

# Appendix 1:

## Chronology of events relating to the administration of Indigenous affairs, 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>1 July 2008</b> <i>Cape York Welfare Reform Trial commenced</i></p>	<p>The Cape York Welfare Reform Trial and its Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) commenced operations.</p> <p>In December 2007, the Australian Government announced that it would work closely with the Queensland Government and the Cape York Institute on the rollout of a comprehensive plan to tackle school attendance, drug and alcohol abuse, health, child safety and housing in four Cape York Indigenous communities – Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge.</p> <p>Under the trial, the Family Responsibilities Commission will have the power to refer people who are not meeting parental and community responsibilities to support services including drug and alcohol, mental health and relationship counselling, as well as recommend income management.</p> <p>This could include circumstances where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a child has three unexplained absences from school;</li> <li>▪ a person is subject to a child safety notification or report; or</li> <li>▪ is convicted of an offence; or</li> <li>▪ breaches a public housing tenancy agreement.</li> </ul> <p>The Australian and Queensland Governments have committed more than \$100 million to support the Welfare Reform Trial.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>This initiative was introduced under the Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation which suspended the application of the <i>Racial Discrimination Act</i> and Queensland's <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> to the Family Responsibilities Commission and the identified communities in which it operates.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Cape York Welfare Reform Trial to begin' (Media Release, 1 July 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/cape\\_york\\_welfare\\_1jul08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/cape_york_welfare_1jul08.htm) (viewed 28 July 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>1 July 2008</b> <i>New three year contracts for Aboriginal Legal Services</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Legal Services successfully re-signed new three year contracts. The three year contracts provide funding in 2008/09 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal Legal Services of Western Australia – \$9,509,000</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Queensland) – \$12,046,000</li> <li>▪ Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative – \$2,921,000</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (South Australia) – \$3,598,000</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ ACT) – \$13,392,000</li> <li>▪ NT Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CAALAS) \$1,914,000</li> <li>▪ North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) – \$4,934,000</li> <li>▪ Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre – \$1,525,000.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>2 July 2008</b> <i>Appointment of the Australian Disability and Race Discrimination Commissioners</i></p>	<p>The Australian Attorney-General announced two appointments to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Mr Graeme Innes AM was appointed Disability Discrimination Commissioner and Mr Tom Calma was appointed as Race Discrimination Commissioner.</p> <p>Mr Innes is the current Human Rights Commissioner and has acted as Disability Discrimination Commissioner since December 2005. Mr Calma is the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and has acted as the Race Discrimination Commissioner since July 2004.<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>4 July 2008</b> <i>Community telephone services for remote Indigenous communities</i></p>	<p>The Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy invited applications to supply, install and maintain community telephone services in remote Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The Australian Bureau of Statistics has identified about 300 communities that could benefit from improved access to telecommunications services. The community phones will operate using prepaid cards, and will be protected from the environment.</p> <p>Applications will be assessed to choose a suitable provider capable of supplying community phones to remote Indigenous communities.<sup>4</sup></p>
<p><b>6 July 2008</b> <i>NAIDOC Week 2008 commenced</i></p>	<p>The Minister for Indigenous Affairs welcomed National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week (6–13 July) with an announcement of \$1.5 million for NAIDOC activities across Australia. The Australian Government is also the major sponsor of the annual NAIDOC Ball.<sup>5</sup> The national theme for NAIDOC 2008 is 'Advance Australia Fair?'.<sup>6</sup></p>

2 Minister for Home Affairs, 'New Contracts For Indigenous Legal Services' (Media Release, 1 July 2008). At [http://www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/www/ministers/ministerdebus.nsf/PageMediaReleases\\_2008\\_ThirdQuarter\\_1July2008-NewcontractsforIndigenouslegalservices](http://www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/www/ministers/ministerdebus.nsf/PageMediaReleases_2008_ThirdQuarter_1July2008-NewcontractsforIndigenouslegalservices) (viewed 28 July 2008).

3 Attorney-General, 'Appointment of Disability and Race Discrimination Commissioners' (Media Release, 2 July 2008). At [http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/RobertMc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases\\_2008\\_ThirdQuarter\\_2July2008-AppointmentOfDisabilityandRaceDiscriminationCommissioners](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/RobertMc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2008_ThirdQuarter_2July2008-AppointmentOfDisabilityandRaceDiscriminationCommissioners) (viewed 28 July 2008).

4 Minister for Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy, 'Remote Indigenous communities to receive community telephones' (Media Release, 4 July 2008). At [http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media\\_releases/2008/055](http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2008/055) (viewed 28 July 2008).

5 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'NAIDOC Week' (Media Release, 6 July 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/naidoc\\_week\\_6jul08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/naidoc_week_6jul08.htm) (viewed 28 July 2008).

6 NAIDOC, Welcome to NAIDOC, <http://www.naidoc.org.au/> (viewed 13 August 2008).

## Appendix 1 | Chronology of events ... 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>7 July 2008</b> <i>\$3 million boost to Indigenous heritage protection</i></p>	<p>The Australian Heritage Minister announced more than \$3 million in support from the Commonwealth Government's Indigenous Heritage Program for 49 Indigenous projects across Australia.</p> <p>The program is aimed at helping community groups and individuals identify, conserve and promote the heritage values of places important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>The Indigenous Heritage Program is delivered in cooperation with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) as part of the whole-of-government delivery of services to Indigenous Australians.<sup>7</sup></p>
<p><b>9 July 2008</b> <i>Australian Defence Force Indigenous Recruitment Strategy launched</i></p>	<p>The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Indigenous Recruitment Strategy and a new Defence Directorate of Indigenous Affairs were launched by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel.</p> <p>The Defence Force seeks to bring the best possible policies and programs to bear on changing perceptions, creating specialised pathways, and providing ongoing support to Indigenous ADF members.</p> <p>The Directorate of Indigenous Affairs will manage and coordinate Indigenous employment policies and programs in the ADF and the Department of Defence. The Directorate will draw on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff network and Indigenous Liaison Officers to help develop other initiatives under the Recruitment Strategy.<sup>8</sup></p>
<p><b>9 July 2008</b> <i>Specialised playgroups for 2400 Indigenous children</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced 20 specialised playgroups to be established in 20 regional and remote Indigenous communities across Australia delivering a range of activities to around 2,400 children, as part of a \$5 million package.</p> <p>This includes \$2 million for four mobile playgroups to support isolated and disadvantaged families. They will be run out of Halls Creek in Western Australia, Kowanyama in Queensland, Newcastle in New South Wales and Murray Bridge in South Australia.</p> <p>16 supported playgroups are also being established in specific locations in each state and territory to help provide information and support to Indigenous families. These new playgroups will be located in places where early childhood workers can encourage families to integrate with other community services such as child care, pre-schools and community health centres.<sup>9</sup></p>

- 7 Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts, '\$3 million boost to Indigenous heritage protection' (Media release, 7 July 2008). At <http://www.petergarrett.com.au/578.aspx> (viewed 30 July 2008).
- 8 Minister for Defence, Science and Personnel, 'ADF Indigenous Recruitment Strategy and Defence Directorate of Indigenous Affairs are Operational' (Media Release, 9 July 2008). At <http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/snowdontpl.cfm?CurrentId=7947> (viewed 12 August 2008).
- 9 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Specialised playgroups for 2400 Indigenous children' (Media Release, 9 July 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous\\_playgroups\\_9jul2008.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous_playgroups_9jul2008.htm) (viewed 12 August 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>10 July 2008</b> <i>Launch of the National Indigenous Health Equality Council</i></p>	<p>The Prime Minister, Minister for Health and Ageing, and Minister for Indigenous Affairs announced the establishment of the National Indigenous Health Equality Council in March 2008.</p> <p>Professor Ian Anderson was appointed the Chair of the National Indigenous Health Equality Council.<sup>10</sup></p>
<p><b>10 July 2008</b> <i>Indigenous Business Australia holds inaugural NAIDOC breakfast</i></p>	<p>Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) held its first major event during NAIDOC Week celebrations with a breakfast function at the National Press Club, Canberra. 2007 National NAIDOC Artist of the Year Leah Purcell was the Master of Ceremonies for the breakfast event.</p> <p>The event follows on from the continuing progress IBA has made in the area of Indigenous economic development with the recent formation of an Indigenous business association in WA.<sup>11</sup></p>
<p><b>10 July 2008</b> <i>\$5.3 million upgrade for Tangentyere housing</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government agreed to provide a grant of \$5.3 million to Tangentyere Council for upgrades to existing housing in the Alice Springs town camps.</p> <p>The funding will be targeted at approximately 170 houses and will allow Tangentyere Council to complete its upgrade program for town camp houses. The decision follows the agreement by Tangentyere Council to provide the Australian Government with a long-term lease over town camps in Alice Springs.</p> <p>The work plan was signed at a meeting with the Tangentyere Council, the Housing Associations and the Australian and Northern Territory Governments. As part of the lease agreement, there will also be a financial package of \$50 million for major capital works. This money will be used to upgrade essential service infrastructure – primarily power, water, sewerage, drains and roads – and improve housing in the town camps. It will include construction of additional new houses to reduce overcrowding. These major capital works will be undertaken as part of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program.</p> <p>As part of both the housing upgrade and the major capital works project, Indigenous people will be given significant employment and training opportunities.</p> <p>Tangentyere Council has already delivered \$2.5 million in housing upgrades, with improvements to 36 houses.<sup>12</sup></p>

10 Minister for Health and Ageing, 'Launch of the National Indigenous Health Equality Council' (Media Release, 10 July 2008). At <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr104.htm> (viewed 12 August 2008).

11 Indigenous Business Australia, 'IBA's Inaugural NAIDOC Breakfast Event' (Media Release, 10 July 2008). At <http://www.iba.gov.au/mediareleases/2008mediareleases/> (viewed 12 August 2008).

12 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, '\$5.3 million upgrade for Tangentyere housing' (Media Release, 10 July 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/upgrade\\_tangentyere\\_10jul08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/upgrade_tangentyere_10jul08.htm) (viewed 12 August 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>11 July 2008</b> <i>The State of Our Public Hospitals: June 2008 Report released</i></p>	<p><i>The State of Our Public Hospitals: June 2008 Report</i> provides a snapshot of public hospital activity in 2006–07. It includes a focus on Indigenous Australians in hospitals. The aim of the report is to inform the Australian public about the performance of hospitals by providing information on the hospitals, their patients and the range of services provided.<sup>13</sup></p>
<p><b>11 July 2008</b> <i>Income management extended in four NT communities</i></p>	<p>Income management schemes introduced under the Northern Territory Emergency Response was extended for up to 12 months in four Northern Territory communities – Mutitjulu, Finke/ Apatula, Titjikala and Imanpa. These NT communities were the first four to be placed on income management on 17 September 2007.</p> <p>The Government indicated it would liaise with members of the communities prior to the extension commencing on 10 September 2008.<sup>14</sup></p>
<p><b>12 July 2008</b> <i>Indigenous Australians honoured in 2008 National NAIDOC Awards</i></p>	<p>The National NAIDOC Awards pay tribute to the outstanding contributions that Indigenous individuals make to their communities, chosen fields and the broader Australian society.</p> <p>The 2008 National NAIDOC Award winners were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Person of the Year: Associate Professor Colleen Hayward (Perth)</li> <li>▪ Apprentice of the Year: Amy McQuire (Canberra via Rockhampton)</li> <li>▪ Lifetime Achievement: Joseph Elu AO (Seisia), Archie Roach (VIC), Dr Chicka Dixon (Sydney)</li> <li>▪ Youth of the Year: Angeline Blackburn (Canberra via Cann River), Krista Moir (Perth via Esperance)</li> <li>▪ Elder of the Year (Female): Carol Pettersen (Albany)</li> <li>▪ Elder of the Year (Male): Bob Muir (Rockhampton)</li> <li>▪ Scholar of the Year: Dr Karen Martin (Lismore via North Stradbroke Island)</li> <li>▪ Artist of the Year: Les Elvin (Cessnock)</li> <li>▪ Sportsperson of the Year: Stacey Porter (Sydney via Tamworth).<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>12 July 2008</b> <i>Issues paper on key issues for a new National Indigenous Representative Body released</i></p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma, released a paper 'Issues for consideration in the formation of a new National Indigenous Representative Body'.</p> <p>The paper looks at the lessons from past Australian experiences, at representative bodies currently in place in Australia and at overseas models of representation for indigenous peoples. The paper also raises some key issues to consider to ensure that a new National Indigenous Representative Body is effective and sustainable.</p> <p>The paper is available at <a href="http://humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/repbody/paper.html">http://humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/repbody/paper.html</a>.</p>

- 13 Minister for Health and Ageing, *The State of Our Public Hospitals: June 2008 Report*, Report No 1, Department of Health and Ageing (2008). At [http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/The\\_State\\_of\\_Our\\_Public\\_Hospitals\\_June\\_2008\\_Report\\_released](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/The_State_of_Our_Public_Hospitals_June_2008_Report_released) (viewed 12 August 2008).
- 14 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Income management extended in four NT communities' (Media Release, 11 July 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/income\\_management\\_nt\\_11jul08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/income_management_nt_11jul08.htm) (viewed 12 August 2008).
- 15 A Ridgeway, 'Indigenous Australians honoured in 2008 National NAIDOC Awards' (Media Release, 12 July 2008). At [http://www.naidoc.org.au/media\\_releases/mr2008/20080713.aspx](http://www.naidoc.org.au/media_releases/mr2008/20080713.aspx) (viewed 12 August 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>13 July 2008</b> <i>First phase of consultations for the proposed National Indigenous Representative Body commenced</i></p>	<p>The government commenced the initial public consultations for establishing a National Indigenous Representative Body.</p> <p>The government conducted public meetings in each state and territory and invited written submissions to be submitted as well.<sup>16</sup></p>
<p><b>16 July 2008</b> <i>Oil and gas industry's inaugural National Indigenous Engagement Forum in Darwin</i></p>	<p>To empower remote Indigenous communities exposed to the oil and gas industry, the Australian Petroleum Production &amp; Exploration Association (APPEA), in association with the Australian Government, held the industry's inaugural National Indigenous Engagement Forum in Darwin.</p> <p>The forum brought together key stakeholders in recognition of the importance to both the industry and the Federal Government of the need to tackle Indigenous disadvantage.</p> <p>APPEA is working to significantly increase the number of Indigenous Australians employed in the industry through a National Skills Shortage Strategy funding agreement with the Australian Government. The project is being implemented in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.<sup>17</sup></p>
<p><b>16 July 2008</b> <i>Regional Partnership Agreement for Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority</i></p>	<p>The Australian and South Australian Governments and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority signed a Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) to protect the land's natural resources and encourage economic development.</p> <p>The Australian Government committed to addressing disadvantage by building a sustainable and prosperous region for the 4,500 Ngarrindjeri people who live on the lands. This initiative aims to provide economic sustainability and greater independence for the Ngarrindjeri people.</p> <p>Funding will be provided for a business and economic development manager, a caring for country manager and an administration assistant.</p> <p>The caring for country manager will coordinate environmental projects on the Ngarrindjeri lands, and develop further plans to protect the Coorong Wetlands, shores of Lake Alexandria and significant species and cultural sites in the Ngarrindjeri region.<sup>18</sup></p>

16 Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, National Indigenous Representative Body. At <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/overview/infocus/pages/nationalindigenousrepresentativebody.aspx> (viewed 21 July 2009).

17 Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association Ltd., 'Empowering Indigenous Australians to take good jobs in upstream gas and oil industry' (Media Release, 16 July 2008). At [http://www.appea.com.au/content/pdfs\\_docs\\_xls/160708\\_national\\_engagement\\_forum.pdf](http://www.appea.com.au/content/pdfs_docs_xls/160708_national_engagement_forum.pdf) (viewed 13 August 2008).

18 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Environmental and economic benefits for Ngarrindjeri' (Media Release, 16 July 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/environmental\\_economic\\_benefits\\_ngarrindjeri\\_16jul08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/environmental_economic_benefits_ngarrindjeri_16jul08.htm) (viewed 13 August 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>17 July 2008</b> <i>Government recognises Native Title over territorial waters</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced that it will recognise that non-exclusive native title rights can exist in territorial waters up to 12 nautical miles from Australian shoreline.</p> <p>The Australian Government's position is consistent with a High Court decision that found it is possible for Indigenous people to have non-exclusive native title rights in territorial waters.<sup>19</sup></p>
<p><b>17 July 2008</b> <i>Native Title Ministers met in Perth</i></p>	<p>Commonwealth, State and Territory Native Title Ministers met in Perth. The theme for the meeting was 'Making native title work better'.</p> <p>All Ministers agreed that a flexible and less technical approach to native title was needed throughout Australia. Ministers agreed that the backlog of native title claims and the time estimated to resolve them using current approaches are unacceptable. Ministers also agreed that legislative change is not a panacea. Other topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ resolution of claims</li> <li>▪ broader settlement packages</li> <li>▪ Commonwealth financial assistance</li> <li>▪ Ministerial meetings.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>18 July 2008</b> <i>Northern Territory National Emergency Response (Arnhem Land) Declaration 2008 (No. 1)</i></p>	<p><i>The Northern Territory National Emergency Response (Arnhem Land) Declaration 2008 (No. 1)</i> was registered. It provides that the areas listed in Schedule 1 are not a 'prescribed area' for the purposes of the <i>Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007</i>.</p> <p>Schedule 1 provides that nineteen areas of Arnhem Land are no longer prescribed areas.<sup>21</sup></p>
<p><b>19 July 2008</b> <i>New Australian Institute for Indigenous Learning and Skills Development</i></p>	<p>The federal Minister for Education announced funding of \$6.75 million for a new education and training facility for Indigenous youth in Melbourne.</p> <p>The new Australian Institute for Indigenous Learning and Skills Development will play an important role in delivering on the Government's commitment to halving the education and employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.<sup>22</sup></p>

19 Attorney-General, 'A More Flexible Approach to Native Title' (Media Release, 17 July 2008). At [http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/RobertMc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases\\_2008\\_ThirdQuarter\\_17July2008-AMoreFlexibleApproachtoNativeTitle](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/RobertMc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2008_ThirdQuarter_17July2008-AMoreFlexibleApproachtoNativeTitle) (viewed 14 August 2008).

20 Attorney-General, 'Communique – Native Title Ministers Meeting' (Media Release, 17 July 2008). At [http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/RobertMc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases\\_2008\\_ThirdQuarter\\_18July-Communique-NativeTitleMinistersMeeting](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/RobertMc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2008_ThirdQuarter_18July-Communique-NativeTitleMinistersMeeting) (viewed 21 July 2009).

21 Northern Territory National Emergency Response (Arnhem Land) Declaration 2008 (No. 1), 18 July 2008. At <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/7B37E161B90B6F08CA257489000AEDDC?OpenDocument>, (viewed 14 August 2008).

22 Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Social Inclusion, 'New institute to boost skills for Indigenous youth' (Media Release, 19 July 2008). At <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/NewinstitutetoboostskillsforIndigenouslyouth.htm> (viewed 15 August 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>21 July 2008</b> <i>New Child Support Agency website for Indigenous separated parents</i></p>	<p>The Child Support Agency (CSA) launched a new website for Indigenous separated parents at <a href="http://www.indigenous.csa.gov.au">www.indigenous.csa.gov.au</a>. The site includes: a step-by-step guide to registering a child support case; links to support services; and a list of upcoming regional and community visits by CSA staff. The site is one component of the CSA's Reconciliation Action Plan.<sup>23</sup></p>
<p><b>22 July 2008</b> <i>North Queensland boarding facility for disadvantaged Indigenous children</i></p>	<p>The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs announced funding of \$2 million for a new primary boarding school in North Queensland. The boarding school will provide a controlled, disciplined environment where young Indigenous children can learn.</p> <p>The purpose-built boarding school for young disadvantaged children is expected to be completed by mid-2009 and will be part of Djarragun College, located near Gordonvale in North Queensland.</p> <p>The Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership is working with the Australian Government on the proposal, which will cost \$7 million over four years.<sup>24</sup></p>
<p><b>22 July 2008</b> <i>New deal for upgrade of Queensland Indigenous housing</i></p>	<p>In a new agreement with the Queensland Government, the Australian Government offered the Queensland Government \$60 million to upgrade to an acceptable level houses managed by Indigenous Community Housing Organisations.</p> <p>In exchange, the Queensland Government will take on additional responsibility for tenancy management of the properties and introduce tenancy management practices for all Indigenous community housing in Queensland.</p> <p>The Australian Government will introduce reforms for housing and municipal services delivery to Indigenous communities in remote locations. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ensure tenancies for Indigenous housing are properly managed, and that homes are upgraded and maintained</li> <li>▪ secure long-term tenure for Government of Indigenous-owned land</li> <li>▪ open up pathways for home ownership</li> <li>▪ stimulate local economic development and investment.</li> </ul> <p>The offer was made following the passage of Queensland's <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Amendment Act 2008</i>. The Act allows for long-term leases of up to 99 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land for residential and public housing, commercial development or community infrastructure.<sup>25</sup></p>

23 Child Support Agency, 'New CSA website for Indigenous separated parents' (Media Release, 21 July 2008). At <http://www.csa.gov.au/media/csamediarelease.aspx?articleID=350> (viewed 21 July 2009).

24 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'North Queensland boarding facility for disadvantaged Indigenous children' (Media Release, 22 July 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nqld\\_school\\_indig\\_children\\_22jul08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nqld_school_indig_children_22jul08.htm) (viewed 15 August 2008).

25 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Queensland Minister for Public Works, 'New deal for upgrade of Queensland Indigenous housing' (Media Release, 22 July 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/Internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/upgrade\\_qld\\_housing\\_23jul08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/Internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/upgrade_qld_housing_23jul08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).



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<p><b>22 July 2008</b> <i>Government unveiled the Income Management BasicsCard</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government introduced a new income management card called the 'BasicsCard'. The BasicsCard is a PIN-protected card for buying essential goods and services through the existing EFTPOS network. It cannot be used to buy alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling products or to withdraw cash. The BasicsCard can be reloaded from a customer's payment each fortnight without the need to visit Centrelink.<sup>26</sup></p> <p>The final rollout schedule for the BasicsCard will be determined in consultation with communities and retailers.</p>
<p><b>23 July 2008</b> <i>Three new boarding schools announced for the Northern Territory</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced the short listed locations for three new boarding facilities in the Northern Territory to provide better school access for remote Indigenous students.</p> <p>The Government committed \$28.9 million over four years, together with a \$15 million capital contribution from the Indigenous Land Corporation.</p> <p>The new facilities will provide more than 150 beds across a range of accommodation styles. They will support improved access to quality schooling and better education outcomes for Indigenous secondary school students. The first of the facilities is expected to be completed in 2009 with the remaining two built in 2010.</p> <p>Final decisions on the locations will be made after community consultations are completed.<sup>27</sup></p>
<p><b>28 July 2008</b> <i>National Indigenous Health Equality Targets presented to Government and Opposition</i></p>	<p>The Close the Gap coalition presented the federal government and Opposition with a set of National Indigenous Health Equality Targets to address the 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The targets are a blueprint to achieve the Prime Minister's goal of closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy in a generation.</p> <p>The targets build on the positive steps already undertaken with the Government through the Indigenous Health Equality Summit, the signing of the Statement of Intent, and the recent launch of the National Indigenous Health Equality Council, which includes a number of health experts from the Close the Gap coalition.<sup>28</sup></p>

26 Minister for Human Services and Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Government unveils the Income Management BasicsCard' (Media Release, 22 July 2008). At <http://www.mhs.gov.au/media/media-releases/0807/080722-basicscard.html> (viewed 21 July 2009).

27 Prime Minister, Minister for Education and Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Indigenous Boarding Facilities in NT to Help Close the Gap' (Media Release, 23 July 2008). At [http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media\\_release\\_0376.cfm](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media_release_0376.cfm) (viewed 15 August 2008).

28 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, 'Indigenous health blueprint presented to Government and Opposition' (Media Release, 22 July 2008). At [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/2008/77\\_08.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/77_08.html) (viewed 21 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>30 July 2008</b> <i>High Court handed down Blue Mud Bay case decision</i></p>	<p>The High Court handed down its decision on the Blue Mud Bay case. The court ruled Traditional Owners have a right to control access by recreational and commercial fishers in the inter-tidal zone over Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government plans to reach agreement with the relevant parties to provide for recreational fishing, Indigenous economic development opportunities, appropriate arrangements for commercial fishing and any necessary resource management and regulatory changes.</p> <p>The Northern Land Council committed to allowing a 12-month period under current arrangements to continue, while negotiations amongst all stakeholders take place.<sup>29</sup></p>
<p><b>30 July 2008</b> <i>Native Title Payments Working Group inaugural meeting in Canberra</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government hosted the first meeting of the Native Title Payments Working Group at Parliament House in Canberra.</p> <p>The Working Group, which is made up from the Indigenous community, mining sector, academia and the legal profession, was established to advise Government on how to make better use of native title payments under mining and infrastructure agreements.</p> <p>The Working Group will meet in July and August 2008. Its advice will feed into the development of a Government discussion paper on this issue, expected to be circulated in September 2008.<sup>30</sup></p>
<p><b>31 July 2008</b> <i>Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection 2006–07 Annual Report released</i></p>	<p>The latest annual report into the Australian Government's Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) found that SAAP agencies are providing more assistance to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Indigenous people are significantly overrepresented in SAAP, making up 18 per cent of people seeking assistance through SAAP.</p> <p>SAAP services saw a marked increase in the reported number of accompanying children in SAAP services – up 26 per cent since 2005–06, with accompanying Indigenous children using SAAP services at five times the rate of non-Indigenous children.<sup>31</sup></p>

29 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Blue Mud Bay Case' (Media Release, 30 July 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/blue\\_mud\\_bay\\_30jul08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/blue_mud_bay_30jul08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

30 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Native Title Payments Working Group meets in Canberra' (Media Release, 30 July 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/native\\_title\\_payments\\_31jul08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/native_title_payments_31jul08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

31 Minister for Housing and Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'New report finds SAAP services working hard to help families in need' (Media Release, 31 July 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/tanyaplibersek.nsf/content/saap\\_31jul\\_2008.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/tanyaplibersek.nsf/content/saap_31jul_2008.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>3 August 2008</b> <i>The Australian Employment Covenant initiative</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government announced its support for the Australian Employment Covenant. The Australian Employment Covenant is a private sector initiative lead by Mr Andrew Forrest, the CEO of Fortescue Metals Group.</p> <p>The Australian Employment Covenant will work with employers to commit to providing opportunities for 50,000 Indigenous Australians to step into permanent full time paying jobs.<sup>32</sup></p>
<p><b>9 August 2008</b> <i>International Day of the World's Indigenous People</i></p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner urged governments to fund and resource the protection and promotion of Indigenous languages, as part of this year's International Day of the World's Indigenous People.</p> <p>According to UNESCO, at least 3,000 of the world's 6,000 languages are endangered, and at least 800 are very close to extinction. Australia once had around 300 Indigenous languages, now there are only 20 or so not endangered.<sup>33</sup></p>
<p><b>13 August 2008</b> <i>\$4.5 million for infrastructure on the APY Lands</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government contributed \$4.5 million towards construction of new offices and accommodation for police specialists, and a safe house in Umuwa in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.</p> <p>This is additional funding to the \$19 million the Australian Government has already committed to respond to the recommendations of the Mullighan Inquiry.</p> <p>The new complex will include office space for police officers specialising in domestic violence and sexual assault. It will also provide accommodation for specialists temporarily visiting the APY Lands for investigations into abuse. These specialists will include officers from the South Australian Police, forensic and medical specialists and child support services.</p> <p>The safe house will provide children and their family members who need to be removed from the community with safe accommodation and support.<sup>34</sup></p>

32 Prime Minister, 'The Australian Employment Covenant' (Media Release, 3 August 2008). At [http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media\\_release\\_0394.cfm](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media_release_0394.cfm) (viewed 15 August 2008).

33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, 'International Day of the World's Indigenous People' (Media Release, 8 August 2008). At [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/2008/84\\_08.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/84_08.html) (viewed 21 July 2009).

34 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, '\$4.5 million for infrastructure on the APY Lands' (Media Release, 13 August 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/Internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/apy\\_lands\\_13aug08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/Internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/apy_lands_13aug08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>14 August 2008</b>  <i>\$37.5 million for Indigenous arts and cultural support</i></p>	<p>The Australian Arts Minister and the Indigenous Affairs Minister announced more than \$37 million in funding for Indigenous arts, cultural, languages and broadcasting programs across Australia in 2008–09. The funding supports the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indigenous Broadcasting Program – \$14 million to support Indigenous community broadcasters and the production of radio programs in remote, regional and urban areas, and the operation of Indigenous media peak bodies and Central Australia’s Imparja Television service.</li> <li>▪ Indigenous Culture Support – \$6.7 million to support 132 cultural projects including: the transmission of knowledge and skills across generations through multimedia workshops, music, dance and theatre, community festivals, and exhibitions of community-based art and craft activity.</li> <li>▪ Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records Program – \$8.8 million to support 66 projects to strengthen and record Indigenous languages through the operation of language centres, multimedia workshops, the production of dictionaries, databases, websites, DVDs and recordings in communities.</li> <li>▪ National Arts and Crafts Industry Support – \$8 million to build a more sustainable Indigenous visual arts industry through investment in Indigenous art centres and arts support organisations.<sup>35</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>15 August 2008</b>  <i>New training centre for Far North Queensland</i></p>	<p>A new training centre to help Indigenous and other job seekers gain vocational qualifications and secure work in the tourism industry was launched in Cairns by the Minister for Employment Participation.</p> <p>The Cairns and Ports Trips &amp; Attractions (CaPTA) Training Centre, established in partnership with the Career Training Institute of Australia, will provide nationally accredited hospitality and tourism training for both CaPTA employees and other trainees from across Far North Queensland.</p> <p>The Centre will also provide training in communication, conflict resolution, self-esteem and re-engagement programs.</p> <p>The Australian Government has provided \$186,000 for the CaPTA Structured Training and Employment Projects (STEP) program.<sup>36</sup></p>

35 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, ‘\$37.5 million in Indigenous arts and cultural support’ (Media Release, 14 August 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indig\\_arts\\_14aug08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indig_arts_14aug08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

36 Minister for Employment Participation, ‘New training centre for Far North Queensland’ (Media Release, 15 August 2008). At <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/oconnor/releases/newtrainingcentrefarnorthqueensland.htm> (viewed 21 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>21 August 2008</b>  <i>Public housing agreement reached with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara</i></p>	<p>Agreement was reached on the granting of 50-year leases by the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara to the South Australian State Government to allow public housing to be built for Anangu.</p> <p>At a Special General Meeting of Anangu at Umuwa on the APY Lands two resolutions were unanimously passed by Anangu. The first resolution resolved to grant leases over the first 11 sites in Amata. The second resolution resolved to grant leases, as agreed between the parties, for all residential sites in all communities for new and upgraded houses as funds for each site become available. This will enable the Commonwealth's \$25 million dollar housing grant to be realised.</p> <p>The conditions placed on the lease include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State management of social housing including allocation, maintenance and rent collection</li> <li>▪ Housing is only for Anangu</li> <li>▪ State Government ensuring that houses are maintained properly and insured</li> <li>▪ Building and maintenance being performed, as far as is practical, by Anangu</li> <li>▪ Assurances that Anangu will pay rent and abide by tenancy agreements</li> <li>▪ Further discussions to provide home ownership for Anangu.<sup>37</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>28 August 2008</b>  <i>Reintegration of Indigenous prisoners report released</i></p>	<p>The Australian Institute of Criminology's report, <i>Reintegration of Indigenous prisoners</i>, showed that Indigenous offenders are readmitted to prison sooner and more frequently than non-Indigenous offenders and that Indigenous offenders tend to be readmitted to prison for the same kinds of violent offences each time, usually assault.</p> <p>According to the report, readmission to custody is one measure of how well attempts at reintegration into the community have succeeded or otherwise. On this measure, the findings suggest that efforts at reintegrating Indigenous offenders often fail to prevent further violent offending and to keep the offenders in the community and away from prison.</p> <p>The study is based on data from all Australian jurisdictions and covers nearly 9000 males incarcerated for violent offences and released from prison over a two-year period. The quantitative data is complemented by interviews with prisoners and ex-prisoners and corrections staff in the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.<sup>38</sup></p>

37 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and SA Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, 'APY Lands housing breakthrough' (Media Release, 21 August 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/apy\\_land\\_housing\\_21aug08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/apy_land_housing_21aug08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

38 Australian Institute of Criminology, 'Reintegration of Indigenous prisoners: new study released' (Media Release, 28 August 2008). At <http://www.aic.gov.au/media/2008/20080828.html> (viewed 21 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>29 August 2008</b> <i>Indigenous Governance Awards</i></p>	<p>Two Indigenous enterprises in the fields of financial services and the arts were recognised for their outstanding contribution to Indigenous business at the Indigenous Governance Awards.</p> <p>The Indigenous Governance Awards are held by Reconciliation Australia in partnership with BHP Billiton to identify, celebrate and promote effective Indigenous governance.<sup>39</sup></p>
<p><b>8 September 2008</b> <i>Funding for new climate change study for northern Indigenous communities</i></p>	<p>The Minister for Climate Change and Water announced \$198,500 for a study to assess how climate change will impact on Indigenous communities in northern Australia.</p> <p>The study will examine the impacts to health, the environment, infrastructure, education and employment. The study will identify knowledge gaps and priorities for future research and on-ground actions for Indigenous communities. It will examine opportunities for Indigenous communities in areas such as fire abatement schemes and the value of Indigenous knowledge in adapting to climate change.<sup>40</sup></p>
<p><b>16–17 September 2008</b> <i>Indigenous Healing Forum</i></p>	<p>Approximately sixty delegates met in Canberra at the 'Indigenous Healing Forum', organised by FaHCSIA, to discuss healing and inform the government's future policy directions.</p> <p>The Forum showcased examples of successful healing programs and approaches, considered some of the needs of Stolen Generations members, and discussed what strategic public policy approaches might be advanced. Participants agreed that healing is needed and called for a Healing Foundation as one critical step among others.<sup>41</sup></p>
<p><b>16 September 2008</b> <i>National Library of Australia oral history project expanded to include stories from Stolen Generation</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government committed to contributing \$100,000 to the National Library of Australia's oral history project, to enable the Stolen Generations to share their stories of survival, struggle and healing. The project will give Indigenous people the opportunity to tell their own stories through an online resource.</p> <p>This is in addition to \$15.7 million, announced earlier in 2008, to support the work of the Bringing Them Home network of counsellors and caseworkers.<sup>42</sup></p>

39 Minister For Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Indigenous Governance Awards' (Media Release, 29 August 2008). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indig\\_gov\\_awards\\_29aug08.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indig_gov_awards_29aug08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

40 Minister for Climate Change and Water, 'New climate change study for northern Indigenous communities' (Media Release, 8 September 2008). At <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/wong/2008/mr20080908a.html> (viewed 21 July 2009).

41 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Development Team, Discussion Paper (2009). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/HealingFoundationDevelopmentTeam/Pages/DiscussionPaper\\_ATSI-HFDT.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/HealingFoundationDevelopmentTeam/Pages/DiscussionPaper_ATSI-HFDT.aspx) (viewed 21 July 2009).

42 Minister For Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Australian Government helps Stolen Generations tell their stories' (Media Release, 16 September 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/stolen\\_gen\\_16sept08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/stolen_gen_16sept08.htm) (viewed 21 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>16 September 2008</b> <i>Infrastructure funding for Indigenous students</i></p>	<p>Indigenous students boarding at eight non-government schools will benefit from a further \$8.6 million in infrastructure funding from the Australian Government.</p> <p>The Indigenous Boarding Infrastructure Program is designed to improve boarding facilities at non-government schools, which enrol significant numbers of Indigenous students. The funding will enable the boarding schools to upgrade aged and deteriorating student accommodation.</p> <p>\$12 million in funding for 13 projects was announced in June 2008, and an additional \$8.6 million will fund another eight projects bringing the total funding provided to \$27.5 million.<sup>43</sup></p>
<p><b>18 September 2008</b> <i>New Business Directory for Indigenous employment</i></p>	<p>The Digedi Indigenous Business Services Directory will promote Indigenous owned and run businesses in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The directory lists a wide range of Northern Territory businesses that can provide goods and services to the resources and construction industries.<sup>44</sup></p>
<p><b>23 September 2008</b> <i>New Australian Institute of Criminology report on Indigenous violent victimisation</i></p>	<p>The Australian Institute of Criminology's report, <i>Risk factors in Indigenous violent victimisation</i>, showed Indigenous Australians are subject to higher rates of violent victimisation than other Australians.</p> <p>Based on data from surveys, service providers and the criminal justice system, the report examined how Indigenous violent victimisation rates vary with demographic, psychological and cultural factors.</p> <p>Determining victimisation risk and how risk is affected can assist in developing localised prevention strategies.<sup>45</sup></p>
<p><b>26 September 2008</b> <i>Research Paper on Commonwealth Indigenous specific expenditure, 1968–2008</i></p>	<p>The Parliamentary Library released a Research Paper which identified Commonwealth agencies' expenditure in the area of Indigenous affairs from 1968 to 2008.</p> <p>The paper analysed trends in both the nominal and real expenditure, in the expenditure as a percentage of total Commonwealth outlays and Gross Domestic Product, and in the per capita expenditure.<sup>46</sup></p>

43 Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Social Inclusion, 'Infrastructure funding supports Indigenous students' (Media Release, 16 September 2008). At <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/gillard/releases/infrastructurefundingsupportsindigenoustudents.htm> (viewed 21 July 2009).

44 Minister for Employment Participation and Minister for Resources and Energy; Minister for Tourism, 'New Business Directory to Boost Indigenous employment' (Media Release, 18 September 2008). At <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/oconnor/releases/newbusinessdirectorytoboostindigenousemployment.htm> (viewed 22 July 2009).

45 C Bryant & M Willis, *Risk factors in Indigenous violent victimisation*, Australian Institute of Criminology Technical and Background Paper 30 (2008). At <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tbp/21-40/tbp030.aspx> (viewed 22 July 2009).

46 Parliament of Australia, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliamentary Library, *Commonwealth Indigenous-specific expenditure 1968–2008*, Research Paper, 26 September 2008. At <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/2008-09/09rp10.pdf> (viewed 2 October 2008).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>2 October 2008</b> <i>23rd Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Meeting</i></p>	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) held its 23rd meeting in Perth.</p> <p>COAG reaffirmed the national importance of closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and agreed to hold a dedicated meeting in 2009 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ agree between all governments on a national strategy for achieving the six COAG Closing the Gap targets;</li> <li>▪ provide a formal opportunity for exchange between jurisdictions of programs and initiatives that are working successfully to advance the areas covered by the Closing the Gap targets; and</li> <li>▪ maximise the contribution that private and community sector initiatives in education, employment, health and housing can make to the success of the overall strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Leaders signed COAG's National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development. This follows in-principle agreement from the July 2008 COAG meeting to address the needs of Indigenous children in their early years, with an initial focus from birth to three years. Bilateral plans for implementing the reforms have been developed between each jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.<sup>47</sup></p>
<p><b>6 October 2008</b> <i>Reforms to Indigenous employment programs</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government released a paper, <i>Increasing Indigenous Employment Opportunity</i>, on the Government's preferred model for Indigenous employment programs.</p> <p>The proposed model includes reforms to Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) and the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP).</p> <p>Reforms to CDEP included ceasing CDEP in non-remote areas with established economies, and supporting Indigenous job seekers under the Indigenous Employment Program. CDEP will be re-structured in remote areas with emerging and limited economies.<sup>48</sup></p>
<p><b>8 October 2008</b> <i>Project for remote communities to transition into employment</i></p>	<p>Funding of \$294,640 was announced for a new project to help students from remote communities in the Torres Strait and Cape York to move successfully from school into employment.</p> <p>The project builds on the success of the Australian Football League Academy program which helps Indigenous youth from remote communities to access educational opportunities, skills training and employment pathways.<sup>49</sup></p>

47 Council of Australian Governments, Council of Australian Governments' Meeting, [http://www.coag.gov.au/coag\\_meeting\\_outcomes/2008-10-02/index.cfm](http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2008-10-02/index.cfm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

48 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs & Minister for Employment Participation, 'Reforms to Indigenous employment programs' (Media Statement, 6 October 2008). At <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1008/msep060.php> (viewed 20 July 2009).

49 Minister for Employment Participation and Member for Leichhardt, 'School to work pathways for Cape York Indigenous students' (Media Statement, 8 October 2008). At <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1008/msep080.php> (viewed 20 July 2009).



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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>9 October 2008</b> <i>Increased funding for Indigenous literacy and numeracy</i></p>	<p>An additional \$4.8 million was committed by the Australian Government to help close the gap in literacy and numeracy levels between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students over the next decade.<sup>50</sup></p>
<p><b>13 October 2008</b> <i>Report of the NTER Review Board</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government received the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) Review Board's Report.</p> <p>The NTER Review Board, comprising Chairman Peter Yu, Marcia Ella Duncan and Bill Gray AM, conducted an independent and transparent review of the NTER to assess the effectiveness of measures and the impact on individuals and communities to date.<sup>51</sup></p> <p>The report recommended Governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ continue to address the unacceptably high level of disadvantage and social dislocation being experienced by Aboriginal Australians living in remote communities throughout the Northern Territory</li> <li>▪ reset the relationship with Aboriginal people based on genuine consultation, engagement and partnership</li> <li>▪ respect Australia's human rights obligations and conform with the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i>.</li> </ul> <p>The report also made recommendations on welfare reform, employment, law and order, education health, housing, land reform, governance and funding arrangements.</p> <p>A copy of the report is available online at <a href="http://www.nterreview.gov.au/docs/report_nter_review/default.htm">http://www.nterreview.gov.au/docs/report_nter_review/default.htm</a>.</p>
<p><b>14 October 2008</b> <i>Compulsory 4 hours of English in all Northern Territory schools</i></p>	<p>The Northern Territory government announced that the first four hours of education in all schools would be taught in English as part of a restructure within the Department of Education and Training (NT).<sup>52</sup> A particular focus of the restructure will be delivering better educational outcomes in remote Indigenous communities.</p>

50 Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Social Inclusion, 'Indigenous literacy and numeracy', (Media Statement, 9 October 2008). At <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1008/msed090.php> (viewed 20 July 2009).

51 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'NTER review report' (Media Release, 13 October 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nter\\_review\\_report\\_13oct08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nter_review_report_13oct08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

52 NT Minister for Education and Training, 'Education Restructure Includes Greater Emphasis on English' (Media Release, 14 October 2008). At <http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewRelease&id=4599&d=5> (viewed 8 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>23 October 2008</b> <i>Government's interim response to the NTER Review Board's Report</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government's Interim response to the NTER Review Board's Report (released on 13 October 2008) accepted the Review Board Report's three overarching recommendations.</p> <p>The Government indicated it will introduce legislation in 2009 to lift the suspension of <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> (RDA). In the interim the transition phase of the NTER will continue for twelve months. The core elements of the NTER such as compulsory income management, the five-year leases, and alcohol and pornography controls will be maintained, but revised to conform with the RDA. The reinstatement of the RDA will mark the shift to a long-term, development phase.</p> <p>The Government will later provide a response in full to the Review Board's recommendations, including future funding arrangements.<sup>53</sup></p>
<p><b>27 October 2008</b> <i>Yuendumu pool officially opened</i></p>	<p>The community of Yuendumu (NT) celebrated the opening of the new community pool built in partnership with the Australian and Northern Territory Governments.<sup>54</sup></p>
<p><b>28 October 2008</b> <i>Major NT landmark returned to Traditional Owners</i></p>	<p>The Devil's Marbles, one of the Northern Territory's most recognised landmarks and a site of great spiritual significance to local Aboriginal people, was handed back to Traditional Owners by the Australian Government.</p> <p>This is the first of a series of areas to be returned to Traditional Owners as part of the Northern Territory Government's hand back of park land under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>.<sup>55</sup></p>
<p><b>6 November 2008</b> <i>\$1.2 million for renewable energy in Cape Barren</i></p>	<p>\$1.26 million in funding provided to an Indigenous community on remote Cape Barren Island to generate electricity sourced from solar and wind power. Two 20 kilowatt wind turbines and three solar panels will be installed to generate electricity on the island.</p> <p>The funding will ensure the community has reliable, 24-hour power which is essential for the health of the entire community.<sup>56</sup></p>

53 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Compulsory income management to continue as key NTER measure' (Media Release, 23 October 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nter\\_measure\\_23oct08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nter_measure_23oct08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

54 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Northern Territory Minister for Regional Development & Member for Lingjari, 'Yuendumu pool officially opened' (Media Statement, 27 October 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/yuendumu\\_27oct08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/yuendumu_27oct08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

55 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Member for Lingjari, 'Major NT landmark returned to Traditional Owners' (Media Release, 28 October 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/devils\\_marbles\\_28oct08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/devils_marbles_28oct08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

56 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, '\$1.2 million for renewable energy in Cape Barren' (Media Release, 6 November 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/1.2mill\\_renew\\_energy\\_06nov08..htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/1.2mill_renew_energy_06nov08..htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>17 November 2008</b> <i>Indigenous Land Corporation's Indigenous training and employment package</i></p>	<p>The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) announced plans for a comprehensive Indigenous training and employment package to be delivered in rural and remote Australia.</p> <p>The package will provide 530 certificate-level training places and employment for up to 400 Indigenous graduates in the pastoral, tourism and resource sectors and in ILC businesses, including beef cattle and sheep production, horticulture, maintenance, transport and administration.</p> <p>The ILC has committed \$9.1 million, with the Australian Government providing \$5.7 million for the three-year training and employment program.<sup>57</sup></p>
<p><b>21 November 2008</b> <i>Indigenous home ownership in NSW</i></p>	<p>A \$6 million partnership between the Australian Government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council will give Aboriginal people living on 63 former reserves across NSW the potential to buy their own homes. The funding will cover the costs of surveying the land and conveyancing.</p> <p>Most homes are on communal title and the land has to be subdivided before they can be purchased. Subdividing the land on these reserves is also a vital step towards achieving proper management and funding infrastructure such as electricity and water.<sup>58</sup></p>
<p><b>23 November 2008</b> <i>Lake Condah transferred to the Gunditjmarra people</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government transferred the heritage-listed Lake Condah mission site and cemetery in South West Victoria to the local Gunditjmarra people.</p> <p>Lake Condah is considered to be one of Australia's earliest and largest aquaculture ventures. The Lake Condah Sustainable Development Project will re-flood the lake, restoring the original wetland ecology and a constant water supply.<sup>59</sup></p>

57 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for Employment Participation, '400 extra skilled Indigenous workers' (Media Release, 17 November 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous\\_workers\\_17nov08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous_workers_17nov08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

58 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Chair, NSW Aboriginal Land Council, 'Encouraging Indigenous home ownership and better infrastructure management' (Media Release, 21 November 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/home\\_ownership\\_21nov08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/home_ownership_21nov08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

59 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Lake Condah transferred to the Gunditjmarra people' (Media Release, 23 November 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/lake\\_transferred\\_23nov08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/lake_transferred_23nov08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>24 November 2008</b> <i>Income Management commenced in Cannington and Kimberley, WA</i></p>	<p>Income management commenced in Kununurra and the Cannington district of Perth, following the signing of a bilateral agreement between the Federal and WA State Government.</p> <p>The income management trial will give state child protection authorities the power to recommend to Centrelink that income support and family payments be quarantined and used for the benefit of children.</p> <p>This initiative will be rolled out to Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, Broome, Halls Creek and other areas of the Kimberley and is expected to apply to up to 1,000 individuals in 2008–09 across the trial locations.</p> <p>The Australian Government committed \$18.9 million over two years for this child protection trial.<sup>60</sup></p>
<p><b>29 November 2008</b> <i>24th Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Meeting</i></p>	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA).</p> <p>The NIRA provides an overarching summary of action being taken against the closing the gap targets as well as the operation of the mainstream national agreements in health, schools, vocational education and training, disability services and housing.</p> <p>COAG committed an additional \$4 billion to improve housing, health, employment and to drive fundamental reforms to Indigenous service delivery over the next ten years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1.94 billion in new funding over ten years to the States and Territories to lay the foundations for major reforms to Indigenous housing in remote Australia.</li> <li>▪ \$1.6 billion over four years in Indigenous health to tackle chronic disease in Indigenous communities.</li> <li>▪ \$172.7 million over five years and the States and Territories \$56.2 million to help up to 13,000 Indigenous Australians find and keep a job.</li> <li>▪ \$291 million over six years to better coordinate early childhood, health, housing and welfare services in remote communities.<sup>61</sup></li> </ul>

60 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and NT Minister for Child Protection, Community Services, Seniors and Volunteering, 'Income management in Cannington and Kimberley' (Media Release, 18 November 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/income\\_management\\_18nov08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/income_management_18nov08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

61 Prime Minister & Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, '\$4 billion to help close the gap for Indigenous Australians' (Media Release, 30 November 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/4bill\\_indig\\_30nov08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/4bill_indig_30nov08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>9 December 2008</b> <i>Education Legislation Amendment Act 2008 adopted</i></p>	<p>The <i>Education Legislation Amendment Act 2008</i> maintains commitments to initiatives such as the Sporting Chance program, as well as supporting the expansion of intensive literacy and numeracy programs for Indigenous students, professional development support to assist teachers to develop Individual Learning Plans for their Indigenous students, an additional 200 teachers in the Northern Territory and the provision of three new boarding college facilities for Indigenous secondary school students in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The Act will appropriate more than \$500 million between 2009 and 2012 for Commonwealth led initiatives and partnerships aimed at achieving better educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians.<sup>62</sup></p>
<p><b>11 December 2008</b> <i>School Enrolment and Attendance Legislation adopted</i></p>	<p>The <i>Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Act 2008</i> was adopted.</p> <p>The Act provides for the introduction of the Australian Government's program to improving school enrolment and attendance through welfare reform (SEAM).</p> <p>SEAM will be trialled, beginning in the 2009 school year in six locations in the Northern Territory (Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Tiwi Islands, Hermannsburg, Wadeye and Wallace Rockhole). Subsequent trial sites were later identified in Western Australia and Queensland.</p> <p>Parents in these trial sites who receive income support will need to give Centrelink evidence that their children are enrolled in school. If they fail to do this, their payments could be suspended for up to 13 weeks.</p> <p>If a school reports a student as not regularly attending school, these parents may have their income support payments suspended if they do not take reasonable steps to engage with the school and the school continues to be dissatisfied with the child's attendance.<sup>63</sup></p>
<p><b>15 December 2008</b> <i>UK university to return Indigenous remains</i></p>	<p>The University of Oxford (UK) agreed to return the remains of three Indigenous Australians, obtained in the 1860s, from Goolwa or Port Elliot in South Australia, an area in the heart of Ngarrindjeri traditional country.<sup>64</sup></p>

62 *Education Legislation Amendment Act 2008*, (Cth).

63 Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Improving School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure. At <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/welfarereform/Pages/ImprovingSchoolEnrolmentAttendance.aspx> (viewed 21 July 2009).

64 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'UK University to return Indigenous remains' (Media Release, 15 December 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/uni\\_return\\_remains\\_15deco8.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/uni_return_remains_15deco8.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>16 December 2008</b> <i>Second phase of consultations for a national Indigenous representative body commenced</i></p>	<p>The second stage of the process for establishing a National Indigenous representative body will be led by Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>In December 2008, the Government requested the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Tom Calma, to convene an independent Indigenous Steering Committee to oversee the process and to convene a roundtable meeting of Indigenous leaders in early 2009.<sup>65</sup></p>
<p><b>16 December 2008</b> <i>\$8.5 million for Indigenous housing in Nguiu</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government invested a further \$8.5 million to improve Indigenous housing in Nguiu on the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The funds announced are in addition to the \$44 million already committed for Nguiu under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) – a joint Australian and Northern Territory Government program to improve housing in Northern Territory communities.</p> <p>The Nguiu community signed a 99-year township lease with the Australian Government in 2007.<sup>66</sup></p>
<p><b>16 December 2008</b> <i>Land lease agreement for Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island</i></p>	<p>A township lease over three communities in Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island was agreed to between the Anindilyakwa people and the Australian government.</p> <p>The government has invested an additional \$10 million in new housing and infrastructure on top of the \$33 million committed under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).</p> <p>This funding will help address the issue of overcrowding on Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island and improve the health of families and children.<sup>67</sup></p>
<p><b>25 January 2009</b> <i>Professor Mick Dodson named Australian of the Year</i></p>	<p>Professor Mick Dodson was named Australian of the Year in recognition of his courage and determination to bring about change and the hard work needed to make a difference.</p> <p>Professor Dodson has used his great abilities as a leader, activist, academic and mentor, in the service of his people. This is apparent in his work as co-author of the <i>Bringing them home Report</i>, while he was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.<sup>68</sup></p>

65 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Next steps for Indigenous body' (Media Release, 16 December 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous\\_body\\_17dec08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous_body_17dec08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

66 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, NT Minister for Housing and Member for Lingiari, 'Extra \$8.5 million for Indigenous housing in Nguiu' (Media Release, 16 December 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nguiu\\_housing\\_16dec08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nguiu_housing_16dec08.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

67 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Historic land lease for Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island', (Media Release, 16 December 2008). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/groote\\_land\\_16dec08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/groote_land_16dec08.htm) (viewed 7 July 2009).

68 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Indigenous leader named Australian of the Year' (Media Release, 25 January 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indig\\_leader\\_aus\\_25jan09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indig_leader_aus_25jan09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>28 January 2009</b> <i>School attendance income management measures begun in NT</i></p>	<p>Parents in Hermannsburg, Katherine town camps, Wallace Rockhole, Wadeye and Tiwi Islands receiving income support became part of a new trial to boost school enrolment and attendance.</p> <p>The trial was introduced under the <i>Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Act 2008</i>.</p> <p>Parents are required to inform Centrelink where their children are enrolled and ensure their children attend school regularly. If parents do not comply their income support payments may be suspended until their children are enrolled or attending school.</p> <p>An estimated 1,300 parents in the Northern Territory are to be included in this trial.<sup>69</sup></p>
<p><b>28 January 2009</b> <i>Murdi Paaki Regional Partnership Agreement signed</i></p>	<p>The first Regional Partnership Agreement was signed in New South Wales. The agreement is expected to build strong partnerships between government and Indigenous people across a range of areas including economic development, health, employment and training, culture and heritage and education.<sup>70</sup></p>
<p><b>30 January 2009</b> <i>Agreement between NT Government, Northern Land Council and Kenbi Traditional Owners</i></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government, the Northern Land Council and the Kenbi Traditional Owners signed an Agreement.</p> <p>The Agreement will contribute to the resolution of the Kenbi Land Claim in the Cox Peninsula, which has been running for 30 years.<sup>71</sup></p>
<p><b>11 February 2009</b> <i>NT lease agreements for Indigenous housing</i></p>	<p>The Northern Land Council approved the granting of housing leases in the Northern Territory communities of Galiwin'ku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Wadeye.</p> <p>The 40-year leases will mean more than \$159 million of housing and infrastructure work will be provided in the four communities.<sup>72</sup></p>

69 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and NT Chief Minister & Acting Education Minister, 'School attendance measure begins in NT' (Media Release, 28 January 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/school\\_attendance\\_28jan09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/school_attendance_28jan09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

70 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Signing of the Murdi Paaki Regional Partnership Agreement, Speech delivered at Dubbo, 28 January 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/murdi\\_paaki\\_28jan09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/murdi_paaki_28jan09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

71 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Kenbi Land Claim' (Media Release, 30 January 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/kenbi\\_land\\_claim\\_30jan09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/kenbi_land_claim_30jan09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

72 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, NT Minister for Housing and Member for Lingiari, 'NT lease agreement – a major step towards better Indigenous housing' (Media Release, 11 February 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nt\\_lease\\_agreement\\_11feb09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nt_lease_agreement_11feb09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>January 2009</b> <i>NT Government Outstations Policy – Community Engagement Report</i></p>	<p>Indigenous leader Patrick Dodson was engaged by the Northern Territory Government to lead a community engagement process responding to the issues identified in the NT Government's <i>Outstations Policy Discussion Paper</i>. The <i>Our Home, Our Homeland: Community Engagement Report</i> outlines the key outcomes from 43 written submissions and community engagement sessions held in 17 locations throughout the Territory.</p> <p>Based on the consultation outcomes the report makes recommendations to provide early direction to the NT Government on the development and implementation of future policy for homelands.<sup>73</sup></p> <p>The report is available at <a href="http://www.workingfuture.nt.gov.au/download/Community_Engagement_Report.pdf">http://www.workingfuture.nt.gov.au/download/Community_Engagement_Report.pdf</a>.</p>
<p><b>13 February 2009</b> <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Development Team convened</i></p>	<p>The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs convened the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Development Team' to work with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure broad support for a Healing Foundation.</p> <p>Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue and Gregory Phillips were appointed as Co-Chairs of the Development Team. Subsequently Ms O'Donoghue withdrew and May O'Brien replaced her as Co-Chair.</p> <p>The Development Team will provide a final report to the Minister by 30 September 2009.</p> <p>The Foundation will be established to address trauma and healing in Indigenous communities, with a strong focus on the unique needs of Stolen Generations. It will provide practical and innovative healing services, as well as training and research.<sup>74</sup></p>
<p><b>23 February 2009</b> <i>Income management rolled out across the Kimberley</i></p>	<p>Income management rolled out across the remainder of the Kimberley including Kalumburu, Noonkanbah and Beagle Bay, as part of the Australian and Western Australian Government's income management trial in Western Australia. This builds on trials that commenced in November 2008 and January 2009.</p> <p>The income management trials gives the WA Department of Child Protection the power to recommend to Centrelink that income support and family payments are quarantined to ensure welfare is spent in the interests of children.<sup>75</sup></p>

73 Socom and DodsonLane, *Northern Territory Government Outstations Policy: Community Engagement Report* (2009). At [http://www.workingfuture.nt.gov.au/download/Community\\_Engagement\\_Report.pdf](http://www.workingfuture.nt.gov.au/download/Community_Engagement_Report.pdf) (viewed 20 July 2009).

74 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Ageing, 'Healing foundation for Stolen Generations' (Media Release, 13 February 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/healing\\_foundation\\_13feb09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/healing_foundation_13feb09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

75 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and WA Minister for Child Protection, 'Income management commences across the Kimberley' (Media Release, 23 February 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/income\\_management\\_23feb09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/income_management_23feb09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).



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<p><b>2 March 2009</b> <i>New Operational Commander for the NTER appointed</i></p>	<p>Mike Zissler, former CEO of the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services, was appointed as the Operational Commander of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) Operation's Centre.<sup>76</sup></p>
<p><b>4 March 2009</b> <i>\$15.7 million funding for Indigenous rangers</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government committed \$15.7 million over two years to support 22 Indigenous ranger groups, working on land and sea management activities in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>\$9 million of the funding is committed through the Working on Country Northern Territory program delivered by the Department of the Environment, Water and Heritage to create 61 new ranger jobs. \$6.5 million is sourced from the Aboriginal Benefit Account.<sup>77</sup></p>
<p><b>11–13 March 2009</b> <i>National Indigenous Representative Body Workshop</i></p>	<p>In January 2009, the Social Justice Commissioner invited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women to nominate to attend a national workshop to guide the development of a new national Indigenous representative body.</p> <p>The workshop was held in Adelaide on 11–13 March 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. review submissions and the outcomes of consultations conducted by the Government to date on the establishment of a new representative body</li> <li>2. identify the key elements or features of a new national Indigenous representative body which can then be distilled down to a series of preferred models for a new representative body</li> <li>3. identify a process for further consultation with Indigenous communities leading to the establishment of an interim representative body from July/ August 2009.</li> </ol> <p>The workshop was not intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ endorse a final model for a national representative body; or</li> <li>▪ decide membership of a national representative body.</li> </ul> <p>Through the plenary sessions, smaller working groups and an electronic survey conducted at the workshop, it was possible to identify those issues on which there was an emerging consensus among participants and those issues where there remained divergent views or at least, a need for further consultation.</p>

76 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Appointment of new Operational Commander for the NTER' (Media Release, 2 March 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/op\\_command\\_nter\\_03mar09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/op_command_nter_03mar09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

77 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Minister for Environment Heritage and the Arts and Member for Lingiari, '\$15.7 million boost for Indigenous rangers' (Media Release, 4 March 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous\\_rangers\\_4mar2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous_rangers_4mar2009.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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<p><b>11–13 March 2009</b> (continued) <i>National Indigenous Representative Body Workshop</i></p>	<p>Workshop participants expressed the desire for a national representative body to contribute to generational change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Over the next 20 years, they saw the national representative body would have a leading role to play in achieving constitutional recognition and a treaty, in closing the gap, and in Australia as a country owning and facing up to its history. The representative body would have contributed to a situation where our children are empowered, we are in control of our own destiny, are culturally strong and proud, economically independent and where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community/ies are united and not wracked by internal division.</p> <p>There was common agreement among the workshop participants on the importance of the national representative body having the following roles and functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ advocacy</li> <li>▪ formulating policy and advising government</li> <li>▪ reviewing government programs</li> <li>▪ negotiating framework agreements with governments</li> <li>▪ monitoring service delivery by governments</li> <li>▪ conducting research and contributing to law reform processes</li> <li>▪ representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the international level.</li> </ul> <p>There was also common agreement on the need for the national representative body to operate in accordance with the highest standards of ethical and moral conduct and to be open, transparent and accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.<sup>78</sup></p> <p>The Steering Committee is required to present a preferred model to the Australian Parliament by July 2009.</p> <p>The report of the Workshop is available at <a href="http://humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/rebody/index.html">http://humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/rebody/index.html</a>.</p>
<p><b>23 March 2009</b> <i>Remote Indigenous housing investment</i></p>	<p>Remote Indigenous communities will benefit from a \$5.5 billion investment in housing over the next ten years to improve living standards for families and children.</p> <p>The investment contributes to the objectives of the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing, agreed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in November 2008.</p> <p>The funding will be prioritised for 26 priority communities across the Northern Territory, north Queensland, the Kimberley region (WA), APY Lands (SA) and NSW.</p> <p>This package will result in construction of up to 4,200 houses, major upgrades and repairs to around 4,800 houses in remote communities and provide up to 2,000 new jobs for local Indigenous people.<sup>79</sup></p>

78 Australian Human Rights Commission, *National Indigenous Representative Body Workshop – Summary Report* (2009). At [http://humanrights.gov.au/social\\_justice/rebody/summary\\_report.pdf](http://humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/rebody/summary_report.pdf) (viewed 20 July 2009).

79 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Remote Indigenous housing investment' (Media Release, 23 March 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/remote\\_Indigenous\\_housing\\_23mar2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/remote_Indigenous_housing_23mar2009.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>3 April 2009</b> <i>Federal Government formally supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i></p>	<p>The Federal Government gave its formal support for the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>. The <i>Declaration</i> recognises the legitimate entitlement of Indigenous people to all human rights. Support of the <i>Declaration</i> is an important step in re-setting the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and moving towards a new future.<sup>80</sup></p>
<p><b>3 April 2009</b> <i>New Indigenous Community Support Service</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government committed \$55 million over four years for a new national network of 87 Indigenous Community Support Service providers. The providers will help connect Indigenous people and their families with a range of services in areas including caring for families, early childhood, education, training, employment, financial management, housing, health and legal services. The providers will also help people deal with issues including family violence and drug alcohol abuse.<sup>81</sup></p>
<p><b>7 April 2009</b> <i>New Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government committed \$2.5 million to establish a Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health at the University of New South Wales. The funding will help researchers to determine the incidence of HIV in Indigenous communities and investigate the best ways to identify and treat HIV and other blood borne and sexually transmitted diseases.<sup>82</sup></p>
<p><b>20 April 2009</b> <i>\$3 million for Indigenous playgroups</i></p>	<p>More than 1,600 Indigenous children and families in regional and remote Australia will benefit from up to \$3 million for the expansion of playgroups. The playgroups are part of the Australian Government's \$13.8 million program for playgroups for Indigenous families. The four-year program will support 36 playgroups across regional and rural Australia.<sup>83</sup></p>

80 J Macklin, Australia supports Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (Speech delivered at Parliament House, Canberra, 3 April 2009). At <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0409/speia030.php> (viewed 20 July 2009).

81 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Expanded community support service for Indigenous communities' (Media Release, 3 April 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous\\_communities\\_support\\_3april09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/Indigenous_communities_support_3april09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

82 Minister for Health and Ageing, 'New Centre to mark World Health Day' (Media Release, 7 April 2009). At <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr038.htm> (viewed 20 July 2009).

83 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, '\$3 million for Indigenous playgroups' (Media Release, 20 April 2009). At [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/3mil\\_indigplaygroups\\_20april09.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/3mil_indigplaygroups_20april09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>23 April 2009</b> <i>National Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government took the first steps towards establishing a national Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre, one of the ideas to emerge from the 2020 Summit.</p> <p>Initially a feasibility study will be undertaken to gather the views of the Indigenous and wider communities and decide the form and role of the Centre. It has been suggested that the Centre could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ be a national gathering place for the celebration and discussion of Indigenous culture, in a physical or 'virtual' sense</li> <li>▪ become a reference point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture</li> <li>▪ engage in research to harness traditional knowledge to support sustainable management of country</li> <li>▪ support education in, and understanding of, Indigenous culture and affairs across Australia and preserve Indigenous heritage.<sup>84</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>12 May 2009</b> <i>2009–10 Budget</i></p>	<p>The Australian Government committed \$1.3 billion to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.<sup>85</sup> This included commitments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$204.3 million to improve health care in Indigenous communities</li> <li>▪ \$131.1 million for remote primary health</li> <li>▪ \$58.3 million for eye and ear health care</li> <li>▪ \$11.0 million for dental care</li> <li>▪ \$3.8 million to improve pathology services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.<sup>86</sup></li> </ul> <p>\$50.1 million over four years to build a more efficient native title system that will focus on achieving resolution through agreement-making. The additional funding includes \$45.8 million to improve the capacity of Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) to represent native title claimants and holders.<sup>87</sup></p> <p>\$807.4 million over three years to enhance community safety, tackle child abuse and rebuild communities in the Northern Territory.<sup>88</sup></p>

84 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Keeping Indigenous culture strong for the future' (Media Release, 23 April 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indigenous\\_culture23apr09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indigenous_culture23apr09.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

85 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, '\$1.3 billion towards closing the gap' (Media Release, 12 May 2009). [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/1.3billion\\_closing\\_gap\\_12may2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/1.3billion_closing_gap_12may2009.htm) (viewed 20 July 2009).

86 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for Health and Ageing, 'Over \$200 million for closing the gap in Indigenous health' (Media Release, 12 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/\\$200m\\_indigenous\\_health\\_12may2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/$200m_indigenous_health_12may2009.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

87 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Attorney-General, 'Additional \$50 million for Native Title System' (Media Release, 12 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/\\$50m\\_native\\_title\\_12may2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/$50m_native_title_12may2009.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

88 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Closing the gap in the Northern Territory' (Media Release, 12 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/closing\\_gap\\_nt\\_12may2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/closing_gap_nt_12may2009.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>21 May 2009</b> <i>Governments' full response to NTER Review Board's Report</i></p>	<p>The Australian and Northern Territory Governments released a joint response to the recommendations of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) Review Board.</p> <p>This follows the Australian Government's interim response on 23 October 2008. Both the Australian Government and the NT Government support the majority of the recommendations of the Review Board.<sup>89</sup></p> <p>A copy of the response is available at <a href="http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/response_to_reportNTER/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/response_to_reportNTER/Pages/default.aspx</a>.</p>
<p><b>21 May 2009</b> <i>Discussion paper on Future Directions for the NTER</i></p>	<p>The Government released a discussion paper for consulting with Indigenous Northern Territory communities on designing a compulsory income management policy which does not require the suspension of the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> (RDA).</p> <p>The discussion paper outlined the current Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) measures, the achievements to date and the challenges ahead. The Government is moving the NTER to a sustainable development phase to ensure measures will be effective in the long-term, including stronger engagement and partnerships with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The consultation process will be fully documented in a final report. The discussion paper is available at <a href="http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/ntresponse/future_directions/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/ntresponse/future_directions/Pages/default.aspx</a>.<sup>90</sup></p>
<p><b>24 May 2009</b> <i>Notice for compulsory acquisition of Alice Springs town camps</i></p>	<p>Negotiations between the Australian Government and Tangentyere Council for leases on the Alice Springs town camps to allow for the federal government to provide housing and essential services were not resolved by the deadline of 21 May 2009.</p> <p>Consequently, the Government indicated it is considering giving Tangentyere Council and each of the Housing Associations notice under subsection 47(1) of the <i>Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007</i> notice to compulsory acquire the Alice Springs town camps. If notice is given, the acquisition will take effect by 6 July 2009.<sup>91</sup></p>

89 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Australian and NT Governments' response to NTER Review' (Media Release, 21 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nter\\_response\\_21may09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nter_response_21may09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

90 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Towards a sustainable development phase: discussion paper on Future Directions for the NTER' (Media Release, 21 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/future\\_directions\\_nter\\_21may09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/future_directions_nter_21may09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

91 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Alice Springs town camps' (Media Release, 24 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/alice\\_springs\\_town\\_camps\\_24may09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/alice_springs_town_camps_24may09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>26 May 2009</b> <i>National Healing Foundation consultations commenced</i></p>	<p>National consultations commenced on the development of a National Healing Foundation. The Government has allocated \$26.6 million for the Foundation over four years and it will consider the needs of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, especially those of the Stolen Generations.</p> <p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Development Team have been chosen for their skills and experiences in healing and trauma recovery and include Ms May O'Brien and Mr Gregory Phillips as Co-Chairs, and Ms Debra Hocking, Dr Helen Milroy, Mr Brian Butler, Ms Barbara Asplet, Mr Bradley Brown, Mr David Cole and Ms Noritta Morseu-Diop.<sup>92</sup></p>
<p><b>27 May 2009</b> <i>Office of the Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services – position created</i></p>	<p>The Government introduced legislation to create the statutory office of Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services.</p> <p>The position will drive the implementation of major reforms in housing, infrastructure and employment in remote Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The position, which is supported by the Council of Australian Governments will ensure government commitments in remote Indigenous communities deliver real results.</p> <p>The Coordinator-General will report directly to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and will work closely with Indigenous people, community groups, industry and government organisations to help meet the national targets for closing the gap.<sup>93</sup></p>
<p><b>12 June 2009</b> <i>Central Australian landmarks handed back to Traditional Owners</i></p>	<p>Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve is among six parcels of land handed back to the Arrernte people, the Traditional Owners of the land.</p> <p>The Reserve is approximately 250 kilometres south of Alice Springs and is the home of Chamber's Pillar, a unique sandstone rock formation. The deeds to the land were handed back to Traditional Owners at a ceremony at the Old Telegraph Station in Alice Springs.<sup>94</sup></p>

92 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'National Healing Foundation consultations start on National Sorry Day' (Media Release, 26 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jr\\_m\\_healingfoundation\\_26may09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jr_m_healingfoundation_26may09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

93 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Office of the Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services' (Media Release, 27 May 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jr\\_m\\_indigenous\\_coord\\_gen\\_27may09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jr_m_indigenous_coord_gen_27may09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

94 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Member for Lingiari, 'Central Australian landmarks handed back to traditional owners' (Media Release, 12 June 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/central\\_australia\\_landmarks\\_12june09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/central_australia_landmarks_12june09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

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Date	Event/ summary of issue
<p><b>18 June 2009</b> <i>Appointment of Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services</i></p>	<p>Mr Brian Gleeson was appointed to the new position of Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services. He has a career spanning the United Nations and the Australian Public Service. His appointment commences in July 2009.<sup>95</sup></p>
<p><b>25 June 2009</b> <i>Amendments to NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i></p>	<p>The New South Wales government proposed amendments to the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>. The amendments are intended to provide clearer and more certain processes for Aboriginal land councils to use when they deal with, dispose of or develop land.<sup>96</sup></p>
<p><b>29 June 2009</b> <i>Funding for Alice Springs managed accommodation</i></p>	<p>The Alice Springs Transformation Plan for managed accommodation has received an additional \$11 million to help combat homelessness and house the large transient Indigenous population in Alice Springs. The additional funding for the plan brings the total to more than \$138 million.<sup>97</sup></p>

95 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Appointment of Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services' (Media Release, 18 June 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/coord\\_general\\_18june2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/coord_general_18june2009.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

96 NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, 'Land Rights Amendments help drive economies and jobs' (Media Release, 25 June 2009). At <http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au/news/41.html> (viewed 8 July 2009).

97 Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, '\$11 million for Alice Springs managed accommodation' (Media Release, 29 June 2009). At [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/11million\\_alice\\_springs\\_accom\\_29june09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/11million_alice_springs_accom_29june09.htm) (viewed 22 July 2009).

