

ALSWA



May 1998 No. 9

REMOVAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACCEPTED AS MITIGATING FACTORS

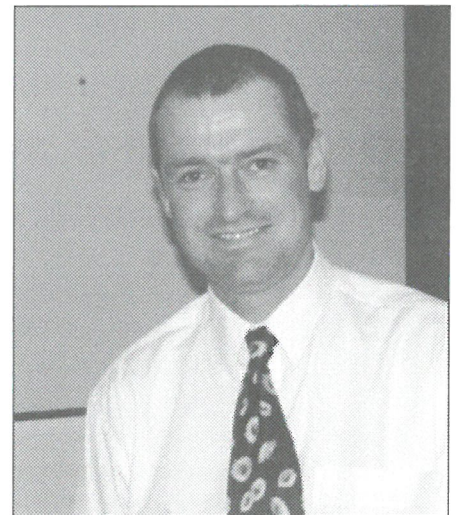
An historic decision in the District Court in Perth recently recognised two important and unusual arguments in defence of an Aboriginal woman charged with the manslaughter of her de-facto husband. The arguments involved the effects of past Government removal policies on Aboriginal people and the so-called 'battered woman syndrome', both of which were taken into account by the Judge in sentencing the defendant.

The decision by Justice Clark recognised that the defendant had suffered as a result of the removal policies of the past, and agreed that a history of domestic violence should also be taken into account in determining her sentence.

Justice Clarke described the defendant as a 'fractured survivor of the Stolen Generation'. This was recognition of her experiences as an Aboriginal person who was the victim of Government policies that saw Aboriginal children often forcibly removed from their families and communities. In a plea of mitigation, ALSWA Solicitor Peter Collins argued that the defendant also 'showed all the signs of suffering from the battered woman syndrome'.

In his sentencing address Justice Clark said that on the night of the offence the defendant had been provoked and was unlikely to re-offend. He accepted that the defendant had suffered a history of brutal bashing during a three-year relationship with her de-facto partner. Justice Clark then handed down a two-year suspended sentence.

After the Court, Mr Collins said it was one of the first times that a WA Judge had acknowledged in his sentencing remarks the effects of the removal policies on Aboriginal people. It was also believed to be the first case in which an Aboriginal woman argued successfully that the 'battered woman' syndrome was a mitigating factor.



PETER COLLINS

ALSWA MOVES TO SAVE HIGH SCHOOL

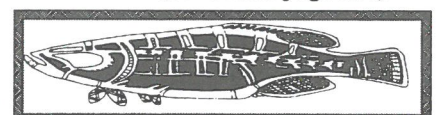
ALSWA has appealed to the Education Department of WA to reconsider proposals to close Cannington Senior High School. The Department recently unveiled plans to close the school and relocate students to other high schools in the district.

ALSWA's appeal followed an approach by Aboriginal Education Worker Mr Albert McNamara who is worried that 32 Aboriginal students across years eight to 12 will be discouraged from continuing their education if the school closes. The students say this is the case.

(continued page two)

Inside This Issue

Talks with Nicaraguan freedom fighter	6
ATSIC retains funding responsibility	11



GROUP SEEKS FUNDS FOR COURT ACTION



Stolen Generations Action Group members gathered recently at Murdoch University to discuss future action in terms of raising funds that will enable ALSWA to take Stolen Children cases to Court. Pictured above are Jade Maddox, Murdoch (2nd from left) psychologist Joyleen Koolmatrice (4th from left) Richard Ridgeway, ALSWA (6th from left) Nellie Green, Murdoch (centre) Glynis Collard (3rd from right) and ALSWA Executive Committee member Clem Riley (right).

TWENTY NATIVE TITLE CLAIMS CUT TO TEN

Twenty overlapping Native Title applications will be reduced to ten, and further reductions are likely, as a result of new agreements signed in April by Goldfields Aboriginal groups.

Competing claimant groups in the North-East Goldfields have agreed to work together to prove their Native Title rights and interests.

The region's oldest Native Title claims will now represent the cultural connections to land and waters of a broader group of people. More recent Native Title claims were being withdrawn, or their boundaries amended so that they did not overlap the older claims.

As a result, the number of overlapping claims in the North-East Goldfields Region will be substantially reduced.

Bid to save school

(continued from page one)

Given the urgent need for Aboriginal students to complete year 12 of their secondary education the prospect of deterring these students from continuing is a matter of alarm to the Aboriginal community.

The land on which Cannington Senior High School sits is land of importance in terms of Aboriginal historical and cultural tradition.

Using the land for the purpose of educating young Aboriginal people is appropriate and has the support of the Aboriginal community.

The prospect of the land being used for a housing development, in the event of the closure of the school, is unacceptable.

In a letter of support sent to the school, ALSWA called on the Education Department to urgently re-think its intentions until significant consultation has been held with the Aboriginal community and other Indigenous stakeholders, including ALSWA.

Cultural awareness needed in domestic violence laws

ALSWA has made a submission to the Domestic Violence Legislation Working Group on the model laws proposed on domestic violence.

The ALSWA submission emphasised the importance of establishing an effective system which considered, and was aware of, the social and cultural circumstances and complexities which domestic violence poses for Indigenous women.

Aboriginal women are extremely reluctant to use the legal system to try to obtain protection when they are in domestic violence situations because the process can, and often does, exacerbate the position they are in.

Aboriginal women typically describe restraining orders as 'not worth the paper they are written on'. They argue that Aboriginal men just ignore restraining orders and that the police are reluctant to act, either by way of service of restraining orders or by enforcing them.

Aboriginal women want to see processes implemented that provide women and children with a higher level of safety and security and the ability to enjoy life free from violence. ALSWA holds that the Aboriginal community must be assisted in the development and implementation of strategies formulated to empower Aboriginal women and their communities to deal with the problem.

In its submission, ALSWA pointed to recommendations that were developed in consultation with Aboriginal women, that are still to be implemented from the 1994 WA Chief Justice's Report on Gender Bias.

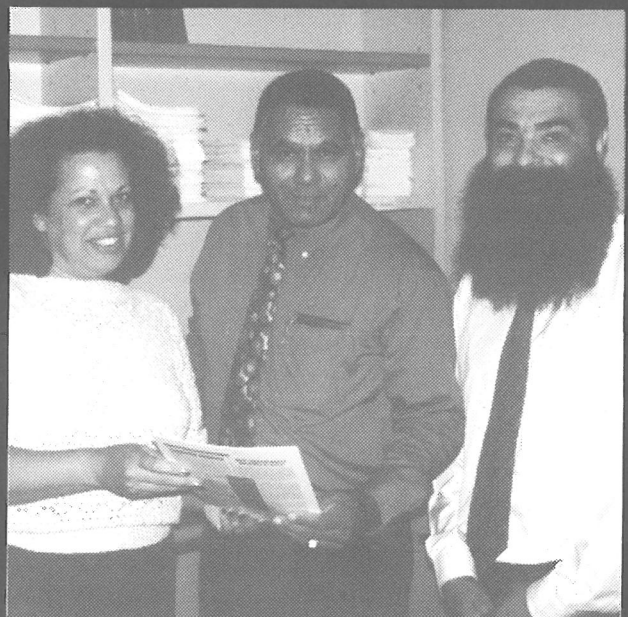
Many of the recommendations had considerable merit and ought to be implemented, including:

- Aboriginal community-based panels of key women to be appointed by the communities to be part of the Justice Ministry - but supervised by Aboriginal persons within the Ministry - to assist in the apprehension and control of offenders against women and children;

- Evidence by affidavit (written statement under oath) should be possible for Aboriginal women who feel intimidated by the necessity of a Court appearance;
- The Courts and criminal justice system to recognise and acknowledge that there is a need to incorporate Alternative Dispute Resolution processes into the resolution of disputes which involve Aboriginal people;
- Courts and police to take into sufficient account the reality of inter-family feuding as a frequent accompaniment to domestic violence; and
- If Aboriginal victims of domestic violence are not being served by the adversarial processes of the justice system - and the reasons for this related directly to their perceived need to negotiate a settlement based strongly on mutually agreed options which would allow for the future to be considered - then it would seem there needs to be an exploration of the possibility that the justice system incorporate these needs into service delivery for its clients.

These recommendations, ALSWA argues, need to be implemented if the justice system is to better service victims of domestic violence, particularly Aboriginal women and children.

COMMISSIONER'S VISIT



ATSIC Commissioner Dillon from Queensland was a welcome visitor to ALSWA recently for discussions with CEO Dennis Eggington and Deputy CEO Colleen Hayward.

FAMILY UNIT WIN GIVES FATHER CHANCE TO KNOW CHILDREN

ALSWA Family Unit Solicitor Toni Cuss recently successfully obtained an interim injunction on behalf of a father, preventing the mother of their two children, aged 10 years and nine years respectively, from taking the children to the Middle East.

The parties married in July 1987 and separated about two years later. The husband saw the older child on a weekly basis for about two months and then a couple of times in 1990. He then went to work in the country. The wife initiated court proceedings for custody and in August 1990 orders were made, by consent, granting the wife sole guardianship and custody of the children, and the husband reasonable supervised access.

The husband claimed that the person appointed to supervise the access would not agree to do so and the parties were unable to agree on anyone else to supervise. At the time he did not know where the wife was living. Effectively since then he has had no contact with the children although he claimed to have taken steps to try to locate the wife and children.

As it turned out, about three months after the parties separated, the wife went through a Muslim wedding ceremony. Her new husband was a devout Muslim. The wife also became a devout Muslim and the children were brought up as Muslims. The wife claimed that the children only knew her new husband as their father and did not know that they had a different father.

The husband only discovered where the children were in September 1997 and a letter was written by ALSWA asking for contact with the children. No response was received to the letter and, as it turned out, the wife moved from her address shortly after receiving the letter.

The wife's new husband obtained an offer of work in the Middle East and he and the wife wished to

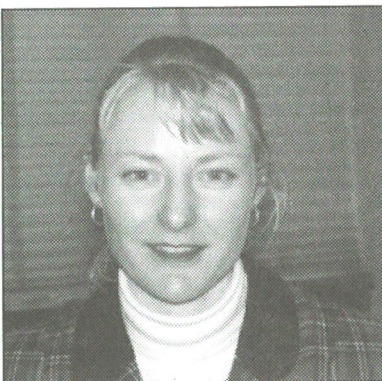
take the children there to live. Any order made by the Family Court in Western Australia for contact between the husband and children could not be enforced in the Middle East.

The husband suspected that the wife would not comply with any orders made in any event and he was not prepared to travel to the Middle East to see the children because he was concerned about his safety while there. He sought an injunction on the basis that the children had a right to know and have ongoing contact with him, with their extended family, and with their Aboriginal heritage.

It was a notable achievement for ALSWA to obtain the interim injunction given the very limited contact the father had had with the children and the long period of no contact at all. The Chief Judge of the Family Court of WA granted the husband the injunction saying that it was necessary to obtain an expert's report before the Court could decide what was in the children's best interests.

In these circumstances a separate representative was appointed for the children. The separate representative acts as an independent person and looks at what is in the children's best interests and presents that case to the Court. The approach of the separate representative is quite often influenced by a report from a psychiatrist or psychologist. Therefore, whether the husband ultimately succeeds in his application for an injunction restraining the wife from removing the children from Australia, when the matter goes to a final hearing, will largely depend on the report and recommendations of the Court appointed expert.

At the final hearing the Court will have to weigh the importance of the children knowing their father and learning about their Aboriginal heritage - opportunities that would be denied them if they were to be taken to the Middle East - against benefits to the wife's family in being able to work in the Middle East.



ALSWA Solicitor Toni Cuss

CONGRATULATIONS

to Family Law Secretary Kristy Burgess
on her recent engagement.

Best Wishes from everyone at ALSWA!

EXEC. COMMITTEE PRESSES HERRON FOR MORE FUNDS

The ALSWA Executive Committee has presented Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Herron with a list of concerns and asked for an urgent response. The issues raised include funding levels, regionalisation, mainstreaming of Aboriginal legal services, customary law, ALSWA's Representative Body status, RCIADIC and Stolen Generations. Senator Herron was presented with the list during a social function organised to coincide with an Executive Committee meeting in Perth.

In the document, ALSWA advised the Minister that current funding levels were too low to allow for extension of quality legal services to some Aboriginal people in remote areas. ALSWA suggested extra funding would allow such people to access the services that they were entitled to as Indigenous owners of the country and as Australian citizens.

The Executive also stressed its opposition to regionalisation or mainstreaming of Aboriginal legal services in WA, citing serious problems with regionalisation in some eastern States. With regard to mainstreaming, the Executive reminded the Minister that the Legal Aid Commission had indicated an inability to provide appropriate services to Aboriginal people at the low level of funding available to ALSWA.

The Minister was also asked to establish an enquiry into prison practices in Western Australia, given the escalation in deaths in custody since the Royal Commission. He was also encouraged to support ALSWA's attempts to obtain federal funding to conduct test cases for 'Stolen Children'.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ALSWA© is published by the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc), PO Box 8194, Stirling Street, East Perth 6849 [Tel (08) 92656666 Fax (08) 92211767 Freecall 1800 019 900]. The material contained in ALSWA is from a variety of sources and does not necessarily represent the views of the organisation. For enquiries, contributions, letters etc, please write to the Editor care of the above address. Permission must be obtained for reproduction by any means and in any form of part or all of the contents of this publication.

WEST PILBARA LAND COUNCIL CLOSED DOWN

The West Pilbara Land Council has been ordered closed by the Federal Court. It is expected that the body's remaining assets will be transferred to the Nanga-Ngoona Moora-Joorga Association. ALSWA has managed the council's two Ngaluma-Injibandi Native Title claims since ATSIC stopped funding it last year.

The council, based in Roebourne, managed to operate with funds from local mining companies and the Department of Resources and Development until the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations in Canberra petitioned the Federal Court to wind it up and appoint a liquidator, Ferrier Hodgson. The council had previously received federal funding of about \$750,000.

STAFF PROFILE



Pam Weston has recently begun work as a secretary for the ALS Representative Body. Before joining ALSWA Pam worked for the Noongar Land Council.

Call for more Aboriginal places in Public Service

ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington claims the State Government Equal Employment Program has been less than effective and more needs to be done to include indigenous people in its workforce.

He was adding to comments by Opposition spokesperson Ljiljanna Ravlich that the State Government was not taking seriously its responsibility for ensuring that more Aboriginal people were employed in the State Public Service.

'Until government and society genuinely want to include Aboriginal people, not just in the workforce but in the whole fabric of society, there will always be discrimination and a (case of) catch up for us'.

Mr Eggington's comments came after a recent report by the Public Sector Management Office that Aborigines and disabled people were considerably under-represented in the State Public Service. Aboriginal and disabled employment levels also lagged behind those of the Federal Public Service.

The report showed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders comprised three per cent of WA's population but only 1.5 per cent of the WA Public Service, and Indigenous people made up only two per cent of the Federal Public Service.

Mr Eggington said part of the Government's role should be to encourage private enterprise to invest in the skills and potential of the Aboriginal community instead of employing Indigenous people just in selected areas of the workforce. Ms Ravlich complained that WA's Aboriginal Public Servants were being restricted to a few government departments, such as Aboriginal Affairs.

NICARAGUAN FREEDOM FIGHTER HERE TO PROMOTE CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Dorotea Wilson, a former underground freedom fighter against the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua, met recently with the management of ALSWA. Ms Wilson is currently touring Australia promoting a One World Centre's teacher's kit on sustainable communities in Central America.

The kit has been developed by the Centre with assistance from the Overseas Service Bureau and returned volunteers from Central America.

Ms Wilson was born into a working-class family in Puerto Cabezas (Bilwi) in the northern part of Nicaragua's Atlantic (Caribbean) Coast.

She studied teaching and psychology in Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields, and in 1975 joined the Sandinista National Liberation Front (SNLF), becoming active in the underground struggle against the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

In 1979, after the fall of Somoza and the victory of the Sandinista Revolution, she became the first woman mayor of Puerto Cabezas.

In 1984 she was elected to the Nicaraguan Parliament, and as a representative of the Atlantic Coast she played an instrumental role in the passing of the historic 1986 Autonomy Law. This Law instituted regional self-government and recognised the land rights of mostly Indigenous and black people of the Atlantic Coast regions.

MINISTER VISITS ALSWA

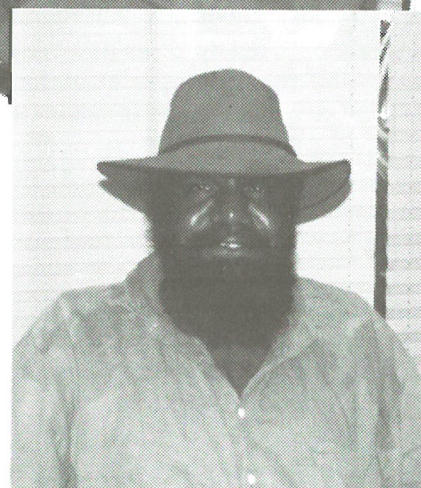
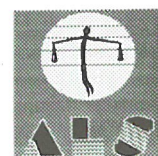
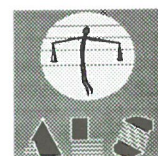
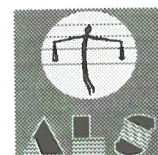


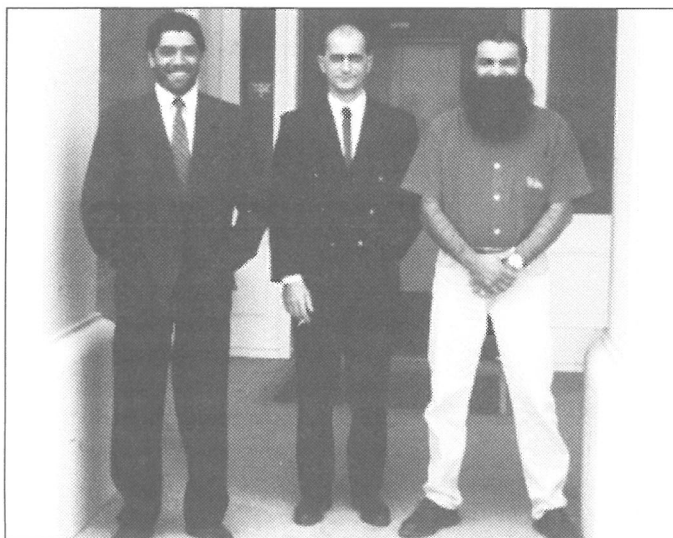
Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Herron joined the ALSWA Executive Committee for a social function recently. He is pictured with ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington and the Executive Member for Warburton Bruce Smith.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN EXECUTIVE AT PERTH MEETING



New members Doc Reynolds, Goldfields (left) Wilfred Hicks, Roebourne (centre left) Hazel Thomas, Goldfields (below right) and Paddy Jeffries, Pilbara (centre right) joined ATSIC Regional Council Chairpersons Vic Hunter (Derby) and Ian Trust (Kununurra) [talking to ATSIC State Manager Peter Mackin] and Brian Sampson, Pilbara (bottom right) at the ALSWA Executive Meeting which was held in Perth from April 21-April 23.





ALSWA Geraldton staff Bevan Gray (Court Officer) and Steve Sharrat (Solicitor) met with CEO Dennis Eggington during his recent visit to ALSWA offices and Aboriginal organisations in Geraldton and Carnarvon.

CEO reports on visit to Kimberley and Murchison regions

ALSWA Chief Executive Officer Dennis Eggington recently attended a community meeting in Halls Creek, and used the opportunity to visit ALSWA offices in that town, and in Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, and Kununurra.

The Halls Creek meeting was called by the Noonjuwah community to discuss and find solutions to conflict between various Aboriginal groups in the town that had led to so-called 'riots' earlier in the month. The meeting was attended by representatives of Aboriginal groups in Halls Creek, police from the regional and town offices and representatives of other Government agencies. A number of issues were discussed including liquor outlets and trading hours, and police activity in the town.

At the meeting it was decided to form an ongoing 'crisis committee' to deal with issues as they arose. Mr Eggington told the meeting that a similar ALSWA initiative in Northam last year had proved successful in dealing with conflicts in the wheatbelt area. While in Halls Creek, Mr Eggington visited the local office for talks with Court Officer Steven Carter. He also had individual discussions with local Aboriginal groups, local police and Aboriginal media.

Earlier, in Broome, Mr Eggington visited the ALSWA office and while there was interviewed by ABC Regional Radio about issues of interest to Aboriginal people in the Kimberleys.

These issues included the escalating rate of suicide among young Aboriginal males in the Kimberley district and elsewhere. Mr Eggington said that while attention was focused quite rightly on suicides in custody, the problem was more widespread, and needed urgent attention by health authorities in consultation with the Aboriginal Community.

Another topic of concern was the State Government's intention to dam the Fitzroy River and to promote cotton farming in the West Kimberley area. Mr Eggington expressed concern at the potential health hazard for the local Bunuba people, given the experience in NSW, where cotton production has diminished natural foods and poisoned the waters, forcing Aboriginal people onto a western 'fat and sugar' diet. This has resulted in a substantial increase in the amount of numerous diseases and illnesses within local communities.

In Fitzroy Crossing Mr Eggington discussed the issue further with Kimberley Aboriginal Language and Cultural Centre (KALAC) Manager, Mr Dickie Bedford, who represents the Bunuba people. On another issue, Mr Eggington and Mr Bedford agreed that KALAC and ALSWA should work together on establishing policy in regard to the relationship between Customary and Western law.

While in Fitzroy Crossing, Mr Eggington met with ALSWA Court Officer Philip McCarthy. Locals were quick to confirm that Philip was doing an excellent job in difficult circumstances. He appeared to have the respect and the trust of the local community, Aboriginal organisations, the civic community, and the local Police.

On the way to Kununurra Mr Eggington diverted to Derby for talks with Court Officer Brian (Blackie) Shadforth about ALSWA's operations in the town. Later, in Kununurra, he met with Court Officer Frank Chulung and Solicitor Margie Bourke for discussion of local issues and the challenge of introducing a new lawyer to replace Margie. Mr Eggington also held lengthy talks with local man Kenny Green about police behaviour in the town and undertook to follow the matter up on his return to Perth.

(continued next page)

CEO report (continued)

Several weeks later Mr Eggington travelled by vehicle to Geraldton and Carnarvon to take a quick look at ALSWA operations in those areas. He found the office in Geraldton well organised and effective thanks to the efforts of solicitor Steve Sharrat, Court Officer Bevan Gray and Secretary Julie-Ann Richardson. An ongoing problem in Geraldton was found to be the actions and attitudes of Homeswest and its treatment of Aboriginal clients.

After discussion of local issues Mr Eggington attended Court with Steve and Bevan to watch them in operation and was impressed with their close working arrangement and professional manner.

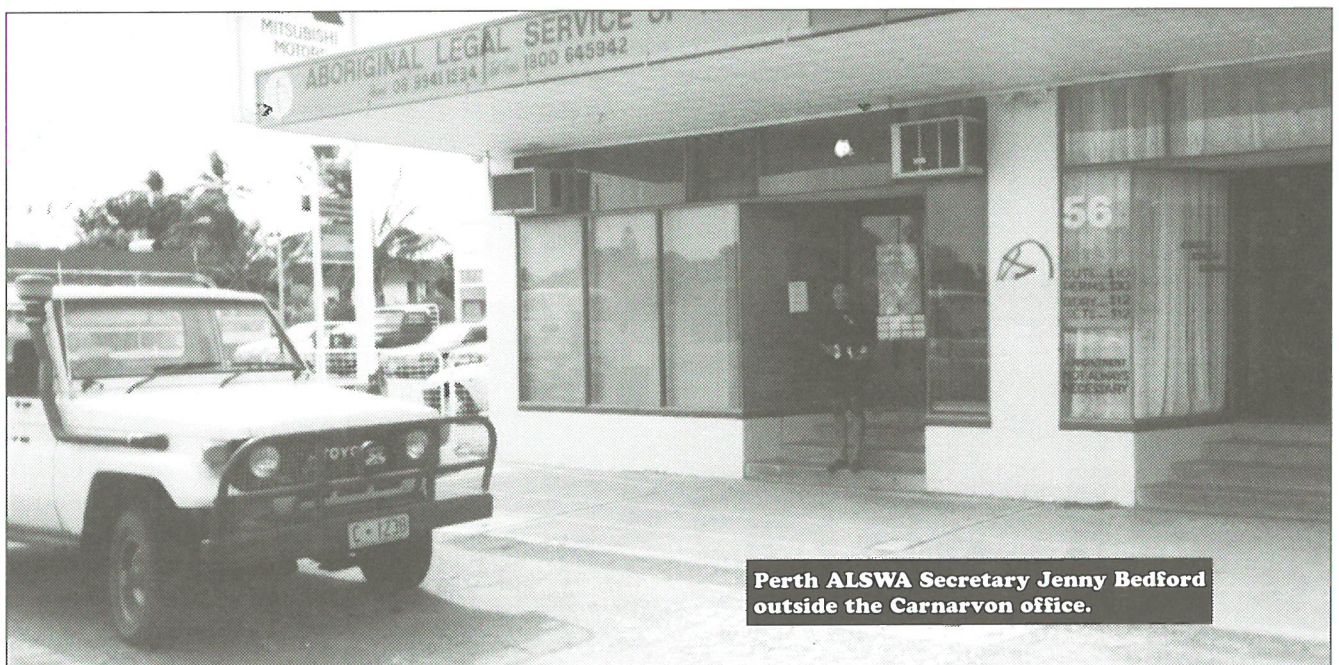
During his stay he met with ATSIC Commissioner Sandy Davies and ATSIC Deputy Regional Manager Ron Bradfield, and also had discussions with Wayne Warner, Executive Director of Yamatji Land and Sea Council and staff of the Yamatji Language Centre and Yamatji News.

In Carnarvon Mr Eggington held talks with ALSWA Solicitor Deen Potter, again finding that Homeswest matters were of ongoing concern. Deen appeared to be in good control of the local situation and others in the community thought highly of him. While in town Mr Eggington gave a lengthy interview to the Northern Guardian, talking about local, state and national issues. During



CARNARVON ALSWA SOLICITOR DEEN POTTER

the trip the House of Representatives had rejected Senate amendments to Prime Minister Howard's ten-point plan and this was a topic of interest everywhere. Mr Eggington's future itinerary includes visits to the South-West of the State and to the Goldfields, later in the year. He hopes to be accompanied by Executive members for those regions.



Perth ALSWA Secretary Jenny Bedford outside the Carnarvon office.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AWAIT COURT DECISION

by Ashley Truscott

The traditional owners in the Miriuwong-Gajerrong Native Title claim recently travelled to Perth to hear final submissions to the Federal Court.

The case, in progress for nearly four years, came to a close on Thursday April 9. It will be several months before Justice Lee hands down his decision, after reviewing about 10,000 pages of evidence and a large number of documents submitted to support the Native Title claim.

ALSWA Land and Heritage Unit Senior Solicitors Anne Sheehan and Harriet Ketley have expressed their satisfaction that the case has come to an end, having worked for three years to assist ALSWA clients, the Miriuwong-Gajerrong peoples, demonstrate traditional connections to their country.

The land claimed, some 7653 square kilometres in the East Kimberley Region and in parts surrounding Lake Argyle and Kununurra, covers areas of public land, either vacant or crown land, reserves and national parks, much of which has been used in the past as pastoral leases.

The Ord River plays a vital role in the Miriuwong-Gajerrong's connection to the land. It features in the

Dreaming stories and was a route that ancestors used in walking their country during holiday time from the pastoral stations.

On the final day of submissions, a media conference was held on the steps of the Federal Court in Perth. Ben Ward, claimant and spokesperson for the Miriuwong-Gajerrong peoples, told the media he felt optimistic and confident that justice would prevail for the Miriuwong-Gajerrong people.

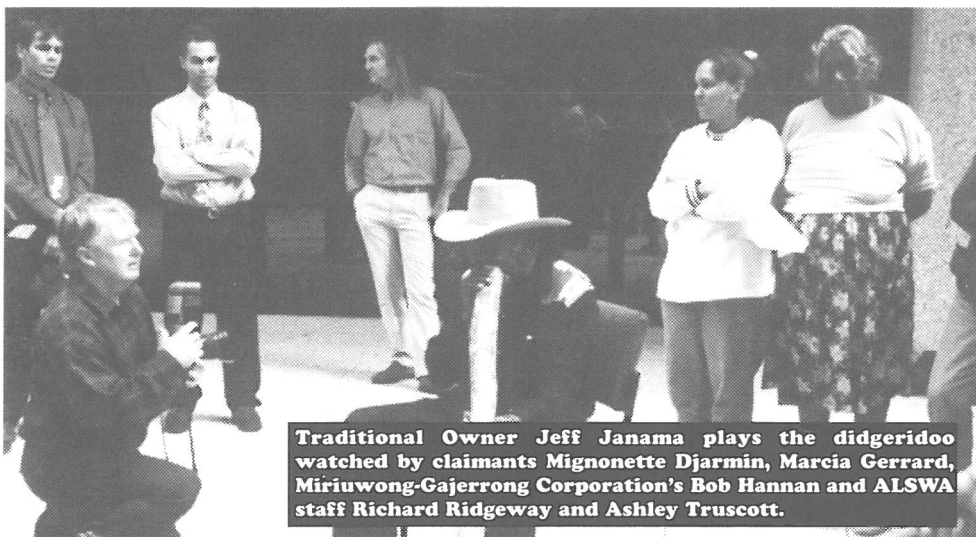
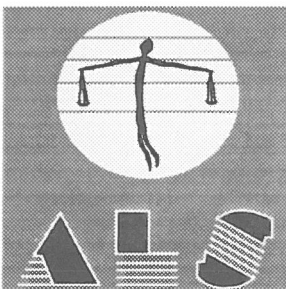
Ben's father, Jeff Janama, one of the better-known claimants due in part to his association with the Durack family, played the didgeridoo. Mignonette Djarmin, the mother of two other claimants, Ronny and Teddy Carlton, was also present, as was Ben's wife, Mary.

Many of the traditional owners have set up out-stations on their traditional country from the 1970's. Dingo Springs, for example, was set up by Bulla Billingen, Ben's grandfather, in 1976. Glen Hill, which is one of only a few Aboriginal-owned cattle stations in the area, was established by John Toby.

Ningbingi, which is the main out-station on traditional Gajerrong country, was established by Dodger Carlton and others. Many claimants gave evidence to the Court about their attachment to the land, including in the areas where the out-stations had been established.

Sheba Dignari and Blanche Flying Fox, two senior Miriuwong women, gave evidence about women's law and Sheba also told the Court many Dreaming stories. Gypsy Nyirmoi, at about 100 years, was the oldest person to give evidence. Over a hundred traditional owners were represented in the claim.

It is anticipated that Justice Lee will hand down his decision later this year. Whatever the outcome of the case, it will set an important precedent for other Native Title claimants as one of the first mainland Native Title claims to reach this stage of the Court process.



Traditional Owner Jeff Janama plays the didgeridoo watched by claimants Mignonette Djarmin, Marcia Gerrard, Miriuwong-Gajerrong Corporation's Bob Hannan and ALSWA staff Richard Ridgeway and Ashley Truscott.

ATSIC TO RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALS FUNDING

The Federal Government has announced that ATSIC will retain responsibility for funding Aboriginal Legal Services, and has endorsed the Commission conducting reforms of ALS's throughout Australia. The reform process, as started in NSW in 1995, would provide the basis for nationwide change.

ATSIC Chairperson Gatjil Djerrkura said the Federal Government had acknowledged there was a great need for Aboriginal Legal Services given the fact that Aboriginal people were 20 times more likely to be taken into custody than non-Aboriginal people.

An ATSIC fact sheet, issued with the announcement, revealed that the demand for Aboriginal Legal Services had grown by 25% over the past five years. It was estimated that in 1997/98 ALS's would represent about 55,000 clients.

Women, particularly Indigenous women, were not served well by the legal system. Women represented only 28% of ALS clients and 32% of Legal Aid Commission clients. Indigenous female prisoners were twice as likely to die in custody than non-Indigenous females.

Ninety-one percent of cases handled by ALS's were criminal matters. ALS's conducted 46% of their work at the front end of the legal system. These were matters in which appropriate police discretion and legislative reform could lead to significantly lower rates of contact with the justice system. Indigenous people were mainly arrested for lesser offences, such as disorderly conduct and public drunkenness.

The fact sheet showed that Indigenous people requiring legal assistance preferred to use ALS's. In 1994 sixty percent chose ALS's compared with fifteen percent choosing Legal Aid Commission services.

In another development, the WA Government has recently agreed to provide further funding to the WA Legal Aid Commission amounting to \$3 million per year for a period of three years.



Back row l-r Alec McDonald, Bob Cook (non-Aboriginal), Mick Laughton, Harry Bray, Alec Turner; front row l-r Alec Kruger, Alick Jakamos (non-Aboriginal) and James Smith. Picture and story from *The Black Diggers* by Robert A Hall published by Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra 1997.

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC day, April 25, is a day to remember all Australian and New Zealand service personnel who fought in two world wars and other wars. There have been many Aboriginal persons within that group, but their contribution has only recently been properly acknowledged in books like Robert Hall's *The Black Diggers*. Hall writes of the prejudice and ingratitude encountered by Aboriginal people wanting to serve, by those who did serve, and by those who returned home once the battles were fought.

Today, Aboriginal ex-service personnel march alongside other returned soldiers, sailors and aircrew in ANZAC day parades throughout the country. In a demonstration of Aboriginal tolerance they choose to ignore their ignominious treatment by Australian defence authorities which, while refusing them the privileges afforded other service men and women, and withholding from them the respect showered on other returned 'diggers', were happy to have them risk their lives for 'all Australians'.

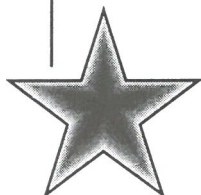
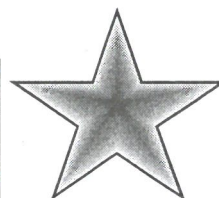
Lest we Forget, for Aboriginal people, has a dual meaning. While we should never forget the bravery of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in times of war we should remember also their tenacious courage in times of so-called peace.



SHADES OF BLACK TAKE THE FLAG IN '98

Shades of Black softball team recently won the Grand Final of the Western Australian Softball Association Grade B2 in their first year in the competition. Members of the team are pictured on this page. Top (left to right) are ALSWA team members Pam Weston, Lana Thompson, Duane Jackamarra (coach), Charmaine Randall, Leona Zaro and Nelson Boundry. Next down - the winners congratulate the losers (the Perth Cubs).

premiers!



SPECIAL THANKS

ALSWA Court Officer Glynis Ozies is proud of her 16yr-old step-son Cornel (middle row, third from left) who recently toured the US and Canada as a member of the Guildford Grammar School rugby team. Cornel played centre and wing positions in the team which (at time of printing) had won two of five games. Cornel and teammates have visited Alcatraz, Disneyland and Universal Studios during the tour. Glynis is grateful to ALSWA, the Broome business community, and all who helped Cornel fund his trip.

