

Appendix 3:

Chronology of events relating to the administration of Indigenous affairs, 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010

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Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>1 July 2009 <i>\$1 billion allocated for Indigenous health programs (2009–2010)</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government allocated approximately \$1 billion for Indigenous health programs in 2009–2010. The funds were allocated to meeting health outcomes agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), commitments in the Northern Territory and a series of other investments in Indigenous health.¹</p>
<p>1 July 2009 <i>New Indigenous employment services commenced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government allocated \$202 million to deliver employment services for Indigenous peoples through the reformed Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program, the Community Support Service and the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP).²</p>
<p>1 July 2009 <i>Indigenous Employment Program panels established</i></p>	<p>Indigenous Employment panels have been established by the Australian Government to boost employment opportunities for Indigenous people and support enterprises which employ Indigenous workers.³</p>

- 1 Department of Health and Ageing, 'Health Care Boost for Indigenous Australians' (Media Release, 1 July 2009). At <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws006.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=7> (viewed 5 May 2010).
- 2 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Greater employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians' (Media Release, 1 July 2007). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/employ_opportunities_indigenous_aust_01jul09.aspx (viewed 4 May 2010).
- 3 Senator The Hon M Arbib, Minister for Employment Participation, 'Tender results for panels under Indigenous Employment Program' (Media Release, 1 July 2009). At http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Arbib/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090701_162643.aspx (viewed 26 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>2 July 2009 <i>COAG agreement to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage</i></p>	<p>The Council of Australian Governments agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a move towards national licensing arrangements for stores in remote Indigenous communities ▪ strict reporting requirements and timelines for states and territories, to measure progress towards closing the gap ▪ investments in educational funding towards improving educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians.⁴
<p>2 July 2009 <i>'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009' report released</i></p>	<p>The Productivity Commission's report, <i>Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009</i> showed that the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians remained high against most measurements of social, economic and personal well-being. While there had been improvements in some areas, the progress in other areas had been limited. Some indicators, such as involvement with the criminal justice system, showed deterioration.⁵</p>
<p>3 July 2009 <i>Partnership agreement for East Kimberley development package signed</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government and the West Australian Government signed a partnership agreement for the East Kimberley development package. Under the agreement, the Commonwealth allocated \$91 million to five priority areas: health infrastructure, education and training, social housing, transport infrastructure and community infrastructure.⁶</p>
<p>29 July 2009 <i>Alice Springs town camps sign a 40-year sub-lease</i></p>	<p>The Alice Springs town camp housing associations and the Tangentyere Council signed a 40-year sub-lease with the Australian Government. The lease was a condition of the \$138 million in funding to improve housing and services in Alice Springs.⁷</p>

4 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians' (Media Release, 2 July 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/closing_the_gap_02july09.htm (viewed 27 April 2010).

5 Productivity Commission, 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators' (Media Release, 2 July 2009). At <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2009/media-release> (viewed 30 April 2010).

6 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 'Governments sign agreement for East Kimberley' (Media Release, 3 July 2009). At <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/5063> (viewed 30 April 2010).

7 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Agreement on Alice Springs Transformation Plan' (Media Release, 29 July 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/alice_springs_transformation_plan_29jul09.aspx (viewed 11 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>9 August 2009 <i>New Indigenous languages policy announced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government's national Indigenous language policy was announced, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bringing national attention to Indigenous languages ▪ encouraging the use of critically endangered languages ▪ making sure that in areas where Indigenous languages are being spoken fully and passed on, government recognises these languages when it interacts with Indigenous communities ▪ helping restore the use of rarely spoken or unspoken Indigenous languages ▪ supporting the teaching and learning of Indigenous languages in Australian schools.⁸
<p>12 August 2009 <i>Dilak Provincial Authority formed</i></p>	<p>Indigenous leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu announced the formation of the Dilak Provincial Authority, which represents 12 000 Yolngu people. The Authority called for the Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation to be repealed as a matter of urgency and for Indigenous peoples to be able to use their resources for their own advancement. Galarrwuy Yunupingu also urged Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to honour his pledge to recognise Indigenous Australians as the first peoples of the country in the Australian Constitution.⁹</p>
<p>17–28 August 2009 <i>UN Special Rapporteur on indigenous people mission to Australia</i></p>	<p>The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Professor James Anaya, conducted an official mission to Australia.¹⁰</p>
<p>27 August 2009 <i>Model for a National Indigenous Representative Body proposed</i></p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner presented the report, <i>Our future in our hands</i>, to the Australian Government.</p> <p>The report outlines a proposed model for a National Indigenous Representative Body as developed by the Steering Committee.</p> <p>The report proposes that the representative body: be independent of government; have an equal number of men and women in leadership positions; and rely on strict ethical standards.</p> <p>The model proposes that there be a selection process for delegate positions on the three-chambered National Congress and a second selection process to become a National Executive member.</p>

8 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for the Environment Heritage and the Arts, 'New national approach to preserve Indigenous languages' (Joint Media Release, 9 August 2009). At http://www.alrc.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx?nav_id=217 (viewed 11 May 2010).

9 'NT Intervention creating misery: Yunupingu', ABC Indigenous News Online, 12 August 2009. At http://www.internationalbenchmarking.org/news/stories/2009/08/12/2653839.htm?site=indigenous&topic=lat_est (viewed 8 June 2010).

10 J Anaya, *Statement of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, James Anaya, as he concludes his visit to Australia* (2009). At <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=53&LangID=E> (viewed 8 June 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>27 August 2009 (continued) <i>Model for a National Indigenous Representative Body proposed</i></p>	<p>The body should be a private company limited by guarantee and funded by the Australian Government on a recurrent basis for an initial five-year period, subject to negotiation thereafter. The report recommended that the body be granted Deductible Gift Recipient status as a matter of urgency to enable the body to raise corporate support and donations.¹¹</p>
<p>28 August 2009 <i>Best Practice Guidelines endorsed at Native Title Ministers' Meeting</i></p>	<p>Federal, state and territory Native Title Ministers endorsed the <i>Guidelines for Best Practice in Flexible and Sustainable Agreement Making</i>. The Guidelines aim to provide practical guidance to governments on the behaviours, attitudes and practices that can achieve the efficient resolution of native title claims.¹²</p>
<p>30 August 2009 <i>Indigenous Young People, Crime and Justice Conference</i></p>	<p>The Indigenous Young People, Crime and Justice Conference was hosted by the Australian Institute of Criminology in partnership with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the NSW Department of Justice and Attorney General and the Australian Human Rights Commission.</p> <p>The conference discussed effective strategies to tackle the over-representation of Indigenous young people in the criminal justice system. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner emphasised the importance of focusing on prevention and diversion, rather than detention, in dealing with crime.¹³</p>
<p>31 August 2009 <i>Review Report on the NT Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) released</i></p>	<p>The review report for the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) found that while the program is sound in many respects, changes need to be made to ensure that the program meets the targeted figures of new houses and housing improvements.</p> <p>The Australian and Northern Territory Governments accepted all findings and recommendations of the report.¹⁴</p>

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- 11 Australian Human Rights Commission, 'Radical new approach announced for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs' (Media Release, 27 August 2009). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2009/80_09.html (viewed 29 April 2010).
- 12 Native Title Ministers' Meeting, *Communiqué* (28 August 2009). At http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2009_ThirdQuarter_28August2009-Communiqué-NativeTitleMinistersMeeting (viewed 10 May 2010).
- 13 Australian Human Rights Commission, 'Getting Indigenous youth out of the criminal justice system' (Media Release, 30 August 2009). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2009/82_09.html (viewed 24 May 2010).
- 14 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Improving Indigenous Housing in the NT' (Media Release, 31 August 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/sihip_31aug09.aspx (viewed 11 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>10 September 2009 <i>Three Indigenous communities in the NT signed 40-year lease agreements under SIHIP</i></p>	<p>The Northern Territory communities of Maningrida, Gunbalanya and Wadeye signed forty-year leases with the Australian Government.</p> <p>The signing of the leases was a condition of the agreement to construct new houses in these communities. 105 houses will be built in Wadeye, 109 houses in Maningrida and 62 houses in Gunbalanya.¹⁵</p>
<p>18 September 2009 <i>Native Title Amendment Act 2009 (Cth) commenced</i></p>	<p>The <i>Native Title Amendment Act 2009</i> (Cth) commenced. The amendments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ giving the Federal Court a central role in managing native title claims ▪ enabling the Court to rely on a statement of facts agreed between parties ▪ allowing the Court to make orders about matters beyond native title ▪ allowing the Court to use recent changes in evidence laws to make it easier to receive evidence of traditional laws and customs.¹⁶
<p>18 September 2009 <i>Queensland trial of the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) announced</i></p>	<p>Around 2000 parents receiving income support in the trial sites will be required, if requested, to demonstrate to Centrelink that their children are enrolled in school. The parents will also be required to demonstrate that they are taking reasonable steps to make sure their children attend school regularly. Parents who fail to do so may have their income payments suspended until the problem is resolved.</p> <p>Thirty schools will be involved in this measure across the Logan suburbs of Woodridge, Kingston, Logan Central and Eagleby, and the communities of Doomadgee and Mornington.¹⁷</p>
<p>24 September 2009 <i>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation's report accepted by the Australian Government and the Interim Board is established</i></p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation team presented their report <i>Voices from the Campfires: Establishing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation</i> to the Australian Government.</p> <p>Public consultations to develop a model for the Foundation were held from May to August 2009. The outcomes of the consultations and the recommendations for a model were produced in the report. All of the recommendations were accepted by the Australian Government.</p> <p>The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs announced the formation of an Interim Board to work on the establishment of the Foundation, including: drafting its constitution, arranging its incorporation and conducting a national recruitment process to appoint the Foundation's Inaugural Board.¹⁸</p>

- 15 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Leases signed in Maningrida, Gunbalanya & Wadeye' (Media Release, 10 September 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/leases_signed_10sept09.aspx (viewed 14 July 2010).
- 16 Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, *Native Title Amendment Act 2009 – Information sheet*, http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/land/Pages/ammend_act2009_info.aspx (viewed 12 July 2010).
- 17 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Increasing school attendance and enrolment in Queensland' (Media Release, 18 September 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/jm_m_qldschoolattendance_18september2009.aspx (viewed 11 May 2010).
- 18 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation*, http://healingfoundation.org.au/?page_id=2 (viewed 18 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>28 September 2009 <i>Agreement signed for return of the remains of five Indigenous Australians</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government and Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) signed an agreement for the return from the Netherlands to Australia of the remains of five Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The remains of two ancestors were to be handed over to two elders of the Bundjalung community in the Northern Rivers region of NSW during a ceremony in Leiden.</p> <p>The remains of three other Indigenous Australians will be returned to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra where further examination will be undertaken to ascertain their origins.¹⁹</p>
<p>30 September 2009 <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation incorporated</i></p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation was incorporated as a private company. It is an Indigenous-controlled organisation established to support community healing initiatives to address the traumatic legacies of forced removal and other past government policies.²⁰</p>
<p>30 September 2009 <i>National Human Rights Consultation Report presented to the Attorney-General</i></p>	<p>The National Human Rights Consultation Committee delivered its report to the Attorney-General. In addition to recommending human rights education and a national Human Rights Act, the report recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A 'statement of impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' be provided to the federal Parliament when the intent is to legislate exclusively for those peoples, to suspend the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> (Cth) or to institute a special measure. ▪ In partnership with Indigenous communities, the Australian Government develop and implement a framework for self-determination, outlining consultation protocols, roles and responsibilities (so that the communities have meaningful control over their affairs) and strategies for increasing Indigenous Australians' participation in the institutions of democratic government. ▪ The definition of 'human rights' in the <i>Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986</i> (Cth) be expanded to include the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>.²¹
<p>14 October 2009 <i>High Court refuses leave to appeal in FMG Pilbara case</i></p>	<p>The High Court refused special leave to appeal the decision of the Full Federal Court in <i>FMG Pilbara Pty Ltd v Cox</i> (2009) 175 FCR 141.²²</p> <p>The Full Federal Court had found that, regardless of the stage reached in negotiations, all the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth) requires is that the parties negotiate in good faith about the doing of the future act during a six month period. Once that time expires, a future act determination can be sought from the National Native Title Tribunal. The Full Federal Court also considered that the obligation to negotiate in good faith had been discharged in this case.</p>

19 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs 'Indigenous remains to be returned from Netherlands' (Media Release, 28 September 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/indigenous_remains_28sept09.aspx (viewed 12 July 2010).

20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation*, http://healingfoundation.org.au/?page_id=2 (viewed 18 May 2010).

21 National Human Rights Consultation Committee, *National Human Rights Consultation Report* (2009). At <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/nhrcc.nsf/Page/Report> (viewed 12 July 2010).

22 See Transcript of proceedings, *Cox v FMG Pilbara Pty Ltd* [2009] HCATrans277 (14 October 2009). At <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/HCATrans/2009/277.html> (viewed 14 October 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>21 October 2009 <i>Native Title Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009 (Cth) introduced in Parliament</i></p>	<p>The Native Title Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009 (Cth) was introduced into Parliament. The Bill proposed to create a new future act process to facilitate the construction of public housing and infrastructure in communities on Indigenous-held land.²³</p>
<p>22 October 2009 <i>Kowanyama consent determination</i></p>	<p>Justice Greenwood of the Federal Court finalised part of the Kowanyama people's claimant application through a consent determination. The determination area covers 2730 square kilometres and includes part of the claim area subject to the Kowanyama Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) and a coastal strip. The Kowanyama people were granted exclusive native title rights over the former area and non-exclusive rights over the latter.</p>
<p>23 October 2009 <i>International Repatriation Advisory Committee appointed</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government appointed an International Repatriation Advisory Committee. The Committee will give expert advice to the Australian Government on the return of Indigenous remains to Australia from different parts of the world.²⁴</p>
<p>29 October 2009 <i>Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Office established in QLD</i></p>	<p>The Queensland Government created the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Office to accelerate Indigenous housing construction. The Office will deliver infrastructure projects to the communities of Mornington Island, Doomadgee, Aurukun and Hopevale. The Office will negotiate with councils to secure 40-year leases over land.²⁵</p>
<p>30 October 2009 <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008 (NATSISS) released</i></p>	<p>The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008 (NATSISS) drew on responses from approximately 10 000 Indigenous Australians. It provides a snapshot of the well-being of the Indigenous population by reporting on Indigenous peoples' educational attainment, work, health and cultural lives.²⁶</p>
<p>6 November 2009 <i>National Framework on Indigenous Law and Justice Issues agreed</i></p>	<p>Commonwealth, state and territory governments agreed to a National Framework on Indigenous Law and Justice Issues. The Framework aims to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system by focusing on community safety strategies and reducing rates of alcohol and substance-related crime.²⁷</p>

- 23 See Parliament of Australia, Parlinfo Search, *Native Title Amendment Bill (No 2) 2009*, <http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22legislation%2Fbillhome%2Fr4230%22> (viewed 22 December 2010). The Bill lapsed on 28 September 2010. However legislation in almost identical form was passed on 25 November 2010 (see *Native Title Amendment (No 1) 2010* (Cth)).
- 24 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'International Repatriation Advisory Committee appointed' (Media Release, 23 October 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/int_repartriation_comm_23oct09.aspx (viewed 11 May 2010).
- 25 ABC Online, *New office to hasten remote Indigenous housing*, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/29/2727185.htm> (viewed 23 April 2010).
- 26 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008* (2010). At <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4720.0?OpenDocument> (viewed 23 December 2010).
- 27 The Hon R McClelland MP, Attorney-General, 'Tackling Indigenous Law and Justice Issues' (Media Release, 6 November 2009). At http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2009_FourthQuarter_6November2009- (viewed 29 April 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>20 November 2009 <i>QLD Crime and Misconduct Commission recommended a new Indigenous police command</i></p>	<p>The Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) issued its report on policing in Indigenous communities. The review was held in response to the death in custody of Palm Island man Cameron Doomadgee.</p> <p>The CMC recommended the establishment of a new Indigenous police command and greater control at the local level.²⁸</p>
<p>22 November 2009 <i>New National Congress of Australia's First Peoples announced</i></p>	<p>The new national Indigenous representative body will be called the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.</p> <p>This announcement followed confirmation by the Australian Government that it had accepted the recommendations of the Steering Committee's report, <i>Our Future in Our Hands</i>, and had agreed to provide initial funding for the body until December 2013.²⁹</p>
<p>23 November 2009 <i>Report on the Northern Territory Emergency Response Redesign Consultations released</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government's report on the <i>Northern Territory Emergency Response Redesign Consultation</i> detailed findings of the consultations conducted by the Government from June to August 2009.</p> <p>Several thousand people attended more than 500 meetings and workshops covering 73 remote Northern Territory communities and town camps. The feedback reflected a broad range of views, including some strong opposition to aspects of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.³⁰</p>
<p>23 November – 4 December 2009 <i>UN Special Rapporteur on health visited Australia</i></p>	<p>The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health conducted an official mission to Australia.</p>
<p>25 November 2009 <i>Jabiru native title claim settled</i></p>	<p>The Australian and Northern Territory Governments and the Mirarr Traditional Owners reached an agreement to recognise Mirarr traditional ownership of land through a grant under the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976</i> (Cth), with an immediate 99-year leaseback of the Jabiru township to the Executive Director of Township Leasing. The claim, situated within the world heritage listed Kakadu National Park, was the longest-running native title claim in the Northern Territory.³¹</p>

28 M Cornish, ABC News, *CMC recommends new Qld Indigenous policing arrangements*, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/20/2748923.htm> (viewed 13 May 2010).

29 Australian Human Rights Commission, 'New National Congress of Australia's First Peoples announced' (Media Release, 22 November 2009). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2009/116_09.html (viewed 15 July 2010).

30 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Comprehensive consultation on redesigning the Northern Territory Emergency Response' (Media Release, 23 November 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/jm_m_nterredesign_23november2009.aspx (viewed 4 May 2010).

31 The Hon R McClelland MP, Attorney-General, 'Jabiru Native Title Settlement' (Media Release, 25 November 2009). At http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2009_FourthQuarter_25November2009-JabiruNativeTitleSettlement (viewed 29 April 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>25 November 2009 <i>Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) reform Bills introduced in Parliament</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government introduced the following Bills in Parliament in order to redesign the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 (Cth) ▪ Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2009 Measures) Bill 2009 (Cth).³² <p>The Government states that several of the NTER measures have been redesigned so they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improved and strengthened ▪ sustainable over the long-term ▪ 'more clearly special measures or non-discriminatory within the terms of the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i>'.³³
<p>26 November 2009 <i>Senate Inquiry into Bills to reform of the NTER commenced</i></p>	<p>The Senate Community Affairs Committee commenced its Inquiry into the following Bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 (Cth) ▪ Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2009 Measures) Bill 2009 (Cth) ▪ Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Restoration of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 (Cth) [introduced by Senator Siewert].
<p>27 November 2009 <i>Alice Springs Town Camp Housing Associations agreed to sub-lease with the Australian Government</i></p>	<p>The Tangentyere Council agreed to the terms and conditions for the sub-lease of their Special Purposes Leases offered by the Australian Government.³⁴</p>
<p>4 December 2009 <i>Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services' first Six-Month Report released</i></p>	<p>The Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services released his first Six-Month Report.³⁵ The report contained findings on progress being made in delivering essential services to people living in 29 priority Indigenous locations across Australia.</p>

32 Parliament of Australia, *Bills of the Current Parliament*, <http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22legislation/billhome/r4265%22> (viewed 12 July 2010).

33 Explanatory Memorandum, Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 (Cth), outline. At <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/legislation/bills1.nsf/framelodgmentattachments/40DF878226ED1626CA25767A0005AFF3> (viewed 21 September 2010).

34 Tangentyere Council, 'Tangentyere Welcomes Agreement' (Media Release, 27 November 2009). At <http://www.tangentyere.org.au/news/> (viewed 14 July 2010).

35 B Gleeson, Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services, *Six Monthly Report July–November 2009*, Office of the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services (2009). At <http://www.cgris.gov.au/site/letter.asp> (27 April 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>7 December 2009 <i>COAG agreed to renegotiate Indigenous housing arrangements</i></p>	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the renegotiation of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, with a view to a renegotiated agreement coming into effect by July 2010.</p> <p>The renegotiation will enable a more competitive process for allocation of funding by the Commonwealth for capital works and provide strong incentives for the state governments and the Northern Territory Government to progress the construction of new housing, repairs and maintenance in remote Indigenous communities over the remaining eight years of the National Partnership Agreement.³⁶</p>
<p>17 December 2009 <i>Historic Heads of Agreement signed for Noongar native title claims</i></p>	<p>The West Australia Government signed a Heads of Agreement with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council outlining a framework for the resolution of the Noongar People's active native claims.³⁷</p>
<p>18 December 2009 <i>Maralinga lands handed back to Traditional Owners</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government handed the Maralinga lands back to the Traditional Owners, 50 years after the British Nuclear Tests program made parts of it uninhabitable. The damage to the lands required many years of extensive rehabilitation work. Under the Maralinga Maintenance Deed, the Australian Government will provide \$6 million for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure on the lands for community use.³⁸</p>
<p>4 January 2010 <i>Ethics Council of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples appointed</i></p>	<p>The Inaugural Ethics Council consists of six Indigenous members, Mr Tom Calma, Professor Larissa Behrendt, Mr Wesley Enoch, Ms Mary Graham, Ms Nalwarri Ngurruwutthun and Professor Lester Irabinna Rigney.</p> <p>The Ethics Council will be responsible for developing and maintaining standards for the new Congress. The Ethics Council and the Steering Committee will finalise the interim National Executive to lead the organisation through its development phase in 2010.³⁹</p>

36 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister and The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Renegotiation of National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing' (Media Release, 7 December 2009). At http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=;db=:group=:;holdingType=:id=:orderBy=:page=:query=AuthorId%3AG6%7CReporterId%3APG6%7CSpeakerId%3APG6%20Author_Phrase%3A%22rudd,%20kevin,%20mp%22;querytype=:rec=8;resCount= (viewed 30 July 2010).

37 See National Native Title Tribunal, *Agreement begins negotiations*, <http://www.nntt.gov.au/Native-Title-In-Australia/Western-Australia/Pages/South-west.aspx> (viewed 29 September 2010); South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, *Negotiations with the West Australia Government*, <http://www.noongar.org.au/talks-government.php> (viewed 29 September 2010).

38 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Maralinga nuclear test site reclaimed after half a century' (Media Release, 18 December 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2009/Pages/maralinga_18dec2009.aspx (viewed 4 May 2010).

39 Australian Human Rights Commission, 'Inaugural Ethics Council up and running' (Media Release, 4 January 2010). At http://humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/1_10.html (viewed 20 July 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>8 February 2010 <i>Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No 1] (Cth) introduced into the House of Representatives</i></p>	<p>The Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No 1] (Cth), a private member's bill, was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott, in the House of Representatives. The Bill would provide that 'the development or use of native title land in a wild river area cannot be regulated under the relevant Queensland legislation unless the Aboriginal traditional owners of the land agree'.⁴⁰ Mr Abbott referred to the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> when introducing the Bill.⁴¹</p>
<p>11 February 2010 <i>Ten new Indigenous mothers and babies health services announced</i></p>	<p>The Prime Minister announced \$9.1 million funding for ten new Indigenous mothers and babies health services. These services are in addition to the existing 43 services.⁴²</p>
<p>11 February 2010 <i>Government Ambassador for Business Action appointed</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government appointed Colin Carter as Ambassador for Business Action to encourage private businesses to participate in the economic development of Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The Ambassador will lead the Government's effort to promote Indigenous employment in the private sector.⁴³</p>
<p>12 February 2010 <i>Prime Minister delivered his 'Closing the Gap Report 2010'.</i></p>	<p>The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd delivered his second Closing the Gap statement to Parliament. The report reviewed progress against the six COAG targets set in 2008 in the areas of life expectancy, mortality rates, education, health and employment.⁴⁴</p> <p>The Close the Gap Coalition for Indigenous Health Equality also released its inaugural Shadow Report on the Australian Government's progress towards closing the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.⁴⁵</p>

40 Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 (Cth), proposed section 5.

41 Commonwealth, *Parliamentary Debates*, House of Representatives, 8 February 2010, pp 714-715 (The Hon T Abbott MP, Leader of the Opposition). At <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/reps/dailys/dr080210.pdf> (viewed 22 July 2010).

42 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 'More support for Indigenous mums and bubs' (Media Release, 11 April 2010). At <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6475> (viewed 21 April 2010).

43 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 'New ambassador for business to help Close the Gap' Media Release, 11 February 2010). At <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6479> (viewed 6 May 2010).

44 The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister, *Closing the Gap – Prime Minister's Report* (2010). At http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/general/Pages/closing_the_gap_2010.aspx (viewed 10 November 2010); Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, *Close the Gap Prime Minister's 2010 report to parliament*, http://www.antar.org.au/close_the_gap_prime_ministers_2010_report_to_parliament (viewed 19 July 2010).

45 Close the Gap Steering Committee for Indigenous Health Equality, *Shadow Report on the Australian Government's progress towards closing the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians* (2010). At http://humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/health/index.html (viewed 23 December 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>17 February 2010 <i>Australia's first National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking appointed</i></p>	<p>Tom Calma was appointed as the National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking. The National Coordinator will lead and mentor the tackling smoking workforce being established under the Australian Government's \$100 million COAG Tackling Smoking initiative to reduce the incidence of tobacco smoking in Indigenous communities.⁴⁶</p>
<p>23 February 2010 <i>Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No 2] (Cth) introduced and referred to Committee</i></p>	<p>The Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No. 2] (Cth) was introduced into the Senate by Nigel Scullion. The Bill is identical to the Bill introduced into the House of Representatives by the Leader of the Opposition, on 8 February 2010.</p> <p>The Senate referred the Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No. 2] (Cth) to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee.</p>
<p>24 February 2010 <i>Senate Committee reports on the Native Title Amendment Bill (No 2) 2009 (Cth)</i></p>	<p>The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee recommended that the Bill be amended to include the provision of staff housing as part of the new future acts process. Subject to this recommendation, the Committee recommended that the Bill be passed.⁴⁷</p>
<p>25 February 2010 <i>Queensland Constitution recognises Indigenous peoples as First Peoples</i></p>	<p>Queensland became the second state after Victoria to recognise Indigenous peoples in its Constitution.⁴⁸</p>
<p>25 February 2010 <i>WA Government and Yawuru Traditional Owners signed two ILUAs</i></p>	<p>The Yawuru People signed two Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with the State of Western Australia and the Shire of Broome. These agreements are considered to be the largest native title agreements in Australia.⁴⁹</p>
<p>26 February 2010 <i>National Centre of Indigenous Excellence opened</i></p>	<p>The Prime Minister officially opened the \$50 million National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Sydney.</p> <p>Created with the support of the Indigenous Land Corporation, the centre provides facilities in sports, education and the arts for up to 5000 young Indigenous people from around Australia every year.⁵⁰</p>

46 Department of Health and Aging, 'New National Coordinator to Tackle Indigenous Smoking' (Media Release, 17 February 2010). At <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws012.htm> (viewed 15 July 2010).

47 Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee, Parliament of Australia, *Native Title Amendment Bill (No 2) 2009 [Provisions]* (2010), p 33. At http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/nativetitle_two/report/index.htm (viewed 28 July 2010).

48 Australian Human rights Commission, 'Recognition in Queensland's Constitution another milestone for reconciliation' (Media Release, 25 February 2010). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/12_10.html (viewed 24 May 2010).

49 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Native Title Newsletter*, No 1/2010 (2010), p 15. At [http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/newsletter.html#janfeb10\[1\].pdf](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/newsletter.html#janfeb10[1].pdf) (viewed 15 July 2010).

50 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 'Opening of the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence' (Media Release, 26 February 2010). At <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6516> (viewed 23 April 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>1 March 2010 <i>Queensland Court of Appeal dismissed appeal in Aurukun case</i></p>	<p>The Queensland Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the Aurukun and Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Councils in relation to amendments made to the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> (Qld) prohibiting local councils from holding commercial hotel licences.</p> <p>The Court of Appeal held that the Queensland Act does not breach the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> (Cth).⁵¹</p>
<p>9 March 2010 <i>UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous People's report on Australia released</i></p>	<p>The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people released his report on his mission to Australia.</p> <p>The report commended the Government of Australia for the advancements made in recent years, in particular through its National Apology, its support for the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> and its campaign to improve the living conditions of Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The report, however, noted that Indigenous peoples continue to be denied effective control of their lands and other resources and Indigenous institutions sometimes suffered disempowerment as a result of high levels of state control.</p> <p>The Special Rapporteur singled out the Northern Territory Emergency Response as a policy that had problematic features from a human rights standpoint. In particular, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern in relation to compulsory income management, compulsory acquisition of Aboriginal land, the assertion of extensive powers by the Commonwealth Government over Aboriginal communities, and alcohol and pornography restrictions in prescribed areas.</p> <p>While the Rapporteur encouraged the Australian Government's efforts in addressing Indigenous disadvantage, he emphasised the need for government initiatives to better embrace the goals of advancing Indigenous self-determination.⁵²</p>
<p>9 March 2010 <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance formed</i></p>	<p>The Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Minister for the Status of Women announced the establishment of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance at a meeting of 55 Indigenous women leaders in Canberra organised by Oxfam.</p> <p>This alliance of Indigenous women and their organisations from across the country will work with the Australian Government on policy issues to develop a more informed and representative dialogue with the Government.⁵³</p>

51 *Aurukun Shire Council v CEO Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing in the Department of Treasury* (2010) 237 FLR 369. See also *Morton v Queensland Police Service* (2010) 240 FLR 269.

52 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Australia/Indigenous peoples: development and self-determination to overcome severe disadvantages*, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9891&LangID=E> (viewed 2 June 2010).

53 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Stronger voice for Indigenous women' (Media Release, 9 March 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/indigenous_womenvoice_9mar2010.aspx (viewed 10 May 2010).

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Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>11 March 2010 <i>Voluntary Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct opened for signature</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government established the Voluntary Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct. The Code will provide a national set of standards for transactions between agents, artists and dealers in the Indigenous visual arts industry.⁵⁴</p>
<p>15 March 2010 <i>Senate Inquiry on NTER reform Bills, recommended Government Bills be passed</i></p>	<p>The Senate Community Affairs Committee completed its Inquiry into Bills reforming the Northern Territory Emergency Response. The committee received 95 submissions.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the two Government Bills be passed. Dissenting reports were made by the Coalition Senators and the Australian Greens Senator.⁵⁵</p>
<p>16 March 2010 <i>Two Indigenous scholars selected for Charles Perkins Scholarship to attend Oxford University</i></p>	<p>Two Indigenous scholars were selected to receive the inaugural Charles Perkins Scholarship to attend post-graduate studies at Oxford University.</p> <p>The scholarships honour the contribution of Dr Charles Perkins, the first Indigenous Australian to graduate from university.⁵⁶</p>
<p>17 March 2010 <i>Independent, quality assurance team for SIHIP announced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced that a new independent, expert, quality assurance team will be established to inspect and assess new houses and refurbishments delivered under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) in the Northern Territory.⁵⁷</p>
<p>18 March 2010 <i>Full Federal Court finds in favour of the Bardi and Jawi peoples in WA</i></p>	<p>The Full Federal Court of Australia found in favour of the Bardi and Jawi people in their appeal against the State of Western Australia. The native title claims are over the Dampier Peninsula, the islands in the Buccaneer Archipelago and surrounding offshore areas in the Kimberley region, Western Australia.⁵⁸</p>

54 The Hon P Garrett MP, Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, 'Registration opens for Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct' (Media Release, 11 March 2010). At <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2010/mr20100311a.html> (viewed 13 May 2010).

55 Senate Community Affairs Committee, *Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 [Provisions], Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2009 Measures) Bill 2009 [Provisions] and the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Restoration of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009*, http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/soc_sec_welfare_reform_racial_discrim_09/report/index.htm (viewed 12 July 2010).

56 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Young Indigenous leaders to study at Oxford' (Media Release, 16 March 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/indig_leaders_to_study_at_oxford_16mar2010.aspx (viewed 2 June 2010).

57 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Further improvements to NT Indigenous housing program' (Media Release, 17 March 2009). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/sihp_pra_17mar10.aspx (viewed 11 May 2010).

58 *Sampi on behalf of the Bardi and Jawi People v State of Western Australia* [2010] FCAFC 26; Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Native Title Newsletter*, No 2/2010 (2010), p 9. At [http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/newsletter.htmlMarApr10\[1\].pdf](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/newsletter.htmlMarApr10[1].pdf) (viewed 15 July 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>22 March 2010 <i>Appeal to the Trevorrow case on Stolen Generations was dismissed</i></p>	<p>The full court of the South Australia Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by the South Australian Government against an award of \$775 000 in compensation to a member of the Stolen Generations, Mr Bruce Trevorrow.</p> <p>The Court upheld the ruling that the government was negligent in its treatment of Mr Trevorrow, who was taken away from his parents as a child 50 years ago.⁵⁹</p>
<p>24 March 2010 <i>Indigenous Water Policy launched</i></p>	<p>Indigenous water experts from across Northern Australia convened at Parliament House in Darwin to deliver an Indigenous water policy statement.</p> <p>The policy statement was developed by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) through the Indigenous Water Policy Group (IWPG).</p> <p>The policy statement outlines the terms on which Indigenous people want to be engaged in the development of water policies. The policy position builds on the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> as well as other statements relating to water reform, such as the Garma International Indigenous Water Declaration and the Mary River Statement.⁶⁰</p>
<p>12 April 2010 <i>Indigenous Human Rights Network Australia (IHRNA) launched</i></p>	<p>A new online network for Indigenous human rights advocates called the Indigenous Human Rights Network Australia (IHRNA) was launched.</p> <p>IHRNA allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander human rights advocates to increase their access to information, share best practices in promoting human rights, and strengthen their participation in human rights processes.</p> <p>IHRNA is hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission, funded by Oxfam Australia and supported by the Diplomacy Training Program, University of New South Wales.⁶¹</p>
<p>20 April 2010 <i>COAG agreed to establish a new National Health and Hospitals Network</i></p>	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG), with the exception of Western Australia, reached an historic agreement on the establishment of a National Health and Hospitals Network.</p> <p>The reforms shift the emphasis in the health system from hospital-based care to the prevention and early detection of illness in primary health care settings. This shift has the potential to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who currently present at hospitals with late-stage illness at significantly higher rates than other Australians.</p>

59 Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, 'Stolen Generation Payout Appeal', *Your Legal Rights: ALRM Quarterly Newsletter*, Edition 21 (2010). At <http://www.alm.org.au/newsletter.php> (viewed 14 April 2010).

60 NAILSMA, 'Indigenous Water Policy Launch' (Media Release, 22 March 2010). At http://www.nailsma.org.au/news/indigenous_water_policy_launch.html (viewed 19 July 2010).

61 Australian Human Rights Commission, 'New online network launched to protect Indigenous human rights' (Media Release, 12 April 2010). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/31_10.html (viewed 16 April 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>20 April 2010 (continued) <i>COAG agreed to establish a new National Health and Hospitals Network</i></p>	<p>Under these reforms, the Australian Government will become the dominant funder of public hospitals and fund 60% of building, equipment, teaching, training and services.⁶² Hospitals and health services will be organised and managed on a regional basis and Local Hospital Networks will be established to that end.</p> <p>The Australian Government also assumed 100% funding responsibility for primary health care and aged care. Medical Locals (largely based on the divisions of general practice) will be established in each region to coordinate the delivery of primary health care. It is anticipated that Aboriginal Medical Services, including community controlled services, will be the Medicare Local in regions where there are a high proportion of Indigenous residents, or in areas otherwise not serviced by general practitioners.</p> <p>From 1 July 2010, the Australian Government will deliver \$5.3 billion in additional funding over the next four years. A third of state and territory GST revenue (except WA) will be retained by the Commonwealth and allocated to health and hospitals reform.⁶³</p>
<p>21 April 2010 <i>Australian Government launched a Human Rights Framework</i></p>	<p>The Human Rights Framework is the Australian Government's response to the findings and recommendations of the National Human Rights Consultation.</p> <p>The Framework sets out five key principles and focuses, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reaffirming a commitment to Australia's human rights obligations ▪ the importance of human rights education ▪ enhancing Australia's domestic and international engagement on human rights issues ▪ improving human rights protections, including greater parliamentary scrutiny ▪ achieving greater respect for human rights principles within the community. <p>The Government committed to actions for the practical implementation of the Framework, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ investing over \$12 million in a comprehensive suite of education initiatives ▪ establishing a new Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights ▪ requiring that each new Bill introduced into Parliament is accompanied by a statement of compatibility with Australia's international human rights obligations ▪ combining federal anti-discrimination laws into a single Act ▪ creating an annual NGO Human Rights Forum.⁶⁴

62 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 'Historic health reform' (Media Release, 20 April 2010). At <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6686> (viewed 2 June 2010).

63 The Hon K Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 'Historic health reform' (Media Release, 20 April 2010). At <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6686> (viewed 2 June 2010).

64 The Hon R McClelland MP, Attorney-General, 'Australia's Human Rights Framework' (Media Release, 21 April 2010). At http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2010_SecondQuarter_21April2010-AustraliasHumanRightsFramework (viewed 21 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>22 April 2010 <i>South Australian Government interested in negotiated settlement for Stolen Generations compensation claims</i></p>	<p>The South Australian Attorney-General raised the possibility of a negotiated settlement for compensation claims by Stolen Generations members.</p> <p>He rejected the idea of a compensation tribunal to deal with the 100 potential compensation claim cases.⁶⁵</p>
<p>30 April 2010 <i>First Australian Indigenous woman elected to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</i></p>	<p>Ms Megan Davis is the first Australian Indigenous woman elected to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.</p> <p>Ms Davis was nominated to the position by the Australian Government but she serves on the Forum as an independent expert. It was the first time the Australian Government had nominated an Indigenous woman to a UN body.⁶⁶</p>
<p>2 May 2010 <i>National Congress of Australia's First Peoples established</i></p>	<p>The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples was officially launched in Sydney.</p> <p>The organisation has been incorporated. Kerry Arabena and Sam Jeffries were appointed as the inaugural Co-Chairs of the organisation. The Directors of the company and members of the National Executive has also been appointed.⁶⁷</p>
<p>7 May 2010 <i>Healing Foundation announced its inaugural funding round</i></p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation announced its inaugural funding round of \$2 million for local community-led healing projects.</p> <p>Grants will be available for local projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ cultural renewal through connecting with culture, language and country ▪ the development of healing centres and community healing plans ▪ using song, dance, drama and art as part of the healing process ▪ group and individual counselling, as well as traditional healing methods ▪ drug and alcohol recovery projects ▪ anger management and family violence projects.⁶⁸

65 D Nason, 'State to negotiate on Stolen Generations', *The Australian*, 22 April 2010, p 4. At <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/state-politics/state-to-negotiate-on-stolen-generations/story-e6frgczx-1225856607813> (viewed 12 July 2010).

66 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'First Australian Indigenous woman elected to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues' (Media Release, 30 April 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/first_australian_indigenous_woman_elected_30apr10.aspx (viewed 10 May 2010).

67 National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, 'New Congress to Represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' (Media Release, 2 May 2010). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/40_10.html (viewed 4 May 2010).

68 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Healing Foundation makes milestone move towards healing' (Media Release, 7 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/healing_foundation_7may10.aspx (viewed 10 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>11 May 2010 <i>Indigenous-specific spending announced in 2010–2011 federal budget</i></p>	<p>The Indigenous-specific budget allocations announced in the 2010–2011 federal budget included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ community safety (\$104.3 million) ▪ employment (\$49.9 million) ▪ education and early childhood (\$74.8 million) ▪ housing (\$62.9 million) ▪ flexible remote service delivery (\$46 million) ▪ Indigenous broadcasting (\$15.2 million) ▪ Indigenous legal assistance services (\$34.9 million).⁶⁹
<p>12 May 2010 <i>Construction of Alice Springs' accommodation park begins</i></p>	<p>Construction on an \$11 million accommodation park in Alice Springs began. The accommodation park is expected to provide safe, short-term accommodation for up to 150 Indigenous people, particularly families with children and older people who visit the town. Aboriginal Hostels Limited will manage the park for the first two years of operation.⁷⁰</p>
<p>13 May 2010 <i>Gregory National Park returned to Traditional Owners</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government returned Gregory National Park and Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve in the Northern Territory to the Traditional Owners.</p> <p>This was in accordance with the 2004 landmark agreement in which Traditional Owners, and the Northern Territory and Australian governments agreed that the land will be scheduled as Aboriginal freehold land under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth) and will be leased back to the Northern Territory for 99 years for use as a national park.⁷¹</p>
<p>13 May 2010 <i>Senate Inquiry declared there is a crisis in Indigenous hearing health</i></p>	<p>The Senate Community Affairs Committee released its inquiry report, <i>Hear us: Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia</i>.</p> <p>The report declared there is a crisis in Indigenous ear and hearing health in Australia. Indigenous Australians are far more likely to experience hearing impairment than non-Indigenous Australians. The report discussed the real and potential effects of hearing impairment as additional and particular barriers for access to education, employment and the justice system for Indigenous people.</p> <p>The report contained specific recommendations to improve the hearing health of Indigenous Australians.⁷²</p>

69 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Closing the Gap – Strengthening Indigenous Communities' (Media Release, 11 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/closing_the_gap_11may10.htm (viewed 12 May 2010).

70 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Work begins on the Alice Springs accommodation park' (Media Release, 12 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/jm_m_alicsspringsaccom_12may2010.aspx (viewed 20 May 2010).

71 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Gregory National Park returned to Traditional Owners' (Media Release, 13 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/gregory_national_park_13may10.aspx (viewed 20 May 2010).

72 Senate Community Affairs Committee, Parliament of Australia, *Hear us: Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia* (2010). At http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/hearing_health/report/index.htm (viewed 25 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>14 May 2010 <i>Research showed no beneficial link between income management and consumption patterns</i></p>	<p>The Menzies School of Health Research found that the income management scheme introduced under the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) has had no beneficial effect on the sales of tobacco, cigarettes, soft drink, fruit or vegetable sales. The findings challenge assertions that income management leads to healthy eating and lifestyles.⁷³</p>
<p>20 May 2010 <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Strategy developed</i></p>	<p>The Australian Women's Health Network (AWHN) and Aboriginal Women's Talking Circle developed a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Strategy that seeks to address the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women's health.⁷⁴</p>
<p>24 May 2010 <i>Plan to boost Indigenous businesses announced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced a new strategy and action plan to support Indigenous businesses. The support will be in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ financial support for state and regional Indigenous chambers of commerce ▪ a new business advisory group to provide direct, expert advice on business support and policies that will support growth in the sector.⁷⁵
<p>25 May 2010 <i>Rental payments for leases under the Northern Territory Emergency Response commenced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government started paying rent to Aboriginal land owners in 45 of the 64 communities subject to five-year leases made under the Northern Territory Emergency Response.</p> <p>The rent payments are backdated to the commencement of the leases in 2007.⁷⁶</p>
<p>26 May 2010 <i>Stolen Generations Working Partnership announced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced the Stolen Generations Working Partnership.</p> <p>The Partnership outlines the Government's approach to addressing the immediate and practical needs of the members of the Stolen Generations. Priorities identified in the paper include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improving the service members of the Stolen Generations receive from mainstream and Indigenous services

73 J K Brimblecombe, J McDonnell, A Barns, J Garnggukpuy Dhurrkay, D P Thomas, and R S Baillie, 'Impact of income management on store sales in the Northern Territory' (2010) 192 (10) *Medical Journal of Australia* 549. At http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/192_10_170510/bri10090_fm.html (viewed 12 July 2010).

74 Department of Health and Ageing, 'Indigenous Women's Health Strategy welcomed' (Joint Media Release, 20 May 2010). At <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws048.htm?OpenDocument> (viewed 27 May 2010).

75 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Government boosts support for Indigenous businesses' (Media Release, 24 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/indigenous_businesses_24may10.aspx (viewed 12 July 2010).

76 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Rent payments for NTER 5-year leases' (Media Release, 25 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/rent_nter_25may10.aspx (viewed 27 May 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>26 May 2010 (continued) <i>Stolen Generations Working Partnership announced</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ensuring appropriate diagnosis and pathways to care for members of the Stolen Generations experiencing social and emotional wellbeing issues ▪ recording oral histories and other ways to honour members of the Stolen Generations' resilience and educate the broader community ▪ creating places of belonging and acceptance and maintaining connection with other members of the Stolen Generations ▪ as part of the National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework supporting members of the Stolen Generations and their children who are in prison, both pre and post-release.⁷⁷
<p>28 May 2010 <i>\$1.4 million funding for native title anthropologists announced</i></p>	<p>The Attorney-General announced that \$1.4 million will be invested to attract more anthropologists to work on native title.⁷⁸</p>
<p>28 May 2010 <i>\$1.8 million for Indigenous hearing health in NT announced</i></p>	<p>The Australian Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Indigenous Health and the Northern Territory Minister for Central Australia jointly announced \$1.8 million in funding for improving the hearing health of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory. The funds are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ follow-up hearing checks and treatment of ear disease for more than 600 children ▪ testing that will help address middle ear infection ▪ visits by audiologists to more than 22 communities that have been equipped with hearing booths ▪ five additional hearing case managers in regional teams in Central Australia, Barkly, Top End Central, Top End West and East Arnhem ▪ four additional local community hearing workers to service Gunbalanya, Angurugu, Umbakumba, Gapuwiyak, Maningrida and Millingimbi.⁷⁹
<p>4 June 2010 <i>Wild rivers declaration made</i></p>	<p>The Queensland Government made the Wenlock Basin Wild River Declaration. This creates a framework for the regulation of the use and development of the land and waters within the declared area.⁸⁰</p>

77 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Stolen Generations Working Partnership' (Media Release, 26 May 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/stolen_generations_26may10.htm (viewed 26 May 2010).

78 Attorney-General's Department, '\$1.4 Million for native title anthropologists' (Media Release, 28 May 2010). At [http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2010_SecondQuarter_28May2010-\\$1.4MillionforNativeTitleAnthropologists](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2010_SecondQuarter_28May2010-$1.4MillionforNativeTitleAnthropologists) (viewed 15 July 2010).

79 Department of Health and Ageing, 'Boost to Northern Territory Hearing health Services' (Joint Media Release, 28 May 2010). At <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws051.htm?OpenDocument> (viewed 2 June 2010).

80 Department of Environment and Resource Management (Queensland Government), *Declared Wild Rivers Areas*, http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildrivers/declared_areas.html (viewed 23 December 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>7 June 2010 <i>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on health's visit to Australia released</i></p>	<p>The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health released his report on his 2009 mission to Australia.</p> <p>The Report noted that Indigenous Australians continue to experience significantly poorer health outcomes compared to other Australians, as well as disparities in the social determinants of health such as housing, education, income, and economic, political and social participation.</p> <p>The Rapporteur commended the Australian Government's efforts at closing the gap in the area of health, but noted that there are still government policies and practices that violate the human rights of Indigenous peoples. He singled out the Northern Territory Emergency Response as one such policy. He recommendations included that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the RDA be fully restored ▪ Indigenous Australians be given full constitutional protection and acknowledgement ▪ the right to health be incorporated into a national health policy ▪ legislative guarantees for the full involvement of Indigenous representative bodies in decisions affecting Indigenous peoples ▪ adequate resources for improving the health of Indigenous peoples in all parts of Australia.⁸¹
<p>8 June 2010 <i>Legal action on Wild Rivers commenced</i></p>	<p>The Cape York Land Council filed a writ with the High Court of Australia challenging the validity of three wild river declarations on Cape York under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> (Cth) and the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).</p>
<p>9 June 2010 <i>\$42 million for Indigenous culture and heritage projects</i></p>	<p>Funding will be distributed to 380 Indigenous culture and heritage projects through five programs, which include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Arts and Crafts Industry Support (NACIS) Program which provides funding for Indigenous art centres and art support organisations ▪ Indigenous Culture Support (ICS) Program which helps to maintain Indigenous culture through community involvement, transmission of knowledge and skills across generations and support of new forms of cultural expression. ▪ Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records (MILR) Program ▪ Indigenous Broadcasting Program (IBP) ▪ Indigenous Heritage Program (IHP) which supports the identification, conservation and promotion of Indigenous heritage places important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.⁸²

81 Human Rights Law Resource Centre, *'Right to Health: UN Special Rapporteur Releases Report on Australia – Focus on Indigenous Health and Detainee Health'*, <http://www.hrlrc.org.au/content/topics/esc-rights/right-to-health-un-special-rapporteur-releases-report-on-australia/> (viewed 19 July 2010).

82 The Hon P Garrett MP, Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, '\$42 million supports Australia's Indigenous Art, culture and heritage' (Media Release, 9 June 2010). At <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2010/mr20100609c.html> (viewed 9 June 2010).

Date	Event/summary of issue
<p>15 June 2010 <i>National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010 (NSW) receives assent</i></p>	<p>The Act makes significant changes to the Aboriginal heritage provisions of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NSW), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ new offences and increased penalties for harm to Aboriginal places and objects ▪ introduction of wide range of defences ▪ new processes concerning Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits.⁸³
<p>21 June 2010 <i>Legislation reforming the Northern Territory Emergency Response passed by Parliament.</i></p>	<p>The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 was passed by Parliament.</p> <p>The new legislation retains the income management scheme of the previous legislation but seeks to avoid the conflict with RDA by introducing new criteria that are independent of race or ethnicity of potential subjects of the scheme.</p> <p>The new legislation has also retained aspects of the previous NTER legislation such as alcohol and pornography restrictions; the ability to compulsorily acquire five-year leases; community store licensing and law enforcement powers. However, the Government has sought to redesign these measures in order to make them qualify as special measures authorised under the RDA.⁸⁴</p> <p>The amendments do not completely reinstate the RDA and the legislation is only a first step in the restoration of full protections for the affected communities.⁸⁵</p>
<p>22 June 2010 <i>Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No. 2] (Cth) passed by the Senate</i></p>	<p>The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee reported on its Inquiry into the Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No. 2] (Cth). The Committee recommended that the Senate not pass the Bill.</p> <p>The Senate passed the Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No. 2] (Cth) on the same day.</p>
<p>28 June 2010 <i>Close the Gap – Making It Happen national workshop held</i></p>	<p>The ‘Close the Gap – Making It Happen’ national workshop brought together key Indigenous and non-Indigenous health peak bodies and experts from across Australia’s non-government and government sectors.</p> <p>The workshop focused on ways to bring to fruition the Australian Government’s commitments to Close the Gap, particularly the development of a long-term national action plan developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.⁸⁶</p>

83 New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, *Changes to Aboriginal Heritage Protection under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* (6 July 2010). At [http://www.alc.org.au/media/46338/100701%20fact%20sheet%20omnibus%20bill%20passed%20draft%20regs%20final%20v2%20incl%20date%20in%20footer%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.alc.org.au/media/46338/100701%20fact%20sheet%20omnibus%20bill%20passed%20draft%20regs%20final%20v2%20incl%20date%20in%20footer%20(3).pdf) (viewed 30 July 2010).

84 Australian Human Rights Commission, ‘Close the Gap – Making it Happen’ (Media Release, 28 June 2010). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/64_10.html (viewed 19 July 2010).

85 The Hon J Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, ‘Racial Discrimination Act to be restored in the Northern Territory’ (Media Release, 22 June 2010). At http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2010/Pages/jm_m_rda_22june2010.aspx (viewed 23 June 2010).

86 Australian Human Rights Commission, ‘Passage of NTER Amendments a step in the right direction’ (Media Release, 22 June 2010). At http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/61_10.html (viewed 12 July 2010).