



# INDIGENOUS LAW BULLETIN UPDATE

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## BIG CHANGES IN 2017

by Laura Hunter and Ruby Langton-Batty

The final *Indigenous Law Bulletin* ('*ILB*') for 2016 offers an opportunity to reflect on what has been a huge year in Indigenous legal affairs. As we look back on the year that was, we also reflect on the many changes to come in 2017 for the *ILB*.

Editor Emma Rafferty was snapped up in July by the Australian Writer's Guild. We would like to thank Emma for her valuable contribution to the *ILB* and to the Indigenous Law Centre. We wish her well in her new position. Ruby Langton-Batty and Lucinda Stewart are currently co-editors in training and Laura Hunter has joined as our new Project Officer. We look forward to their contributions to the *ILB* over the coming year.

In 2016, the *ILB* published another six editions. This included two special editions; one on constitutional recognition, and a marine edition that had a specific focus on the role of law in mediating the relationships between Indigenous peoples and their marine and freshwater environments. We have covered current and topical issues; from the latest High Court Decisions, to reflections on where we have come in light of the 25<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and in the most recent edition with a reflection on the Don Dale Inquiry.

The *ILB*, now 37 years old, plays a vital role in the community as one of few publications specialising in Indigenous legal issues in Australia. As a non-peer reviewed publication it facilitates inclusive discussions around issues that would otherwise have no platform. It gives voice to students, legal practitioners, and academics alike balancing some of the negative representations of Indigenous people and issues in the mainstream media.

**Like so many other Indigenous community organisations, the *ILB* has succumbed to funding cuts. In 2017, the *ILB* will remain in print format, but with only four editions planned. If our financial situation remains the same, in 2018, the *ILB* will transition to an online format. Despite this sad news, we remain positive that 2017 will be a great year for the *ILB*, and have made plans for improvements into the future. We look forward to your ongoing support.**