
MONTHS IN REVIEW

MAY-JULY

Compiled by Paris Donnelly

11/05 Following pressure from the public and media, The Director of Public Prosecutions announces an independent review into previous decisions not to prosecute over the death of Indigenous woman Lynette Daley.

16/05 'Firstvoices', an Indigenous language app for iOS and Android, is launched to preserve over 100 languages from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US.

17/05 The Victorian Government announces a national weekend retreat for trans and gender diverse Aboriginal people to mark International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

26/05 The Aboriginal Victorian Forum is held to discuss how to advance self-determination, an Indigenous representative body, and a treaty. Attendees include community and youth representatives, Government Ministers, and academics.

27/05 National Reconciliation Week begins, the anniversary of the 1967 referendum is celebrated, and The National Indigenous Arts Awards are observed.

02/06 Australian Capital Territory's Justice Minister announces an independent inquiry into the death in custody of Steven Freeman, to be conducted by the former integrity commissioner.

03/06 Mabo day is observed.

13/06 Nine Indigenous Australians are recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, including Warren Mundine and Rhoda Roberts who were named Officers of the Order of Australia for their services to the Indigenous community.

21/06 The Kenbi *Land Rights Act* claim is settled thirty-seven years after it was first lodged. Prime Minister Turnbull hands title deeds to the four surviving traditional owners, signifying the 52 000 hectares that will become Aboriginal land.

30/06 In a landmark Native Title decision for the Northern Territory, the Federal Court recognises the Rumburriya Borroloola people's exclusive possession of vacant Crown land in order to take and use

resources for commercial purposes. The decision is important to facilitate trade opportunities.

02/07 After 116 years of Parliament, Wiradjuri woman and Indigenous rights campaigner Linda Burney is the first Indigenous woman to be elected to the House of Representatives. She has also been sworn into the Labor shadow ministry.

03/07 NAIDOC week is celebrated with the theme: *Songlines: The living narrative of our nation*, recognising the importance of the Dreamtime in connecting Indigenous peoples to Country.

15/07 The Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation's *Return to Country* Scheme restarts after a \$300 000 funding grant. The program aims to reduce Indigenous homelessness by assisting 'long grassers' to return to their communities.

16/07 Indigenous peoples join the 'Black Lives Matter' protest in Sydney, standing in solidarity with protesters in the United States and calling for an end to entrenched racism, deaths in custody and dispossession.

18/07 Northern Territory Senator Nigel Scullion is reappointed as Indigenous Affairs Minister in the re-elected Coalition Government.

18/07 The third Referendum Council meeting is held in Melbourne to discuss how to implement constitutional amendment and/or a formal treaty to recognise Indigenous peoples. In the coming months, the Council will lead Regional forums to consult with and promote dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

23/07 Bill Shorten appoints himself opposition spokesman for Indigenous Affairs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Indigenous Senator Pat Dodson is appointed as Shorten's Assistant Minister.

28/07 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull calls for a Royal Commission, to be conducted jointly with the Northern Territory Government, into Northern Territory youth detention centres. The call comes after graphic footage of the mistreatment and abuse of juvenile inmates at Don Dale detention centre was aired on the *Four Corners* program.