

# EDITORIAL

## Aboriginal Law Bulletin

The first issue of the *Aboriginal Law Bulletin* for 1995 is a combined edition with the *Alternative Law Journal*, with which the *ALB* regularly appears as a supplement. Although only a one-off arrangement, the February deal should provide some much-needed time at the *ALB* to sort out perennial funding and administrative concerns. Continued subscribers to the *ALB* will hopefully find the sudden appearance of a 'double' issue a welcome bonus.

1995 is a significant year for indigenous peoples at the international level. It is the beginning of the *International Decade of the World's Indigenous People*, which, it is hoped, will achieve more significant results than the disappointing outcomes of the single *International Year* (1993).

One of the major priorities of the *Decade* is progress on the *Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, now that it has left the *UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations* and its parent *Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities*. In February, it reaches the *Commission for Human Rights*, made up of representatives of 53 governments. The Australian Govern-

ment is seeking support from other governments to establish a process, a *Drafting Group* that will meet mid-year, back-to-back with the *Sub-Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations*, and with ready access for representatives of indigenous peoples.

Within Australia, 1995 will see the resumption of the debate on the Land Acquisition Fund which has divided Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. It will also see development of the 'Social Justice Package' conceived by the Australian Government as Stage Three of its response to the 1992 High Court Native Title decision. 1995 should also see significant court decisions about Stage One, the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), and the first decision on native title claims.

The Aboriginal Law Centre will be expanding its coverage of such issues with the introduction of a new quarterly journal to complement the *Aboriginal Law Bulletin*.

The ALB Editors

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### Aboriginal Law Bulletin

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