Right Wrongs Digital Exhibition
27 May 2017
On May 27, 1967, Australians voted in a referendum to change how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were referred to in the Constitution.

How far have we come since 1967?
Right Wrongs was created and produced by the ABC, NSLA and AIATSIS
NSLA

National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) is a leading library sector collaboration, delivering value for the people of Australia and New Zealand. The ten members are the National, State and Territory libraries of Australia and New Zealand. We are committed to achieve more through working together.
Our libraries are at the centre of the cultural and creative life of our jurisdictions. We enable people to access, use and share local and global knowledge and ideas. We have a legislated role to collect and preserve cultural heritage and to make the intellectual and historical record of the 21st century available for the future.
Some Library Facts

During 2015/16:

• 12.1 million people visited our library buildings
• 46.2 million visits were made to our websites, including Trove
• 12.7 million visits were made to library catalogues
Indigenous Working Group

• Promotes best practice for the collection and preservation of materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and supports employment of Indigenous library staff.

• Part of a broader network sharing knowledge and developing common policies around community consultation, digitisation of Indigenous archives, and access to Indigenous materials.
Protocols for working with ATSI communities and collections

National Position statement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander library services and collections
AIATSIS

• Research, collections and publishing organisation that promotes knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures & traditions, languages and stories, past and present.

• World’s largest collection of printed and resource materials for ATSI studies.
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How far have we come since 1967?
Chapter 1

CONTROLLED BUT NOT COUNTED

What was life like for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities before the vote?
“Blackfellas jokingly say that we that we weren’t considered people so we must be part of the flora and fauna act, but that’s not even true. The fact is that we didn’t exist at all.” Vernon Ah Kee

Flora and fauna
Vernon Ah Kee

When artist Vernon Ah Kee was born in 1967 he was not a citizen. "We didn’t exist at all.”

Out of bounds
Sam Watson

Missions, reserves, boundary streets, exclusion zones and curfews were all used to control the movements of Aboriginal people.

Loss of language
Fanny Smith Cadzow

Speaking Indigenous languages was banned or discouraged by state governments, missions and schools.

No consorting
Jimmy Edgar

"All of a sudden the people of Broome themselves, just pulled it down, all these partitions, and everybody came in.”

Police: A law unto themselves
Peter Rice

"I remember one young kid about 17 had his arm broken by a policeman. It was no fault of his own at all.”

Colour coding
Roy Barker

"You had your noses measured with a set of calipers, your lips and your eyes, the colour of your eyes and so forth.”

Lack of healthcare
Mary Bennett

"It is dreadful to see these old people, incapacitated people, and unemployed workers, suffering hunger and refused relief, and falling ill through exposure.”

Mission Schools
Richard Kenari reads Api’s letter

"We really like good pictures so thank you. The children here will be looking at the pictures of Jesus.”
Chapter 4

THE LEGACY

Fifty years on, what has changed and what has stayed the same?

“The victory of the 1967 referendum was not a change of white attitudes. The real victory was the spirit of hope and optimism which affected blacks all over Australia. We had won something ... We were visible, hopeful and vocal.” Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)
Revitalisation of language
First Languages Australia
"School Language programs are having great results, making kids go, Wow, we've got something to be proud of here!" Faith Baidsen

Hindmarsh Island Bridge case
Lilian Bandler
"I think it was seen as a betrayal, not only of trust but of an obligation and a responsibility that the Federal Government now held."

Stolen Generations
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Community controlled services
Ken Cobung
"When you've got medical problems, you've also got legal problems and you've got welfare problems, so you need to have them in the one roof."

The intervention
Que Kenny
"They thought they knew everything, they thought they knew the solution. It's been nine years and nothing has changed."

Managing your own money
Jamee Ah Kee and Carly Wallace
"My ahe [grandfather] was a pearl diver in the Torres Strait and then he built the train tracks through to Broome. He got no money for that, and to this day they're still trying to claim for the right pay."

Moving into town
Dixon family
"This was our way of life and the only thing we knew, tin shacks and tants, until that house was built for us."

Getting an education
Michael Aird
"They opened the opportunities for younger Aboriginal people like me to just walk into a university and actually get a position."
Access

• Fully online archive = access anytime, anywhere
• Mobile and tablet compatible
• Open access, no login required
• Multi-language capabilities
• Intuitive software interface
• Encourages intuitive discovery
It’s not easy for us to get things, we have to ask to get it back. All these new generation didn’t know exactly what they took from our homeland…

Places where people took them and I don’t know how they got it, they didn’t get any permissions … they just took it to study it. Different times.

[Image] Mr A O Neville, Chief Protector of Aborigines, opening the Graham Home for girls at Mt Margaret 1931[NR3662]  
[Danny Woolagoodja, 2015]
RIGHT WRONGS
How has the 1967 Referendum impacted you?

abc.net.au/openprojects
Viewer Advice

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised that the following program may contain images and voices of people who have died.
Latest Stories For Project Right Wrongs
Physical Exhibition WA
A Citizen In Victoria Is A Native Here

To The Editor.

Sir,—As a British subject and an Australian, I claim that I should have the right to full citizenship without having to go before a magistrate or anybody else to obtain this privilege.

Many of your readers will know or have heard of me. I was brought up at the Graham Home for Girls at Mt. Margaret Mission, Western Australia. I am half-caste and 22 years of age. I have been in Melbourne for three and a half years, doing my nursing training course. Here I enjoy full citizenship rights but when I return to my own State I lose them.

I have completed my general nursing training and am registered, in Victoria, as a general nurse. At the moment I am doing my obstetrical training at the above-mentioned hospital.

During my training I have been paying my income tax and I believe that if I have to pay income tax I am entitled to full citizenship rights.

I have asked the Commissioner of Native Affairs in Western Australia if he can help me and I am told that in Western...
RIGHT WRONGS
WRITE
YES
for
ABORIGINES!
On May 27

PHOTO: FCAATSI poster, 1967 (SRG 102 Box 7 State Library of South Australia)