



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 2744

Papers of Eric Michaels

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MS 2744: Papers of Eric Michaels

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Collection Summary

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Creator: | Michaels, Eric, 1948-1988 |
| Title: | Papers of Eric Michaels |
| Collection no: | MS 2744 |
| Reference code: | MAR13/080 |
| Date range: | 1975 – 1988 |
| Extent: | 2.2 linear metres (11 archival boxes) |
| Repository: | Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies |

Cultural Sensitivity Statement

Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; particularly with regard to the use of this material. This includes:

Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, that may be considered inappropriate today.

Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress; and in some cases offend strongly held cultural beliefs.

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Series I-XII, XIV-XVIII and XX are Open access reading. Open copying & quotation. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

Series XIII and XIX are Closed access – Principal's permission. Closed copying & quotation Principal and/or Depositor's permission. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

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Clients are advised that the collection materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to particular access and use conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Materials are provided for private study and use, in accordance with the [Copyright Act 1968, Section 51](#) if they have been digitised. AIATSIS Manuscripts are not available for Interlibrary loan, however they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions.

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Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-Library Loan, they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions, if they are already digitised.

Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS [Insert number], Series [insert number], Subseries [insert number], Item or Folder [insert number].

For example:

Notes and letters concerning dissertation, 1981-1982, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS2744, Series I, Item 6.

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

This collection relates to the work of Dr Eric Michaels during his appointment to *The Remote Television Project*, an enquiry into the introduction of electronic and mass media to remote Indigenous communities.

Dr Michael's field study was carried out with Warlpiri speakers at Yuendumu, Northern Territory and was funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Michael's report, *The Aboriginal Invention of Television in Central Australia*, was published by Aboriginal Studies Press in 1986. The report assesses the impact of television on remote Aboriginal Communities and outlines the first Aboriginal television station, Channel 4 Warlpiri Television, Yuendumu.

The collection contains correspondence, diaries, notebooks, data printouts, administrative papers, published and unpublished papers, newspaper clippings, floppy disks and research materials.

Dates range from 1975 - 1988.

References

Satellite Dreaming, <https://satellitedreaming.com/>

Provenance

Provenance for Series I to XIX is unclear.

Series XX of the collection was registered under MAR13/080 and added to the collection at a later date. No documentation relating specifically to this material was located.

Material separated from the collection

Published material including maps were removed from the collection and incorporated into the AIATSIS Library.

Related material

For a complete list of works by Dr Eric Michaels held by the Library, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audio / Visual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6246 1111

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au

Biographical note

Dr Eric Michaels, a graduate of the University of Texas, was an Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Research Fellow.

Dr Michael's report, *The Aboriginal Invention of Television in Central Australia*, was published by Aboriginal Studies Press in 1986. In 1987 Dr Michaels accepted a lectureship in Media Studies, Department of Humanities, Griffith University, Queensland.

Dr Michaels passed away in Brisbane on 24 August 1988.

Controlled Access Headings

Granites Japanangka, Leonard
Noble, Grant
Rose, Deborah Bird, 1946-2018
Toyne, Peter
Von Sturmer, John Richard

Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Australian Broadcasting Tribunal
Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (N.T.)
Communications – Telecommunications
Economic sectors - Tourism

Media – Broadcast media – Television
Media – Associations and cooperatives
National Aboriginal Conference (Australia)
Photography
Race relations – Representation – Media
Telecom Australia
Warlpiri Media Association
Yapa People
Yuendumu (South Central NT)

Archivists note

The manuscript collection MS2744 originally consisted of 10 boxes, including Series I to XIX.

In August 2022, one additional box of material, received under MAR13/080, was added to the collection as Series XXI. An additional box (Box 11) not previously included in the original Finding Aid or Catalogue Record was added as Series XX.

The finding aid was updated in August 2022 to include these two additional boxes of material. Access conditions were updated to Closed Access (Principal's permission required) for Series XIII and XIX, all other items are Open Access.

It was decided to retain the original series structure that uses Roman numbering. The original item numbering was also retained and extended – this numbering does not re-commence with each series.

Series Description

Series I, Texas, 1979-1982

Research and dissertation.

| | |
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| MS2744/I/1 | Vidiethos Squabble (sic), Jan-Nov 1979. |
| MS2744/I/2 | Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, basic skills and TV, 1979. |
| MS2744/I/3 | Research formulations for Horace Newcomb, 1981. |
| MS2744/I/4 | Medialog: newspaper articles by Michaels, 1980-1981. |
| MS2744/I/5 | Tutorial papers, 1980-1981. |
| MS2744/I/6 | Notes and letters concerning dissertation, 1981-1982. |
| MS2744/I/7 | PhD -exams/formulations, 1982. |
| MS2744/I/8 | Notes and correspondence. |

Series II, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies

Fellowship, correspondence and administration.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| MS2744/II/9 | Fellowship, May 1982. |
| MS2744/II/10 | Correspondence with Warwick Dix, 1983-1987. |
| MS2744/II/11 | Correspondence with Eric Willmot, Nov 1982 - May 1985. |

MS 2744: Papers of Eric Michaels

| | |
|--------------|--|
| MS2744/II/12 | MAS memorandums, 1982-1986. |
| MS2744/II/13 | Research outlines, proposals and reports, 1983-1986. |
| MS2744/II/14 | AIAS meetings and briefings, 1982-1985. |
| MS2744/II/15 | Yuendumu Doors, 1986. |
| MS2744/II/16 | Employment of Leonard Japanangka Granites, 1983. |
| MS2744/II/17 | Budgets, finance and itineraries, 1982-1987. |
| MS2744/II/18 | Fellowship extension, 1985-1988. |

Series III, Aboriginal television: involvement and consultancies

Subseries A, CAAMA (Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| MS2744/III/A/19 | Statement of relationship between remote television project and CAAMA, 1983. |
| MS2744/III/A/20 | Permit to enter Aboriginal land, 13 May 1983. |
| MS2744/III/A/21 | CAAMA media contract, n.d. |
| MS2744/III/A/22 | Project ideas - handwritten, n.d. |
| MS2744/III/A/23 | CAAMA meetings - handwritten notes, 11 Feb 1983 – 7 Jun 1983. |
| MS2744/III/A/24 | Proposal for an Aboriginal television production unit, Mar 1983. |
| MS2744/III/A/25 | Notes from a speech by Frda Glynn, n.d. |
| MS2744/III/A/26 | CAAMA policy outline, Feb 1984. |
| MS2744/III/A/27 | CAAMA tax case, Sep 1984. |
| MS2744/III/A/28 | CAAMA press releases, 1983-1985. |
| MS2744/III/A/29 | CAAMA correspondence, 18 Feb 1983 – 10 Dec 1986. |
| MS2744/III/A/30 | CAAMA and Waringarri Aboriginal Association's public radio, 1986. |
| MS2744/III/A/31 | CAAMA and Santa Teresa, 1988. |
| MS2744/III/A/32 | CAAMA and Brian Walsh communications consultants, 1983. |

Subseries B, Warlpiri Media Association

- MS2744/III/B/33 Aboriginal video magazine, No. 4, 1984.
- MS2744/III/B/34 Fire ceremony, 1984.
- MS2744/III/B/35 Finance and grants, 1984-1985.
- MS2744/III/B/36 Yuendumu sports weekend, 1985.
- MS2744/III/B/37 Model rules for an association.
- MS2744/III/B/38 Video archive.
- MS2744/III/B/39 Correspondence with Peter Toyne, 1983-1986.
- MS2744/III/B/40 WMA correspondence, 1983-1988.
- MS2744/III/B/41 Consultant for WMA to the Northern Land Council, 1984.
- MS2744/III/B/42 Guidelines for commercial filming within Aboriginal land.
- MS2744/III/B/43 Remote communities.

Subseries C, Torres Strait Islanders Media Association

- MS2744/III/C/44 Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Consultancy, 1986.

Subseries D, Powerhouse Museum Exhibition

- MS2744/III/D/45 Powerhouse Museum Exhibition Consultancy, 1986-1988.

Series IV, Government Departments, 1983-1986

Subseries A, Commonwealth Department of Communications, 1983-1986

- MS2744/IV/A/46 DOC conference, 1983.
- MS2744/IV/A/47 DOC press releases, 1983-1986.
- MS2744/IV/A/48 DOC correspondence.

Subseries B, Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 1980-1985

- MS/2744/IV/B/49 Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 1980-1985.

Subseries C, Northern Territory Government, 1983-1985

- MS/2744/IV/C/50 Northern Territory Government, 1983-1985.

Subseries D, South Australian Government, 1983

MS/2744/IV/D/51 South Australian Government, 1983.

Subseries E, Commonwealth Government, 1983-1985

MS/2744/IV/E/52 Commonwealth Government, 1983-1985.

Subseries F, Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, n.d.

MS/2744/IV/F/53 Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, n.d.

Series V, Australian Broadcasting Tribunal

MS/2744/V/54 ABT hearing, information, 1984.

MS/2744/V/55 Report to ABT hearing, 1984.

MS/2744/V/56 ABT hearing, notes and transcript, 1985.

MS/2744/V/57 ABT correspondence, 1984-1988.

Series VI, Australian Broadcasting Corporation 1985-1986

MS/2744/VI/58 Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

MS/2744/VI/59 Submission to ABC 'Through Aboriginal Eyes', 1985.

Series VII, Satellite systems and Telecom

MS/2744/VII/60 National communications satellite system, 1980-1981.

MS/2744/VII/61 AUSSAT, 1982-1984.

MS/2744/VII/62 SAT Users, 1983.

MS/2744/VII/63 PEACESAT, 1983.

MS/2744/VII/64 Telecom correspondence, 1984.

MS/2744/VII/65 Telecom information, 1980-1985.

MS/2744/VII/66 Notes from 'Remote Telecommunications Study', Aug 1980.

Series VIII, National organisations

- MS/2744/VIII/67 Public Broadcasting Association of Australia, 1983
- MS/2744/VIII/68 National Aboriginal Conference, 1983.
- MS/2744/VIII/69 NAIBA, 1983.
- MS/2744/VIII/70 Human Rights Commission, 1983.
- MS/2744/VIII/71 Alice Springs Town Council, 1984.
- MS/2744/VIII/72 International Training Institute, 1984.

Series IX, Conferences, seminars and workshops

- MS/2744/IX/73 1982/1983 Conferences.
- MS/2744/IX/74 1984 Conferences.
- MS/2744/IX/75 1985 Conferences.
- MS/2744/IX/76 1986 Conferences.
- MS/2744/IX/77 1987 Conferences.
- MS/2744/IX/78 1988 Conferences.

Series X, Griffith University, Queensland

- MS/2744/X/79 Conditions of appointment, 1987.
- MS/2744/X/80 Correspondence and memorandums, 1987.
- MS/2744/X/81 Griffith University Faculty Staff Association, 1987.
- MS/2744/X/82-87 Lecture notes and tutorial papers, 1987.

Series XI, Correspondence, 1982-1988

- MS/2744/XI/88 General correspondence, 1982.
- MS/2744/XI/89 General correspondence, 1983 (in).
- MS/2744/XI/90 General correspondence, 1983 (out).
- MS/2744/XI/91 General correspondence, 1984 (in).
- MS/2744/XI/92 General correspondence, 1984 (out).
- MS/2744/XI/93 General correspondence, 1985 (in).
- MS/2744/XI/94 General correspondence, 1985 (out).

MS 2744: Papers of Eric Michaels

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| MS/2744/XI/95 | General correspondence, 1986. |
| MS/2744/XI/96 | General correspondence, 1987. |
| MS/2744/XI/97 | General correspondence, 1988. |
| MS/2744/XI/98 | General correspondence, 1980's (undated). |
| MS/2744/XI/99 | Correspondence concerning lost drivers licence, 1983. |
| MS/2744/XI/100 | Annenberg correspondence, 1983-1985. |
| MS/2744/XI/101 | Current Anthropology correspondence, 1984. |
| MS/2744/XI/102 | Jay Ruby correspondence, 1982-1988. |
| MS/2744/XI/103 | Grant Noble, 1983. |
| MS/2744/XI/104 | Peter Toyne correspondence, 1983-1987 |
| MS/2744/XI/105 | Debbie Rose correspondence, 1986-1987. |
| MS/2744/XI/106 | John Von Sturmer correspondence, 1986-1987. |
| MS/2744/XI/107 | Book reviews, correspondence, 1987. |
| MS/2744/XI/108 | Transcript of results from Texas correspondence, 1987. |
| MS/2744/XI/109 | Lawsuit over lost paintings, 1987, |
| MS/2744/XI/110 | Immigration correspondence, 1988. |
| MS/2744/XI/111 | Names and addresses of contacts. |

Series XII, Notes for research

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| MS/2744/XII/112 | Field notes, ca. 1982-1985 |
| MS/2744/XII/113 | Handwritten notes, undated. |
| MS/2744/XII/114 | Diary of television transmission, 1985. |
| MS/2744/XII/115 | Yuendumu and the Warlpiri language. |

Series XIII, Personal papers (CLOSED ACCESS)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| MS/2744/XIII/116 | Birth certificate, PhD certificate, copy of Will, copy of Death Certificate, written tributes. |
| MS/2744/XIII/117 | CV and job applications. |
| MS/2744/XIII/118 | Notes for personal correspondence. |
| MS/2744/XIII/119 | Miscellaneous papers. |

Series XIV, Diaries and notebooks, 1976-1987

- MS/2744/XIV/120 Address book/diary, 1983.
MS/2744/XIV/121 Notebook, 1983.
MS/2744/XIV/122 Diary, 1984.
MS/2744/XIV/123 Notebook, 1986.
MS/2744/XIV/124 Notebook, 1986.
MS/2744/XIV/125 Diary, 1987.
MS/2744/XIV/126 Notebook, ca. 1987.
MS/2744/XIV/127 Notebook, 1987.
MS/2744/XIV/128 Notebook, n.d.
MS/2744/XIV/129 Notepad, n.d.
MS/2744/XIV/130 Notebook, n.d.
MS/2744/XIV/131 Notebook, 1986.
MS/2744/XIV/132 Notebook, 1976-1977.

Series XV, Newspaper clippings, 1981-1988

- MS/2744/XV/133 Newspaper clippings, Canberra Times, 1981-1983.
MS/2744/XV/134 Newspaper clippings, 1982.
MS/2744/XV/135 Newspaper clippings, 1983.
MS/2744/XV/136 Newspaper clippings, 1984.
MS/2744/XV/137 Newspaper clippings, 1985.
MS/2744/XV/138 Newspaper clippings, 1987-1988.
MS/2744/XV/139 Photocopies of Yuendumu photos, n.d.

Series XVI, Published and unpublished papers, 1975-1988

- MS/2744/XVI/140 Poetry, 1975-80.
MS/2744/XVI/141 Tutorial papers, 1975-1981.
MS/2744/XVI/142 The natural history of a videotaped interview, Apr 1981.
MS/2744/XVI/143 How we all didn't become Phoenecians, May 1981.

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- MS/2744/XVI/144 Race and ethnicity: confused variables in survey research, Oct 1981.
- MS/2744/XVI/145 The interpretive circle, 1981.
- MS/2744/XVI/146 Disco Archie, 1981.
- MS/2744/XVI/147 Negotiating television, 1982.
- MS/2744/XVI/148 TV tribes - dissertation Ch.1-3, 1982
- MS/2744/XVI/149 TV tribes - dissertation Ch.4-5, 1982.
- MS/2744/XVI/150 Yap: how did you know we wanted TV?, 1982.
- MS/2744/XVI/151 Television - drawing the line, Apr 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/152 Project description, Apr 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/153 On already knowing what television will do to Aborigines, Jul 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/154 Australian Aboriginal television: notes from the field, Aug 1983
- MS/2744/XVI/155 Report to council, Aug 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/156 The cost of video in an Aboriginal community, Oct 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/157 Remarks regarding remote Aboriginal video usage, Oct 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/158 Aboriginal Australians and the new information order, Nov 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/159 Ptiyawu Warlinki (inhabiting video), Dec 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/160 Out of touch: the cost of not having a telephone in a remote community, 1983.
- MS/2744/XVI/161 Working papers, 1983-84.
- MS/2744/XVI/162 Can we describe Aboriginal media as a language? Should we?, 1984.
- MS/2744/XVI/163 The social organisation of an Aboriginal video workplace, Apr 1984.
- MS/2744/XVI/164 Ask a foolish question, Jul 1984.
- MS/2744/XVI/165 The indigenous languages of video and television in Central Australia, Aug 1984.
- MS/2744/XVI/166 Letter to Aboriginal communities regarding government plans for Aboriginal broadcasting and communications, Oct 1984
- MS/2744/XVI/167 A preliminary review of 'Out of the silent land', Oct 1984.

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- MS/2744/XVI/168 Aboriginal 'Air Rights', Nov 1984.
- MS/2744/XVI/169 Annenberg paper: Post video revolution, 1984/85.
- MS/2744/XVI/170 Review article: 'Reading the country', 1984.
- MS/2744/XVI/171 Working papers, 1984-1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/172 The life history of an Aboriginal video tape, Jan 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/173 Proposal for the establishment of a National Aboriginal Videotape Archive Exchange System, Jan 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/174 Background paper on some issues raised in the RTC central zone hearings, Aug 1985
- MS/2744/XVI/175 Statement to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, Aug 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/176 The impact of television, videos and satellites in Aboriginal communities, Oct 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/177 The Aboriginal invention of television in Central Australia, ca. 1982-1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/178 Going all the way round, 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/179 Hopes and fears: the application of international cases to the question of Aboriginal media, 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/180 How video has helped a group of Aborigines in Australia, 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/181 The right to know and the right to show, 1985.
- MS/2744/XVI/182 Information management and disclosure, Apr 1986
- MS/2744/XVI/183 Hollywood iconography: a Warlpiri reading, Jul 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/184 Media, time entropy and Ricky Nelson, Aug/Sep 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/185 Aboriginal invention of television, Nov 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/186 Literacy - oral vs electronic: the Aboriginal case, Dec 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/187 Aboriginal content: who's got it who needs it? Dec 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/188 Aboriginal media history: an inverted sequence, 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/189 The last of the nomads, the last of the ethnographies, or, 'All anthropologists are liars', 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/190 A primer of restrictions on picture-taking in traditional areas of Aboriginal Australia, 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/191 Review article: 'Toward a gay/not gay cinema?', 1986.

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- MS/2744/XVI/192 The third invasion or the second coming of light, 1986.
- MS/2744/XVI/193 Hundreds shot at Aboriginal community, Feb 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/194 Response to Eric Willmot's review 'Aboriginal broadcasting in remote Australia', Feb 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/195 Some implications of Aboriginal communications: ethnography for the base-superstructure debate, Apr 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/196 Aboriginal air rights resuscitated, May 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/197 A model of teleported texts. May 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/198 On the road again: Brisbane, Australia, May 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/199 My essay on post modernism, Jun 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/200 Aboriginal broadcasting: some policy dilemmas, 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/201 Para ethnography, 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/202 Post modernism, appropriation and Western Desert acrylics, 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/203 Western Desert sandpainting and post modernism, 1987.
- MS/2744/XVI/204 Bad Aboriginal art, 1988.
- MS/2744/XVI/205 Photo project 'After 200 years' - draft of introduction for Penny Taylor, 1988
- MS/2744/XVI/206 Notes for a people's television (paper for Sydney Film and Video Festival}, 1988.
- MS/2744/XVI/207 Carnival in Oxford Street, 1988.
- MS/2744/XVI/208 Ideological correctness and right marriages: the Aboriginal colonisation of their white fella fieldworkers, n.d. Possibly 1985/86.
- MS/2744/XVI/209 On being gay, n.d. Possibly 1980.
- MS/2744/XVI/210 Aboriginal telecommunications policy: what international examples suggest, n.d.
- MS/2744/XVI/211 Public TV terms (paper for video festival), 1987.

Series XVII, Printouts of papers from computer storage

- MS/2744/XVII/212 Printouts of papers

Series XVIII, Computer floppy disks and directory printouts

MS/2744/XVIII/213 13 boxes of computer floppy disks and directory printouts.

Series XIX, Personal correspondence, 1979-1988 (CLOSED ACCESS)

MS/2744/XIX/214 Personal correspondence, 1979-1988.

Series XX, Research and background papers

This material was added as Series XX in August 2022. It contains a range of various research papers and background materials.

MS2744/XX/215 Various research articles and background papers.

Series XXI, Aboriginal Broadcasting Conference and Task Force

This additional series was added to MS2744 in August 2022. It contains material relating to the Aboriginal Broadcasting Conference and Task Force.

MS2744/XXI/216 Report of Aboriginal Broadcasting Association of NSW Conference, 7-8 Oct 1983.

MS2744/XXI/217 Television Australia-Satellite Systems Limited – Outback Visions, May 1984.

MS2744/XXI/218 Australian Broadcasting Tribunal Inquiry into “Regulation of the Use of Satellite Program services by Broadcasters” Public hearing of TVA’s Submission on 10 Apr 1984.

MS2744/XXI/219 Task Force on Aboriginal and Islander Broadcasting and Communications – Draft Interim Report, n.d.

MS2744/XXI/220 Task Force on Aboriginal and Islander Broadcasting and Communications.

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Finding aid updated by Robyn Garcia, September 2022.

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