

EDITORIAL

In 2008, we were shocked to learn about the tragic death in custody of Mr Ward, an Aboriginal elder from Western Australia. Transported in the back of a prison van over a 360km journey, with little water and no fresh air, the case caused a national outcry and prompted a coronial inquest. WA Coroner, Alastair Hope released his final report in June, 2009. Jonathan Hunyor opens this edition with a human-rights based discussion of the Coroner's findings and recommendations.

At the other end of the spectrum, Russell Evans and Elizabeth Fraser discuss different approaches to improve the safety of young people residing in Queensland's youth detention centres. Examining the issues raised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, they discuss the best way to protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of Indigenous young people, both while serving their sentence and during the transition back to the community.

Eileen Baldry considers the complex problems facing Indigenous women when leaving prison and examines how these circumstances can contribute to the cycle of crime. Reflecting on responses from discussions with Aboriginal women in Western Sydney, Eileen identifies their particular priorities and considers how integrated, specifically adapted post-release services could help stem the number of Indigenous women coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

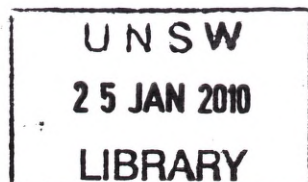
The issue of appropriate legal and social supports is critical to the question of Indigenous overrepresentation. Melanie Schwartz and Chris Cunneen discuss this relationship, arguing that the overwhelming emphasis on criminal law needs distracts from equally important, though perhaps less urgent, practical concerns. They argue that more attention needs to be paid to specific areas of civil law, by both legal aid and Aboriginal legal services, to prevent these unaddressed issues from escalating into offending behaviour.

Loretta de Plevitz and Heron Loban have been working on redressing this shortfall in civic legal knowledge through the *Got Rights* project. They have created a multi-media resource for Indigenous communities and service providers living in remote parts of Queensland. The project aims to raise awareness about civil law rights and what legal recourses are available when those rights are infringed.

Finally, Daniel Herborn reviews the *Goreng-Goreng* case, reflecting on how this case contributes to our understanding of the criminal law, the disclosure of confidential Government information and the implied freedom of political communication.

Zrinka Lemezina

Editor



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compiled by Zrinka Lemezina

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

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If you are a student, practitioner, part of a community organisation, or are simply concerned about issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the ILB wants to hear from you! We welcome contributions from Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors, on a wide range of topics. For more information, please visit our website at www.ilc.unsw.edu.au, or contact the Editor at ilb@unsw.edu.au.