
MONTHS IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

Compiled by Ann Emmanuel

01/09 The longest running native title claim in South Australia ('SA') is settled with a land use agreement signed by the Kokatha people, BHP Billiton and the SA Government.

04/09 Yawuru nation and the Indigenous Land Corporation sign a historic agreement to hand back more the 270 000 hectares to the traditional owners.

09/09 A coronial inquest into the death in custody of a man jailed for driving offences begins in New South Wales ('NSW').

10/09 Northern Territory ('NT') Government releases draft Action Plan to tackle high suicide rates, noting young Indigenous people have one of the highest rates in the Territory.

11/09 Aboriginal leader Noel Pearson launches his Quarterly Essay, *A Rightful Place: Race, recognition and a more complete commonwealth*, at the Sydney Opera House. Mr Pearson has proposed changing the Constitution to recognise a new Indigenous representative body.

12/09 A review panel set up by the Prime Minister to advise on constitutional recognition recommends pushing back a referendum on the proposed changes until 2017, citing concern that the public is not ready for a recognition referendum.

15-17/09 Prime Minister Abbott visits Yolngu community leaders and Indigenous-run businesses in Arnhem Land in tour of the north east of the region.

16/09 Rally is held in Perth to oppose the proposed amendments to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA), which would weaken the protection of sacred Aboriginal sites.

18/09 A report by the Commission for Children and Young People, which has found that First Nations children in Victoria are 16 times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children, is tabled in the Victorian Parliament.

22/09 The Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse begins hearing from members of the Stolen Generation who report that they were sexually abused while at the Retto Dixo Home in Darwin.

23/09 The 16th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival is held in Cape York.

24/09 Inaugural United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples begins. Over a thousand people from Indigenous communities around the world attend, including Professor Megan Davis, to discuss rights, development goals and self-determination.

02/10 The NSW Disability Services Minister announces that the NSW Government will provide funding for more community-based Aboriginal disability field officers.

07/10 The NSW Government issues a formal apology to a 74 year old Koori man, for his forced removal from his family in 1943.

08/10 The Yidindji Tribal Society gives notice to the Australian Government of their sovereignty and dominion over all lands, resources and infrastructure on Yidindji land (North Queensland).

10/10 The Final Report on the Review of the Australian Curriculum is released. The review recommends that the curriculum needs to better acknowledge the positives and negatives of both Western and Indigenous cultures and histories.

13/10 A report from the Australian Council of Social Services finds that the rate of poverty amongst Indigenous Australians, currently at 19.3 per cent, remains higher than that of non-Indigenous people.

17/10 Applications close for the first round of funding under the Commonwealth's new Indigenous Advancement Strategy. For further information visit: http://www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous_affairs.

21/10 Former Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam passes away. Whitlam's government set up the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, drafted legislation to grant land rights to Indigenous people, handed land title deeds to some of the Gurindji traditional owners and drafted the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth).

23/10 National Day of Action against Indigenous deaths in custody is held.

27/10 The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples releases its Progress Report. View the report at: <http://www.aph.gov.au>.