

MONTHS IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

compiled by Robert McCreery

01/09

- ☀ The Queensland Government and the Cape York Institute agree to a 12-month extension of the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial in the Cape York communities of Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge. The Commonwealth Government also commits funding to support the extension of the trial. The Trial commenced in 2008 with financial support from the Queensland and Federal Governments working with the Cairns-based Cape York Institute. A key component of the Trial is the Family Responsibilities Commission ('FRC'), which provides local community justice alternatives utilising elders in individual communities.

05/09

- ☀ Mr Eric Deeral, Queensland's first Indigenous Member of Parliament, passes away at the age of 80. Mr Deeral served as the National Party Member for Cook from 1974 to 1977.

13/09

- ☀ Today marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ('UNDRIP') by the UN General Assembly. The Declaration was adopted after more than twenty years of negotiation and drafting work by Indigenous peoples and others working with the United Nations system.

21/09

- ☀ The Federal Government releases an exposure draft of The Native Title Amendment Bill 2012 (Cth), which amends the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The proposed legislative amendments are designed, in particular, to improve procedural aspects of the native title system.

25/09

- ☀ The 2012 Deadly Awards are held at the Sydney Opera House. The Deadlys® showcase the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in music, sport, the arts, entertainment and the community.

26/09

- ☀ The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Amendment Bill 2012 (WA) is introduced into the State Parliament. The Bill repeals Part IV of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* (WA) in its entirety; to provide parity for Aboriginal people who die without a valid will, by bringing them under the same scheme of distributing intestate estates as non-Aboriginal people.

05/10 to 06/10

- ☀ The seventh annual National Indigenous Legal Conference, *Pathways to Tomorrow: Innovations and Intersections in Law, Land and Justice*, is held in Perth, Western Australia. The conference addresses two key themes: New Approaches to Justice; and, Cultural and Natural Resources Management.

09/10

- ☀ The Federal Court of Australia recognises the Jangga People's Native Title rights and interests over approximately 11,350 square kilometres of land in Central Queensland. The determination area includes 218 parcels of land comprising reserves, a national park, unallocated State land, pastoral holdings and lease land. The Jangga People first lodged their native title claim in 1998.

11/10

- ☀ Results of the Legal Australia Wide ('LAW') Survey are released. The LAW Survey—the most comprehensive survey of its kind in the world—provides the first quantitative assessment of an extensive range of legal needs in Australia. Among the findings is that the legal assistance sector, including Legal Aid, Community Legal Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, require substantially greater resources in order to meet demand.

12/10

- ☀ The Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation ('WDLAC') signs a landmark agreement in support of the development of the Kintyre uranium deposits in Western Australia.

19/10

- ☀ The Australian Government, through the Indigenous Land Corporation, hands back to Wurundjeri people the title of two properties that protect significant Indigenous cultural sites in Victoria. The titles to the 7.5 hectare Mt William Axe Quarry west of Kilmore and the 9.1 hectare Sunbury Earthen Rings property to the north west of Tullamarine Airport were presented to the Wurundjeri People at a ceremony near Kilmore.

16/10

- ☀ The Federal Government, with Reconciliation South Australia, launches a kit to help promote constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians. The kit, developed by You Me Unity as part of the work being led by Reconciliation Australia, is designed to be used by Members of Parliament to help them build awareness of constitutional recognition in their own electorates and communities.