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## EDITORIAL

Since the last *Indigenous Law Bulletin* ('ILB'), there has been a number of important anniversaries including the 1967 referendum, the *Mabo* decision, the tabling of the Royal Commission's report into Aboriginal deaths in custody, and National Sorry Day. While it was not possible to give each of these momentous occasions sufficient consideration in this edition, Commissioner June Oscar's Mabo Oration at the 2017 Native Title Conference powerfully conveys the current mood in the ongoing fight for First Australian's rights.

This edition would not be complete without the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart', the importance of which cannot be understated—it provides a blue print for ensuring the voices of First Nations people are heard in our majoritarian democracy. Published alongside the statement is the media release, issued on behalf of the Referendum Council's Indigenous Steering Committee, by Pat Anderson.

Dennis Eggington and Alex Walters discuss how the Australian Government can do more to prevent atrocities like those that occurred in Don Dale, and to end the use of solitary confinement in juvenile detention.

Melanie Schwartz discusses why the use of fines, and their increasing prevalence, has a disproportionately detrimental effect on First Australians. While for the majority of Australians fines are merely an inconvenience, for many First Australians their impact often goes far beyond the initial punitive intent.

Julian Murphy discusses police powers, particularly powers of arrest and apprehension in the Northern Territory, and racial bias in his *Prior v Mole* case note.

Kristen Smith and Shelley Bielefeld offer two insightful discussions on the recent implementation of the 'Cashless Debit Card' trial, a program designed to reduce social harm resulting from excessive consumption of alcohol and gambling products in two locations with large Aboriginal populations.

Lastly, an article by Romlie Mokak and Mary Guthrie from the Lowitja Institute discussing the impact of racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and how the Parliament's vote against a proposed amendment to the *Racial Discrimination Act* protects an important safeguard against racism in Australia.

This will be my last edition as editor of the ILB. While I have enjoyed my brief time as editor immensely, other responsibilities have become a priority. The next editor will be Harry Hobbs, who is a PhD Candidate at the University of New South Wales. His research topic is 'Beyond Constitutional Recognition: Democratic Citizenship and Indigenous Sovereignty'.

### Ruby Langton-Batty

Editor