
MONTHS IN REVIEW

JANUARY–APRIL

Compiled by Lucinda Stewart

16/01 Communications Minister Mitch Fifield asks his department to investigate the circumstances into a video game promoting the killing of Aboriginal Australians.

26/01 Survival Day rallies held across the country to put pressure on Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to change the date of the national holiday.

28/01 The Aboriginal Legal Service release their 2014–2015 Annual Report, titled *Aboriginal justice in Aboriginal hands*.

02/02 Just Reinvest NSW welcomes the New South Wales government's announcement that it will introduce performance targets for overflowing prisons while aiming to reduce our prison population—but suggests justice reinvestment is a better and proven approach to curb reoffending and reduce prison rates.

03/02 The recently elected president of the Australian Bar Association outlines the organisation's policy priorities for the coming year, including tackling Indigenous incarceration and legal aid shortfall.

09/02 The annual report on Indigenous disadvantage, the Close the Gap Report 2016, was handed down, with, in the Prime Minister's words, 'mixed' results.

18/02 Bess Price pushes to allow Aboriginal languages in parliament.

29/02 A new land rights battle over a \$20 billion bauxite deposit in far-north Queensland, one of most valuable in the world, is headed for the High Court.

02/03 The Aboriginal Legal Service welcomes a new initiative being introduced in the Australian Capital Territory to reduce overblown incarceration rates and provide alternatives in sentencing for the courts.

02/03 Patrick Dodson is nominated to replace retiring Western Australian Labor Senator Joe Bullock.

17/03 The Shooters Party join with the New South Wales government to ram through laws that could see protesters jailed for up to seven years for protecting land, water, climate and communities. The Inclosed Lands, Crimes and Law Enforcement Legislation Amendment (Interference) Bill 2016 attacks the right to peacefully protest, and the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association.

18/03 Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion lends his support to opponents of a push to ease liquor restrictions in the Kimberley towns of Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing, saying the protection of women and children is paramount.

18/03 The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council says it is aware of the angst about mining, but is continuing to look into ventures across the state, as it needs economic independence.

21/03 The inquest into the death of Ms Dhu has revealed that she was shown no compassion or professionalism. Testimony exposed Police Sergeant Bond's words as he whispered into her ear that she is a 'junkie', after he denied yanking on Ms Dhu which caused her to fall and hit her head.

21/03 Vonda Malone set to become first female major of Torres Shire.

22/03 Indigenous journalist and author Stan Grant announces he has been in talks with the Liberal Party about running for the marginal western Sydney seat of Parramatta.

15/04 It is 25 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody handed down its final recommendations.