

The Australian defends Bill Leak indigenous cartoon



Bill Leak's cartoons force people to examine core issues.



Statement from Paul Whittaker, editor-in-chief, The Australian:

The Australian is proud of its long-standing and detailed contribution to our national debate over the crucial issues in Indigenous affairs.

The current controversy over juvenile detention in the Northern Territory has lifted these matters to the forefront of national attention again.

Too often, too many people skirt around the root causes and tough issues. But not everyone.

This week on Lateline Noel Pearson said: “Blackfellas have got to take charge and take responsibility for their own children ... That part of the message really struggles to get traction.”

In our pages Marcia Langton said: “Instead of talking about personal agency, these people talk about self-determination. It drowns out any message about personal agency.”

Bill Leak’s confronting and insightful cartoons force people to examine the core issues in a way that sometimes reporting and analysis can fail to do.