

# MONTHS IN REVIEW

## JULY / AUGUST

Compiled by Jim Zovaro and Robert McCreery

29/06

- ☀ The Federal Government's controversial Stronger Futures legislation passes through the Senate, extending 'the Intervention' by another ten years. The legislation modifies the existing framework, which for the first time complies with the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth).

03/07

- ☀ The Queensland Government unveils a memorial statute in honour of Rugby League legend Arthur Beetson. Beetson was the first Indigenous Australian to captain his country in any sport.

05/07

- ☀ The Western Australian Government announces its intention to reform Part IV of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* (WA) on the basis that it is discriminatory in the way it deals with the estates of Aboriginal people. Currently, the estate of an Aboriginal person without a will vests automatically to the Public Trustee, who then distributes the estate under the provisions of the *Administration Act 1903* (WA). The reforms, which repeal this legislation, will bring Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people under the same system of management and governance.

11/07

- ☀ New figures show that 6.1 per cent more Indigenous students commenced a university degree in 2011 than in 2010. The figures also show that since 2007 the number of Indigenous students studying at university has increased by 26 per cent.

23/07

- ☀ The Government announces a \$2.4 million funding extension to increase opportunities for Indigenous Australians to join the NSW Police Force.

02/08

- ☀ The Federal Court of Australia recognises the Djungan People's Native Title rights and interests over more than 182,000 hectares of land in North Queensland. The determination combines both exclusive and non-exclusive rights over Land Act reserves, pastoral leases and some leasehold and unallocated State land.

03/08

- ☀ The Federal Government announces \$7.5 million worth of funding for three new Indigenous Health Research Centres. The three centres will respectively focus on the specific areas of lung, cancer and heart disease.

04/08

- ☀ Today marks the 25th National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day—a chance to celebrate and show support for Indigenous children across Australia. This year's theme, 'Our Children, Our Culture, Our Way', highlights the strength and longevity of Indigenous culture and reinforces the strong cultural connections Indigenous Australians develop and nurture from early childhood.

06/08

- ☀ Citing freedom of speech, Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott pledges to remove section 18(c) of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) if he wins the next election. Section 18(c) operates to protect individuals from offensive language and conduct on the basis of race, colour, national or ethnic origin.

09/08

- ☀ Today marks the United Nation's International Day of the World's Indigenous People. The day's aim is to promote and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous population, and to recognise the special cultures, history and languages of the world's Indigenous people.

23/08

- ☀ Legislation is introduced into the Queensland State Parliament addressing the need for Indigenous Queenslanders to have greater home-ownership opportunities. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Bill 2012 (Qld), which will repeal the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding Act) 1985* (Qld), seeks to address a number of long-standing issues arising from the poor operation and implementation of that Act.

24/08

- ☀ A new Australian National Anti-Racism Strategy, *Racism. It Stops with Me*, is launched in Melbourne.