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Michael Long’s walk to Parliament House put Indigenous disadvantage in the news, Nov 2004.



Annual Report

January – December

2004

This report was compiled by ANTaR National.  
For enquiries please contact our office:  
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Cover photo: Leaf blanket - a symbol of Reconciliation made by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people local to Ballarat as part of the *Woven Histories* project. Details on page 13.

# About ANTaR

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) is an independent, national, mainly non-Indigenous organisation set up to help protect the human rights of Indigenous Australians and advance the reconciliation process in Australia.

ANTaR was established in 1997 in response to public concern about Federal Government moves to wind back Indigenous native title rights. The result was a people's movement, co-ordinated by a partnership of Indigenous leaders, non-government organisations and concerned citizens, which became known as ANTaR.

## Vision, Mission & Goals

### Vision

An Australian society that respects and values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' cultures and heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.

### Mission

To generate in Australia a moral and legal recognition of and respect for the distinctive status of Indigenous Australians as First Peoples and for the protection of Indigenous Australians' rights, including their relationship to land, the right to self-determination and the maintenance and growth of their unique cultures.

### Goals

To achieve this mission ANTaR works to:

- Provide ways for Indigenous voices to be heard by non-Indigenous Australians
- Raise awareness among non-Indigenous Australians and international populations
- Promote recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Achieve social and economic equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Maintain close liaison with Indigenous leaders and communities
- Sustain and strengthen the people's movement for reconciliation
- Provide non-Indigenous Australians with opportunities to share responsibility for healing in this country
- Encourage all Australians to acknowledge the past and build a shared future.

ANTaR coordinates its national community education and advocacy work by:

- maintaining close liaison with Indigenous leaders and communities,
- conducting national campaigns and lobbying governments,
- conducting education and awareness projects targeted at non-Indigenous Australians.

A great deal of ANTaR's work is carried out by State and Territory ANTaRs supported by ANTaR National. Numerous local advocacy groups work with the State and Territory branches at a grass-roots level, undertaking local reconciliation initiatives in conjunction with local Indigenous groups and other members of local communities. ANTaR is linked to a network of over 200 reconciliation groups across Australia.

ANTaR works in partnership with Indigenous leaders and organisations, to give voice and support to the concerns of Indigenous peoples. This happens, in the first instance, via communication with an Indigenous Reference Group:

### ANTaR's Indigenous Reference Group

Patrick Dodson, Chair, Lingiari Foundation

Professor Mick Dodson AM, Professor of Indigenous Studies, Australian National University

Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE

Professor Larissa Behrendt, Professor of Law, UTS Sydney

Senator Aden Ridgeway, Senator for NSW

Dr Bill Jonas, formerly Indigenous Social Justice Commissioner, HREOC

Linda Burney, MP, NSW Legislative Assembly

Olga Havnen, Australian Council of Social Services Board, formerly Fred Hollows Foundation

Professor Marcia Langton, Professor of Australian Indigenous Studies, Melbourne University

Peter Yu, former Executive Director, Kimberley Land Council

David Ross, Director, Central Land Council

Lester Irabinna Rigney, Yunggorendi First Nations Centre, Flinders University

### ANTaR's Non-Government Organisation Members

Amnesty International Australia

Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)

Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

Edmund Rice Centre

National Union of Students (NUS)

Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)



# ANTaR National Management Committee 2004

## Office Bearers

- Phil Glendenning (Edmund Rice Centre) President
- Roger Cook (ANTaR WA) Vice President
- Merrindahl Andrews (ANTaR ACT) Secretary
- Helen Barnes (At Large) Treasurer

## Ordinary Members

- Bob Makinson (ANTaR NSW)
- Margaret Hardy (ANTaR QLD)
- Peter Lewis (ANTaR VIC)
- Glenn Giles (ANTaR SA)
- Hugh Bland (ANTaR NT)
- Helen Fielder-Gill (ANTaR TAS)
- David Raper (Amnesty International Australia)
- Anouk Ride (Australian Council of Social Services)

## National Staff

- David Cooper - National Director (full-time)
- Hilary Blackman - Communications & Fundraising Manager (full-time)
- Janene Collins - Administration Officer (part-time)
- Tess Vall - Information Officer (part-time)
- Leigh Bowden - Administration & Community Relations (part-time; until March 2004)



David Cooper and Hilary Blackman with outstation manager Barry Abbott and employees, Central Australia, Nov 2004

# President's Report

ANTaR's biggest achievement for 2004 is that Indigenous health is back on the national agenda - the political agenda and the media agenda. Key to this was ANTaR's collaboration with the AMA (Australian Medical Association) and pivotal Indigenous health organisations, NACCHO (National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations) and AIDA (Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association).

ANTaR's *Healing Hands : Indigenous Health Rights Campaign* argues for an holistic approach to the Indigenous health crisis in which both human rights and addressing related areas of disadvantage - the social determinants of health - are integral to the solution.

And of course, Indigenous people themselves must be front and centre in the design and implementation of solutions. This is not currently occurring and, regrettably, opportunity for Indigenous participation is being significantly reduced through the abolition of ATSIC and related policy changes.

Unfortunately, other factors in the return of Indigenous disadvantage to the national agenda were tragic events such as the death of TJ Hickey in February and related events, yet another Black Death in Custody, on Palm Island, in November and other incidents of racially-related violence such as the assault including dragging by the neck of an Aboriginal teenager in October. Along with record numbers of Indigenous people in incarceration, these incidents reflect the failure of all Australian governments to implement the 1991 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

The next three years will be hard. But we should not lose heart at this critical time. Indigenous people need our support in their struggle.

Social research indicates that almost 60% of Australians continue to support the reconciliation process.

Australians have not abandoned the cause of justice for Indigenous peoples.

Michael Long's historic walk was an expression of people's frustration regarding the lack of progress on reconciliation and tackling disadvantage. It showed the power of heart-felt action to arouse interest and put Indigenous issues back on the agenda.

More than ever Australia needs effective, independent organisations such as ANTaR.

Major challenges ahead include:

- responding to regressive government policy changes, such as abolishing Indigenous representation and mainstreaming service delivery;
- maintaining cultural dignity and respect in an adverse environment;
- supporting Indigenous campaigns for justice, such as stolen wages;
- ensuring Indigenous access to services and programs; and
- Indigenous people leaving government policy-making and policy implementation roles.

Australia's Indigenous cultures are the oldest living cultures on the planet. Any loss is not only a loss to Indigenous people, but to the nation and to humanity itself.



Phil Glendenning  
ANTaR National President

# ANTaR Achievements 2004

ANTaR's campaign work addresses a range of issues pertinent to current Indigenous affairs:

- Native Title & Land Rights
- Reconciliation
- Self-determination & self-governance
- Stolen wages
- Stolen generations
- Indigenous health rights
- Human rights obligations
- Indigenous culture and heritage
- Indigenous disadvantage and 'practical reconciliation'
- History and recognition of the past



Photo: Heide Smith

## Indigenous Health Rights

The *Healing Hands: Indigenous Health Rights Campaign* is currently ANTaR's main national campaign. ANTaR has developed this campaign in response to Indigenous calls for *urgent action* to address the crisis in Indigenous health. The Indigenous health crisis is literally a life and death issue affecting every aspect of Indigenous lives and communities. What is more, the situation for Indigenous Australians is getting worse, not better.

ANTaR began the year by publishing a full-page letter from ANTaR's Indigenous Reference Group about the Indigenous health crisis in *The Weekend Australian Magazine* on Australia Day. We also arranged publication of an opinion piece by Patrick Dodson in *The Australian*, *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* on January 26.

The campaign launch was hosted at Government House in Sydney by NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir on February 18 2004. Speakers included Patrick Dodson, Dr Bill Glasson (Australian Medical Association President) and Dr Louis Peachey (Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association President). The launch was attended by approximately 200 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working in health and social services, medicine, law, media, government, philanthropy and arts and culture. The launch was reported in various newspapers and on ABC TV evening news, thereby generating public awareness of the crisis in Indigenous health and gathering momentum for action to address it.

An *Indigenous Health Rights Statement* was developed with key Indigenous health bodies, leaders and health professionals, the Australian Medical Association and writer Don Watson. Individuals are encouraged to sign the Statement, and return it to both ANTaR and to Prime Minister Howard, voicing their support for urgent action to improve Indigenous health. The Statement is included in a 16-page booklet - the *Indigenous Health Rights Action Kit* - which presents information about Indigenous health, points to action required to tackle the health crisis and offers supporters ways to become involved in the campaign.

The Kit has been adopted as a valuable education resource by diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous bodies. Over 7,000 kits have been distributed to:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipal, school and university libraries</li><li>• Women's health organisations</li><li>• Indigenous health services</li><li>• Reconciliation groups</li><li>• Communtiy health services</li><li>• Philanthropic foundations</li><li>• Christian missions and education centres</li><li>• Academic research &amp; resource centres</li><li>• Child care centres</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land councils</li><li>• Mothers' groups</li><li>• Distance education providers</li><li>• Women's associations</li><li>• Performing arts organisations</li><li>• Teachers' unions</li><li>• Shire councils</li><li>• Government community services</li><li>• Government health departments</li></ul> |
|---|---|

*Indigenous Health Rights Kits* have also been distributed to State and Territory ANTaRs, which have begun action at the regional level using the Kits and other support materials developed by the National Office.

An Indigenous Health Rights website has been established, incorporating material from the Kit with updates on relevant developments. This site can be accessed via a link on ANTaR's home page: [www.antar.org.au](http://www.antar.org.au).

The Kit received positive recognition and feedback at the University of New South Wales' National Forum: *Indigenous Health and the Treaty Debate: Rights, Governance and Responsibility*. This conference was attended by over 200 people, sixty percent of whom were Indigenous. We have received much positive feedback from a range of organisations and individuals - Indigenous and non-Indigenous - about the Kit's usefulness as both a factual and persuasive reference.

Elements of the Kit's contents have been quoted in subsequent major reports by the Australian Medical Association (AMA), the National Association of Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO) and in the new electronic journal *New Matilda*.

A network of organisations and individuals working in Indigenous health is being developed, including organisations in related fields across business, arts and culture, education, government, media, law, religion, and trade unions. ANTaR has liaised with key health organisations and individuals, including:

- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO)
- Australian Medical Association (AMA)
- Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
- Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW (AHMRC)
- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT)

- Nganampa Health Council, SA
- Marri Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, NSW
- Katherine West Health Board, NT
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Public Health Association of Australia

ANTaR and NACCHO have been meeting to discuss ongoing cooperation on the campaign and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations.

Opportunities have also been taken to promote Indigenous health issues and the campaign through conferences and public meetings. ANTaR National was a co-organiser of two conferences focussing on mental health issues: the Human Rights and Mental Health Conference at NSW Parliament House on March 8, and the National Forum on Mental Health and Human Rights at Parliament House in Canberra on June 21.

ANTaR was also a sponsor for the national forum *Indigenous Health and the Treaty Debate: Rights, Governance and Responsibility*, an event organised by the Gilbert + Tobin Centre for Public Law held on September 11.

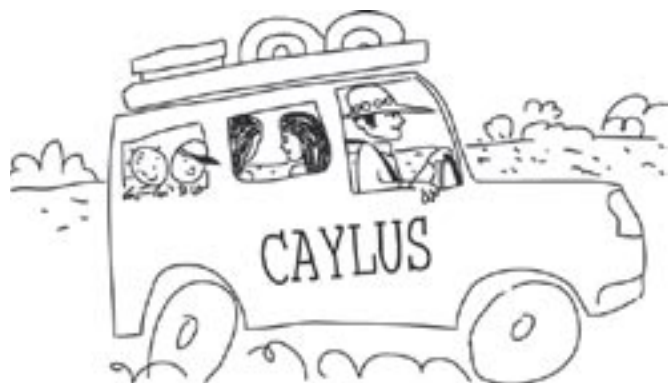
In the lead-up to last year's federal election, ANTaR raised the issue of Indigenous health funding, issuing a number of media releases and gaining exposure for the problem. This was in addition to media coverage of ANTaR's Indigenous health campaign initiatives throughout the year and support for the AMA's public call for an additional \$425 million in annual Indigenous health services funding.

In November, David Cooper and Hilary Blackman provided information on the Indigenous health campaign to participants at the Australian Council of Scoial Services (ACOSS) National Congress in Alice Springs. They also visited a number of Indigenous health and related organisations in Central Australia, all of which are keen to work with ANTaR. These include:



## Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service (CAYLUS)

A body set up by a coalition of Aboriginal health and community service organisations and located at Tangentyere Council. CAYLUS supports Aboriginal community programs dealing with petrol sniffing and other substance abuse. These are primarily outstation programs, though they are under way in Alice Springs as well. We visited two outstation projects, at Owen Springs and near Hermannsburg, and met with the coordinator of a third outstation program. These are run with inadequate resources and without ongoing funding. We discussed developing community education material about the issue, supporting individual projects and helping to lobby.



## Central Land Council

We met with the head of the native title unit, Philip Watkins, to discuss a successful Alice Springs native title claim resulting in the establishment of a local native title holders' organisation, the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation. This has generated a range of negotiated outcomes for local claimants as well as non-claimant residents. As a result of the meeting, ANTaR and the Central Land Council will jointly develop education material about how success in such claims helps improve people's lives and health through increased income, better housing and intercultural cooperation.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the Mercy Foundation for the development of the *Indigenous Health Rights Campaign*.

## Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation

The Corporation grew out of the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal, an initiative by the small remote community of Kintore which raised \$1 million from the sale of its art to purchase a dialysis machine. The machine makes it possible for community members on dialysis to move back from Alice Springs. This is a mind-boggling case study of the effects of one preventable epidemic on a small community and the ongoing burden it represents. We met with the coordinator of the organisation, Sarah Brown, and discussed ways in which we could work together highlighting the issue and also promoting their work.

## Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Congress is the community-controlled health service for Central Australia. We met with Director, Stephanie Bell, and Policy and Research Officer, Clive Rosenwarne. Congress is very supportive of ANTaR's health rights campaign and is keen to work with ANTaR to raise the profile of the issues and to assist in lobbying government.



Photo: Mavis & Hermann Malbunka with clients at Ipolera Outstation, Central Australia. Photo courtesy of Tristan Ray.



# Stolen Wages

The National Office has continued to support the development of the stolen wages campaign nationally, as well as state-based campaigns in Queensland and NSW. Work is underway to research and address the issue in other states and territories.

The National Office has been involved in a number of stolen wages meetings, in both Brisbane and Sydney, and has provided support in developing and seeking funding for a project to produce a national report on stolen wages issues. ANTaR made major submissions to inquiries run by both the NSW and Queensland governments.

## New South Wales

On 12 January 2004, ANTaR sponsored an informal meeting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to share information on the issue of unpaid wages and entitlements as it affected people in NSW, and to hear directly from those involved in the Queensland campaign. Those present resolved to stay in close communication as it was clear that claimants were grateful for the show of support, and that there was work to be done to persuade the NSW Government to resolve the issue. It was also proposed that research into the scope of the issue be undertaken under the aegis of the Indigenous Law Centre at UNSW.

In February 2004, a story broke in the *National Indigenous Times* which revealed the existence of a draft minute from the NSW Department of Community Services (DOCS), urging the NSW government to adopt a scheme for repaying wages and entitlements owing to Aboriginal people that had been placed in government trust accounts between 1900 and 1969. This followed many years of unsuccessful attempts by Aboriginal people to have their money returned to them.

In May 2004, NSW Premier, Bob Carr, established the 'Aboriginal Trust Fund Reparation Scheme' (ATFRS) Panel. One of the first responsibilities of the Panel was to conduct a round of community consultations to collect information on the issue. Later, ANTaR NSW hosted another meeting of the stolen wages working party including representatives of the NSW Sorry

Day Committee, the Indigenous Law Centre (ILC) at the University of NSW, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), the Federation of Traditional Owners, the Labor Council of NSW Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Committee and the Gilbert + Tobin Centre for Public Law, UNSW. As well as learning of considerable community disquiet about the current processes, it was resolved that along with PIAC, Link-Up and the NSW Reconciliation Council, ANTaR NSW would write a submission which was delivered to the Panel in August 2004.

A draft of the the ILC's Stolen Wages information sheet was presented to the meeting for review. ANTaR has since assisted in disseminating this information through community networks and to individual claimants.

ANTaR has also produced resources to assist concerned people to write to Premier Carr urging the NSW Government to negotiate with Aboriginal people about the stolen wages issue.

The ATFRS Panel released its report in December 2004, recommending the establishment of a scheme to operate for five years to receive claims, undertake research and determine payments owed. The Panel is presently being re-established in the NSW Premier's Department. At this time, ANTaR NSW is still assessing the community response to the Panel's report but is encouraged that many of the principles included in submissions made have been included.

## Queensland

In May 2002 the Queensland government became the first in Australia to 'make an offer' to Aboriginal workers for their missing, unpaid and underpaid wages and savings held for them in trust over the past century. The offer, just \$4000 or \$2000 for individuals alive at the time it was made, is contingent on signing away all legal rights to pursue any further claim. The process for distributing the offer will close at the end of 2005. By mid-2003, with the support of ANTaR and the union movement, an information campaign was well underway nationally and internationally to persuade the Beattie government to change the terms of the offer and improve on

it substantially - to date with little success.

ANTaR's support for the 'Stolen Wages Postcard Campaign' which ran for almost a year and resulted in the printing and distribution of 80,000 cards, contributed to having the issue raised at the State Labor Conference, where a resolution supporting the three main messages of the postcard campaign was passed. Subsequent meetings with the Minister and department are yet to produce an improved outcome.

A mini-budget submission in line with the State Labor Party Platform document was generated early in 2005 after members of the Stolen Wages Campaign Working Group were informed by DATSIP officers in December 2004 that there are 'no resources' to support continuing community-based negotiations on the matter.

With the support of the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) and the Aboriginal Local Government Association of Queensland (ALGAQ), the Working Group has therefore taken its claim straight to the Treasurer and are presently awaiting his response.

## Northern Territory

ANTaR NT have met with representatives of the Northern Territory University to discuss funding and development of a project researching Stolen Wages in the NT. These negotiations are continuing.





## Reconciliation

ANTaR supports the concept of a rights-based reconciliation process through many aspects of our education, campaign and advocacy work. The Sea of Hands continues to be used extensively in the community as a reconciliation resource (see separate report below).

Increasingly, however, there is a perception that reconciliation has fallen from the Government's national agenda and this continues to be a barrier to increasing community participation and support for the process.

The Federal Senate's 2003 inquiry and report, *Reconciliation: Off Track*, failed to result in positive changes in the Government's approach to reconciliation. ANTaR resolved to pursue alternative ways of raising the national profile of the reconciliation process.

### Pathways Project and National Reconciliation Workshop and Convention

During 2004, ANTaR worked with Reconciliation Australia (RA) to develop plans to re-start the national reconciliation process. A locally-based program leading to a national reconciliation convention was proposed.

The result is dual projects: 'Pathways to Reconciliation' and a 'National Reconciliation Workshop & Convention'. The National Director has continued to participate on a working group with RA on these projects. The Pathways project was launched in Sydney at the Harbour Bridge and Opera House on May 27. Preparations are under way for the 2005 Reconciliation Workshop and 2007 Reconciliation Convention.



Photo: *Going Home*, Heide Smith

## 2004 Federal Election

The National Office, in collaboration with ANTaR NSW, developed a 2004 Election Kit to help people to make voting decisions supportive of Indigenous rights, and suggesting possible campaign activities. This material was also available on ANTaR's website.

Each of the major parties was surveyed about the key issues

addressed by ANTaR. Responses were tabulated for a 2004 election 'Report Card', which was circulated widely.

A flyer about the key issues of Reconciliation and Native Title was distributed in the lead-up to the election. ANTaR also organised media releases and responses to the major parties' Indigenous policies

and organised an opinion piece by Patrick Dodson for the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the eve of the election.

ANTaR Victoria worked to encourage NGOs and political candidates and parties to make positive statements supporting Indigenous rights during the election campaign.

## ATSIC & Indigenous Policy Reform

ANTaR National strongly supported the retaining of Indigenous representation and policy oversight via the reform of ATSIC. However, when Labor announced support for the abolition of ATSIC, ANTaR advocated that Labor not pass any Government legislation without an alternative structure agreed to by Indigenous people. A letter-writing campaign to (former) Opposition Leader, Mark Latham, was initiated via email and website, and various media releases on the issue were produced.

The National Office also assisted ANTaR Victoria's *Restoring Indigenous Voice* campaign. The campaign calls for democratically elected Indigenous representation

and control over decisions affecting Indigenous lives. The campaign urged the ALP to block the Howard Government's legislation to abolish ATSIC.

The campaign was supported by a huge volunteer effort, circulating a petition, providing information to mobilise other organisations such as the Australian Council of Social Services, local government, universities and unions and assisting people wishing to write letters to Prime Minister Howard, (former) ALP leader Mark Latham and the media.

The ALP sent the legislation to a Senate Committee Inquiry. ANTaR worked to encourage individuals and various NGOs to make submissions

to the Inquiry, as well as making its own submission and giving evidence to the Committee.

The National Office has responded strongly to the Government's proposed reform agenda which replaces ATSIC with powerless advisory bodies attached to existing 'mainstream' government departments. Under the government's new 'mutual obligation' regime, these departments will not deliver services to Indigenous Australians 'like everybody else'. ANTaR is concerned that they will be directed to impose coercive conditions on Indigenous communities in exchange for basic services provided to other Australians without conditions.

## Sea of Hands

The *Sea of Hands*, ANTaR's powerful symbol of reconciliation, continues to be widely used. The hands were booked out over Reconciliation Week 2004 by schools, community groups and even the Federal Police.

A 6,000-hand puddle was organized for the opening of the stolen generations memorial 'sliver' in Canberra on May 29, and 50,000

hands were planted at Hyde Park in Sydney in November. Many smaller displays were installed across the country over 2004, including at Cherbourg State School in remote Queensland and a Darwin event involving 1,000 school children.

The Australian National University (ANU) is producing a *Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia*, and dedicating a chapter to social

justice. This section will include a map showing all the locations of installations of the 'hands' since their first appearance some seven years ago. Photographs and accompanying text explaining the history of the 'hands' and the campaign for reconciliation have been provided by ANTaR.

An archiving project for the *Sea of Hands* has been initiated.



School students at the Sea of Hands in Hyde Park, Sydney, Nov 2004

## Other Education & Campaign Work

In addition to the key campaign areas, the National Office has also been engaged in general campaign activities, including a number of events.

### Submission to Government

In August ANTaR presented a submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs.

The submission strongly opposes the Government's proposal to abolish ATSIC and return Indigenous affairs administration to mainstream departments on the basis that the changes:

- breach Australia's international obligations to its Indigenous Peoples;
- do not have the informed consent of Indigenous Australians;
- contravene findings of the Government's own review and those of other inquiries;
- represent an inappropriate and failed model for addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

ANTaR gave evidence to the Committee, which is due to report in early 2005.

### Launch of Social Justice & Native Title Reports

On March 12 ANTaR hosted the launch of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's (HREOC) 2003 *Social Justice Report* and *Native Title Report*.

### Stolen Generations 'Sliver' Launch

We liaised with Journey of Healing regarding the launch of the national stolen generations' memorial in Canberra on May 29. ANTaR ACT also staged a *Sea of Hands* puddle on the day.

### Patrick Dodson Forum: Paddy's Road

In February, ANTaR facilitated a public forum in Sydney with Patrick Dodson, his biographer Kevin Keffe and the ABC's Julie McCrossin. A capacity audience of 400 attended.

### Indigenous Forum at ALP Conference

On January 30, ANTaR convened a forum on Indigenous issues at the ALP National Conference.

Three Indigenous leaders addressed the Forum:

- Warren Mundine, ALP Vice-President Elect and CEO of NSW Native Title Services
- Professor Larissa Behrendt, Director of the Jumbunna Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Technology Sydney
- Olga Havnen, (former) Indigenous Program Manager at the Fred Hollows Foundation

The event was attended by over 100 diverse and prominent ALP identities, Indigenous community members,

media and the public.

On the following day, the ALP announced strengthened commitments in its policy platform, confirming Labor's support for:

- the Keating government's Social Justice Package
- a national apology and other recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home Report*
- reconciliation and the final recommendations of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
- addressing Indigenous health and other areas of disadvantage.

### Australia Change: January 26.

At the start of the year ANTaR SA helped organise an alternative *Australia Day* event on the lawns next to Tandanya. The event raised questions about human rights in Australia today, especially the appropriateness of a national Australian holiday on January 26 and the lack of respect for Aboriginal Australians.

The *Australia Change* event involved several notable speakers, including Ngarrindjeri man Tom Trevor, Sandra Kanck (Aust Dem, SA leader), Kris Hanna (Greens State MP), Peter Lewis (Speaker of State Parl.) The gathering enjoyed performances by a number of musicians, and a BBQ alongside a *Sea of Hands*.



## The Long Walk

In November, former AFL football champion Michael Long set out from Melbourne to Canberra to raise awareness of the plight of Australia's Indigenous population and to urge Prime Minister John Howard to consider new ways of addressing Indigenous issues. ANTaR supported Michael's inspirational initiative by assisting with publicity and organisation, and gathering participants to walk with Michael through Canberra to a welcome from reconciliation supporters at a community BBQ and *Sea of Hands* display.

ANTaR WA also held a breakfast in solidarity with Michael Long's walk - an emotional event featuring a speech from local land council CEO, Daryl Pearce, and a performance by Indigenous jazz singer Lois Olney. In Darwin, the *Sea of Hands* was carried in a crowd that marched to Parliament House to coincide with Michael Long's walk through Canberra. Similar events happened in other parts of the country.



Michael Long with Senator Aden Ridgeway marching to Parliament House on The Long Walk. NSW MP, Linda Burney, and her daughter carry the Aboriginal flag.

## International Human Rights Day, December 10

ANTaR SA co-hosted a significant meeting marking the end of the UN First Decade for the World's Indigenous Peoples. The meeting was addressed by several leading local Aboriginal people who spoke about the high level of disadvantage and discrimination faced by South Australian Aboriginal people.

## Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism

ANTaR is a principal supporter, along with the Australian Conservation Foundation and RMIT's Globalism Institute, of the *Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism*. The Festival will celebrate the legacy of the great Australian poet, conservationist and reconciliation activist Judith Wright and, in doing so, will explore the difficult but fertile relationship between the arts and activism in Australia.

*Two Fires* will be held in March 2005 in Braidwood, NSW. Festival participants include a host of well-known Australian writers and artists such as Kate Grenville, Leah Purcell, Phillip Adams, Shane Howard, Rodney Hall, Richard Frankland, Mick Dodson, David Bridie, Kavisha Mazzella, Arnold Zable, Don Henry and Larissa Behrendt.

The festival will launch three national Judith Wright Prizes to recognise achievements in the fields of creative writing, conservation and reconciliation work. The reconciliation

prize is being sponsored by ANTaR. ANTaR has also participated in the programming and planning of the Indigenous aspects of the festival.

## Fanning the Flames of Reconciliation

ANTaR Victoria worked pro-actively with the Yorta Yorta people of northern Victoria, supporting their pursuit of a joint management agreement covering the land of the Barma Lakes National Park and related areas.

ANTaR Victoria, with Arts Victoria 'Artists in the Community' funding, also conducted several cultural heritage and cultural communication activities. Two highlights were:

*Sit Down at My Table*: ANTaR groups hosted dinners in their homes inviting Aboriginal people to eat with them and key members of their local communities, including politicians. ANTaR Queensland also hosted dinners. The conversations over dinner were filmed, providing inspiration for John Harding to write a play based on the characters, views and interactions. The play, *Second Helping*, will be performed in Melbourne during NAIDOC week 2005.

*Woven Histories* was a Victorian Government commission to create a temporary public artwork in the Ballarat Botanical gardens (Wathaurong country) for the festival marking 150 years since the Eureka rebellion.

ANTaR Victoria worked with a local Aboriginal artist to coordinate a

Reconciliation event over the three days of the festival, as a mark of respect for those Aboriginal people who died in the struggle.

The project invited people - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal - to create a blanket made of leaves from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous trees made by pinning together the leaves using thorns from the Scottish Hawthorn tree and pins from the Indigenous Hakea plant (pictured on front cover).

On the third day of the festival there was a Reconciliation picnic. At the end of the picnic a ceremony was held in which the leaf blankets were carried to the lake at the Indigenous Wetlands and floated on the surface, symbolising the fragile state of reconciliation. This was a very moving event for many people.



Victorian Premier Steve Bracks with local Elder, Ted Lovett and local dancers at the *Woven Histories* ceremony in Ballarat, December 2004.

## Youth

### ReconciliACTION

The ReconciliACTION Network was established in 2002 as the joint youth arm of ANTaR and the NSW Reconciliation Council.

With the ongoing support of ANTaR and the Council, ReconciliACTION has grown to become the largest youth run reconciliation group in Australia, with over 200 members in NSW and an expanding membership in other States, including regional and remote areas. Around half the Network's members are Indigenous and half are non-Indigenous.

As its name - ReconciliACTION - suggests, the focus of the Network is on action that supports young people working to overcome racism and that promotes reconciliation and Indigenous rights in their local communities. The Network is run entirely by volunteers.

ReconciliACTION members are involved in a number of Boards and committees to advise State and Federal Governments about Indigenous and youth issues. ReconciliACTION was invited to send speakers or facilitate workshops at a range of community events. In July, a number of the ReconciliACTION members were also involved in the International Youth Parliament as delegates and as part of the Indigenous working group.



### Youth Forum

In March 2004 the ReconciliACTION Network organised a one day youth forum for high school students at the University of Sydney's Koori Centre. Around 45 students attended. The first part of the day focused on facilitated discussions about racism, especially how it currently exists and impacts on Indigenous Australians. The second part of the day focused on action - how to overcome racism, and more generally how to identify issues in their school or community, and organise to overcome them.



### Reconciliation Concert

For NAIDOC Week 2004, ReconciliACTION organised a youth music event called Shakeup, held at the Marquee in Sydney. The aim of the concert was to increase awareness of Indigenous rights issues and to showcase established and emerging Indigenous hip hop musicians.

Press coverage and promotion of the event was very positive: The *Sydney Morning Herald* billed the event as the best hip-hop event of the week (high praise considering leading hip-hop act Koolism played in Sydney on the same weekend), and the *Koori Mail* called Shakeup one of the highlights of Sydney's NAIDOC week events.

More than 300 people attended the concert. ReconciliACTION raised over \$1000 from the event, which funded the Anti-Racism Conference in November.

### Youth Anti-Racism Conference

The conference brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people from New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria to attend workshops on racism, legal rights, lobbying and working with the media and organising events. A focus of the conference was empowering young people to lead education and anti-racism projects in their local communities.

The conference also discussed the role of music in changing people's attitudes, young people and the law and the face of racism today.

The conference's keynote speaker was award-winning actor, director and singer Leah Purcell. She spoke about the importance of young people voicing their support for reconciliation in their communities, even though they may face opposition, make mistakes and work within a hostile political environment.

### Freedom Ride

Two workshops were held about ReconciliACTION's project to re-enact the 1965 Freedom Ride in February 2005. The original Freedom Ride, led by Aboriginal activist Charles Perkins, toured NSW towns highlighting issues of segregation and discrimination.

The Freedom Ride 2005 left Sydney in February 2005.



Two ReconciliACTION members film discussion at the Anti-Racism Conference



Media



Photo: Sydney Morning Herald  
ANTaR National President Phil Glendenning was the subject of a Sydney Morning Herald character profile in October 2004. Phil also presented an ABC Radio National Perspective on July 29: Howard's 'fair and decent' vision blind to reconciliation.

Fundraising

Our successful application to the Mercy Foundation for seed funding for the *Indigenous Health Rights Campaign* is gratefully acknowledged. A \$17,500 grant is pending final sign-off with the Reichstein Foundation. An application to the NSW government for a new office printer was successful, which will help reduce outsource printing costs.

During 2004 ANTaR produced a merchandise catalogue containing a range of books for adults and children related to Indigenous culture and issues, as well as jams and beauty products made with Indigenous ingredients and in cooperation with Indigenous communities. The catalogue also included a 2005 Tiwi Children calendar printed by ANTaR with 20% of proceeds going to the Bathurst



ANTaR's 2004 media began with an opinion editorial by Patrick Dodson, addressing the crisis in Indigenous health, published in *The Australian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* on January 26.

Following the launch of ANTaR's Indigenous Health Rights Campaign in Sydney in February, major articles and comment appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*. AMA President Dr Bill Glasson's appearance at the campaign launch boosted the newsworthiness of the issue. The continued interest of the AMA led to its commissioning of an Access Economics report on Indigenous health. The publication of this report in the lead-up to the federal election in October generated further media interest.

The material in ANTaR's Indigenous Health Rights Kit contributed

significantly to the frequency and quality of the newspaper, radio and television discussion. In addition, our Indigenous health and stolen wages campaign activities encouraged other bodies (for example the AMA and the Public Health Association of Australia) to voice concerns about these issues in the media.

The breaking news story that the NSW government had neglected to address stolen wages entitlements since 1969 won the year's International Human Rights Award for print media, and six of the other media stories shortlisted for an Award were on Indigenous issues (out of a total 15 nominations for an award for human rights media). It is encouraging that Indigenous affairs, despite being low on the government's agenda, remains a focus of serious discussion in media addressing large and diverse audiences.

attention from government and media, has been a significant achievement.

Analysis of our budget suggests that administration not directly related to campaigning accounts for approximately 14.7% of expenses. This figure reflects that, compared with most other not-for-profit organisations, donations account for a higher proportion of total income (85%).

However, this funding structure ensures ANTaR is able to remain independent of government and corporate influence.

We are working to reduce donation-reliant administration expenses by targetting capital-specific philanthropic grants.

Organisational

A face-to-face strategic planning meeting of ANTaR representatives from each State and Territory was held in Brisbane in June. Eight National Management Committee meetings took place throughout the year and a number of National Executive meetings were also held.

The National Director liaised with NGO members and prospective new NGO members regarding membership of ANTaR's national association. ANTaR WA became incorporated in 2004, while ANTaR NSW membership grew substantially, indicating renewed enthusiasm for ANTaR's work in the community.

ANTaR NT is re-establishing its presence in Alice Springs and sharing an office with Amnesty International in Darwin.

Staffing

A great deal of ANTaR's work is done by volunteers. Many give whole days of time regularly each week, working on the full range of ANTaR's

activities. Other dedicated volunteers work 'on call' doing the huge amount of organising and implementing that is behind the many stalls, rallies, forums, petitions, mail-outs, *Sea of Hands* displays and other events that ANTaR initiates or participates in across the country.

The National Director's position underwent a review during 2004 by the National Office Operations Support Committee (NOOSC). The review trialled a process which will now be used to review all staff.

As well as the appointment of the National Communications and Fundraising Manager in late 2003, Janene Collins joined ANTaR as part-time Administration Officer in April 2004 and Tess Vall as part-time database developer. These roles arose from the restructuring of Leigh Bowden's position following the completion of Leigh's contract in March 2004.

Part-time coordinators have also supported committees in ANTaR offices in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland.

Information Resources

The National website has been updated and its design structure refined. We continue to make design improvements allowing easier access to the latest information.

Upgrading of data processing, volunteer coordination and other functions is in progress. Two experts in database development are overseeing upgrading of the database on a pro bono basis. This will include enabling web-based access to a unified database by State and Territory ANTaR groups, saving duplication and improving accuracy. The IT group has further upgraded the National Office network with a new server, donated by Belvoir St Theatre, and other improvements.

Our valued IT volunteers Stephen Garrett, Munro Saunders and team continue to spend much time providing us in-kind technical support for database and systems development.

Financial Report

Various organisational issues have been addressed over the year. The Australian Taxation Office has granted ANTaR Income Tax Exempt Charity (ITEC) status and we have secured public liability cover via a group scheme that other ANTaRs can join.

KPMG has joined ANTaR's team of supporters as our pro bono auditors. Audits have been completed for 2001 - 2002. ANTaR's 2003 audit was carried out in January 2004.

Significant financial events through the period include:

- establishing a workable annual budget
- improved monthly reports against budget prepared for the National Management Committee
- the employment of Janene Collins to assist our volunteer Peter Brennan with accounting functions
- revenue and expenditure within budgeted amounts
- audited accounts for 2002-3.

Summary Profit & Loss: 1 July 2003 - 30 June 2004

Income		% of Total
Donations	\$ 305,472.19	85.08%
Bequests	\$ 20,000.00	5.57%
Merchandise	\$ 7,622.60	2.12%
Interest	\$ 1,432.68	0.40%
Miscellaneous	\$ 19,663.50	5.48%
Grants	\$ 4,871.00	1.36%
Total Income	\$ 359,061.97	100.00%
Expenses		
National Office Administration		
Office Expenses	\$ 31,085.44	
Wages & Salaries	\$ 18,319.46	
	\$ 49,404.89	14.7%
Education & Campaigns		
Office Expenses	\$ 9,084.46	
Meetings & Events	\$ 22,000.98	
Printing, Post, Media	\$ 43,020.43	
Wages & Salaries	\$ 109,916.74	
State & Territory ANTARs	\$ 49,133.00	
	\$ 233,155.61	69.35%
Fundraising Costs	\$ 53,635.40	15.95%
Total Expenses	\$ 336,195.90	100.00%
Net Increase/(Decrease) Cash Held	\$ 22,866.07	