

**ANTaR** |   
Justice, Rights and Respect for Australia's First Peoples | Sea of hands

**2013/2014**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



## COVER ARTWORK

**By Yangi Yangi Fox**  
**Acrylic on Belgian Linen (2011)**

Ninuku Arts is a wholly Aboriginal owned Art Centre that supports artists from two communities – Pipalyatjara and Kalka. Both communities are located in the far north-western corner of South Australia, near the borders with Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The name of the Art Centre derives from ‘Ninuku Tjukurpa’ meaning Bilby Dreaming, which is the main Dreaming story for the country surrounding the Kalka Community. The art centre prides itself on its inclusivity (providing opportunities for all generations) and embracing individuality in artists.

Yangi Yangi (Mrs. Fox) grew up and went to school at the Ernabella Mission. She then moved to the cattle station near Amata. When Pipalyatjara became a homeland, she moved back here to be closer to her traditional lands. Her Tjamu (grandfather’s) country is Aran.

Mrs. Fox is a senior woman in the Pipalyatjara Community and holds a position at the local Health Clinic. She is also an astute craftswoman, an expert in punu carving and heavily involved in culture and ceremony.

2013-2014 Annual Report

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## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The 2013/14 Financial Year has been a period of great change for both the nation and ANTaR. We have seen two Federal Governments, two Prime Ministers and significant changes to the political and policy environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Similarly ANTaR

has had two National Directors and a fundamental change to our governance structure as we focus on the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights and the national reconciliation movement. In this period of change what must never change is our determination to work in solidarity with the First Peoples. As we continue our involvement in the campaign for constitutional change, the campaign to close the health and wellbeing gap, and with our involvement with the National Justice Coalition to address the disproportionate incarceration rates, our means of operation - that of working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples' organisations and leaders and privileging their voice - is what keeps us necessary and relevant, and commits us to the long game of justice for the First Peoples.

It is that vision and commitment which has driven us to our new model of membership from an essentially federation/peak NGO model to one that balances individual national membership with State and Territory membership. This way we can maintain our base and presence through the State and Territory ANTaRs as well as encouraging individuals who want to commit themselves to national issues to be active members. It has taken over two years to get to the new model of national membership, but our belief is that it will strengthen our national voice in the rights and reconciliation space so that we can be effective in our solidarity.

We have been extremely well served by excellent staff, led by our National Directors - Gary Highland in 2013 and now Andrew Meehan. ANTaR is recognised as the go-to-org for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples' peak organisations when it comes to advocacy and campaigning particularly because of the standing that first Gary, then Andrew (as well as Jane Powles our Campaigns Manager

who acted as ND for the first third of 2014) have in the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples' networks with whom we work.

Our finances have improved significantly in the past two years - due to our members and donors - and we are well placed to face the challenges of the future as we seek to strengthen the rights and reconciliation movement. The tireless work of our former Finance Officer Robyne Stacey for five years has kept ANTaR going over the good times and bad and she will be sorely missed. But with plans to take on a new Funds Development Manager in 2015, combined with our new Finance Officer Anne Wiseman and our Donor Support Officer Adrian Rigg, the necessary work of keeping the organisation strong into the future will continue.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your support and encourage you to continue to work for a just Australia for the First Peoples and for all of us.

**Dr Peter Lewis**  
National President

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



It was an honour to be appointed National Director late in the 2013/14 year and start developing a deeper understanding of our movement, our work, and our supporters.

This year, the Sea of Hands has remained as a great symbol of what

it is that we do, building support for, and solidarity with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights and reconciliation. Building on the more than 300,000 people that have signed their name on a hand, we had over 20,000 hands used in installations around the country in National Reconciliation Week.

Alongside the Sea of Hands, building a strong, sustainable movement, and changes in the operating environment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, have been two consistent themes this year.

We have devoted time to ensuring our long-term viability, with governance changes agreed to, and a decision to take on a dedicated new position to focus on funds development in 2015. We saw our end of year budget position return to a sustainable footing, and a basis from which to grow the movement.

The change of government at the Federal Election in September signaled a significant shift in the operating environment for the year. This change, and the lead up to it, saw us working with our partners towards ensuring commitments to health equality, justice targets, and constitutional recognition were maintained, and we focused strongly on the Federal Budget which saw over \$500 million cut from Indigenous Affairs.

Our campaign work has had a strong focus on our justice campaign – working for a smarter, more humane approach to crime that saves lives and builds safer communities. We have continued to play a central role in the development of a major national campaign led by National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, and have collected stories of success in justice reinvestment approaches.

Our ongoing work on the campaign for constitutional recognition also remained a strong focus this year. We have advocated our support for

substantive change to the constitution in line with recommendations of the Expert Panel and made submissions to the Joint Select Committee. We have built on our movement for change and continue to encourage our supporters to become informed and engage actively in the discussion.

We have also continued to be centrally engaged in the Close the Gap Campaign, a role we have maintained since its inception in 2006. We built on the public support for Close the Gap, played a central role in a landmark event in parliament in February, and engaged the new government on health equality.

Of course, there are many people who support and contribute to the work of ANTaR. Firstly, to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whom we work in solidarity with, we owe a great gratitude for the openness, trust, friendship and partnerships we are afforded in the many networks in which we work.

Thank you also to the generosity of our donors, supporters and volunteers, for your commitment, and for the trust you have put in ANTaR. I owe a special thanks to my predecessor Gary Highland, who was National Director for the first half of the year, and whose commitment to ANTaR and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice is unwavering and longstanding; as well as to our National Campaigns Manager Jane Powles who acted as National Director between February and May, showing great leadership and commitment, essentially fulfilling two roles. To the professionalism, passion and ability to achieve lots with little of our committed national office staff Adrian Rigg, Anne Wiseman, and Robyne Stacey (who left the organisation after a number of years), and our long-term consultant/mentor Stephen Garrett, thank you, you are truly a great team. Thank you to the National President, Executive and Board for their support and stewardship of the organisation.

It has been an important year for ANTaR and for our work. I am confident that with the strong foundations we have set in place, we can build an even stronger movement for change, and I look forward to working with you to achieve this in 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Meehan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Andrew Meehan**  
National Director

## ABOUT ANTAR NATIONAL

**ANTaR is a national movement of Australians in support of justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.**

**We are an independent and non-partisan organisation, affiliated with a national network of state and territory ANTaR groups.**

### OUR VISION

A just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights as First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.

### OUR PURPOSE

To engage, educate and mobilise a broad community movement to advocate for justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

### OUR PRINCIPLES

**We actively support** the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination.

**We are committed** to social justice and the full realisation of human rights, including those expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**We believe** in empowerment and community development.

**We believe** in speaking up about injustice and inequality.

**We believe** that all Australians have a role to play in achieving a just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights as First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.

### THE WAY WE WORK

**We are** guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and leaders in setting our campaign priorities and direction.

**We partner** with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and people.

**We seek** to build alliances across sectors in support of common goals.

**We hold** governments to account and advocate for alternative policy solutions based on evidence.

**We seek** to educate the broader community about justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

## CAMPAIGNS

ANTaR believes that all Australians have a role to play in achieving a just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights as First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.

In 2014 we remained committed to engaging, educating and mobilising an ever growing community movement to advocate for policy and legislative changes that will improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lives.

We have focussed on our three key campaigns: the Justice Campaign, Close the Gap Campaign, and the campaign for Constitutional Recognition of Australia's First Peoples.

### JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

We believe that the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our criminal justice system is one of the biggest social justice issues facing this nation.

This year we have been working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners as a founding member of a National Coalition formed to stand up and advocate real change to address the crisis. We have advocated for the adoption of Justice Targets and the implementation of Justice Reinvestment in Australia.

We have been collecting stories of resilience and success from young Aboriginal people and programs that have successfully supported rehabilitation and prevented incarceration. These stories have been filmed during the year and will be released individually and as a collection in 2015.

More than a thousand supporters took action through our website calling on Federal, State and Territory governments to respond to the incarceration crisis. ANTaR supported our Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander partners in the legal sector as the Federal Budget meant that many vital organisations and frontline services suffered drastic funding cuts or defunding. We launched a campaign including fact sheets, support materials and a call to action and undertook a substantial media presence.

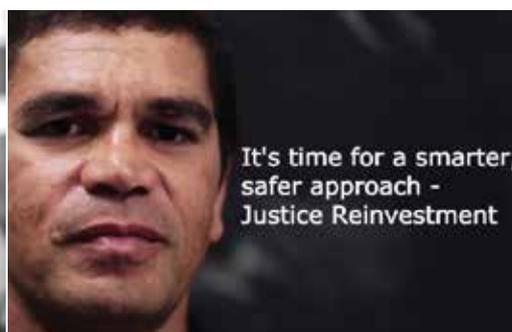
As part of our ongoing collaboration and engagement with ANTaR NSW, we have played an active role in the Just Reinvest NSW campaign, with representation on the Executive and the Strategic Directions Committee. Engagement with this campaign involved the production of the 2014 Reconciliation in Parliament event entitled 'Creating Safer Communities: Justice Reinvestment through a collective impact approach' and the corresponding event video.

### CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

ANTaR has been a long-term supporter of the campaign to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution and for the removal of discriminatory sections from our founding document.

We are committed to raising awareness and empowering supporters to become active participants in the discussion. In 2014 we developed an online constitutional recognition campaign kit to enable supporters across the country to become better informed and help spread the word. We also supported ANTaR QLD in the establishment of a Constitutional Recognition Working Group, including training and ongoing resourcing of the group.

Rock for Recognition remains one of our signature projects, and in 2014 we teamed up with Dan Sultan on a national tour involving 12 concerts, building supporters in cities, towns and regional



centres. Through Rock for Recognition we also collaborated with the Canberra Multicultural Festival on their Indigenous Showcase Stage.

In 2014 we established a new relationship with Fairfield Council on a constitutional recognition project aimed at raising awareness within the multicultural community.

### CLOSE THE GAP

As a founding member of the Close the Gap Campaign we remain a strong and active member of the Steering Committee.

During the Federal Election campaign, we worked with campaign partners to develop and release a briefing paper, calling for the incoming government to prioritise a renewed national commitment and action on implementing the National Health Plan.

In 2014, we worked with campaign partners on the development of the Close the Gap Progress and Priorities report calling for the government to stay on course with the national effort. Through the report, we also called for government to build partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, to ensure long term health funding, and to ensure the implementation of the National Health Plan. The report was delivered to the Prime Minister by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health leadership and was followed by a Close the Gap Parliamentary event, in which we played a central organising role.

2014 saw the second annual ANTaR National Close the Gap Day Picnic, produced in partnership with Oxfam. Close the Gap Co-Chair Kirstie Parker welcomed supporters to the picnic and spoke of the successes, challenges and a vision for this generational commitment.

### FEDERAL BUDGET RESPONSE

We were in Canberra for the delivery of the Federal Budget in May and joined Aboriginal peak bodies to voice deep concern at the impact of the budget cuts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Andrew Meehan speaks to media about drastic Federal Budget cuts at Parliament House Canberra



We campaigned against the budgets cuts that saw \$534 million cut from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and further cuts that disproportionately impacted on our First Peoples.

We engaged the media, calling for the government to re-consider the drastic cuts and for the government to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and peak bodies to minimise their impact of them.

We advocated in meetings with parliamentarians for genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and we called on our supporters to write letters urging the Government to respond accordingly.

### RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT

2014 saw the Government propose amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act that would permit offensive, insulting, and humiliating behaviour based on race. ANTaR strongly opposed the proposed changes arguing that there was no compelling reason to change the act and that the proposed changes could lead to disharmony. During the year we made a strong stance in the media and undertook an extensive social media campaign on the issue. The broader campaign involving a range of organisations and the public outcry meant that the government abandoned their intentions to amend the Act.



ANTaR National Close the Gap Day Picnic 2014

## OUR ONLINE PRESENCE

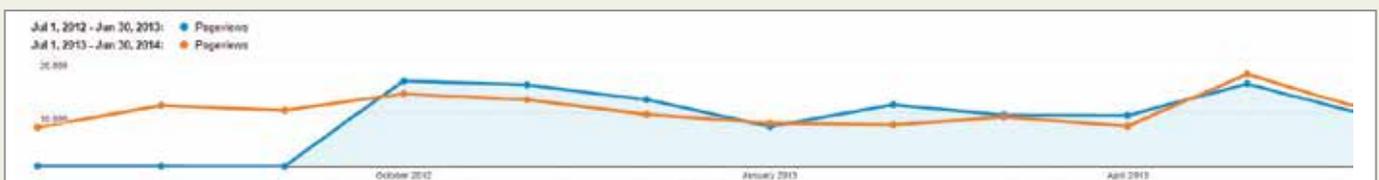
2014 saw a focus on building supporters through Facebook and Twitter, the opportunity for deeper engagement through website Take Actions and increased access to resources on each of our campaigns.

### WEBSITE

Our supporters and members of the public actively engaged in our key campaigns through our online Take Actions, calling for:

- An ongoing national commitment towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality and national coordination of Federal, State and Territory efforts
- The adoption of justice targets on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agenda
- The implementation of Justice Reinvestment in Australia
- An address to the disproportionate impact of the 2014/2015 Budget.

Our website provided resources that empowered supporters to actively and locally engage in the campaign for Constitutional Recognition and respond to defunding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.



### FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page is an easily accessible and interactive avenue to promote campaign developments, activities, events and allow feedback from supporters.

At the end of the 2013 - 2014 financial year, the ANTaR had 4325 likes which is more than a 50% increase since the end of the previous financial year which stood at 2054 likes.



### TWITTER

We regularly utilised Twitter for communications with ANTaR's supporter and members of the public, allowing promotion of our progress and also to create urgency on issues that require attention. The numbers of followers on Twitter continue to rise, with a 32% percent increase in followers since the end of the 2012 - 2013 financial year.



### E-BULLETINS

Campaign updates have been regularly distributed through our weekly online bulletins to ensure our supporters remain informed and up-to-date. To receive up-to-date, accessible campaign information and options for taking action join up at ANTaR.org.au.

# ANTAR NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORT



**PASCOE WHITTLE**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Level 2, 110, Clarence Street  
 Sydney, NSW 2000  
 Australia  
 Phone: (61) 2 9231 2000  
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 Email: info@pascoe.com.au

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT  
 TO THE MEMBERS OF  
 ANTAR INCORPORATED**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of ANTAR Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2014, the profit and loss for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the statement by members of the committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**  
 The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such financial controls as they determine to be necessary to enable the preparation of financial reports that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**  
 Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, on the basis of the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

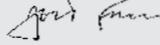
**Independence**  
 In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the relevant professional ethical pronouncements.

**Opinion**  
 In our opinion the financial report of ANTAR Incorporated:

- is in accordance with the constitution and presents fairly the association's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in Note 1; and
- complies with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

**Basis of Accounting**  
 Without modifying our opinion, we draw your attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**PASCOE WHITTLE**  
 Chartered Accountants



**JOHN S. PASCOE**  
 Sydney

20 August 2014

**ANTAR INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

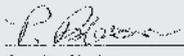
The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

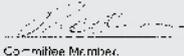
The committee has determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements comprising the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement and notes thereon:

- present fairly the financial position of ANTAR Incorporated as at 30 June 2014 and the results of the association for the year ended on that date;
- at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that ANTAR Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

  
 Committee Member,  
 9 September 2014

  
 Committee Member,  
 Date: August 2014

**ANTAR INCORPORATED**  
 A.B.N 74 196 038 209

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

**1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and do not take into account the changing money values of, except where specifically stated, current valuations or non-current assets.

Accounting policies are consistent with the prior period unless otherwise stated.

**2. INCOME TAX**

The income of the Association is exempt from income taxation pursuant to Subdivision 50.5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**3. LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS**

In the event of the Association being wound up and not being able to pay its debts in full, every member is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the Association as required by rule 9.

**4. RESERVES**

The Committee has resolved to allocate certain funds to reserves. A Sinking Fund Reserve has been established to maintain future operations, an Insurance Reserve has been established to provide for the financing of future equipment purchases and a Bequest Reserve has been established for the general purposes of the association. The amounts allocated to these reserves have not been reflected in the profit and loss account.

## PROFIT & LOSS - JULY 2013 THROUGH JUNE 2014

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Fundraising	\$495,517	\$487,773
Grants	\$70,033	\$89,739
Merchandise	\$28,858	\$75,695
Miscellaneous Income	\$68	\$1,248
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$594,476</b>	<b>\$654,454</b>
Cost of Sales		
COS - Merchandise	\$15,689	\$46,973
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$15,689</b>	<b>\$46,973</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$578,787</b>	<b>\$607,481</b>
Expenses		
State ANTAR Disbursements	\$83,528	\$79,361
Staff Expenses	\$267,889	\$258,967
Operating Expenses	\$180,837	\$236,123
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$532,254</b>	<b>\$574,451</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$46,533</b>	<b>\$33,030</b>
Other Income		
Interest Income	\$6,012	\$3,770
Reserved Funds Utilised	\$2,859	\$0
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$8,871</b>	<b>\$3,770</b>
Other Expenses		
Interest Expense	\$19	\$7
Write-offs	\$223	\$0
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$242</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$55,162</b>	<b>\$36,792</b>

## BALANCE SHEET - JUNE 2014

	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Cash at Bank	\$438,370	\$249,057
Cash on Hand	\$12,883	\$7,084
Receivables	\$6,558	\$9,736
Other Current Assets	\$10,927	\$8,083
Fixed Assets	\$17,272	\$18,074
Stock on Hand	\$20,941	\$26,628
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$506,951</b>	<b>\$318,663</b>
Current Liabilities	\$6,914	\$21,204
Payroll Liabilities	\$0	\$6,214
Tax Liabilities	\$1,924	\$393
Payroll Provisions	\$36,270	\$31,542
Other Liabilities	\$47,804	\$14,005
Inter-State Office Amounts due	\$19,495	\$11,186
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$112,407</b>	<b>\$84,544</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$394,544</b>	<b>\$234,119</b>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$191,747	\$154,955
Current Year Earnings	\$55,162	\$36,792
Sustainability Reserve	\$28,733	\$18,774
Insurance Reserve	\$18,902	\$23,597
Bequest Reserve Funds	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$394,544</b>	<b>\$234,119</b>

## UPDATES FROM STATE AND TERRITORY AFFILIATES

### NSW

ANTaR NSW has provided a state platform and support network for the three key national campaigns: Justice, Constitutional Recognition and Health Equality alongside progressing state specific policy areas; and works to build a strong and active membership in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights.

#### ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS

ANTaR NSW has been promoting the discussion of Constitutional Recognition, and providing access to resources about the proposed changes, particularly in the Western Sydney region. We have continued our strong commitment to the Justice Reinvest NSW campaign, and continue as an executive member of Justice Reinvest NSW, and active member of the strategic directions committee.

ANTaR NSW produced the 2014 Reconciliation in Parliament event titled 'Creating Safer Communities: Justice Reinvestment through a collective impact approach'. Aboriginal Affairs Minister the Hon. Victor Dominello and Opposition Deputy Leader the Hon. Linda Burney spoke of the importance of Justice Reinvestment to NSW. The event took place during Reconciliation Week and was attended by more than 25 Members of Parliament and many advocates of Justice Reinvestment.

ANTaR NSW voiced serious concerns regarding the implications of the 2014/15 Federal Budget on Aboriginal peoples in NSW. We called on the Federal Government to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies, organisations and communities to ensure the Budget does not hurt the First Australians.

ANTaR NSW submitted to two inquiries during the 2013 – 2014 year. The first on the proposed Heritage laws, raised concerns that the laws did not properly recognise Aboriginal ownership or rights over Aboriginal culture and heritage, or comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

The second was to the review of Crown land in NSW, making the point that changes to the

administration of Crown land in NSW should not further disadvantage Aboriginal people by reducing their prospects of claiming vacant Crown land under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 or diminishing the involvement of Aboriginal people in decisions about land of actual or potential cultural significance to them.

A deputation from ANTaR NSW met with the NSW Government in response to its Aboriginal education reforms, urging the NSW Government to proceed with the full implementation of the Gonski reforms despite the limits of Commonwealth commitment. We also raised concerns about reductions in TAFE availability.

For the budget estimates committee hearings, ANTaR NSW provided draft questions on land and heritage reforms, education reforms and the impacts of Commonwealth budget cuts.

#### EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The ANTaR Sea of Hands continues to be a strong symbol for standing in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with hand installations in schools, local councils, universities, fairs and festivals across the state. National Reconciliation Week 2014 saw two large-scale hand installations, one on Bare Island coordinated by Randwick Council and the other at the University of Sydney who partnered with Vivid to build on their ongoing support of the Sea of Hands.

ANTaR NSW remains deeply grateful to Marrickville Council for their support in storing the hands.

Throughout the year we actively engaged in online communications with our supporters through a regular emailed newsletter distributed to over 570 supporters and Facebook activity reaching a further 260 people.



2014 Reconciliation in Parliament 'Creating Safer Communities: Justice Reinvestment through a Collective Impact Approach'

Sea of Hands Installation at AIATSIS  
Indigenous students from Weetangera Primary, Belconnen and Canberra High Schools  
came to lend a hand. Photo Credit: AIATSIS

## OTHER ISSUES

2013 – 2014 has been the first year of our new relationship with ANTaR National in the delivery of key campaign objectives. Structures and systems for the smooth management of campaign activity has been established and we look forward to continuing to build the ANTaR movement and expand our campaign reach in NSW through this partnership.

## ACT

ANTaR ACT is a voluntary group that meets monthly and focuses on local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues as well as promoting national campaigns in the ACT.

## CAMPAIGN AND ADVOCACY

ANTaR ACT has been corresponding with a network of organisations and people interested in constitutional recognition via email, updating supporters on the current progress in the discussion to recognise First Australians in the Constitution and to promote events and activities taking place in the ACT.

In 2014 we promoted constitutional recognition at our community stalls and liaised with Ready For Recognition.

We also supported the implementation of Justice Reinvestment and are exploring options for involvement in potential trial sites in the ACT. The committee has expressed significant concern at the closure of the Aboriginal Justice Centre in the ACT.

ANTaR ACT continues to broadly monitor the implementation of the Close the Gap Statement of Intent in the ACT, and we participated in the Sorry Day walk and the Close the Gap Day dinner organised by the local Aboriginal Health Service, Winnunga Nimmityjah.

ANTaR ACT advocated for better planning approval processes for the Healing Farm to address the significant delays in planning approval and the impact of the federal budget cuts to services in the ACT.



## EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

ANTaR ACT produced a major Sea of Hands installation at the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary and the 8th anniversary of the National Apology. ANTaR ACT representative Janet Hunt addressed attendees at the event. We also supported Calwell Pre-school in a small hand installation.

We engaged new supporters through stalls at community events during the year, including involvement in the Rock for Recognition stall at the National Multicultural Festival, Woden Community Festival, NAIDOC on the Peninsula, Living Green Festival, and the Harvest Festival.

The annual David Hunter Memorial Lecture produced by ANTaR ACT was held in November 2013, in Canberra's centenary year. Three young Aboriginal speakers shared stories of their lives and their ideas for the next 100 years of Canberra.

This year we also began to build a relationship with Gugan Gulwan, the Aboriginal Youth Service in the ACT, and we look forward to building a stronger relationship with the new ACT Elected Body. ANTaR ACT promotes various Aboriginal Heritage walks and is strengthening their relationship with the Journey of Healing in the ACT.

## OTHER ISSUES

A strong committee of ANTaR ACT volunteers meet monthly to coordinate activities that support national campaigns at a local level and advocates on local issues.

Special thanks to Bonnie Learmonth who is retiring from her position as coordinator and to Patricia Brady for her coordination of the major Sea of Hands installation.

## VICTORIA

This last year has been a good year for ANTaR Victoria, with a focus on increased public engagement and campaigning and increased financial resources. We continue to work closely with Reconciliation Victoria in the space of community engagement and education.

### CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

ANTaR Victoria campaigned for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality through the promotion of Close the Gap in their regular zine correspondence titled TREAT, in addition to holding a Close the Gap barbeque and video screening with Oxfam on National Close the Gap Day.

Further copies of TREAT focused on raising awareness on the discussion of constitutional recognition and treaty. ANTaR Victoria continues to engage with the discussion of constitutional recognition through participation in a Victorian based not for profit network, stalls, Facebook and enews.

Proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act became a focus for ANTaR Victoria in 2014. An information kit was produced empowering people to stand up against the proposed changes and social media was used as a platform to generate support against the changes.

ANTaR Victoria was actively engaged in the Northern Indigenous Employment Network, a network that focuses on employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the north of Melbourne, and beyond.

In 2014, ANTaR Victoria was involved with the Coalition for Aboriginal Health Equality with a particular interest in their work on racism and policy critique. ANTaR Victoria continues to support the ARC funded research into Stolen Wages in Victoria.

### EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

ANTaR Victoria produced two editions of TREAT in 2014 and distributed 1800 copies to local groups, cafes, events and libraries.

ANTaR Victoria produced a forum on a new project exploring treaty readiness at which Richard Frankland presented.

Sea of Hands Installations have been coordinated at a number of community events in 2014 along with a stall presence providing a great opportunity to raise awareness.

We continue to use social media as a platform to build our public engagement with a strong presence on Facebook and through e-newsletters distributed bi-monthly.

We also continue to be a key supporter and resource for the state's network of Local Reconciliation Groups.

### OTHER ISSUES

With a strengthened governance structure ANTaR Victoria looks forward to future growth and development of the organisation, with a focus on the new Treaty Ready project and the continuation of TREAT.

ANTaR Victoria thanks Brigid Trenerry for her hard work and commitment over the years.

Special thanks to: Don McArthur, Jill Webb, Peter Lewis, David Collis, Brigid Trenerry, Angus Frith, Cindy Zhai, Jenne Perlstein, Matt Bell, John Farlow  
Administration Staff: Michael Anderson, Jing Zhou  
Volunteers: Howard Tankey, Wendy, and Vera.



## WA

In 2014 ANTaR WA focused on their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language awareness raising project. Images of letters have been recorded for the project with the support of the Western Australia Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

ANTaR WA is in the process of producing a Noongar Recognition plaque due for completion 2015.

ANTaR WA looks forward to welcoming new committee members in 2015 and towards an active year building the language project and supporting the national campaigns of health equality, constitutional recognition and justice.

## SA

ANTaR SA works in partnership with Aboriginal people in the State to achieve the full and equal participation in the South Australian and Australian community through self-determination.

We work to have the special relationship to the land recognised; to achieve the repatriation of lands; and to obtain full compensation based on the Letters Patent that established the Colony of South Australia dated 19th February 1836.

### CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

In 2014 ANTaR South Australia raised awareness of the discussion to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution through the provision of information in addition to supporting Aboriginal people to be involved in the Joint Select Committee processes.

Supporting health equality, ANTaR SA advocated for access to appropriate medical treatment and support for families from the APY Land and children needing to travel long distances for treatment of ear infections.

ANTaR SA promoted the 2014 National Day of Action commemorating the death of John Pat 30 years ago in police custody and seeking justice for his family and a formal apology. We continue to support Seeds of Affinity contributions for Aboriginal Women in prison and post release.



Sea of Hands Installation as part of the Kaya Project - St George's Cathedral  
Photo Credit: Chris Huzzard

In 2014, ANTaR SA supported the work of the Aboriginal Elders in Adelaide surrounding regions and in the APY Lands, to develop community capacity to enable community development and service delivery to be in local hands.

ANTaR SA participated in a number of information stalls and events including the monthly Ngarrindjeri Justice and Peace Candle Light Walks around Government House, Proclamation Day, Survival Day, Mabo Day, Sorry Day and NAIDOC week activities, the Journey of Healing and the 7Rs, the opening of Reconciliation Plaza on Sorry Day 26th May 2014, supporting Kurna and other Aboriginal Descendants' involvement in South Australian Proclamation Day.

ANTaR SA continued advocating for the recognition of the 1836 Letters Patent that articulates the rights of the Aboriginal people who occupied the land and their descendants whether or not they still inhabit the land today.

### EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

ANTaR SA produced over 6,000 culturally themed 7Rs calendars for Aboriginal and wider communities.

We also produced and distributed materials on important issues about Native Title and Reconciliation at events with law students and other university student volunteers.

### OTHER ISSUES

ANTaR SA has a strong Aboriginal-led committee which meet regularly and is supported by a core group of five providing administrative and secretariat support.

ANTaR SA thanks Norwood Rights Centre and Roma Mitchell Human Rights Volunteers, Roma Mitchell Community Legal Centre, all those



Photo: SA Dignity for Disability Member of the South Australian Legislative Council, Kelly Vincent MLC, speaking on 19 February 2014 outside Government House, Adelaide, at the ANTaR SA Inc., sponsored Aboriginal Liberation Movement commemoration of the 179th Letters Patent Day in front of the ANTaR SA Letters Patent Banner. Photographer Credit: Aussie Kanck

who volunteered throughout the year, Amnesty International, Seeds of Affinity, City of Port Adelaide Enfield and City of Onkaparinga City of Marion, City of Holdfast Bay and the City of Adelaide, Debra Hackett, John Priori and Julie Conway.

## QLD

With a strong supporter base, ANTaR QLD is an active campaign and advocacy organisation engaged in seeking justice for stolen wages, health equality through Close the Gap, reducing incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and constitutional recognition.

### CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

ANTaR QLD has established an active working group for the constitutional recognition campaign, a strong working relationship with Reconciliation QLD, and produced a constitutional recognition Facebook app and supported the development of Writers for Recognition. In 2014 ANTaR QLD supported a Youth Justice Campaign as part of the Balanced Justice Group and had a presence at the showing of Long Walk to Freedom.

ANTaR QLD co-hosted a 2014 Close the Gap Award Ceremony celebrating success in the provision of health services reducing the life expectancy gap.

ANTaR QLD produced a video to raise awareness of the injustices experienced in support of the Stolen Wages campaign.

### EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

ANTaR QLD engaged in a number of education and engagement activities including NAIDOC Week stalls, Bush Tucker Walk, Black History Month, Rock for Recognition stalls and university stalls.

The Sea of Hands has featured in a number of awareness raising activities promoted by ANTaR QLD, including a 4000 hand installation at St John Pauls College and over 4000 hands were distributed to community groups during both National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

ANTaR QLD updates their supporters on campaign activities and promotes engagement through regular E-newsletters and a recently established Facebook page.

### OTHER ISSUES

ANTaR QLD has a strong membership structure with policy area focused working groups delivering on specific advocacy and campaign activity. Special thanks to Kitty Carra for her guidance and hard work over the years.

ANTaR QLD Stolen Wages Video Launch





ANTaR NT - Larrakia Country

## NT

ANTaR NT continued to work with and support a range of local Aboriginal groups and campaigns in 2013-14: the Friends of Kahlin; Making Justice Work campaign and NT Human Rights Education Council and supported people from various remote communities in a diverse range of campaigns.

### CAMPAIGN AND ADVOCACY

In the second half of 2013, ANTaR NT was a key player working closely with Larrakia elders and their families on the Kahlin Compound commemoration. We initiated a program of public events for inclusion in the Darwin Festival which built a strong campaign base to support the Larrakia's aspirations for the site.

The first half of 2014 saw ANTaR NT continue campaign work on Kahlin and organise another large public event on the site in Reconciliation Week in partnership with Larrakia Nation. Over 40 people participated in the Kahlin Sunset History Trailled by Senior Larrakia and historian and ANTaR member Dr Sam Wells. ANTaR organised media and publicity for the event, with good coverage from ABC local radio.

We campaigned actively at, and around, the public consultations for proposed redevelopment of the Kahlin site and made a submission to the NT Government on this, and we remain a key member of the Friends of Kahlin which has been nominated for the inaugural NT Anti Discrimination Awards 'Social Change' category.

ANTaR NT continued support for the NTs' Making Justice Work (justice reinvestment) campaign led by NAAJA.

### EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

In the first half of 2014 our focus was on the 2014 NT Homelessness Summit where we partnered with Larrakia Nation, NAAJA and APONT to support the attendance of James Gaykamangu, a Senior Yolngu Law Man, mediator and author.

We have also focused on the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse and provided support to local Darwin families affected by the history of the Retta Dixon Home.

ANTaR NT continued to work closely with and support the activities of the NT Human Rights Education Council, providing assistance with their series of public lectures, the most recent being the Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson.



## ANTAR NATIONAL STAFF AND REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

### STAFF



**Gary Highland**  
National Director  
(to Dec 2013)



**Andrew Meehan**  
National Director  
(from May 2014)



**Jane Powles**  
National Campaigns Manager



**Siobhan Tierney**  
National Campaigns Officer



**Robyne Stacey**  
Finance Officer  
(to Dec 2013)



**Anne Wiseman**  
Finance Officer  
(from Jan 2014)



**Adrian Rigg**  
Donor Support Officer

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER REFERENCE GROUP

Professor Patrick Dodson

Professor Mick Dodson  
Dr Bill Jonas

Aden Ridgeway  
Linda Burney  
Professor Larissa Behrendt

David Ross  
Peter Yu  
Olga Havnen  
Lester-Irabinna Rigney

### REGULAR VOLUNTEERS & SPECIAL THANK YOU

ACOSS

Alan and Ann Wilkinson

Alex Gardener-Marlin

Alistair Ferguson

Allan West

Allen Madden

Andy Gargett

Australian Human Rights Commission

Bob White

Brenna Hobson and Belvoir Theatre

Charline Emzin-Boyd and the NSW Teachers' Federation

Chris Maltby

Congregation of Christian Brothers

Dan Sultan

David and Leonie Koadlow

Diddy FitzGerald

Dr Alf Bamblett

Gadens

Gilbert and Tobin

Herbert Smith Freehills

Jaki Barton

Jean Murphy

Jeanette deMontemas

Jerome Cubillo

Julie Hannaford

Justin Mohamed, Lisa Briggs and all at National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Katie Kiss

Kevin Pham-Le

Kirsten Gray

Kirstie Parker, Les Malezer and all at the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples

Leah Flanagan

Les Malezer

Luke Carroll

Michael West

Michelle Warren-Langford

Mick Gooda

Ninuku Arts

Oxfam Australia

Patrick Lesslie

Professor George Williams

Professor Muriel Bamblett

Reconciliation Australia

Richard Frankland

Ros Everett

Sarah Hopkins and all at JustReinvest NSW

Severine de Winkel

Shane Duffy, Eddie Cubillo and all at National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

Stephen Garrett

Susan Miller and the Presentation Sisters

Thalia Skopellos

The Hon. Amanda Fazio

The Hon. Linda Burney

The Hon. Trevor Khan

The Hon. Victor Dominello

The Law Society of NSW

Tim Gartrell, Tanya Hosch and all at Recognise

Trei Stewart

Vicky Kuek

# ANTAR PUBLICATIONS

## SUBMISSIONS AND PAPERS

Submission to the Attorney General on the Freedom of Speech Exposure Draft (April 2014).

Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (June 2014)

## CAMPAIGN RESOURCES

Constitutional Recognition Campaigners Kit

Justice Campaign FAQ

NATSILs Defunding Campaigners Kit

Reconciliation in Parliament – Justice Reinvestment Video

Editorial Assistance given to:

- Close the Gap Progress and Priorities Report
- Close the Gap Incoming Government Brief

## SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS

Sydney Girls High School NAIDOC Week Presentation 17 July 2013

Women's Reconciliation Network Forum on Constitutional Recognition - 18 July 2013

Sutherland Shire Reconciliation Group AGM – 28 February 2014

Sydney University Indigenous Health and Communities - Indigenous Health and Social Justice Lecture - 8 May 2014

Address to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Summit – 18 July 2013

Address to the ANTaR NSW AGM

MC Reconciliation in Parliament Event

## MEDIA RELEASES AND OPINION ARTICLES

August 2013

'Call for incoming government to commit to Close the Gap'

December 2013

'Cuts to Aboriginal Legal Services will Undermine Action on Aboriginal Jobs and Education'

January 2014

'New National Director appointed'

February 2014

'Government must build on the close the gap platform'

March 2014

Justice Targets are needed for action on Aboriginal Jobs and Education'

March 2014

'ANTaR Supporters remind the Government that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality is a National Priority'

March 2014

'Changes to the Racial Discrimination Act could lead to disharmony'

May 2014

'No Compelling reason to amend the racial discrimination act'

May 2014

'Budget Cuts must not come from those most in need – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People'

May 2014

Government must explain how Indigenous Policy Overhaul will Close the Gap'

May 2014

'Reconciliation in Parliament event showcases a new approach to reducing incarceration rates'

June 2014

'Government must deliver on its assurances not to cut Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Frontline Services'



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