"ANTaR and the Sea of Hands are fundamental to the achievement of justice and reconciliation in this country"

Patrick Dodson
former Chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and founding Chair of the Lingiari Foundation
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National President’s Report

This year ANTaR has continued its work as an important national voice in Indigenous affairs, and considerably strengthened its capacity for research and policy work, as well as campaigning.

We have worked closely with our partners in the Close the Gap coalition for health equality and have also continued campaigning to end the racial discriminatory aspects of the Northern Territory Intervention through our A Better Way campaign. Our ‘Are We There Yet?’ campaign focuses on the unfinished business of Reconciliation, and we are pleased that change to the Preamble of the Australian Constitution to recognise the First Peoples will be put to a referendum within the next three years.

Organisationally, we have developed a strategic plan, improved management and governance systems and have a beautiful shopfront for merchandise sales in our new office. Our growing merchandise operation is a source of pride and offers practical benefits to Indigenous communities whose products we sell.

Thanks must go to Mark Drury for his valuable short stint as National Director, and to Jacqui Phillips who took over that role energetically in late April, bringing her outstanding policy expertise.

Thanks are also due to all the ANTaR staff who have worked with real commitment and enthusiasm, all the volunteers who bring so many skills and talents, and the members of the Executive Committee and National Management Committee for their continuing support and leadership.

Most of all, thanks to the donors and supporters without whom we could not do any of this. Your contributions are making a difference.

Dr Janet Hunt
Annual Report 2009/10

The last year has been one of change and renewal for ANTaR in which we have had to manage a range of organisational and external challenges, including the impacts of the economic downturn.

I’m pleased to report that, thanks to the focused and dedicated National Office team, the guidance and support of the National Management Committee and the commitment of our office volunteers, we have emerged from 2009-10 in a more stable financial situation, with a renewed focus on campaigns and lobbying and ready to embrace the opportunities presented to us by the new political climate.

We have continued our campaigning and lobbying to address racially discriminatory aspects of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER), launching our A Better Way campaign in October 2009. The campaign seeks to highlight that there is a better way to work with Aboriginal people than the coercive and top-down approaches under the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) and related Aboriginal policies.

Aimed at 16-25 year olds, the campaign is designed to build momentum against these discriminatory policies, providing information about NTER policies and their effects as well as positive information about successful community-led initiatives. To achieve this, ANTaR produced an online video, community radio advertisements and a range of posters and factsheets.

In June 2010, the Australian Government partially reinstated the Racial Discrimination Act to the NTER measures. This came after sustained lobbying from many Indigenous and human rights organisations, including ANTaR. However, our work is not over. A number of NTER measures remain racially discriminatory and discrimination continues in the way that other policies, like income management, are being implemented.

In January 2010, marking ten years since the end of the formal decade of reconciliation, we called for a year of recommitment to reconciliation. Our particular focus has been advocacy for constitutional reform to recognise the unique status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to enshrine protection against racial discrimination. We were delighted that both major parties committed to constitutional reform in the 2010 Election campaign. We will now continue our work to ensure that reform achieves recognition of the status and protection of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We have continued our advocacy to close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians as part of the Close the Gap coalition. In June, I attended a meeting of Indigenous and non-Indigenous health leaders in Canberra to plan the next steps on the road to health equality. The emerging consensus was the need for the Government to deliver on its commitment to a comprehensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health plan that strengthens the capacity of the community-controlled sector. We’ll keep pressuring Government on the need for such a plan, to ensure that additional health investment delivers health care in ways that are appropriate and effective.

Recent changes in the political climate offer new opportunities for ANTaR to advance our agenda. In May 2010, ANTaR welcomed the establishment of the new Congress of Australia’s First Peoples. After five years without a national Indigenous representative body, this marks an important step in resetting the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. The new political climate, particularly bipartisan consensus on the need for constitutional recognition, offers a unique opportunity to address some of the ‘unfinished business’ of reconciliation.

ANTaR will continue to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure we make the most of the opportunities offered by this new climate to achieve justice, rights and reconciliation.

Jacqueline Phillips

P.S.
About ANTaR

ANTaR is the preeminent non-Indigenous national advocacy organisation dedicated specifically to the rights – and addressing the disadvantage – of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. ANTaR has been working with Indigenous organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues since 1997.

WHY WE ARE HERE
ANTaR exists because Indigenous leaders recognised that to achieve justice for their people, they needed to gain support for their cause from non-Indigenous Australians. ANTaR’s primary public campaign in its early years was the Sea of Hands. ANTaR’s work remains essential, as injustice and disadvantage are still experienced by Indigenous peoples.

OUR VISION
An Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (First Peoples) enjoy the same life chances as other Australians, and that recognises and upholds their inherent rights to self-determination, land and culture.

OUR PURPOSE
ANTaR listens to and supports the aspirations of First Peoples and works to educate the wider community, shape public opinion, speak up against injustice and influence public policy to advance our vision. ANTaR is an independent national organisation, with affiliates in states and territories.

OUR GOALS
1. To support the right of First People’s voices to be heard.
2. To reignite a social movement to achieve social justice, to encourage and give a voice to all those Australians committed to Indigenous rights and reconciliation, to mobilise support for public campaigns, to influence public opinion and policy, and to strengthen a new generation of activists.
3. To operate sustainably and effectively.
4. To achieve broad support for our vision within a generation.

WHAT WE DO
ANTaR persuades governments, through advocacy and lobbying, to show genuine leadership and build cross-party commitment to Indigenous policy.

ANTaR’s focus is on changing the attitudes and behaviours of non-Indigenous Australians so that the rights and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respected and affirmed across all sections of society.

ANTaR works to generate in Australia a moral and legal recognition of, and respect for, the distinctive status of Indigenous Australians as First Peoples.

ANTaR is a non-government, not-for-profit, community-based organisation.

ANTaR campaigns nationally on key issues such as Close the Gap, eliminating racism, reducing Aboriginal incarceration, overcoming violence and abuse, achieving constitutional change and other significant Indigenous issues.
Campaigns

Campains relating to the Northern Territory
Emergency Response (NTER)

Key issues in the Northern Territory

INCOME MANAGEMENT:
People on income management in the NT have part of their welfare and family payments set aside so that it can only be spent on certain things. This includes half of most income support and family assistance payments and all of most advances and lump sum payments. Until 1 July 2010, income management applied to all residents of prescribed communities, regardless of how well they could manage their money and care for their children and families. Changes to the scheme were legislated in June 2010 so that income management now applies only to designated categories of long-term income support recipients and some exemptions are available. ANTaR remains concerned that the measures will continue to disproportionately affect Indigenous people and unfairly target those experiencing hardship due to an inadequate income.

LAW AND ORDER MEASURES:
In 2007 laws were introduced to:
• Ban drinking, possessing, supplying or transporting liquor into a prescribed area;
• Monitor takeaway sales across the entire Territory;
• Require licensees to record details of purchases of $100 or more of take away liquor; and
• Reduce access to alcohol including the extension of dry areas in some regional centres.

Signs were also erected outside communities displaying details of the new alcohol and pornography laws. These signs caused offence and embarrassment to many Aboriginal people.

Some changes to these measures were introduced on 1 July 2010. These included enabling communities to develop local alcohol plans and apply for exemptions from the existing bans, as well as providing more discretion in the placement of appropriate signage.

HOUSING/FIVE YEAR LEASES:
At the introduction of the NTER the Government acquired Aboriginal land under compulsory five-year leases (over 64 NT communities). This was justified on the basis that it would enable Government to create safer and healthier housing for Aboriginal people and provide basic community services such as garbage collection, sewerage and infrastructure maintenance. A promise to create new housing for Aboriginal families was made; however, as at June 2010, only 13 new houses had been constructed.

Although a range of NTER amendments were passed in June 2010, five-year leases will continue, and have been classified as a ‘special measure’ by the Federal Government. This is despite the absence of free, prior and informed consent, which is required under international human rights law.
The A Better Way campaign is aimed at people aged 16-25 years old and was designed to build momentum for action against the discriminatory policies relating to the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER).

The A Better Way campaign provides people with information relating to NTER policies as well as information about community-led solutions that are working in communities in the Northern Territory.

The campaign addresses some of the key issues relating to the NTER, including the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, issues with compulsory income management, and the forced leasing of Aboriginal land in return for basic services.

The need for this public campaign was reinforced by Professor Anaya (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous peoples). Over two weeks, Professor Anaya visited various centres in Australia and reported back to the UN regarding issues of discrimination of Indigenous peoples. In his statement to the United Nations, he reported that:

*Of particular concern is the Northern Territory Emergency Response, which by the Government's own account is an extraordinary measure, especially in its income management regime, imposition of compulsory leases, and community-wide bans on alcohol consumption and pornography. These measures overtly discriminate against aboriginal peoples, infringe their right of self-determination and stigmatise already stigmatised communities.* 27 August, 2009

The A Better Way campaign uses a variety of methods to engage people. The campaign was designed over three forms of media including:
- Video: Through an internet broadcasted campaign video
- Audio: Through a radio advertisement for community broadcast radio
- Print: Through print media advertisements, posters and factsheets.

During the first two months of the campaign in October-November 2009, more than 16,000 unique visitors viewed the ANTaR website.

Individuals are asked to take action in a number of non-intrusive ways including viewing the A Better Way video, signing up to be an ANTaR Advocate, reading about the community-led solutions that are working in the Northern Territory and using the campaign materials (provided online) to encourage others to spread the word about what is happening to Aboriginal people and communities in the Northern Territory.

People can also become a friend and fan of the A Better Way campaign on social networking site Facebook.
THE VIDEO
The video focuses on three key areas of concern relating to the NTER – welfare quarantining, access to essential services and the attack on bilingual education.

The video targets the broader Australia community and presents key NTER issues in a way that is accessible and understandable for the general public. It poses serious questions about the importance of self-determination and community control and juxtaposes this against the Government’s top down enforcement of income management and control over property and leases.

BEING AN ANTAR ADVOCATE
Becoming an ANTaR advocate allows supporters or interested people to take action against the NTER. Supporters are asked to sign up to become advocates via the ANTaR website. They are then sent a series of email actions that are aimed at effecting positive change to NTER policies.

In 2009/10 ANTaR, along with Indigenous, non-Indigenous, human rights and welfare organisations campaigned hard for the reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act. We succeeded in getting the NTER ostensibly consistent with the Racial Discrimination Act. ANTaR remains concerned that the new policy still predominantly affects Indigenous peoples in the Northern Territory. It is evident that despite recent improvements to the legislation, Australia fails to meet its human rights obligations in the Northern Territory. This was outlined in the report in August from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health campaigns and the Close The Gap campaign

As a founding member of the Close the Gap Steering Committee, ANTaR continues to advocate and campaign for Indigenous health rights.

The Close the Gap coalition is made up of Australia’s leading health, human rights and Indigenous organisations committed to working with all levels of government to close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous people and other Australians within a generation.

In the past year the ACT and NSW Governments have signed the Close The Gap Statement of Intent following the signing by the Victorian, Western Australian, Queensland and Federal Governments. At the time of writing, the South Australian signing is imminent. ANTaR, and the Close the Gap coalition, will continue to pressure the Tasmanian and Northern Territory Governments to sign the Close The Gap Statement of Intent.

In February 2010 the Close the Gap Steering Committee released a Shadow Report on the Federal Government’s progress towards addressing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The report indicated that so far the Federal Government has made some positive progress in relation to reducing the life expectancy gap, specifically in regards to committing substantial new funding (through to 2012). However, some key commitments have not been met and there has been little indication from the Federal Government as to when this will occur. These commitments include:
1. Developing a comprehensive, long term plan of action that is targeted to need, evidence based and addresses the existing inequities in health services in order to achieve equality of health status and life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non Indigenous Australians by 2030.

2. Ensuring the full participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their representative bodies in all aspects of addressing their health needs.

3. Supporting and developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health services in urban, rural and remote areas in order to achieve lasting improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.

ANTaR continues to urge the Federal Government to develop a long term plan of action to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations are adequately consulted in relation to health policy, and that the Aboriginal community-controlled health services are adequately supported. This is essential because it is these services that provide culturally appropriate and effective holistic health care for Indigenous peoples.

In 2010 ANTaR developed a brochure on one of the many Aboriginal community-controlled health services in Australia, the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. The brochure demonstrates how the Statement of Intent links to grassroots practices as well as showcasing a successful health care service that responds to the emotional, cultural and social determinants of health, and builds capacity and resilience within the Aboriginal community it serves.

**Are We There Yet? Campaign**

In 2010 ANTaR launched a year of recommitment to reconciliation. This year is the 10th anniversary of the bridge walks for Reconciliation and the presentation of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation’s final report. ANTaR recognises that since the official reconciliation process began in 1991 there has been some important progress made towards recognising Indigenous rights and the need for justice. Nevertheless, the action that has taken place is only part of a much larger reconciliation process.

**This campaign asks: Ten years on, are we there yet?**

The campaign focuses specifically on the unfinished business of reconciliation, in particular, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation recommendations that have not been implemented including Constitutional reform.

For Reconciliation Week 2010 ANTaR developed a virtual bridge walk. The bridge walk enabled supporters to take action and show their commitment to the reconciliation process. For this ANTaR developed a new website, www.bridgewalk.org.au, where individuals were asked to create their own ANTaR avatars. They could choose the look of the avatar and select a message to appear with their avatar. These avatars then appeared walking across a bridge, making reference to the 10th anniversary of the momentous bridge walks for reconciliation.

More than 1100 people developed avatars for the virtual bridge walk.
FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2010, ANTaR WILL:

- Develop educational fact sheets to facilitate greater understanding of the Indigenous rights and justice movements
- Develop a Reconciliation Progress Report
- Organise events where the community can demonstrate their continuing support for reconciliation
- Strengthen our call for Constitutional reform

QUICK RECONCILIATION FACTS

- Reconciliation in its broadest sense refers to the process where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, non-Indigenous Australians and Australian governments forge a new relationship based on mutual understanding, recognition and respect.
- Reconciliation first became incorporated into official political discourse when the Keating ALP Government legislated to create the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (CAR) in 1991. The legislation and CAR extended far beyond the mainstream political institutions – it involved public participation and the people’s movement.
- CAR’s core strategies were to communicate, create public awareness and to consult with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples regarding the reconciliation process.
- In 2000, Corroboree 2000 took place. Corroboree 2000 was a gathering of hundreds of thousands of Australians to exchange commitments and make agreements for reconciliation. People walked across bridges to show their support for reconciliation.
- At the end of 2000 CAR was abolished and the state-based reconciliation process concluded. CAR provided a series of recommendations within its final report. Many of these were ignored by the then Government.
- Reconciliation Australia was established as the peak reconciliation body.
- In 2008 the Government delivered the National Apology to the Stolen Generations, acknowledging the past policies of government that forcibly removed children from their parents. The apology did not provide formal reparations for Stolen Generations victims.
- During the 2010 Federal Election campaign all major parties committed to recognition of Indigenous Australians as First Peoples in Australia’s Constitution within three years.
Online engagement

In 2009/2010 ANTaR has continued our success in engaging people through online tools. The ANTaR website remains an appealing website, where information is regularly updated and supporters can easily participate in ANTaR’s campaigns.

In this financial year unique visitors to the ANTaR website were up by 31 per cent compared to the previous financial year.

The chart compares unique visitor numbers to the ANTaR website from the 2008/09 financial year and the 2009/10 financial year. The chart clearly indicates that ANTaR’s public campaigns continue to be successful in driving people to the ANTaR website for information.

An increasing number of visitors to the website allows ANTaR to educate, engage and inspire more Australians in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s rights.

ANTaR has been successfully utilising social networking sites.
At the end of 2009-2010 financial year ANTaR had:

- 2447 Facebook friends (up by 42 per cent from the previous financial year)
- 2762 Respect campaign fans on Facebook (up by 18 per cent from the previous financial year)
- 425 A Better Way campaign fans on Facebook

The most visited area of the ANTaR website was our anti-racism facts.

The top issue of interest to website visitors was the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

Anyone can stay in touch with ANTaR campaign updates through our electronic bulletin. The bulletins are short and are sent out on average once per month. To sign up, visit our website www.anutar.org.au
ANTaR Submissions

Submissions and speeches:
• Submission to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Comment on Draft Policy Outlines for New Model of Income Management (June 2010)
• ANTaR Are We There Yet? Campaign Launch, Speech by Dr Janet Hunt, Melbourne Town Hall, 28 May 2010
• Submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Inquiry on the NTER Legislation Amendments inlcuding Welfare Reform and the Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act (February 2010)
• Submission to the Senate Legal and Consititutional Committee regarding the Native Title Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009 (November 2009)
• Submisison to the Department of Famililes, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affiars on possible housing and infrastructure, Native Title Amendements Bill 2009 (September 2009)

Media releases and opinion articles:
• ‘Let Aboriginal communities have a say over intervention’, Jacqueline Phillips, Opinion Piece, published on the National Times website on 22 June 2010
• ‘Intervention changes fail to deliver required reform’ (22 June 2010)
• ‘ANTaR welcomes new Indigenous body’ (3 May 2010)
• ‘Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) has congratulated the Yaruwu people of Broome on their historic native title compensation agreement signed in Broome yesterday.’ (26 February 2010)
• ‘Justice reinvestment an urgent priority for Australia’ (28 January 2010)
• ‘ANTaR Makes Australia Day Call for A Year of Re-commitment to Addressing the Unfinished Business of Reconciliation’ (22 January 2010)
• ‘Remote Indigenous Services report welcomed’ (4 December 2009)
• ‘ANTaR welcomes the end of Perth native title litigation’ (26 November 2009)
• ‘Concerns remain about the Northern Territory Emergency Response’ (25 November 2009)
• ‘Racial Discrimination Act changes crucial to re-engage Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory’ (25 November 2009)
• ‘Forming alliances the only solution’, Dr Janet Hunt, Opinion Piece, published in the Canberra Times 29 October 2009
• “A Better Way” for NT Aboriginal communities’ (27 October 2009)
• ‘Rights Report a good start but Indigenous rights left in the “too hard” basket’ (13 October 2009)
• Indigenous rights organisation welcomes UN report on the Northern Territory (28 August 2009)
• ‘UN Official to Report on Aboriginal Human Rights’ (17 August 2009)
• ‘Town camps takeover a low point in Indigenous affairs’ (31 July 2009)
• ‘COAG meeting welcomed, but work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, says ANTaR’ (1 July 2009)

Joint statements:
• Community Sector Statement on income management reforms (with ACOSS)
Supporting success

The Rights Stuff Indigenous merchandise program

ANTaR’s The Rights Stuff merchandise program is Australia’s only catalogue dedicated to promoting and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise.

The Rights Stuff aims to contribute to a just Australia by directly supporting Indigenous enterprise while offering vibrant and thoughtful products in Australia and worldwide.

The Rights Stuff catalogue gives people the opportunity to buy high quality items in time for the end of year celebrations and throughout the coming year. An expanding customer base allows ANTaR to continue supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise, artists, musicians and writers. The 2009/10 catalogue directly supported over 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises and community groups to promote and sell their work.

For example, ANTaR produced greeting cards in conjunction with Meenah Mienne artists. These artists are young people who are at risk or in contact with the youth justice system in Tasmania and are part of the mentoring program Meenah Mienie. The program, which aims to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of youth at risk, was developed by Elders and artists in the Aboriginal community in northern Tasmania. Profits from the sale of the cards went to financially supporting the Meenah Mienne program and ANTaR. Similarly, ANTaR once again produced greeting cards showcasing designs from the Papunya Tula Artists – founders of the Central and Western Desert Aboriginal Art Movement, and a percentage of the sales of these cards went directly to the artists.

These cards were a great success in raising the public profile of ANTaR’s advocacy work through their purchase and distribution by various organisations such as the Australian Human Rights Commission, companies and individuals. The Rights Stuff continues to have a strong sales record with sales exceeding budget by 18 per cent. All revenue generated by the ANTaR Merchandise program is reinvested in The Rights Stuff merchandise program to continue supporting and promoting Aboriginal and Torres Islander enterprise.

It is possible to view The Rights Stuff catalogue and purchase all merchandise products online from www.antar.org.au/shop

PAPUNYA TULA ARTISTS

The settlement of Papunya (250 km west of Alice Springs) was first established in 1960 by the Australian Government as a hub for desert communities. By 1970 it was home to more than 1,000 people, mainly Pintupi but including Luritja, Warlpiri, Arrente and Anmatyerre peoples.

The Papunya Tula Cooperative is entirely owned and directed by traditional Aboriginal people from the Western Desert, predominantly of the Luritja/Pintupi language groups. It has 49 shareholders and represents around 120 artists. Its mission is to promote individual artists, provide economic development to their communities and to assist in the maintenance of their cultural heritage.

The Papunya Tula painting style derives directly from the artists’ knowledge of traditional body and sand painting associated with ceremony. Sacred symbols are removed and ancestral designs are carefully monitored so that dreaming creation stories can be portrayed for the public.

Papunya Tula artists are highly regarded. Their unmistakable and powerful style is represented in most public galleries, major museums, institutions and many large private collections within Australia as well as overseas.

The 2009 Papunya Tula ANTaR cards feature the work of Bobby West Tjupurrula, Nancy Nungurrayi, Josephine Nangala, Payu Napaltjarri and Yuyuya Nampitjinpa. The designs on the cards are associated with a number of rockholes in Western Australia.

Sales of these cards went directly back to the Papunya Tula artists.
MEENAH MIENNE (MY DREAM)

We are working to bring Aboriginal young people and artists together; to be buddies, to share time, to tell stories and to make really deadly art.

Meenah Mienne translates to meenah (my) mienne (dream).

The idea for Meenah Mienne was developed by Elders, artists and youth justice workers from Northern Tasmania under the auspices of the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Families. Its motivation was the need for services to intercept young Aboriginal people’s engagement with the juvenile justice system by developing a model of early intervention that used arts and mentoring between Aboriginal artists and young Aboriginal artists.

The Department had identified that Tasmanian Aboriginal young people are over-represented within the youth justice system and was aware of the need for services to intercept young Aboriginal people’s engagement with the juvenile justice system.

On 8 August 2008, a Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) was signed between the Aboriginal Community of Northern Tasmania represented through the Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association Inc. and the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the State Government of Tasmania through the Department of Health and Human Services Youth Justice Division. This SRA seeks to “support young people at risk to engage positively in contributing to family strength and cohesion” through the Meenah Mienne (my dream) Arts Mentoring program.

Meenah Mienne aims to:
- Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of young people;
- Improve community literacy skills;
- Foster more confident cultural and community connection;
- Increase opportunities for social/economic participation;
- Support educational achievement; and
- Assist transitions to the workforce through arts activities and individual and group mentoring with Aboriginal artists and cultural practitioners.

Meenah Mienne’s mission is to be the recognised leading arts based mentoring service providing a safe, welcoming, supportive and creative place for Aboriginal young people at risk. We respect and treat our young people as individuals who have strengths, dreams, and aspirations. We build strong trusting relationships between our mentors and buddies. Our services help Aboriginal young people to connect to their family, community and culture. We support pathways to education and employment when our young people are ready.

Since Meenah Mienne began 18 months ago, mentors have worked with 32 buddies, some of whom will also present their work for sale at a stall at Tasmania’s Evandale market later this year. In this way, they’ll learn business skills such as marketing and budgeting.

Sales of the Meenah Mienne cards financially support the Meenah Mienne program.
State Updates

ACT

REPRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS
In 2009/10 ANTaR ACT continued to support and promote reconciliation at grassroots events. ANTaR ACT supported the local Sorry Day event by assisting with the logistics, designing a flyer and providing some financial support. ANTaR ACT’s support was appreciated by members of the local Indigenous community.

In November 2009 ANTaR ACT hosted its annual flagship event - the David Hunter memorial lecture. The speaker was historian Dr Ros Kidd, who spoke about her experiences working to expose government mismanagement of Indigenous wages, and to advocate for fair payment.

In April 2010 ANTaR ACT participated in the ceremony marking the signing of the ACT Close the Gap Statement of Intent by John Stanhope at the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, Narrabundah, Canberra.

ANTaR ACT also held stalls at several ACT events throughout the year, including NAIDOC week, community fairs and a Canberra Raiders rugby league game.

CAMPAIGNING
ANTaR ACT has focused on building an Indigenous incarceration campaign. The group has developed a strategy, specifically around ACT incarceration issues, but with possible tie-ins to the national level.

ADMINISTRATION
Over the last year, ANTaR ACT has focused on improving its marketing material. The organisation has developed a website (www.antaract.wordpress.com), which will be further developed over the next financial year. ANTaR ACT has also designed and created banners for use at stalls and developed a comprehensive events kit to make its presence at events easier and more effective.

COMMITTEE
Over the 2009/10 year, ANTaR ACT has continued to grow. This year, the organisation has welcomed several new faces into the group. This is extremely encouraging, both in building morale and also for the energy, skills and experience each committee member brings.

NSW

REPRESENTATIONS AND CAMPAIGNING
Indigenous Juvenile Justice and Justice Reinvestment was NSW ANTaR’s major focus in 2009/10.

• NSW ANTaR made a submission to the Strategic Review of Juvenile Justice and was pleased to see the concerns that NSW ANTaR raised reflected in the review report.
• The then NSW Minister for Juvenile Justice, Graham West, and the Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, spoke on these issues at the NSW ANTaR Annual General Meeting in March.
• The issues also featured extensively in the NSW ANTaR newsletter and webpage, including an appeal to our supporters to write letters to key decision makers.
• NSW ANTaR made representations to the Premier about Justice Reinvestment and the Government’s response to the Juvenile Justice Review (over which Graham West resigned from Cabinet).

SOCIAL & CULTURAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
NSW ANTaR visited and made representations to Carmel Tebbutt, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health about Indigenous juvenile justice, justice reinvestment, Close The Gap commitments and COAG undertakings. It should be noted that the NSW Government and Opposition, together with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, recently signed the Close The Gap Statement of Intent.

A member of the Legislative Council used information prepared by NSW ANTaR as the basis of a number of questions asked during 2009 Parliamentary Estimates Committees about the Government’s response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage.

EVENTS
Together with the NSW Reconciliation Council and parliamentary partners, NSW ANTaR hosted a Reconciliation in Parliament forum on education and Tranby Aboriginal College.

With the National Sorry Day Committee, NSW ANTaR partnered in a tenth anniversary bridge walk and concert with a stall at First Fleet Park on 29 May. The theme for Sorry Day was ‘Sorry. Still Living on Borrowed Time’. NSW ANTaR also convened a smaller Bridge Walk on ANZAC Bridge held on Sorry Day.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION
Following an intensive planning day, NSW ANTaR finalised its 2010 plan. We also collaborated with ANTaR National on a strategic plan for 2010-2013 to achieve ANTaR’s vision of:
An Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Peoples enjoy the same life chances as other Australians, and that recognises and upholds their inherent rights to self-determination, land and culture.

SEA OF HANDS
Local reconciliation groups, schools and universities continued to borrow hands and install them at events in NSW. Puddles of hands have been a popular installation, and have been displayed most commonly at Survival Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events. This year the following groups borrowed and installed hands:
Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Shorecare, Bennelong Residents for Reconciliation, Blue Mountains People for Reconciliation, Rosemount, Baha I Society of the University of Wollongong, Glebe Public School, Marrickville High School, Lightning Ridge Central School, Wyrallah Rd Public School, Leeton Land Council and Duranbah Public School.

NSW ANTaR COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATION
A number of new members were elected to the NSW ANTaR Management Committee and the Committee farewelled Bob Makinson (long-term Committee member and President).

The Committee had discussions with a number of guests during the year concerning the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme, Aboriginal education, and Tranby Aboriginal College.

With the national office, NSW ANTaR made the successful transition to new premises at Dulwich Hill.

NSW ANTaR reluctantly reduced the hours of the NSW Coordinator to one day per week.
Queensland

REPRESENTATIONS AND CAMPAIGNING
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rates in Queensland are the third worst in the country. On any one day, nearly 25 per cent of prisoners identify as Indigenous. In 2007, the Queensland Labor Government announced its intention to build a 4,000 bed “prison precinct” two hours out of Brisbane. The justification for this enormous construction was the promise of new jobs and the estimated number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders expected to be incarcerated over coming decades. This announcement was the catalyst for a flurry of activism around the issue and the beginning of the Project 10% campaign.

Over the past year ANTaR Qld and campaign partners, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Legal and Advocacy Service (ATSIWLAS) and Murri Watch, met with the Premier and all relevant Ministers on the status of the 2001 Justice Agreement, which is due to expire in 2011. Members and supporters have signed petitions, held community meetings and lobbied around this crucial issue. As the Government pulls together its replacement justice strategy, ANTaR Qld has been working hard to ensure community voices are heard and included.

ANTaR Qld’s other activities over the year included the third annual ANTaR Qld Close the Gap Award evening, which the Premier hosted at Parliament House. The winner in 2009 was Goori House, a wonderful initiative that provides supported accommodation and intervention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men with drug problems.

Campaigning continues around the Palm Island case and on stolen wages.

EVENTS AND ADMINISTRATION
In 2009/10 ANTaR Qld developed a new website - www.antarqld.org.au. ANTaR Qld held fundraising trivia nights, with the ANTaR Qld Secretary, Andrew McMicking, performing as master of ceremonies, and a moving series of Learning More Program workshops and discussions with prominent activists, Elders and educators from around Queensland.

South Australia

EVENTS
ANTaR SA participated in many exciting events over 2009/10. These included:

• NAIDOC Family Fun Day, 9 July 2009.
• International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2009.
• Proclamation Day, 28 December 2009. The event was attended by many dignitaries.
• Survival Day, 26 January 2010. ANTaR SA held a joint stall with Journey of Healing (JoH) at Tandanya.
• Reconciliation Sunday, 23 May 2010.
• Sorry Day, 26 May 2010. ANTaR SA held a joint stall with Journey of Healing that was attended by around 1900 people. There was an artist on the stage every moment of the day. Speakers included Former South Australian Premier Lynn Arnold, Lord Mayor of Adelaide Michael Harbison and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Grace Portolesi.

Victoria

SUPPORT
In the last year, ANTaR Victoria has continued its activities with Local Reconciliation Groups throughout Victoria, including holding quarterly meetings and auspicing grants on their behalf. ANTaR Victoria successfully received a grant of over $10,000 for one group alone.

ANTaR Victoria has continued to hold monthly Treaty Working Group meetings and has continued support of non-affiliated groups including:
• the Northern Close the Gap in Indigenous Employment Campaign with their awards ceremony;
• the Melbourne Anti-Intervention Collective, Concerned Australians with the launch of the book, ‘This is what we said’; and

ANTaR Victoria has supported the now defunct Reconciliation Victoria and its ‘reconciliation in local government’ project. ANTaR Victoria’s President, Peter Lewis, along with the other ANTaR Victoria Committee of Management members, has spoken at various events including the Playgroups Victoria Forum, Decolonising Activism Forum, and to the Melbourne alliance and Swinburne TAFE welfare students.

REPRESENTATIONS AND CAMPAIGNING
ANTaR Victoria’s major campaign of the last year was the Are We There Yet Campaign? in which ANTaR Victoria hosted a forum, film competition, and developed a virtual bridge walk. ANTaR Victoria also developed a Remember 11/11/1869? campaign in 2009 that included a film night and the sale of fundraising wristbands. The Remember 11.11.1869? campaign marked the 140th anniversary of the signing of the Victorian Aboriginal Protection Act –the first piece of Stolen Generations legislation in Australia.

For Reconciliation Week, ANTaR Victoria held a film night and trivia night. The organisation participated at a number of events including The Human Rights Film Festival, the Sustainable Living Festival, History Teachers’ Association Victoria conference, Belgrave Survival Day, Songlines Share the Spirit Festival, the Victorian Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation (VAYSAR) carnival and Melbourne Aboriginal Youth, Sport and Recreation (MAYSAR) events.

MEDIA
Throughout the year, ANTaR Victoria has received significant media attention on ABC radio for Australia Day, Sorry day, NAIDOC week and Reconciliation Week. Peter Lewis also had articles published on the New Matilda website for Australia Day (with Richard Frankland) and on the National Times Fairfax website.

ADMINISTRATION
This year ANTaR Victoria said goodbye to Edwina Byrne, the organisation’s Partnerships and Communications Officer and has welcomed a new staff member, Emily Chauvel, who is job sharing with Charlotta Lomas as the Office and Volunteer Coordinator.
The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the constitution. We do not assume any responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates by any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Receipts from fundraising, sales and other surcharge items as shown in the financial statements have been extracted from the association's books of account. While controls over the handling and banking of cash receipts are in place, it is not possible to form an opinion as to whether all receipts have been banked and recorded in the books of account.

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 Australian Professional Ethical Standards.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) Inc as at 30 June 2010 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

JOHN S PASCOE
Chartered Accountant

Sydney
16 September 2010

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 thereto:

1. present fairly the financial position of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) Inc as at 30 June 2010 and the results of the association for the year ended on that date;

2. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) Inc 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,

Dated: 16 September 2010
Financial statements

If you are interested in additional information about any of this, please refer to our website www.antar.org.au or give us a call on (02) 9564 0594.

### BALANCE SHEET - As of June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cash at Bank</td>
<td>$151,660.92</td>
<td>$118,691.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cash on Hand</td>
<td>$1,180.00</td>
<td>$6,315.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Receivables</td>
<td>$14,377.00</td>
<td>$5,045.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>$3,828.44</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Stock on Hand</td>
<td>$25,469.86</td>
<td>$21,736.58</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$211,377.59</strong></td>
<td><strong>$174,855.07</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$3,082.30</td>
<td>$522.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Payroll Liabilities</td>
<td>$4,585.11</td>
<td>$7,108.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Tax Liabilities</td>
<td>$8,001.92</td>
<td>$8,600.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Payroll Provisions</td>
<td>$26,689.02</td>
<td>$19,205.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Other Liabilities</td>
<td>$16,072.21</td>
<td>$1,331.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Inter-State Office Amounts Due</td>
<td>$1,723.31</td>
<td>$5,361.05</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60,153.87</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,407.65</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equity</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>$143,492.48</td>
<td>$183,283.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Year Earnings</td>
<td>$7,731.24</td>
<td>$39,836.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>$151,223.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>$143,447.42</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROFIT & LOSS - 1st July 09 to 30th June 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Fundraising</td>
<td>$482,549.70</td>
<td>$548,607.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Merchandise</td>
<td>$92,612.27</td>
<td>$88,757.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$446.28</td>
<td>$2,225.40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$575,608.25</strong></td>
<td><strong>$659,590.62</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost of Sales</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost of Sales</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,591.77</strong></td>
<td><strong>$43,521.02</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Gross Profit | **$528,016.48** | **$616,069.60** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total State ANTaR Disbursements</td>
<td>$65,255.63</td>
<td>$71,311.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Staff Expenses</td>
<td>$233,638.02</td>
<td>$370,366.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Community Engagement</td>
<td>$15,563.09</td>
<td>$37,903.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fundraising and Promotion</td>
<td>$133,309.10</td>
<td>$119,522.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Travel and Accommodation</td>
<td>$7,115.87</td>
<td>$12,668.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Professional Fees</td>
<td>$4,142.00</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Facilities</td>
<td>$36,177.05</td>
<td>$18,941.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Depreciation</td>
<td>$387.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other General Expense</td>
<td>$27,333.54</td>
<td>$31,291.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$522,921.30</strong></td>
<td><strong>$662,050.41</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Operating Profit | **$5,095.18** | **-$49,980.81** |

| **NET PROFIT / (LOSS)** | **$7,731.24** | **-$39,836.00** |
ANTaR National Governance

ANTaR’s National Management Committee (NMC) 2009 -2010

Janet Hunt - President
Janet Hunt is a Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at The Australian National University. She has also taught international and community development at Deakin University and the RMIT. She was formerly the Executive Director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (now ACFID). Janet is a recipient of the Sir Ronald Wilson Human Rights Award.

Angus Frith - Vice President
Merrindahl Andrew - Treasurer
Sally Fitzpatrick - Secretary

Ordinary members
ANTaR Australian Capital Territory - Kristina Beck (resigned), Matt Fenwick, Katherine May
ANTaR New South Wales - Bob Makinson (resigned), Phil Bradley
ANTaR Northern Territory - David Cooper
ANTaR Queensland - Kitty Carra
ANTaR South Australia - Glenn Giles
ANTaR Victoria - Jill Webb
ANTaR Western Australia - Stephen Hall (resigned), Carolyn Betts

Organisational members
Phil Glendenning (Edmund Rice Centre)
Phil Minchin (Amnesty International Australia - resigned)
Rodney Dillon (Amnesty International Australia)
Andrew Meehan (Oxfam)
Brian Wyatt (National Native Title Council)

At large members
Gary Highland and Darren Dick

ANTaR State and Territory Contact details

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Watson ACT 2602
Email: antaract@yahoo.com.au

ANTaR Northern Territory
PO Box 2528
Parap NT 0804
Tel: 0418 486 310
Email: antarnt@gmail.com
Special Thank You

Murray Bunton, Laundromatte
John Greatorex and the Māpuru community
Peggy Nampijinpa Brown OAM and Susie Lowe
Rod Jackson and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner,
Mick Gooda, and his staff
Dr Tom Calma
Oxfam Australia
Amnesty International
Reconciliation Australia
Sevdesigns
The Greenhouse Marketing Services
Chris Maltby
Alan Wilkinson
Stephen Garrett
Linda Cowan
Jean Murphy
Ray Li
Margaret Day
John Burnheim
Enid Hokin
Allan West
Karen You
Graeme Chard
Natasha Hanckel-Spice
Alex-Oonagh Redmond
Richard Morrell
Naomi Crago
Fran Moloney
Priya Ramesh
Maureen Sales
Kim Aesun
Muktadir Arif
James Tannock
Nicole Underwood
Henry Fitzpatrick
Alison Kwong
Dhara Parmar
Magda Georges
Phoebe Jiang

Our sincerest thanks to Phil Glendenning and the Edmund Rice Centre. We are so grateful for your generosity.

A huge thank you to our long-term supporters and dedicated volunteers who have been with us these 13 years.