

Chapter 12

De-colonisation or re-colonisation? Contemporary social work and Indigenous Australians

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Chapter summary
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Child welfare: From protection to assimilation
 Bringing Them Home
 Contemporary approaches
 State and Territory child welfare
 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle
 Principles of self-determination and participation
 The Northern Territory Intervention
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Chapter summary

Laws have a cumulative and pervasive impact on the lives of individuals and communities. Drawing on the examples of 'the stolen generations', the child protection system and the criminal justice system, this chapter explains how legal and policy provisions have failed to provide effective solutions to the problems faced by Indigenous peoples and have contributed to cumulative disadvantage. It is suggested that it is important to re-frame social work as a rights-based profession and to identify ways in which social workers can engage in practice that enables Indigenous Australians to participate fully in society while recognising their cultures, aspirations and the impact that history has had.

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.

Additional reading

- Behrendt, L, Cunneen, C and Libesman, T, 2008, *Indigenous Legal Relations in Australia*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Bennett, B, Green, S, Gilbert, S and Bessarab, D, 2013, *Our Voices: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Work*, Palgrave Macmillan, Melbourne.
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- Several journals are of particular use – including the *Indigenous Law Bulletin* and the *Australian Indigenous Law Review* (previously the *Australian Indigenous Law Reporter*), both published by the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW, Sydney <www.austlii.edu.au>.

Websites

No claim is made as to the accuracy or authenticity of the content of the sites suggested in this chapter. Site addresses change – if the address is no longer accurate, search using keywords or the title of the organisation concerned.

- Australian Human Rights Commission <www.humanrights.gov.au>
 Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation <antar.org.au>
 Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Workers <www.atsisw.org>
 Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care <www.snaicc.org.au>

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Notes

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