
MONTHS IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

Compiled by Kate Bonser

27/08 Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion guarantees \$5 million for the development of affordable housing for Indigenous families on 'The Block' in Redfern.

02/09 The Federal Court of Australia finalises a 15-year native title claim over 10 500 square kilometres of Jurruru country in the Southwest Pilbarra region of Western Australia.

02/09 The Western Australian government announces the creation of two Indigenous councils in the Kimberley and Pilbarra regions as a part of the government's rebirth of the state's remote communities. Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Prof Megan Davis, issues a commemorative statement.

07/09 A pioneering early learning program, The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters, receives federal funding to expand its support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in another 25 remote communities in early 2016.

13/09 The 8th anniversary of the adoption of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* by the UN General Assembly is observed.

12–13/09 The Second Annual Freedom Summit held in Alice Springs calls for treaties between First Nations and state governments as an alternative to constitutional recognition.

21/09 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's ministry is sworn in following his defeat over Tony Abbott in a party room ballot for Liberal leadership on 14 September 2015. Nyungar, Yamatji and Wongi man Ken Wyatt is appointed Assistant Health Minister, becoming Australia's first Indigenous federal frontbencher.

23/09 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announces his decision to retain the Indigenous Affairs portfolio within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

25/09 Wiri barrister Tony McAvooy becomes the first Indigenous Australian to be appointed Senior Counsel.

01/10 Anangu traditional owners declare over 5 million hectares of land surrounding Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park an Indigenous Protected Area ('IPA').

13/10 The Queensland government calls upon South West Queensland Murri people to share knowledge on water catchment management.

13/10 The group Grandmothers Against Removals finalise a deal with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services that will see Aboriginal Elders consulted if concerns are raised about a child's welfare.

14/10 The Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Bill 2015 formally recognises the \$1.3 billion South West Native Title Settlement signed by the WA government and the Noongar people in June.

14/10 The federal government's bill to trial The Healthy Welfare Card in the South Australian town of Ceduna is passed in the Senate.

14/10 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull meets with the Indigenous Advisory Council in Canberra for the first time since taking office.

19/10 The Prime Minister's Department launches an inquiry into the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation's (NT) compliance with federal funding programs, following resident protests over the state of Indigenous housing.

19/10 Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion grants the Central Australian Women's Legal Service (NT) \$1.35 million over three years to improve legal assistance and support services to women experiencing domestic violence.