

Remembering Ms Dhu: Incarceration of Indigenous Women

PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT INCARCERATION RATES OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN
25 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

Ms Dhu, a Yamatji woman, died on August 4, 2014, at 1.39pm of septicaemia and pneumonia while in police custody for outstanding fines of A\$3,622. Under Western Australian law, fine defaulters can be jailed and “pay down” their fines at a rate of A\$250 per day in custody.

While approximately two percent of the Australian female population identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, Indigenous women make up one third of the female prison population and are the fastest growing sector of the prison population in Australia.

Join us for a panel discussion that examines this important social justice issue.

DATE: Thursday 18 August 2016

TIME: 12.45pm - registrations

1.00pm – 2.00pm: panel discussion

Light lunch/refreshments will be provided

VENUE: Allens
Level 37
101 Collins Street
Melbourne

COST: Free for VWL Members
\$10 for non-members

RVSP: www.vwl.asn.au

PRESENTATIONS BY:

MEENA SINGH



Meena is a Melbourne born Yorta Yorta woman with Indian heritage and is the Associate Director, Aboriginal Services with Victoria Legal Aid. This role sees her return to the organisation where she did her articles and practice in criminal, human rights and civil law and also in professional legal education. She worked as a consultant with Precision Consultancy specialising in organisational development and training delivery and development in the vocational education and training sector. Meena comes to her new role at VLA from the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, where she was Strategic Advisor, and then Director, Legal and Strategy, which saw her oversee lawyers in Victoria and the establishment of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service. She currently sits as the Secretary on the Board of the Women’s Legal Service of Victoria.

DR THALIA ANTHONY



Thalia is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney. Thalia’s research focuses on the criminalisation of Indigenous peoples and Indigenous justice strategies that decolonise law enforcement approaches. She is currently undertaking an Australian Research Council project on sentencing Indigenous women, along with Professor Larissa Behrendt. This project looks at the gaps in knowledge on Indigenous women’s circumstances. Thalia works closely with Aboriginal organisations in developing her research and seeks to undertake research that is meaningful for those organisations. This includes, research on Night Patrols in Central Australia, introducing Aboriginal community pre-sentencing reports into courts to give a voice to Aboriginal community perspectives, and research on the criminalisation of Aboriginal drivers.

ANNETTE VICKERY



Annette is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service. Annette is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and holds Diplomas in Quality Management, Indigenous Legal Advocacy and Community Mediation. Annette has held a range of positions in government and the private sector. Annette specializes in program and project management with a community and social justice focus. Annette’s work has included implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement Phase 2, particularly in relation to establishment, monitoring and evaluation of the Koori Courts and establishing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders of the Koori Courts, including Corrections and community service providers.