

Ngurra: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Precinct

National Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre



AIATSIS

The Australian Government has announced its commitment to build Ngurra: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Precinct (Ngurra) in the heart of the national capital, Canberra.

Ngurra will be nationally significant in speaking to the central place that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold in Australia's story.

The National Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre with new and expanded facilities for AIATSIS that empower and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to tell their own stories and celebrate the 65,000-year history of this nation.

The new home for AIATSIS will be an internationally recognised institution promoting deeper engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, traditions, languages and stories, past and present. It will be a place of celebration, storytelling, teaching, learning, reflection and healing, research and scholarship into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and heritage.



Yolngu and Binninj Elders and dancers from Arnhem Land perform a Lorrkkon ceremony at Reconciliation Place to celebrate the 50th anniversary of AIATSIS in 2014. Photo: AIATSIS

The precinct will comprise the following components for AIATSIS:

- Gallery and exhibition space
- Education centre
- Theatrette/lecture hall
- Multipurpose function centre
- Research library with reading rooms
- Cultural and ceremonial spaces
- Administration areas
- Collection conservation space
- Collection infrastructure
- Digitisation and recording space
- Functional outdoor spaces
- Conference facilities
- Retail and café

'AIATSIS plays a critical part in bringing people together and helping all Australians reimagine what it means to be Australian and to forge a national identity that embraces and celebrates the unique cultures of Australia's First peoples.'

Jodie Sizer, Chairperson, AIATSIS

What the centre will do

The National Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre will allow the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be told through high quality exhibitions, education and public engagement activities and publications – curated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

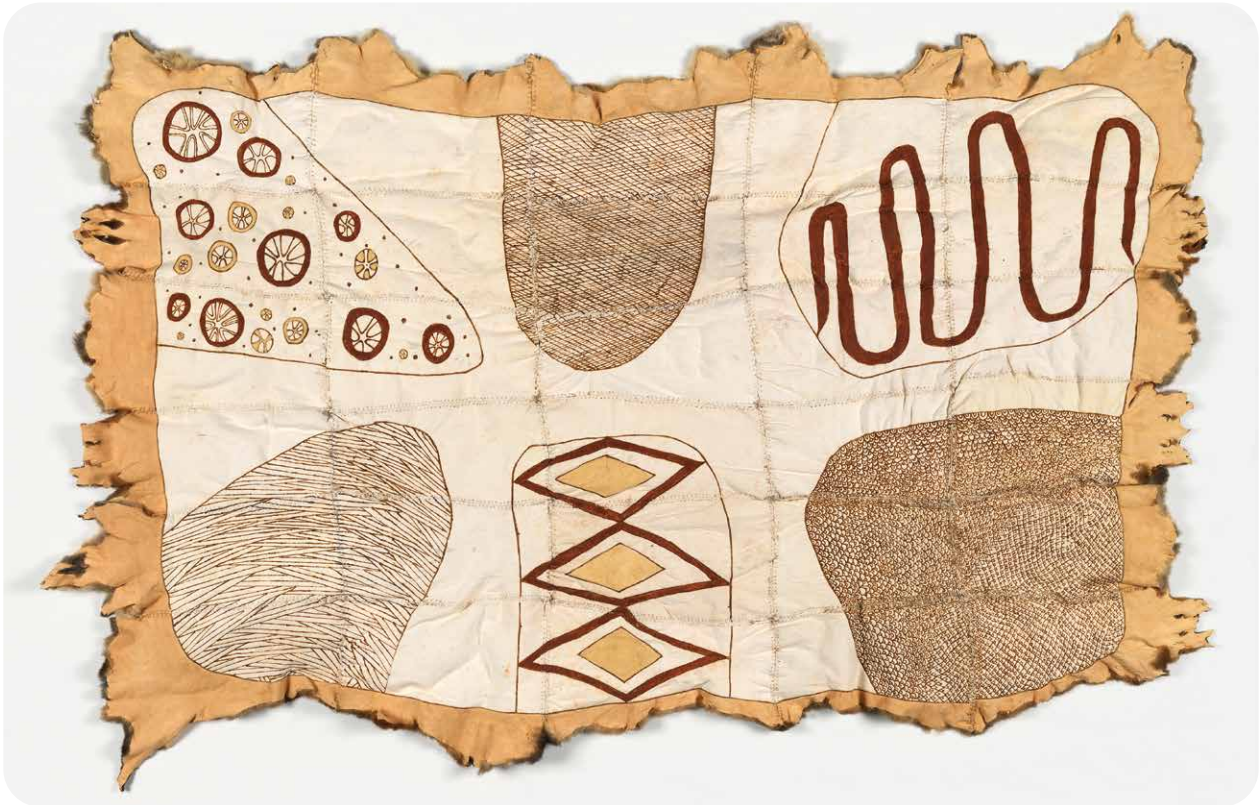
It will assist in addressing the widely acknowledged gap in existing national institutions by providing a place where the 65,000-year-old story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would be told.

The National Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre will be an internationally-recognised institution promoting knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, traditions, languages and stories, past and present.

The AIATSIS Collection

For more than 50 years, AIATSIS has developed and been the custodian of a unique collection that has contributed to building understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and heritage.

AIATSIS cares for a dynamic, living collection of more than 1 million items related to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. The AIATSIS Collection supports cultural transmission and helps build understanding and appreciation of the continuing and diverse cultures and heritage of Australia's First Peoples.



Lee Darroch (1957-), Yorta Yorta/Mutti Mutti/Boon Wurrung people The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Possum Skin Cloak, 2016–2017 possum skins, ochre, resin and waxed cotton thread, 235 x 137 cm (irregular, largest dimensions) ATS1082 Commissioned by AIATSIS, 2016.

Building a world in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledge and cultures are recognised, respected, celebrated and valued.

Learn more and have your say: aiatsis.gov.au/ngurra



AIATSIS