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ARTICLES

Unnecessary suffering: Violence against Aboriginal women in the Northern Territory – A discussion of contemporary issues and possible ways forward – *Justice Jenny Blokland*

Although imprisonment is the principal form of punishment used by Northern Territory courts when sentencing offenders in cases involving violence perpetrated against Aboriginal women by their spouses, this form of violence remains at unacceptable levels. Both re-victimisation and reoffending rates remain intractably high. The issue of interspousal violence is discussed from diverse perspectives with recommendations made to members of the Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory suggesting ways forward to reduce the high number of assaults perpetrated on Aboriginal women. 3

Boat people as victims of the system: Mandatory sentencing of “people smugglers” – Politics or justice? – *Dina Yehia SC*

Prosecutions for allegations of people smuggling conducted by the Commonwealth commenced in New South Wales in late 2010. However, prosecutions in other Australian States and Territories commenced well before these New South Wales prosecutions. 18

Vulnerability, risk and justice for children and young people in the Northern Territory – *Howard Bath*

This article discusses some of the issues facing children and young people in the Northern Territory, particularly those caught up in the child protection and youth justice systems. 36

Recent legislative reforms to summary procedure in the Northern Territory – Leonique Swart

In June 2015 the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly passed the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Summary Procedure) Act 2015* (NT). The Act effected changes to summary criminal procedure in the Northern Territory and commenced on 21 September 2015, applying to new criminal proceedings on or after that date. This article provides a brief overview of the key procedural changes in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction implemented by this legislation.
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