

MONTHS IN REVIEW

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

compiled by Robert McCreery

01/01

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics ('ABS') releases a report titled 'Prisoners in Australia' showing that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female prisoners has risen by 20 per cent since June 30, 2011, compared with a 3 per cent rise in non-Aboriginal female prisoners. Females currently make up 7 per cent of Australia's total prisoner population.
- The NSW Government launches the NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023, announcing that it will overhaul the way Aboriginal healthcare is delivered across the state under a ten year plan to improve health services and outcomes for the state's Aboriginal people. The Health Plan was launched in tandem with 'The Health of Aboriginal People of NSW: Report of the Chief Health Officer 2012'.

17/01

- The Western Australian Government announces the creation of Murujuga National Park which will cover a substantial portion of the Burrup Peninsula—internationally renowned for its ancient Aboriginal rock art. The park's creation is the result of a process that has seen the transfer of ownership of non-industrial lands on the Burrup Peninsula to the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation as freehold land.

18/01

- The Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) ('ALS') calls on the New South Wales Government to launch an inquiry into sentencing in regional courts. The call is in response to what the ALS has claimed to be a 'noticeable trend towards harsher sentences in regional parts of the state'.

22/01

- Prime Minister Julia Gillard announces that she has invited Nova Peris to join the Australian Labor Party and to seek

preselection for the Senate in the Northern Territory. Nova Peris was the first Aboriginal Australian to win an Olympic gold medal. If elected she would be the first Indigenous Australian to serve as a federal Labor representative and the first Aboriginal woman to sit in the Federal Parliament.

01/02

- The latest 'Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report' is released. To view the report visit <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au>

01/02-02/02

- The Inaugural NRL Indigenous Players Camp is held on the Sunshine Coast. The key focus of the camp is on enabling players to develop a stronger connection with their Indigenous heritage, culture and history.

06/02

- Prime Minister Julia Gillard delivers the fifth annual Prime Minister's Closing the Gap statement in Parliament House and tables the 2012 'Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report'.

13/02

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill passes the Federal House of Representatives. The Bill recognises the unique and special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this country.
- Today marks the fifth anniversary of the National Apology.

15/02

- AIATSIS launches its 'What's New in Native Title' service. The service provides a monthly round-up of native title information, publications and events. It is designed to assist organisations, practitioners and individuals involved in native title to access news, information and resources from a broad range of sources.