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Media Release

MUNDINE'S CALL FOR A TREATY; SECTION 18C OF THE RDA & NATIVE TITLE REFORM

The latest edition of the Indigenous Law Bulletin (ILB) investigates three important areas of law reform the Federal Government is currently undertaking.

The Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council Chair, Warren Mundine's recent call for a treaty aligns with Constitutional expert, Professor George Williams' article on the importance of implanting a negotiated treaty with Aboriginal people. Professor Williams argues that a treaty could lead to stronger and more capable Aboriginal governance. This is a timely article given the in-principle support by the Prime Minister to Warren Mundine's proposal for a native title treaty settlement in January 2014.

The importance of maintaining section 18C of *Racial Discrimination Act* is emphasised by UNSW Australia's Marie Iskander, who argues that amending section 18C is anti-democratic and has the 'potential to degrade political participation'. Ms Iskander argues that repealing section 18C 'sends a message that racial vilification is tolerated and can be committed without any legal consequences'.

Finally, native title expert, Dr Lisa Strelein writes on section 223 of the *Native Title Act* which is the subject of a current Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry. This section—which places the onus of proof on Aboriginal applicants—is famously the cause of lengthy and expensive court proceedings.

Dr Strelein is also urging the ALRC to pay close attention to the recent High Court decision in *Akiba*, given its important statement on economic and commercial rights of native title holders.

To launch the new redesigned ILB, the Indigenous Law Centre (ILC) has made all three articles mentioned above available to download for free on their website.

To access a copy of Professor Williams' article [please click here](#).

To access a copy of Ms Iskander's article [please click here](#).

To access a copy of Dr Strelein's article [please click here](#).

The Indigenous Law Bulletin is a publication produced by the Indigenous Law Centre, Australia's oldest and only Indigenous law research institution located at UNSW.

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