

in Aboriginal communities. Legal Aid needs to test the law on this issue. To do this we need someone to come to us with a formal complaint to do with random police searches of houses.

3. If you think the police have done something which is not right, for example, searching people's houses without permission, contact Aboriginal Legal Aid. In the past, people have generally only put in complaints on violent behaviour by the police, but people can complain in other areas as well, like police going where they shouldn't. This will help make clear the limits of police power.

### Areas for further research

1. Determining whether policing in communities which have had longer-established police stations fits the conclusions of this research, as well as examining police activity in communities without a permanent police presence. In particular the issue of police procedure with regards to larger-scale community conflict did not come up in the communities surveyed and this is likely to warrant a degree of investigation.
2. Determining whether policing in urban areas in the Northern Territory conforms to the 'over-policing' model or not.
3. Criminology from an Aboriginal viewpoint, including; what is and is not considered problematic, what the drivers of offending are from an Aboriginal perspective, and how the current legislative setup impacts on offending rates.
4. Understanding what Aboriginal people consider to be effective punishments and deterrents. The research has indicated that community work orders or restrictions to outstations are considered preferable, but more needs to be done in this area.
5. A review of the situation with regards to DVOs and the effectiveness of the Northern Territory's Violent Crime Reduction Strategy.
6. An examination of feuding and drivers of long-term between-family conflict would be valuable, including recommendations on mediation and reconciliation in this context.

7. An examination of lodgments by offence type at selected individual bush courts and regional town courts.

The Law Society's Indigenous Legal Issues Committee will continue to take a keen interest in the issues raised in the report and to advocate for the report recommendations to be implemented as far as possible. The Committee has been pleased to see the take up by Northern Territory Police in relation to some of the key recommendations in the Pilkington report. However, there are other far-reaching recommendations that have broad implications for the courts, Correctional Services and other service providers in remote communities in relation to the concept of what is appropriate service delivery to remote Northern Territory residents.

The Committee is also keen to see a renewed focus on local justice solutions, such as Community Law and Justice Groups that allow for elders to play a meaningful role in the criminal justice system. James Pilkington, the author of the report will be speaking about these issues at the upcoming 'Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference' in Brisbane to be held at the end of August 2010." ●

## Michael Kirby Wins Gruber Justice Prize

Retired High Court Judge and former member of the Northern Territory Bench has become the first Australian to win the internationally renowned Gruber Justice Prize worth \$US500,000, which he shares with Professor John Dugard of South Africa and the Indian Law Resource Centre.

The prize recognises Mr Kirby's contribution to human rights and justice issues over a long and distinguished career. Mr Kirby has

championed the cause of victims of unjust regimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation, and has played a major role in the development of international human rights law, including laws relating to privacy and HIV/AIDS.

The Gruber Prize for Justice is awarded by the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation, a US philanthropic organisation based in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Justice Prize is presented to individuals or organisations for contributions

that have advanced the cause of justice as delivered through the legal system. It is intended to acknowledge individual efforts, as well as to encourage further advancements in the field and progress toward bringing about a fundamentally just world.

The prize 2010 will be officially presented at George Washington University in Washington, DC, on 11 October. ●