

# MONTHS IN REVIEW

## APRIL–JUNE

compiled by Paige Bisset and Ruby Langton-Batty

### APRIL

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#### 03/04

- After a 14-day visit, The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples, releases a preliminary report. The report highlights the growing Indigenous incarceration rate and child protection policies as areas of serious concern.

#### 04/04

- Walpiri elders launch Kurdiji 1.0 GoFundMe page to raise funds to develop the app. Kurdiji is a community developed suicide prevention app powered by Walpiri knowledge. Kurdiji means 'shield' in Walpiri.

#### 05/04

- Government launches Indigenous Student Success Program, committing \$67.5m to support Indigenous university students complete their degrees.

#### 07/04

- Federal Court orders Channic, a Queensland car yard lender, to pay over \$1.2 million after charging Indigenous consumers 48% interest on car loans.

#### 11/04

- Police charge a woman over alleged racist comments on Facebook calling AFL Indigenous athlete Eddie Betts an 'ape' among other discriminatory remarks. AFL Players' Indigenous Advisory Board releases an open letter pleading for the end of racial abuse.

#### 12/04

- Oxfam Australia releases a report finding one in five Indigenous households fall into the country's poorest 10 per cent of households. The report makes 10 recommendations,

including urging the government to implement every relevant recommendation from every major report into Indigenous affairs in the last 30 years.

#### 28/04

- Little J & Big Cuz premiers on NITV. The show is the first of its kind – an animated series featuring Indigenous children.

#### 30/04

- the 'Little Children Are Sacred' report was tabled on this day in 2007, concluding that neglect of children in Aboriginal communities had reached crisis levels, demanding that it 'be designated as an issue of urgent national significance by both the Australian and Northern Territory governments'. However, the Australian Government misinterpreted the report, resulting in the Northern Territory National Emergency Response (the 'Intervention').

### MAY

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#### 01/05

- Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency finds dumped asbestos in and around remote Indigenous communities is a wide spread problem.
- Geologists confirm a 7000-year-old story told by the Gugu Badhun people is true. The story tells of a large explosion that created an epic hole in the ground, filled the air with thick dust, turned the air hot and made fire run along the river. Geologists believe Kinrara, a volcano in Queensland, erupted and is the one mentioned in the story.

#### 11/05

- NRL Indigenous Round begins. The theme of the 2017 Indigenous Round is 'Recognition'.

## 12/05

- Kakadu hosts first ever Indigenous food festival 'A Taste of Kakadu'.

## 13/05

- Gold Coast Commonwealth Games selects Jimboomba's Bush Therapies, an Aboriginal owned and operated businesses, to supply official merchandise for the games.

## 16/05

- Chanel receives backlash for appropriating Indigenous culture by producing a \$2000 boomerang.

## 17/05

- Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten 'respectfully decline' attending the closing ceremony of the First Nations Convention at Uluru.
- The Wuthathi, Kuku Yau and Northern Kaanju people regain legal ownership of 160,000 hectares in Cape York. The hand-back of the land ends 150 years of dispossession. The land contains at least 81 sites of cultural significance, from story places to burial grounds.

## 18/05

- The Human Rights Law Centre and Change the Record find rates of female Indigenous women incarceration have risen 248 per cent since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

## 22/05

- First Nations Convention kicks off in Uluru. Delegates from across the country aim to reach consensus on constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians.

## 23/05

- National Indigenous Youth Parliament takes place this week with a group of 50 young Indigenous men and women participating in the program in Canberra.

## 25/05

- Seven Indigenous delegates from NSW and Victoria walk out of discussions at the First Nations Convention in Uluru. They declare that sovereign treaties (not a referendum) are needed.

## 26/05

- The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* is delivered by over 250 delegates at the First Nations Convention in Uluru. The Statement calls for establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and establishment of a Makarrata Commission to

supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations that includes truth-telling about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's history.

- National Sorry Day. The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998 following the 1997 HREOC report *Bringing Them Home* which recommended that a national day of observance be declared.

## 27/05

- Today marks 50 years since the 1967 referendum where 90 per cent of Australians voted allow the Federal Parliament pass law with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and count them in the population.

## 29/05

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urges Pope Francis to visit Canada and apologise for its treatment of Indigenous children in catholic schools. A 2015 report found that the Church spiritually, culturally, emotionally, physically, and sexually abused Indigenous children in their care amounting to cultural genocide.

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## JUNE

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### 03/06

- The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic High Court decision *Mabo* that overturned the fiction of terra nullius and declared that 'native title' did exist, in particular recognising that belonging to the people of Mer in the Torres Strait Islands.

### 10/06

- Anniversary of the 1957 Palm Island Strike, during which seven men led by Albie Gia refused to work in protest against the inhumane treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Palm Island.

### 30/06

- The Referendum Council handed down its report to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. The Council has now disbanded.