



MENTIONS

STOLEN GENERATION

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) has watched with interest over recent weeks the unfolding of the first Stolen Generation case before the NSW Supreme Court. Joy Williams, who was removed from her mother 10 hours after birth, alleges that the Aborigines Welfare Board breached its duty of care to her by breaking her bond with her mother, failing to provide her with an adequate caring adult, exposing her to risk of psychological harm, and placing her in a Home where she was vilified and physically, mentally and sexually abused.

While PIAC is committed to pursuing litigation for members of the Stolen Generation, it also recognises that the victims of removal policies will not have their harm properly redressed within the traditional legal process. PIAC has therefore developed a proposal for the establishment of a Reparations Tribunal, which would have the power to make orders relating to compensation, and recommendations relating to other aspects of reparations, eg apologies, guarantees against repetition, measures of restitution and rehabilitation. PIAC believes that such an initiative is a pre-requisite to reconciliation, and has requested an opportunity to discuss the proposal further with the NSW Attorney-General. Please contact PIAC for a copy of the proposal.

email: piac@fl.asn.au
Level 1, 46-48 York Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000
tel 02 9299 7833
fax 02 9299 7855

TIM McCOY DINNER 1999

The annual dinner to remember Tim McCoy will be held this year on 5 November at the usual place, the Hawthorn Football Club. This year's speaker will be Rod Quantock. More details will be published in the August issue.

AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS REGISTER 1999

In 1997 the Melbourne Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace established a register of developments in the human rights arena in Australia. Non-government organisations were invited to submit items they thought appropriate for entry into the register — both positive and negative.

The entries for the second year of its operation are now available. The register is divided into chapters for each State, Territory and the federal jurisdiction. There are 255 entries in total; 34 are positive and 209 are negative human rights developments.

For information about the register, contact Liz Curran, CCJD&P
tel 03 9926 5710 fax 03 9926 5792

NSW STATE LIBRARY ACCESS TO JUSTICE DISPLAY

Access to Justice, A Generation of Progress is a display which opens at the State Library of NSW in June, and runs to 31 October.

The display recounts the substantial progress in the community's access to justice in New South Wales over the past 30 years. It was conceived by the

Law Foundation of NSW, and curated by the State Library of NSW.

It is hard to imagine now that only a generation ago no freedom of information laws and no consumer protection laws existed. There was no Ombudsman, no Legal Aid Commission and no community legal centres. There was no legal protection against domestic violence or discrimination.

The display features timelines that recount milestones in access to justice in NSW since the 1960s. Pictures (including some of CLC founders and stalwarts), items and documents from significant moments in this important history illustrate the effort and activity of a generation of lawyers committed to improving the legal system, and the concurrent unique contribution of the NSW Law Foundation.

CONFERENCES

The Restorative Justice Conference

'Restoring the Balance between Victims, Offenders and the Community'

Convenor: Caxton Legal Centre

Date: 22-23 July 1999

Venue: Brisbane Hilton Hotel

Contact: IPPA Qld, PO Box 12038

Elizabeth Street, Brisbane Q 4002

tel 07 3211 2919, fax 07 3211 2924

email: ipaa@gil.com.au

website: www.qld.ipaa.org.au

Participation and protection in the privatised state

The Consumer Law Centre Victoria is holding a conference to examine participation by, and protection of, the community at a time when so many traditionally government owned services have been, or are being, privatised.

Conference topics include: What is the privatised State? What are the costs and benefits of privatisation? How do citizens participate in the privatised State? What protections are available in the privatised State? How are they accessed? Do they work?

More than 15 expert speakers/paanelists representing a wide range of views will address these issues.

Community sector \$70.00, unemployed/student \$35.00, all others \$165.00.

Contact: Consumer Law Centre

tel 03 9629 6300

fax 03 9629 6898

50th Anniversary of Australian Citizenship

Date: 21-23 July 1999

Venue: University of Melbourne

Contact: Kim Rubenstein re conference content:

email: citizen_conf@law.unimelb.edu.au

or re registration:

The Conference Secretariat

tel 03 9415 1299 fax 03 9419 1205

email: registration@vcta.asn.au

Restoration for victims of crime: contemporary challenges

Convenor: Australian Institute of Criminology in conjunction with the Victims Referral Service, Victoria

Date: 9-10 September 1999

Venue: Carlton Crest Hotel Melbourne

Contact: Anna Grant at the AIC
tel 02 6260 9232 or

Donna McCormick at VRAS

tel 03 9603 9700

email: donna.mccormick@justice.vic.gov.au

National Environmental Law Association

Date: 8-10 September

Venue: Sydney

Contact: NELA

tel 02 6239 3715

email: nela@effect.net.au