com

02/07 The Review of the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services report is released finding that funding for legal assistance in Australia is inadequate.

02/07 Rosie Fulton is freed from a Western Australian ('WA') gaol. Intellectually impaired from Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, Ms Fulton spent 21 months in a WA gaol without conviction following a magistrate ruling that she was not fit to plead. A petition for her release received over 120 000 signatures.

06-13/07 NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across the country with the theme 'Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond'.

09/07 A report is released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare ('AIHW') with findings that Indigenous children face significantly higher rates of neglect and child abuse, sexual assault, and hospitalisation and death from injury than non-indigenous children.

15/07 An interim report is released by the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The document looks at proposed amendments for a referendum, focusing on constitutional form and outlining future steps for public feedback on the proposed recognition.

16/07 The 'Journey to Recognition' relay aimed at raising awareness of the campaign to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution resumes in Cairns.

22/07 A Kickstarter crowd funding campaign begins to revive the Deadly Awards following the event's loss of Federal Government funding.

26/07 The Supreme Court of Canada grants—for the first time—Aboriginal title over specific land (1700 sq km) to the Tsilhqot'in people. The dispute spanned over two decades and is finalised by a unanimous 8-0 decision.

29/07 Beyond Blue releases their Invisible Discriminator campaign. This TV and online campaign aims to address the problem of casual or subtle racism against Indigenous Australians and the harmful psychological effects which can follow.

01/08 The Forrest Review is released. The report contains objectives

to improve the outcomes of Indigenous employment and address disadvantage.

01/08 A Canadian music festival bans non-First Nations attendees from wearing traditional Indigenous headdresses. The decision was made after consultation with First Nations groups of the land being used for the event.

01-04/08 The 2014 Garma Festival is held in North East Arnhem Land.

04/08 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day is observed.

04/08 A 22-year old Aboriginal woman dies while in police custody in WA. CEO of Aboriginal Legal Service WA, Dennis Eggington, calls for a 'transparent inquiry'.

05/08 Prime Minister Tony Abbott announces the controversial proposal to remove sections 18C, D and E of the *Racial Discrimination Act* has been dropped. Of the thousands of submissions received in relation to the issue, more than 70 per cent were opposed.

06/08 Queensland's 'Wild Rivers' laws are repealed. The State Parliament explains the change in law as reflective of an earlier Federal Court ruling which found the declarations over three free-flowing Cape York river systems to be invalid.

06/08 The Ngarla people in WA sign a second Indigenous Land Use Agreement to jointly manage Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and adjoining coastal reserve.

07-24/08 Darwin Festival 2014 is held.

09/08 International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples is celebrated.

13/08 Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Nigel Scullion, orders inquiry into the financial dealings of the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation and now liquidated Western Desert Puntukurnuparna.

15/08 The Federal Court approves a 17-year-old native title claim by the Gumbaynggirr people on the New South Wales mid-north coast.

19/08 The remote Northern Territory community of Gunbalanya signs an agreement in principle with the Federal Government for a 99 year township lease. For information on township leasing visit: www.ilc.unsw.edu.au/topic/ilc-research-briefs.