

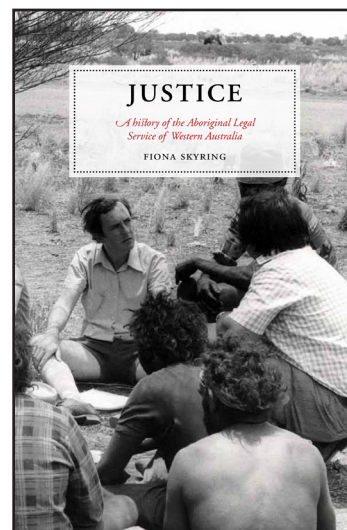
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# Media Release

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## Justice A History of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia

Fiona Skyring



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Some of the nation's major social, political and legal reforms of the past four decades have been influenced by the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia's campaigns for Aboriginal people's human rights, and in particular equality before the law.

A lively and multi-dimensional insight into Australian history, *Justice: A history of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia* reveals the human face of these reforms and takes this story beyond the criminal justice system.

From its beginnings in the early 1970s, the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) has played a significant role in addressing the legacies of dispossession and human rights abuses. These include Aboriginal deaths in custody, land rights and the legacy of stolen generations.

Not just relevant to Western Australian, these issues have been – and continue to be – of national significance. In particular, the recent widely-publicised case surrounding the death in custody of Aboriginal elder Mr Ward.

*Justice* brings to life the story of the people who built the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, and who continue to advocate for social justice.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Fiona Skyring** is an historian and worked as an 'in house' expert witness for the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) in Western Australia on several native title trials in the 2000s. She prepared the ALSWA submissions to the Senate Committee Inquiry into Stolen Wages in 2006. While completing research for this book, Fiona has been involved in an ARC Linkage Project focusing on Indigenous participation in Australian economies. She also works for native title organisations, as well as contributing to a range of community history projects, conferences and academic publications.

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