
ACHRE e-News No.2

October 31,2021

Messages from the ACHRE Management Committee

President Zeny Edwards is delighted with the several positive feedbacks from our members about the first e-News, including several updates about career changes and suggestions, one of which is for the establishment of an ACHRE Youth Committee. Thank you and please continue to keep in touch.

On December 12, Zeny will be the guest speaker at the Closing Ceremony of UN SydMUN 2021, which is one of the largest annual Model United Nations conferences at the tertiary education level in Australia. Every year, SydMUN brings together hundreds of like-minded students in a simulation of the United Nations to help resolve real world issues.

In response to the Prime Minister's announcement of "net zero target by 2050", Professor Tim Flannery, Chief Councillor of Climate Council, stressed that "without a credible, concrete plan to deeply cut emissions this decade, this target means nothing." <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au>

We congratulate Dorothy Hoddinott AO as our newest member of the ACHRE. We welcome more nominations for membership to the ACHRE. Congratulations are also in order for Leanne Smith, the new Executive Director of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Last but not least, the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 22 November 2021 at 5.00pm AEDT via Zoom. Please register your attendance to achre.live@gmail.com, for the Zoom link.

Vice-President Lynda Blanchard noted that the federal government's proposed changes to the Sanction Laws, <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-australias-sanctions-laws> as reported in the last ACHRE e-News No.1, elicited a response from human rights advocate and barrister, Geoffrey Robertson. His concerns about the implications for human rights can be viewed on: <https://www.theage.com.au/national/australia-s-sanction-laws-fall-short-of-global-moves-to-protect-human-rights-20211008-p58ye2.html?btis>

The United Nations has designated the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. <https://en.unesco.org/news/upcoming-decade-indigenous-languages-2022-2032-focus-indigenous-language-users-human-rights> UNESCO indicates that "approximately 40% of the 7,000 indigenous languages used worldwide are particularly vulnerable because many of them are not taught at school or used in the public sphere". According to Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner of Human Rights: "In proclaiming this Decade, the international community is recognizing that indigenous peoples represent a distinct group whose human right to language should be promoted and protected. This proclamation is also a call for action – the preservation of indigenous languages not only requires greater awareness but also concrete commitments."

Member from Victoria, Jes Yogaratnam, will make a submission to The Australian Human Rights Commission regarding the development of a National Anti-Racism Framework which will serve as a long-term, central reference point to guide actions on anti-racism and equality by government, NGOs, business, communities, and other sectors. Read more <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/race-discrimination/projects/national-anti-racism-framework>

The latest publications from the Committee are:

Blanchard, L. & Nix, M. (2019). Creating spaces for radical pedagogy in higher education. *Human Rights Education Review*, 2(2), 64-83.

Zajda, J. (Ed). (2021). 3rd International handbook of globalisation, education and policy research. Dordrecht: Springer. ISBN 978-3-030-66002-4. The book contains a section of eight chapters from around the world on human rights

Zajda, J. (Ed). (2020). Human rights education globally. Dordrecht: Springer. ISBN 978-94-024-1913-9

COMMISSION NEWS

October 2021



Towards a human rights approach for people born with variations in sex characteristics

This week the Australian Human Rights Commission released our landmark report which has made significant recommendations to protect the human rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics, and ensure these values are embedded into legislation and medical guidelines.

These reforms will protect the inherent human rights of intersex people and ensure they can live their lives with the dignity they deserve.

[Read the report, *Ensuring health and bodily integrity: towards a human rights approach for people born with variations in sex characteristics* here.](#)

How to spot the signs of elder abuse



The Commission has launched a new campaign to raise awareness among people who interact with older Australians about the warning signs of elder abuse and where to get support.

If you are concerned about someone you know, you don't have to have all the answers. Call the free and confidential National Elder Abuse phone line on 1800 ELDERHelp (or 1800 353 374) for information, support and referrals. [You can watch and share our video campaign here.](#)

Protecting human rights in business

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) is the global standard on preventing and addressing business-related human rights harms, but there is still a significant gap in translating human rights policies into practice. You can read the full report, [At the Crossroads: 10 years of implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Australia, here.](#)

Incorporating UNDRIP into Australian law

13 September was the 14th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). To commemorate the anniversary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar wrote a powerful piece for the Canberra Times. [You can read it here.](#)

Ensuring transparency and accountability in government



President Rosalind Croucher spoke to Fran Kelly on ABC's Radio National on the Commission's submission to the proposed Freedom of Information exemptions for National Cabinet. [Listen to the interview, and read the Commission's submission here.](#)

Equity in the vaccine rollout

Disability Discrimination Commissioner Dr Ben Gauntlett has called for all levels of government to be mindful of who is vaccinated, not just the number of people who are vaccinated, as the country begins to hit its vaccinations targets. As he points out, equity and human rights considerations are critical. [You can listen to his full interview here.](#)

Watch, Read, Listen...

Here is what we are watching and reading this month:

[The School That Tried to End Racism](#) is a ground-breaking look at race and racism. It takes us inside a class of primary school students and explores the impact racism has on them and others, unpacking themes of white privilege, racial bias and representation. [Watch it on ABC iView.](#)

[Larissa Behrendt's After Story](#) follows an Indigenous lawyer, Jasmine, who decides to take her mother Della on a tour of England's most revered literary sites, in the hope it will bring them closer together and help them reconcile the past. [You can read a review here.](#)



2021 Sydney Peace Prize Award Ceremony and Lecture

Thursday, 17th Mar 2022, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm AEDT

Sydney Town Hall 483 George St, Sydney, Gadigal Country, NSW 2000, Australia

\$25 - \$75 AUD + BF

[Get Tickets](#)

<https://events.humanitix.com/2021-sydney-peace-prize-gala-dinner/tickets>

Hear the voices, be part of the truth telling and witness the awarding of the prestigious Sydney Peace Prize, honouring Uluru Statement from the Heart. Join us to hear Professor Megan Davis deliver the 2021 keynote address, along with leading journalist in conversation with drivers of the Statement - Professor Davis, Pat Anderson AO and Noel Pearson. Sydney. Note that school group bookings are available: please contact the SPF: <https://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/>



Every year, the Sydney Peace Prize brings the Sydney community together to talk about peace, justice, and non-violence, and to honour one of the world's most inspiring peacemakers. In 2021, the prestigious Sydney Peace Prize will be awarded to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which calls for the 'establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution'. Receiving the Prize on behalf of the Statement will be Alyawarre woman Pat Anderson AO, Cobble Cobble woman Professor Megan Davis, and Guugu Yimidhirr man Noel Pearson, who worked tirelessly with the community to deliver the Statement in May 2017. Uluru Statement from the Heart will receive the 2021 Sydney Peace Prize "For bringing together Australia's First Nations peoples around a clear and comprehensive agenda for healing and peace within our Nation and delivering self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, that enables Australia to move into the future united and confident."

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