

## CONTENTS

### COMMUNITY-LED INTEGRATED EARLY YEARS SERVICES: A VEHICLE FOR REALISING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 3

by Emma Sydenham and Holly Mason-White

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child  
Care (SNAICC)

### REPRESENTING INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOODS 7

by Sana Nakata

### PROTECTING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S FAMILIAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: REFLECTIONS ON RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE *CARE AND PROTECTION ACT* *2007 (NT)* 11

by Kyllie Cripps and Julian Laurens

### GLIMMERS OF HOPE IN A BROKEN CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM 16

by Pip Martin

### INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ORATION LINKING OUR PAST WITH OUR FUTURE: HOW CULTURAL RIGHTS CAN HELP SHAPE IDENTITY AND BUILD RESILIENCE IN KOORI KIDS 20

by Andrew Jackomos

### SELF-HARM AND HELP-SEEKING AMONG ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 24

by Megan Mitchell and Mick Gooda

### FETAL ALCOHOL DISORDER, DISABILITY AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 30

by Clare Townsend, Janet Hammill and Paul White

### REDRESS IN RESPONSE TO INSTITUTIONAL SEXUAL ABUSE OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN 34

by Terri Libesman and Hannah McGlade

## REGULAR

### MONTHS IN REVIEW 39 MARCH–APRIL

Compiled by Kate Bonser

### ARTIST NOTE: KARINA COOMBES 38

.....

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that this  
publication may contain images of deceased persons.*

## EDITORIAL

This edition of the *ILB* has been made possible with the generous support of the National Children and Youth Law Centre. The opportunity to collaborate together to shine a light on the rights of Indigenous children and young people has been greatly welcomed. Of great concern and expressed throughout this special edition are the extremely high numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people living in out-of-home care arrangements. As demonstrated by research from Kyllie Cripps and Julian Laurens, and by Pip Martin from NAAJA, the rates of removal of Indigenous children are increasing significantly each year right around the country. Indigenous communities are rightly concerned about the loss of connection to family and culture that can occur in out-of-home care placements.

There are many Indigenous community controlled organisations, programs and solutions that are doing great work in supporting Indigenous children and families. As discussed by Emma Sydenham and Holly Mason-White from SNAICC, it is important that these organisations are properly funded and well-resourced.

Concerned by the alarming levels of self-harm among children, the Human Rights Commission conducted a national investigation into this issue last year. The findings in relation to self-harm and help-seeking behaviours among Indigenous children and young people are discussed by national Commissioners, Megan Mitchell and Mick Gooda.

In his Human Rights Day oration, Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Andrew Jackomos discussed his work in advocating for and protecting the rights of Koori children in Victoria.

Also in this edition, Sana Nakata examines how Indigenous children in Australia are represented in political debates; Clare Townsend, Janet Hammill and Paul White discuss why Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder should be officially recognised as a disability in Australia; and Terri Libesman and Hannah McGlade discuss redress and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, in relation to Indigenous survivors of institutional abuse.

These articles raise important issues about the rights of our First Nations children. Some of the issues identified are confronting, but bringing together the issues, as well as the solutions, are vital to ensure that the specific rights of Indigenous children are realised in Australia.

Editor  
Rebecca Gallegos