



ANTAR

Annual Report 2022–2023



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ANTAR is proud to acknowledge and pay our respects to First Nations Peoples as the traditional owners of the lands on which we work across the continent.

WHO WE ARE

We are a dynamic organisation supporting the millions of Australians wanting justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Nations Peoples. We are independent, non-partisan and not for profit. We are affiliated with a national network of state and territory groups.

OUR VISION

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

OUR PURPOSE

To be a respected 'Thought Leader' that engages, educates and mobilises the broader Australian community to support and advocate for justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Nations Peoples.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- 1** We actively support the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self determination.
- 2** We partner with, and take our lead from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations. We build alliances with other organisations and across sectors in support of common goals.
- 3** We believe that all Australians should be fully informed about and have a role to play in achieving a just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights as First Nations Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.
- 4** We seek to amplify the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations.
- 5** 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.
- 6** We believe in empowerment and community development. Working closely with our State and Territory ANTaR affiliates to educate the broader community about justice, rights and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 7** We believe in speaking up about injustice, inequality and racism.
- 8** We are accountable and transparent.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

TO LEAD

To lead public discussions about unfinished business, truth-telling (treaty, justice, rights and respect) and a reconciled Australia from a non Indigenous perspective, in solidarity and conjunction with First Nations leaders and organisations.

TO EDUCATE

To educate the broader community about the history, cultures, lived experiences, languages and human rights of Australia's First Peoples.

TO BUILD

To build an active and engaged network of Australians committed to the achievement of justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

TO BE

To be an effective and efficient organisation that values partnerships and develops our people both professionally and culturally to enable us to achieve our goals.

Read our Strategic Plan in full: antar.org.au

ANTAR's next Strategic Plan is in development and is due to be published in the first half of 2024.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This Financial Year (2022-23) has coincided with the first aspect of our national campaign for Voice, Truth and Treaty in solidarity with the Uluru Statement from the Heart; the provision of a Voice to Parliament and Government in the Federal Constitution. A simple, fundamentally conservative proposition which would ameliorate rather than overcome the White Australia constitutional remnant which is the 'race powers'.

A base-camp for climbing the Mount Everest which is the unfinished business of First Nations/ non-Indigenous relations. By the time you read this report we will know if we got to base camp or if, once again, fear and ignorance has arrested our mature development.

We use the underscore in the second A in our name ANTA to underline our desire to elevate the nation. As I have said before, we are Australians for Negotiated Treaties and Restitution. We are Australians seeking National Truth and Recompense. We are Australians seeking National Truth-telling and Responsibility. Whatever happens with the referendum we will still be that family of non-Indigenous and First Nations people dedicated to First Nation self-determination, Indigenous rights, voice, truth and treaty-making.

As the National Director's Report attests, we have had a very busy year with some successes, starting many conversations we need to have as a nation as we continue to work in solidarity with First Nations leaders and organisations. Truth-telling, treaty, self-determination, closing the gap, changing the record as continually raised by the First Nations-led campaigns remain on the national agenda. There is the chance for change in this phase in our national dialogue about who we are as peoples on these lands, waters, sea and skies but many dangers. In the context of the referendum, there has clearly been an uncovering of racism in the community, not to mention those who heighten division and difference for personal political advantage, and we have struggled at times to have the national conversation we need to have in a civil way; and this has impacted negatively on First Nations people. ANTA's role in that context will be to assure that our solidarity remains firm as does our care and love; whatever the outcome of the referendum.

Through the dynamic leadership of our National Director, Paul Wright, and the hard work of the staff team, we come into the 2022-23 Financial Year in a strong position; mindful that we had no desire to compete against bodies dedicated to the Yes campaign.

At the 2022 AGM we elected Angus Frith as Vice-President, Jaki Adams as Secretary, Des Rogers and Andrew Meehan as Board members.

In closing, I want to thank our staff, Board members, Council members and the State/Territory ANTA's for the great work they have done this year.

And, of course, a big thanks to you, our members and supporters.

Dr Peter Lewis
PRESIDENT, ANTA

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I write my sixth (and final) ANTA National Director's Report in the heat of the battle for constitutional recognition for First Nations Peoples by way of the Voice to Parliament.

Such is the nature of Annual Reports that the reporting period covers the previous financial year. As such, it will fall to next year's report to reflect on the outcome of the Referendum and its implications for our society. Nevertheless, for ANTA our 2022-23 year was another huge year of work and I am very proud of the contribution we have made towards the issues that matter to us all.

This year, a year that marked a quarter of a century of advocacy and allyship for our movement, we launched a fresh look and feel to complement and reinvigorate our decades of activism and effort. We also created a new website to host and drive our critical campaigns and public education work – and it has been great to see so many fellow Australians engaging with the issues we hold dear.

Of course, in the foreground this year has been our continuing work promoting Voice, Treaty and Truth and the launch of our Campaign for Change to centralise this work. The Albanese Labor Government's commitment to holding a referendum in 2023 on a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament and formal recognition of the First Nations Peoples of Australia, has been a major focus of our efforts. One of the key ANTA projects has

been to collaborate with other prominent ally organisations – the Fred Hollows Foundation, Oxfam and ACOSS – to form Allies for Uluru. Allies for Uluru has been a wonderful mobilisation of over 275 predominantly civil society organisations supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led campaigns for YES.

While doing all we can to contribute towards the enshrinement of a First Nations Voice to Parliament in our Constitution, we have also continued our important advocacy and community education work on cultural heritage protection, closing the gaps, justice, treaty and truth-telling processes and many other social justice priorities as determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and leaders.

After nearly six years, my time as National Director is coming to an end in October 2023. It has been an honour and privilege to lead this amazing organisation over that time and I will forever be grateful for the collaboration and support of our amazing team (Michael, Phaedra, Jess and Erin – much love!), the most excellent Board (led by Dr Peter Lewis) – a group of committed people, both First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians that volunteer their time and effort to guide our movement to be the best ally organisation in Australia. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers (Wendy, Sue, Cathy, Sheilagh, John, Jenny) and interns that do so much to keep us operating and punching well above our weight. And of course, to all the many thousands of supporters, friends, donors and community warriors that make up the ANTA family. We couldn't do it without you!

We have another huge year ahead of us in 2023-24.

Paul Wright
ANTA National Director

ABOUT OUR WORK

ANTAR EVOLUTION

Building on all the hard work of the previous two years, 2022-23 was a year of consolidation as we launched our new branding and website tools to communicate our important work. There has been a great response to our new look and website and it complements the organisational and fundraising reforms we have enacted over the last five years.

ANTAR's profile has grown considerably and our work as a trusted ally continues to help the broader advocacy priorities articulated by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, peak organisations and communities we support and partner with.

Voice, Treaty, Truth

Understandably, a significant portion of the ANTAR team's focus and effort this year has been on doing all we can to advocate for the constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament. As you know, we have been strong supporters of constitutional reform and recognition since our inception a quarter century ago. The reforms desired by First Nations communities crystallised over six years ago when the Uluru Statement from the Heart was presented to the Australian people. This was an historic invitation for all Australian peoples to walk together in a movement 'for a better future'.

The Albanese Labor Government has been true to its commitment to the Uluru Statement and have followed through with bringing forth the referendum to be held on 14 October, 2023. It has been said often but we may not appreciate just how much this moment is a once in a generation opportunity for Australia to take a significant and meaningful step towards a more just and equitable relationship with the First Nations peoples of this continent.

Beyond our own work as an ally organisation to promote the reforms of the Uluru Statement, this year we have been proud to partner with the Fred Hollows Foundation, OXFAM and ACROSS to form the Allies for Uluru mobilisation of civil society organisations. We launched Allies for Uluru in late February 2023 and have seen our mobilisation grow to over 275 organisations. The work of Allies for Uluru is anchored in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led campaigns – YES23 and Uluru Dialogue – and has been driven by its aim to act as a conduit of campaign messaging and materials to our combined (and significant) network of supporters, clients, donors and employees.

As part of the convening team for Allies for Uluru, ANTAR has provided secretariat support, hosted working group meetings, promoted major Town Hall events and produced resources for supporters and activists to help in the campaign for YES.

Finally, we have supported the great work of our state and territory ANTAR affiliates to do their campaigning work in each jurisdiction.

**VOICE
TREATY
TRUTH**

SUBMISSIONS & SCORECARDS

It has been another busy year for contributing to the policy processes and public inquiries relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. We have produced Factsheets and Background Papers and made Submissions on the following issues:

- Factsheet series on Referenda and First Nations Voice, including:
 - [Voice: A History of Representation](#)
 - [History of Constitutional Recognition](#)
 - [The 1967 Referendum](#)
 - [What is a Referendum?](#)
- [Sovereignty Factsheet](#)
- [Self-Determination Factsheet](#)
- [Factsheet series \[Version 3\] on Treaty in the States and Territories](#)
- [Cultural Heritage Protection Reform Backgrounder](#)

- [Paul Keating's Redfern Speech – 30 years on](#)
- [Submission: Inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children](#) (with the Australian Lawyers Alliance - ALA)
- [Submission: Closing the Gap Review](#)
- [Submission: Poverty in Australia](#)
- [Submission: Path to Treaty Bill](#) (QLD) (with ANTaR Qld and ALA)
- [Submission: Raising the Age Legislation \(ACT\) 2023](#) (with ANTaR ACT)
- [Submission: Youth Justice and Child Wellbeing Reform](#)
- Submission: Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) Bill
- We also continued to produce our Election Scorecard series in the leadup to the Victorian (November 2022) and NSW (March 2023) state elections where we asked the major parties' to outline their policies on key issues such as Treaty, Closing the Gap, Justice, Housing and Cultural Heritage Protection.



CAMPAIGNS WE LOVE

ANTAR has continued our long association with the Close the Gap Campaign as a foundational member of the Campaign's steering committee. We were closely involved in the organisation of National Close the Gap Day in March; and assisted in the production of the Campaign's 2023 Report which showcased the amazing work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and led youth programs and services throughout Australia.

The Campaign has been co-chaired by Mr Karl Briscoe and Dr June Oscar and led by Ms Zara Pitt. We are proud of our ongoing association and the work of this major campaign.

ANTAR continued to auspice the Change the Record Campaign's growing team and it has been exciting to see this campaign make progress on many priority justice issues. Out of Change the Record, we have been continuing to advocate for raising the age of criminal responsibility in Australia and we are members of the Raise the Age Campaign. It is expected that the Change the Record campaign will incorporate into a standalone organisation in the next year and we will continue to provide any support we can. We congratulate Ms Maggie Munn on her permanent appointment as the National Director of Change the Record.

ANTAR continues to be an active member of Just Reinvest NSW and National Director Paul Wright sits on its Executive Committee. Justice Reinvestment is an important vehicle for closing the gap in justice and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and it is the key to transforming how governments work to better support these communities. The Albanese Labor Government has committed \$70 million to supporting the expansion of Justice Reinvestment into 30 new communities across Australia and this is largely due to the advocacy leadership of organisations such as Just Reinvest NSW.

See all the campaigns ANTaR is associated with [here](#)



SEA OF HANDS

The Sea of Hands initiative has once again demonstrated remarkable success this year, with an impressive tally of over 13,000 hands planted in installations carried out nationwide.

This achievement owes itself to the dedication of our staff and volunteer teams. As a result of their efforts, the ANTAR National collection of hands has been effectively consolidated, and our booking procedures have been refined and streamlined with the booking system

now available through the website. These enhancements ensure that the Sea of Hands will continue as a powerful symbol of solidarity with First Nations Peoples for schools, universities, businesses, and communities for years to come. Among the standout Sea of Hands installations for Reconciliation Week this year, one noteworthy display featured 3,200 hands exhibited at the Nan Tien Temple Fo Guang Shan. Additionally, the University of New England orchestrated an impressive installation, circulating a total of 1,200 hands during their event.



Nan Tien Temple Fo Guang Shan



Redfern Community Centre / City of Sydney

THE ANTAR COUNCIL

ANTAR has a number of affiliated organisations in the states and territories, and over the past year these groups have done much to raise awareness and advocate for Voice, Treaty and Truth in their respective jurisdictions, including the development of key campaign strategies to support a 'Yes' vote in this year's referendum.

Jill Webb was reappointed chair of the ANTAR Council for 2023 and the Council has met a number of times to share information about current work, including emerging issues, and to discuss opportunities to support each other and the work of ANTAR nationally. An additional face to face meeting for both Council and the board was held in March 2023 to strengthen our collective strategy in the leadup to the referendum.

The Council worked with the Board to develop the Annual Forum in Canberra as part of a program of events marking ANTAR's 25th Anniversary. The Forum included a panel discussing Voice, Treaty, Truth and we thank Jamie Lowe (First Peoples Assembly of Victoria), Commissioner Maggie Walter (Yoorrook Commission) and Geoff Scott (Uluru Dialogue) for taking part.

Janet Hunt, ANTAR Council Member representing ANTaR ACT



The Council and Board through the Council Grant program funded Yes 23 and Uluru Dialogue campaign materials such as corflutes, t-shirts and handouts to be freely distributed for local campaigning in the build up to the referendum.

Other projects funded included:

- An artwork by local WA Aboriginal artists to help the public better connect with the WA campaign for Voice, Treaty, Truth.
- Yarning Circles by ANTaR QLD to build awareness for the 2023 Referendum for Recognition and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution.
- A school yard and local community group Story Walk project featuring large storyboards from Thomas Mayo's children's book, Finding our Heart.
- Providing practical support and campaign materials to local reconciliation groups.

SUSTAINING OUR ORGANISATION

Key facts about our development program

Regular Fundraising income fell back this year at \$422,869;

- Digital fundraising around campaign work grew as supporters lifted donations in preparation for the Voice referendum \$79,004;
- Monthly donations from supporters contributed \$127,380;
- The decline in community donations is attributed to impacts of challenging costs of living and inflation pressures; and many supporters, including ANTAR contributing to the planned Referendum Yes campaign.
- Expenses for these activities were at 7.8% of the income (excluding the bequeathed funds received) – This is a small increase from the year before as we lifted costs in our program to modernise the communication technology we use.
- Our Gifts in Wills program received \$1,926,726 read more below.
- 1482 donors supported our Annual Appeals and digital campaigns together with 491 Monthly Regular Donor Partners.

Gifts-in-wills

After receiving very special legacy gifts the Board set about establishing the **Boesewinkel & Taylor ANTAR Sustainability Fund**. The funds will be invested in order to provide sustainable, reliable and trustworthy research and advocacy for Truth, Justice and Treaty in decades ahead.

Over the past year we learned of the passing of two passionate supporters of First Nations rights that left part of their estate to ANTAR. We pay our deep respect and gratitude to the late Peter Maher and Howard Jones for leaving their legacy in our hands.

The growing movement in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its calls for Voice, Treaty and Truth will fight for change a generation at a time until we realise justice and recognition and First Nations people and they find themselves in their rightful place in the hearts of Australians. The legacy of all Australians supporting ANTAR is that we, and many others who are empowered by our work, will be there as an ally with the First Nations people of this land until the work is done.



SEA OF HANDS PARTNERSHIP 27%

ANNUAL APPEAL 17%

OTHER FUNDRAISING INCOME 24%

DIGITAL FUNDRAISING 17%

EVENTS 6%

MERCHANDISE 6%

FEES 2%

In order to show income from our typical annual fundraising program we have omitted the bequest income from the graphic only.

FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET 30 JUNE 2023

Assets	Actual	Last Year
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$5,068,749	\$2,792,756
Trade and Other Receivables	\$97,271	\$2,186
Inventories	\$17,881	\$16,303
Total Current Assets	\$5,183,901	\$2,811,245
Non-Current Assets		
Plant and Equipment	\$13,266	\$17,596
Total Non-Current Assets	\$13,266	\$17,596
Total Assets	\$5,197,167	\$2,828,841
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	-\$29,968	\$18,885
Provisions	\$69,000	\$61,500
Funds held on Behalf of Others*	\$2,714,654	\$2,092,576
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,753,687	\$2,172,961
Total Liabilities	\$2,753,687	\$2,172,961
Net Assets	\$2,443,481	\$655,880
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$2,443,481	\$655,880
Total Equity	\$2,443,481	\$655,880

* These funds are held on behalf of the Change the Record campaign and ANTAR Affiliate Groups.

PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

Income	This Year	Last Year
Fundraising	\$2,402,346	\$523,378
Fees	\$8,250	\$5,965
Merchandise	\$29,583	\$29,974
Other Income		
Interest Income	\$56,791	\$1,160
Total Other Income	\$56,791	\$1,160
Cost of Sales		
Cost of Sales	\$21,656	\$8,683
Total Cost of Sales	\$21,656	\$8,683
Total Income	\$2,475,314	\$551,793
Expenditure		
State ANTAR Disbursements	\$19,676	\$36,020
Staff Expenses	\$400,483	\$363,576
Operating Expenses	\$267,554	\$180,976
Other Expense	\$0	\$12
Total Expenditure	\$687,713	\$580,583
Net Profit	\$1,787,601	-\$28,790

ANTAR IN THE STATES & TERRITORIES

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following reports contain names and descriptions of people who have died.

ANTAR ACT

Throughout the year, ANTaR ACT pursued our long-term priorities of reducing incarceration rates and enabling greater self-determination and community control for First Nations peoples in the ACT. From early 2023, we promoted the Voice referendum, working with the Yes 23 campaign.

Advocacy & Campaigns

Reducing incarceration rates and raising the age of criminal responsibility have been a focus of our campaigning, with ANTaR ACT part of the Raise the Age coalition. We were pleased to see the ACT Government introduce a bill in May 2023, to raise the age of criminal responsibility initially to 12 years old and to 14 years by July 2025. We continue to monitor the progress of this bill.

ANTaR ACT member Michaella Bangard presented to us initial findings from her PhD research on the experience of formerly incarcerated women in the ACT. Subsequently, Michaella and other ANTaR ACT members met with Winnunga Aboriginal Health and Community Service to talk about collaborating on advocacy.

ANTaR ACT was very concerned about the ACT Government's inadequate approach to initiating Treaty talks, which began in March 2022 through commissioning a consultant to prepare a report. Following this, ANTaR ACT wrote to the Minister in July 2022 about these concerns, emphasising the need to be inclusive of all people claiming traditional custodianship. We subsequently spoke with the Minister on two occasions to assist her in determining a fresh approach.

ANTaR ACT has long been following matters concerning the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm, which was to provide a culturally safe place for recovery from alcohol or other drugs. We met with a representative from the ACT Health Directorate in March 2023, and subsequently visited the Bush Healing Farm to meet staff. We continue to advocate for the fullest use of this facility, which is sadly not being utilised as traditional owners envisaged.

Ngarra Murray of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria attends ANTaR events at Old Parliament House, Canberra



Education & Engagement

In August 2022, in partnership with ANTaR National and Change the Record, we held a hybrid David Hunter Memorial Lecture – 'Let's Have Smart Justice in the ACT'. Our guest speakers were Cheryl Axelby from Change the Record and Tanya Keed, Acting Chair of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. Cheryl talked about the crisis of mass incarceration in Australia and the policy settings for change. Tanya emphasised the need to build community, not prisons.

ANTaR ACT acknowledges the passing of respected Ngunnawal elder Aunty Agnes Shea in March 2023. Aunty Agnes was a tireless advocate for recognition and rights in the ACT region, and a kind and generous elder who radiated warmth and affection. She gave the Welcome us to Country at our annual lectures, up to 2020.

Our engagement activities for the Voice referendum began with a stall at the ACT Reconciliation Day event at the National Arboretum Canberra. This was the first of many stalls in the ACT and surrounding areas, raising awareness about the referendum and reasons for Yes. We added content to our website to provide information about the Voice and used our newsletter and Facebook page to inform and engage people with the campaign.



Ngambri man Paul House offers Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony at ANTaR's 25th Anniversary celebrations, Canberra

ANTAR IN THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ANTAR VIC

ANTaR Victoria's focus this past financial year continues to be based on the themes of voice, truth and treaty; particularly in the context of Victoria but also in the lead-up to the referendum.

Advocacy & Campaigns

Voice to Parliament: ANTaR Victoria has played a significant advocacy role in the lead up to the Referendum. We were successful in obtaining a grant from the City of Melbourne which enabled us to employ a part-time campaign manager, Tom Ponissi. We supported 10 Local Reconciliation Groups with their campaign efforts in their local communities by linking them to training and campaign resources.

Together with the Victorian Council of Churches, and after an initial meeting between ANTaR Victoria and the Heads of Churches in December, we facilitated monthly meetings for the Ecumenical Network Group – First Nations Matters which was a space for Christian Church groups to share information and resources, including those with a theological framework, around the Voice to Parliament. We held a successful virtual event on Understanding the Voice with guest presenter Jade Ritchie.

ANTaR Victoria members and subscribers were mobilised into action through links to training, resources and events. We also enjoyed being active members of the Allies for Uluru Coalition.

Education & Engagement

Our joint forum in the Melbourne CBD with Reconciliation Victoria in November featured representations from the Voice campaign as well as the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria (FPAV) and the Yoorrook Justice Commission.

ANTaR Victoria attended a number of key events which supported and celebrated First Nations Peoples. This included Share the Spirit at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, NAIDOC week events and the National Reconciliation Week breakfast hosted by Reconciliation Victoria. Staff and volunteers enjoyed being involved in these events and engaging in meaningful conversations with others.

Our social media team continues to share informative articles, reports and event information. Our regular e-news updates, proves to be a popular and meaningful way to engage with our membership and subscriber base. We also updated our website this year, the information presented in a user friendly and logical manner for all to access.

We have continued to promote the treaty and truth-telling processes within Victoria through our support of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Yoorrook Justice Commission. After the second election of representatives for the FPAV, the next stages in treaty making in Victoria are the establishment of the Treaty Authority, followed by negotiation of state-wide and Traditional Owner treaties. The Yoorrook Justice Commission has focused on the historical and present day iniquities of the child protection and justice systems. Along with key state-wide First Nation organisations such as the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, ANTaR Vic promoted the call for closing the gap in child protection and incarceration rates.

ANTAR QLD

ANTaR Queensland has had an active year focussed on providing information around a Voice to Parliament and supporting a Yes vote. Where possible, we have linked with other organisations to promote this. Other forms of engagement and outreach have continued, particularly given the growing housing and income crisis.

ANTaR Queensland voted to modify its Constitution at the 2023 AGM to recognise this work in our goals. Queensland has seen an intensifying struggle over 'law and order' in the long lead-up to the State election in 2024. This has produced a shocking deterioration of the already profoundly bad situation for young people, particularly First Nations children, in interactions with police, again allowing children to be legally detained for long periods in adult watchhouses. This is a stark demonstration of the colonial violence against First Nations people entrenched in key state institutions.

In May, the State Parliament passed the Path to Treaty Bill. While important, work towards a Treaty will be severely jeopardised by the government's actions in areas such as incarceration of children.

Advocacy & Campaigns

ANTaR Queensland members have worked closely with Yes23 campaigns to support the Voice to Parliament. We have joined with Mob23, dedicating significant time and energy to helping organise at least 30 gatherings around Southeast Queensland. Members have actively engaged in related Yes23 campaigns, running stalls, waving corflutes, taking part in meetings and speaking to people mainly in the greater Brisbane area. We have also partnered with smaller, local organisations to hold Yarning Circles as well as holding events on our own. While most of ANTaR Queensland's efforts are focussed on Southeast Queensland, we do have some outreach to the Rockhampton area, where a member has strong links with the Iman people. This has enabled valuable sharing of information.



ANTAR IN THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ANTaR Queensland's Facebook page has been highly active, including advertising allied organisations' events. Our website has finally been relaunched, renewing an important element of advocacy.

We have continued advocacy on raising the age at which children can be incarcerated (currently 10 years old) writing letters and submissions and speaking to decision-makers. Queensland has the highest number of children held in detention in the country. This issue appears profoundly stuck, with both major parties happy to use youth crime as an electoral tactic, despite low overall rates of youth crime and clear evidence of the counterproductive effects of incarceration of children on community safety. We are also supporting a community organisation endeavouring to provide alternatives to incarceration and support child safety.

We have continued to support Path to Treaty activities, writing and co-writing submissions and taking part in community gatherings.

Education & Engagement

Our education and engagement have been closely connected to advocacy. Referendum Yarning has included Truth-telling and helped inform a wider range of people. As well as keeping children away from the justice system, supporting community organisations working with children helps build community support for alternatives to incarceration. We have continued to organise and plant Sea of Hands displays. Where possible we also continue to provide some basic necessities to communities and individuals undergoing great hardship. This is part of building and maintaining respectful relationships.

ANTAR SA

ANTaR SA acts in support, promotion and encouragement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land, sea, and inland waters rights, including the Australia-wide protection of statutory, cultural and international heritage, native title and inherited rights and interests in land, sea, and inland waters.

Advocacy and Campaigns

In view of widespread concern over the Federal changes to the Closing the Gap Agreement, ANTaR SA continues to advocate reform of every constitutional 'race power', based on maintaining reference to the 1836 SA Letters Patent historic Premiginal Voice.

An Aboriginal and activist campaign membership of ANTaR SA, including Anangu people on APY Lands, appraises self-government through Traditional Owner domestic relationships in local, state and national networks extending to other countries to advance global participation of all First Nations peoples and communities in self-determination.

ANTaR SA activities uphold advocacy in all areas highlighting the main impact of racism in the Australian Constitution on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This extends from the Covering Clauses of the Constitution Act scheduling the Constitution, to Section 25 and the amendment of the Constitution; by the repeal of all its racism against First Nations Peoples, with a Recognition of an Aboriginal Representative body beyond the current tripartite separation of powers in the Constitution.

ANTaR SA has continued its inter-active campaigning advocacy on the pressing issues of over-incarceration and the need to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the State.

Education and Engagement

ANTaR SA Aboriginal and activist members continue managing its Sea of Hands as an ongoing educational activity with the Red Centre Aboriginal Bush Tucker Initiative. The venture models an active cooperation with longstanding ANTaR SA Inc. Sorry Day Committee activists in the SA Journey of Healing and the Candle Light Walk for Peace, Justice and a Bill of Rights, around SA Government House. This educative engagement extended to participation by ANTaR SA Treasurer as a representative of the National ANTaR Board, Kurna Ngangki Burka, Kua Nepotinna, Lynette Crocker, accompanied by leading Senior Kurna women elders, in a Senior Aboriginal women's meeting hosted in SA Government House by Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia. Her Worship, the Adelaide Lord Mayor, with the other leading ANTaR SA woman Steering Committee members, Kokatha Wena and Dr. Dylan Tabiltja Coleman, also attended.

ANTAR SA Kurna Members are continuing their partnership work with the City of Holdfast Bay. Longstanding partnerships have been maintained with the Roma Mitchell Legal Community Centre Inc., and the Aboriginal Alliance Coalition Movement (AACM) that was inaugurated through ANTaR SA with the assistance of Tom Calma as HREOC Social Justice Commissioner as charged with raising the SA Letters Patent to the State Government. AACM is initiated as an umbrella organisation in grassroots Aboriginal activity. There is now an AACM Anangu APY Community Control Coalition Movement (AAPYCCCM) membership in the APY Lands that met in Port Augusta with the support of its associated members of ANTaR SA Inc.



ANTaR SA Treasurer and representative Kurna Ngangki Burka, Kua Nepotinna (Lone Crow), Lynette Crocker at Kurna kowiandilla (water course) tarto (swampy ground) tainkyedlinna (rushes beds) / warnpa (reed beds) Yarta.

ANTAR IN THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ANTAR WA

The presently unfolding YES23 campaign has brought many Australians together with a shared belief in a better future although a common understanding of the practical steps forward is not shared by all Aussies.

Previous bipartisan commitment has evaporated under the ever persistent and pragmatic quest for power that is at the heart of the present system of our western democracy. Sadly that lack of common political purpose is reflected in a wider community division. Western Australia pre-emptively illustrated this with the significantly media driven furore that led to the Labor government abandoning our proposed new Aboriginal Heritage legislation.

We have had a number of issues with youths in custody including at Banksia Hill and more recently the WA Government has authorised the use of Pepper Spray there, presently making WA the only state to do so. We have also attended a number of court cases. One case we were not able to attend was in Roebourne and nearby Yindjibarndi special places. These hearings were to resolve the ongoing dispute over royalties between FMG and the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC). This has also been an ongoing and very divisive issue within the Yirramagardu* (Roebourne) community as rival group Wirru-murra dispute YAC's right to speak for that Ngurra (land). The traditional owners of Roebourne are Ngarluma who have been partly displaced by the neighbouring Yindjibarndi, who were previously displaced by station leasehold owners.

***Alternative spelling: Ieramagadu. Illustrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) languages were spoken and not written until colonialists did so. Like today some members of colonising families and institutions were genuinely interested in and empathetic to ATSI cultural heritage including language.**

We did attend some of the court hearings between the Hancock and Wright families, and associated interests. Lang Hancock (RIP) owned the lease of Mulga Downs station and is reputed to have Aboriginal descendants with female Pilbara workers from those times. One alleged daughter Hilda Picket (RIP) is reputed to have signed a confidentiality deed like clauses Aboriginal organisations sign with mining companies. A Roebourne Elder is also commonly referred to as an alleged son of Lang Hancock and some estimate there are at least twenty Hancock descendants including grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is unlikely there will be any Aboriginal Hancock beneficiaries as the dispute looks likely to settle confidentially out of court.

ANTaR WA also took part in a press conference outside the Perth Magistrates Court following the arrest of four members of the Disrupt Burrup Hub protest Group outside Woodside CEO Meg O'Neill's home. Largely portrayed in the media as climate activists, Disrupt Burrup Hub is concerned about more than the significant increase in Climate Changing emissions resulting from Woodside's announced projects. They are also focusing on damage to the ancient

Aboriginal Heritage from Woodside's plant. 'The Burrup' is called Murujuga by the Circle of Elders who have cultural responsibility for this very special place as the original Yaburara custodians were massacred by pastoralists, pearlers and 'special constables' after a local constable was killed by the Yaburara. His death was in retaliation for taking a Yaburara woman whose husband had earlier taken flour from a pearling lugger. Local Aboriginal peoples were often used like slaves in the pearling and pastoral industries.

The Pinjarra massacre in 1834 south of Perth was also caused by the stealing of flour. The root cause is really differences in practices between the original peoples: the colonising had well developed private property rights whereas 'Black Fellas' believed all food should be shared particularly on their traditional lands and waters.

Government officials including Western Australian Governor, Captain James Stirling had family histories, including black slavery, as an acceptable way to amass wealth and power.

ANTaR WA wonders if some of these events would have been avoided with a past VOICE.



ANTAR and ANTaR WA are committed to 'Voice, Treaty, Truth' and believe in the benefits that will flow to all Australians from a successful October 14 Referendum.

VOICE for First Nations Australians is simple common sense reflecting our national 'fair go' ethos.

TREATY will be an outcome of the referendum and is unlikely to happen any other way.

TRUTH telling is an important pillar of the campaign that I have followed in this report.

This year, ANTaR WA established Converse Media to encourage those conversations, and this report is produced by Converse.

Media produced for the Voice campaign includes:

1. An interview with Nadju elder Les Schultz.
2. Why the Voice will be effective.
3. Heartfelt welcome by female Whadjuk Noongar Elder at Noel Pearson Voice event.

Photographs and video are only some aspects of our Converse initiative. Others include art, projections, music, radio interviews and sculptural installations.

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The independence of our work is important. Help us help Australia's First Nations Peoples by donating online at:

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