

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Papers of Janice Reid

MS 3769

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Janice Reid
Title: Papers of Janice Reid
Collection no: MS 3769
Date range: 1973-1988
Extent: 1.5 metres (8 boxes) + 1 folio box
Repository Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

Access and use conditions

Boxes 1 & 2, containing Series 5, 7 (Items 1, 3-5), 8, 9, 11 and 12

Open access - reading. Partial copying, according to *Copyright Act*. Copyright owner's permission required for quotation. [Access code: A1 B2]

Boxes 3 -8, containing Series 1-4, 6, 10 & 13

Depositor's permission required for access, copying and quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

Series 7, Item 2: Closed access – Principal's permission. Closed copying & quotation Principal and/or Depositor's permission. Not for Inter-Library Loan [Access code: A3b B1]

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Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Papers of Janice Reid, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 3769, Series [no.], Folder or Item [no]

Inter-Library Loan

Manuscripts are not available on Inter-Library Loan.

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and content note

The collection includes correspondence, field notes and other material relating to research on health and related subjects undertaken by Reid at Yirrkala in Eastern Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

There is also material relating to Reid's work with the Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs.

Provenance

This collection was donated to the AIATSIS Library by Professor Janice Reid in 1991.

Material separated from collection

Two tapes, a box of slides and photographs received with this collection have been passed to the Audiovisual Archive.

For access to this material contact [Collections](#)

Arrangement of collection

The original files, and the order within the files, has been maintained by the Library. However, the Library has imposed a series arrangement on the collection.

Related material

Important:: Before clicking on the links in this section please read our [sensitivity message](#).

For a complete list of other works by [Janice Reid](#) consult [Mura@](#), the AIATSIS catalogue. For access to audiovisual material contact [Collections](#).

Archivist's note

Outsized documents have been transferred to Plan Cabinet, as follows:

Series 4, Gumatj geneology is held in PC6, drawer 1.

Series 8, Folder 2, Sorcerers of Healing (maps), are held in PC6, drawer 1.

Series 9, Items 1-3, are held in PC6, drawer 5.

Series 12, Cyclone Tracy, press cuttings, are held in PC6, drawer 1.

Addition received in 2006 held in Boxes 7 & 8.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

'Professor Janice Reid, FASSA, AICD, AM, has been Vice-Chancellor President of the University of Western Sydney since April 1998. She is a recipient of several awards and honours both in Australia and overseas, and has been a member of the boards of public agencies at State and Federal levels in the health, welfare, schools, higher education, energy, international relations and cultural fields. She has served on the Higher Education Council, committees of the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Queensland Museum, Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) and as Chair of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare from 1995 to 2001. She is currently on the Board of Integral Energy and the Commonwealth's Council for Australia Latin America Relations.

In 1994 she chaired the national review of nursing education in Australia. Her own research has been as a medical anthropologist in the field of indigenous and refugee health and health care, occupational and mental health. Professor Reid was made a Member of the Order of Australia in January 1998 for services to cross-cultural public health research and the development of health services to socio-economically disadvantaged groups in the community.'

Reference:

Quoted from Professor Reid's page on the Whitlam Institute web site, within the University of Sydney site.

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 Correspondence, 1974-88

This series contains correspondence relating to Reid's research work, her work for the Commonwealth Parliament's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and also personal correspondence, much of it with correspondents from Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy and Elcho Island.

Access: Depositor's permission required for access, copying and quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

Folder

- 1 Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association Inc (Town Council), mainly relating to visits to Yirrkala, 1974-81. Authorities to visit Yirrkala are included
- 2 Research at Yirrkala – general correspondence, 1974-82. A number of receipts relating to Reid's travel and research are also included
- 3 General correspondence, 1978
- 4 Correspondence, mainly concerned with a plagiarized article on a subject area of interest to Reid, 1977-88. Included is a letter very critical of treatment of Yolngu patients by hospital staff
- 5 Personal correspondence, much of it with correspondents from Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy and Elcho Island, 1975-85. Includes 'Galngawira' Dhäwu', a collection of stories in Djambarrpuynu, with English translations, told by Stuart Djarrungu Dhamarrandjiwung (1978) [Also held by library at L D613.083/1]. Also includes 'Study tour to Philippines', by Galiwin'ku health workers Roslyn Maypilama, Jack Dangatanga, Dorothy Wanamula and Ros Brand (1981). [Photographs received with this correspondence have been transferred to the Audiovisual Archive.]

Series 2 Field notes, 1974-84

This series contains field notes compiled between 1974 and 1980 and consists of 19 notebooks and also carbon copies of transcripts from the notebooks typed onto 12.5 x 20 cm sheets of paper. The groupings in which these sheets were received have been maintained.

Tapes received with these field notes have been transferred to the Audiovisual Archive.

Access: Depositor's permission required for access, copying & quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

Folders/ Items

- 1-11 Notebooks - Yirrkala, 1975. Includes set of notebooks labelled 1-5
- 12 Notebook labelled 'Conf – Canberra', 1978. Includes notes on the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Labelled 'I' in set of three notebooks
- 13 Notebook labelled 'Notes from literature'. Labelled 'II' in set of three notebooks
- 14 Notebook. Appears to be notes on the Commonwealth Parliament's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Labelled 'III' in set of three notebooks
- 15 Carbon book – Yirrkala, 1978. Completed carbon pages
- 16 Notebook – Yirrkala, 1979. Also loose pages of notes and typed transcripts of some of the notes
- 17-18 Notebook - Papua New Guinea, 1980
- 19 Notebook – Yirrkala, November - December 1981
- 20 Carbon copies of typed sheets, 1974
- 21-22 Carbon copies of typed sheets, 1974-75
- 23-28 Carbon copies of typed sheets, 1975
- 29 Carbon copies of typed sheets, 1976, 1978
- 30 Carbon copies of typed sheets, 1979
- 31 Carbon copies of typed sheets, 1980
- 32 Yirrkala, 1974-84. Includes a notebook, pages torn from notebooks, handwritten notes and typed notes. Some notes are undated
- 33 Yirrkula/Yulngu, 1979 and 1984. Includes carbon copies of typed sheets, pages torn from small notebooks, pages from A4 notepads, photocopied typescript notes with headings 'Galarrwuy' and 'Assembled company'

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Series 3 Yirrkala K.A.P study, 1975

The **Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (K.A.P.)** of women survey is an instrument used to determine family health and planning.

This series contains 'Yirrkala K.A.P. preliminary report', by Janice Reid. It is based on data collected in January and February 1975 as part of a research programme in medical anthropology conducted with the approval of the Town Council.

The research was funded by grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council (principal investigator Professor J.E. Cawte) and the United States National Science Foundation. Copies of the report are also held by the Library at PMS 2324 and PMS 4359.

There are also completed, handwritten data sheets and a set of comments.

Access: Depositor's permission required for access, copying & quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

One folder

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Series 4 Genealogies, 1974-75

This series contains a sketch pad containing raw data for genealogies in a family tree format. It is annotated on the front 'all well cross-checked with elders i.e. Mungurrawuy's generation ("pre contact")'. There is a word list of parts of the body on one page.

A draft of the end product 'Gumatj genealogy: 2nd draft', by I. Banguyari, is held by the Library at MSM 75. Note that it also has closed access, copying and quotation conditions.

Access: Closed access - depositor's permission. Closed copying & use - depositor's permission [Access code: A3a B1]

One folder

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Series 5 Data on Yirrkala

This series contains papers, mainly on health matters, relating to Yirrkala. Included are 'Yirrkala Community Review 9th – 11th January 1980', newspaper clippings, book chapters, reports, handwritten notes, such as notes from the Commonwealth Parliament's House of Representative Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, papers from the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, minutes of meetings held at Yirrkala, election brochure for Gatjil Djerrkura and extracts from the *Annual Report* of the Northern Territory Welfare Branch.

There are also two Nabalco public relations publications [one held by the Library at P NAB]; correspondence, such as that with the Northern Territory Department of Health, results of environmental health surveys at Angurugu, Galiwinku (Elcho Island), Milingimbi, Umbakumba and Yirrkala in 1977; and the fifth report of the Northern Territory Department of Health Maternal and Infant Mortality Committee, May 1979

Most of the papers are photocopies

Two folders

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Series 6 Yirrkala research material

This series consists of research papers, mainly relating to health, on Yirrkala. Included are completed questionnaires, statistical tables, handwritten notes and drafts, and comments from Diane Barwick on 'Revised outline for thesis 'Aboriginal healing...'. Also included is a paper entitled 'Some observations on evangelical movement at Donydji Outstation, April – June 1980', by Neville G. White.

Access: Closed access. Depositor's permission required for access, copying and quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

One folder

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Series 7 Yirrkala - Other papers

Folder

- 1 'The Aboriginal population based on Yirrkala', by E.P. Milliken, Darwin, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 1974. Photocopy. [Also held by Library at MS 1348]
- 2a-2b 'Bill Gray's report: comments on political undercurrents in Yirrkala community, 29 February 1966'. Includes minutes of Yirrkala Village Council meeting of 10 April 1970. Photocopies
- Access: Closed access. Depositor's permission required for access, copying and quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]*
- 3 Minutes of Village Council meeting held on 10 April 1970 to discuss working clan lands, having a village in outstation areas, what will be happen once land rights court case won, effects of changes on mission and use of trust fund money; and meeting held on 10 May 1971 at Yirrkala to discuss land rights and mine exploration
- 4 Gumatj language lessons. Roneoed
- 5 Yirrkala and Elcho Island. Includes *Cyclone! Christmas in Darwin 1974*, Sydney, Sydney Morning Herald, 1975; 'Galiwinku Church news' 12 May 1974; plans for Yirrkala Area School (photocopies); some minutes from the Yirrkala Town Council (1974-75); papers relating to road rules, marriages, mythology, personal needs and financial arrangements of United Church employees; 'Approach to the Aboriginal people and culture' and 'Traditional Yolnu culture' [no dates or authors]; map of Galiwinku township; two completed questionnaires about outstation life; correspondence relating to visits when Reid was a research officer with the National Health and Medical Research Council (June 1974) and papers relating to Australian Government and to National Health and Medical Research research grants

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Series 8 Sorcerers and healing spirits

This series contains papers relating to Reid's work entitled *Sorcerers and healing spirits* published in Canberra by the Australian National University in 1983. A copy is held by the Library at B R356.12/S1. It consists of maps of Aboriginal communities, mainly in the Northern areas of the Northern Territory. There is also a diagram of the course and management of a typical illness.

Two folders (Folder 2 held in Manuscript Plan Cabinet 6, drawer 1)

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Series 9 Children's drawings

Yirrkala School children's images of sorcerer (Galka) and healer (Marrnggitj), 1974. The children's names are on the drawings and on many there are annotations describing the subject of the drawings.

Three folders (held at PC6/5)

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Series 10 Proposals and papers

This series consists of correspondence and other papers relating to research proposals and grants.

Included are Appendix to 'Ethnomedicine and medical acculturation in Highlands New Guinea', a PhD proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation by Janice C. Reid, (Ph.D Candidate and Project Director) and Clifford R. Barnett (Ph.D, Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University and Principal Investigator); and an associated proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation by Stanford University.

Also included is 'Health in an Aboriginal community: tradition and change, research proposal and field report', written by Reid after a three month stay at Yirrkala (1 January 1975).

Access: Depositor's permission required for access, copying and quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

One folder

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Series 11 Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs

The series contains transcripts of evidence from the Commonwealth Parliament's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Most of the series relates to the conditions of the people at Yirrkala and the effect that the presence of Nabalco mining operations on the Gove Peninsula had on them.

The Library holds copies of the Committee transcripts at S 33.1/3.

Items

- 1 Evidence relating activities in the field of Aboriginal affairs in the Commonwealth Departments of Health, Social Security and Education, taken from Departmental representatives in Canberra, 8 October 1973
- 2 Present conditions of Yirrkala people taken at Darwin, 5 February 1974 and 12 February 1974
- 3 Evidence taken at Nhulunbuy, 8 February 1974
- 4-5 Evidence on present conditions of Yirrkala people from Roy Marika, Daymbalipu, Mungurrawuy, Birrikitji, Wulanybama, Narritjin, Gatjil, Yinitjuwa, Millirrpum, Yinitjuwa, Wandjuk, Djewiny, Dundiwuy and others, taken at Yirrkala, 9-11 February 1974
- 6 Reference: Yirrkala, taken at Sydney, 9 September 1974
- 7 Present conditions of the Yirrkala people, evidence taken at Canberra, 15 October 1974 and 24 September 1974
- 8 Correspondence relating to Reid's work with the Committee. Mainly related to refunds for expenses and travel with the Committee. Includes handwritten note relating to places visited and places where hearings were held

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Series 12 Cyclone Tracy, Darwin, 1974

This series consists of newspaper clippings on Tropical Cyclone Tracy which hit Darwin in the early hours of Christmas Day 1974 (held at PC6/1). It caused extensive damage and led to the evacuation of most people from the town. There is also a booklet on the cyclone in Series 7, Folder 5.

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Series 13 File of field notes and related papers, 1974-1983

The series is an additional deposit received in May 2006, mainly consisting of typescript and manuscript notes on 8" x 5" slips of paper of recording observations, events, interviews and other data gathered at Yirrkala and in its outstations and with Yolngu people visiting Sydney. The notes were probably used by Janice Reid as a working file to assist with writing her thesis and other publications. The arrangement of the original material has been disturbed as little as possible. The slips are in their original order in a file box (Box 7), divided in parts as listed below. Most A4 documents have been removed, unfolded and stored in Box 8.

Access: Depositor's permission required for access, copying and quotation. [Access code: A3a B1]

One file box and three folders

Items

- 1 'Working cards which became the Gumatj genealogy', Ms., 3"x5" white index cards
- 2 Sequence of slips headed, 'To Do': transcriptions of correspondence and field notes, slips marked Yirrkala/Yulngu; Sydney/Yulngu; Nhulunbuy/Europeans (Dept of Health), Mar-Apr 1978, Ts., 8"x5" blue slips
- 3 Notes on interviews, Jun-Jul 1975, Ts., 8"x5" pink slips
- 4 Keith Fagg (Administration Secretary, Aboriginal Advisory and Development Services, Northern Synod, Uniting Church of Australia), circular to all AADS Nursing Sisters, 22 Sep 1980, re Dr David Watson's Report, Ts, p/c, 2pp., together with *Dr David Watson and Ruth Watson report on AADS Health Centres – Arnhem Land*, 7 Aug 1980, Ts., p/c, 7pp.
- 5 'Correspondence re thesis': transcriptions of field notes, slips marked, Yirrkala/Yulngu; Sydney/Yulngu; Nhulunbuy/Europeans, Apr 1978, Jan 1979, Apr-May, Nov-Dec 1979, Apr 1980 Ts., 8"x5" yellow slips
- 6 Untitled sequence of slips, transcriptions of field notes, slips marked, Yirrkala/Yulngu; Sydney/Yulngu; Nhulunbuy/Europeans, Apr-May 1979, Nov-Dec 1979, Apr 1980, Ts., 8"x5" yellow slips
- 7 'Yolngu Experiences of Early European Contact', Ms. 1p, on yellow A4 paper (folded), with three 8"x5" yellow slips, transcriptions of field notes, slips marked, Yirrkala/Yulngu; Sydney/Yulngu, Mar-Apr 1980
- 8 Sequence of slips headed, 'Copies': transcriptions of field notes, slips marked, Yirrkala/European, Yirrkala/Yulngu; Yirrkala/Aborigs, Yirrkala/Napaki, 1975-1980, Ts & Ms, original and p/c, 8"x5" yellow slips, with Jan [Reid] from the field to Nancy (Mosman, Sydney), 22 Nov 1981, Ms., p/c, 4pp.
- 9 Sequence of slips headed, 'Dhurryurungu's death', on sorcery, deaths, funerals, sickness, Galka, Dangerous laws, with press cutting, 'Galiwin'ku community health', *ALPA newspaper* (Darwin), Oct 1981, and notes on photographs of Rirratjingu's funeral by Wandjur, 1975-1981, Ts. & Ms., 8"x5" yellow, pink and

white slips

- 10 Sequence of slips headed, '4. Conception, Child Care, etc.', many slips marked 'Co' or 'CoQ', 1974-1975, c.40, Ts., 8"x5" pink and white slips
- 11 Untitled sequence of slips, notes on women's ceremonies, new names, illness, the hunting mentality, the hunting trip, development of an outstation, Dambaliya, story of a painting done by Banuyarri, story of Daymirri, black & white relations, kinship obligations in money economy, mission involvement – Yulnu, responses to illness, and others; includes: Dr Tom Gavranic to Daymbalipu, 6 Apr 1979, explaining heart attacks, Ts., p/c, 3pp, draft Dhudi Djambarrpuingu genealogy as told to Jan Reid, Nov 1979, Ms., p/c, 1p.; from the Nurses at Yirrkala Health Centre, n.d., Ms., p/c, 2pp.; sketch map showing place name and waterholes, Ms., on tracing paper, 1p.; 'Yirrkala – medical services in the pre-war years', Ts., 1p.; letter from Janice Reid's mother, 16 Sep 1975, Ts., 5pp.; c.60, Ts. & Ms., 8"x5" yellow, pink and white slips
- 12 Sequence of slips headed, '3. Health Department etc.', many slips marked 'HD', c.50, Ts., 8"x5" pink and white slips, with Jan [Reid] to Maria Brandl (c/- Belyven (Delisaville), 25 Mar 1980, re fieldwork matters, Ts., p/c, annotated, 2pp.
- 13 Sequence of slips headed, 'Originals', on Sydney/Yolngu rules for visitors, Distances, talk with Elizabeth Marshall-Thomas, Wilitnga's illness, using government authorities independently, 1978-1980, c.20 Ts. 8"x5" yellow and blue slips
- 14 Sequence of folded A4 documents headed, 'Medicinal plants', some marked 'HD', includes:
- J. Reid, 'Medicinal plants and substances – Yirrkala', Aug 1975, Ts., annotated, 4pp., with drafts
 - 'Guluruda: medicinal plants and other agents & their uses', n.d., Ts., carbon, annotated, 6pp.
 - copies of letters sent to village councils and Aboriginal leaders, from Daymbalipu Mununggurr (Chairman Dhanbul Association, Yirrkala) and replies from P. Aralar (Medical Superintendent) and T. Gavranic, Jun 1975, Ts., 10pp.
 - copies of statement by Yirrkala Health Centre Nurses, 3 Dec 1974, with response from M. Adamson (Clerk, House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, 18 Dec 1974, and related papers Ts., roneo, 6pp.
 - Aboriginal Health Workers Combined Groups, Darwin, Sep-Oct 1974, 'Some Rules to Help White Sisters and Doctors Understand Aboriginal People', Ts., roneo, 1p.
 - E. Kettle, "Presentation of 'Basic Skills Course' certificates to Health Workers in East Arnhem Region, 8th-10th February 1978", Ts., roneo, 2pp.
 - Nancy (?) (AIAS) to Jan [Reid], 19 & 24 Nov 1975, Ts., 2pp.
 - Lists of people interviewed, Jul-Aug 1975, Ms, 2pp. & 3pp., with 'Report from: Dhungala Mununggurr, 28 Jul-2 Aug, Ts., 2pp.
 - Hogarth Galleries (Paddington, Sydney), catalogue, 'It's great to be an Australian woman?', 3 Nov 1975, including bark painting by Mararru & Natiti Marika, 'Gulang mirri miyalk yurru yaka lupthun gupunglili', (Menstruating women shouldn't swim in the water)
 - series of questions regarding health matters, some translated into Yolngu, Ts. & Ms, 15pp.

- Galarrawuy Yunupingu, 'Black man's land' (abridged version of address to National Press Club, *SMH*, 11 Nov 1977, and Arthur Gray, 'Aboriginal [Galarrawuy Yunupingu] quotes Conzinc memo on guidelines', *Canberra Times*, 11 Nov 1977
- Jan Reid 'Request this be read at conference', 8 Jun 1976, Ms, p/c, 1p., re desperate craft situation in Yirrkala outstations
- Doreen Lawton (Milingimbi) to Jan [Reid], 15 Oct 1975, Ms., 5pp.
- Joh (?) (UNSW, School of Psychiatry) to Jan [Reid], 30 Apr 1976, Ms., 2pp.
- Population figures for Yirrkala, 10 Jul 1974, Ms., 2pp.
- Aboriginal Health Workers, Yirrkala, Submission to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, 13 Jun 1978, Ts., p/c, 2pp.

- 15 Sequence of slips headed, 'Field notes: originals', 1974-1975, Ms. & Ts., 8"x5" slips, with sub headings, as follows:
- 'General (checked)'
 - 'Mission and staff attitudes' (slips not held)
 - 'Alcohol (these notes not yet used)'
 - 'Dhuwarrwarr's illness'
 - untitled, slips marked, 'HD', on health care delivery and on death rituals
 - '6. Response to illness', slips marked, 'RI'
 - untitled, slips marked, 'RI', on response to illness, cont'.
- 16 Sequence of slips headed, 'Originals: Interviews', 1974-1976, Ms. & Ts., 8"x5" slips, with sub headings, as follows:
- '2. Benign forces etc., L & M'
 - 'Liyalupthun', including response to serious illness
 - untitled – various, including 'On power and its meaning', 'individuals known to have Marringitj powers', 'notes from Nancy', 'Galka attack', 'causes of illness'... 'introduction to the field', 'use of contraceptives', 'my family (Reid's) names', 'ceremony following illness', 'Liyalupthun', 'Bukulupthun', 'friction between young and old men', 'Watjun's illness', 'dreams announcing the advent of a spirit Yothu', and others marked 'RI', 'different interpretations of one's illness', out stations (Guluruna, Gangan, Yalanbara, Dambalya), 'interview with Wilbur Chaseling re health services at Yirrkala from 1935 – 1942', 'rules and regulations for Yirrkala', 'attitude to Western illness', *et al.*
- 17 Sequence of slips headed, '1. Malign forces etc. G', 1974-1976, c.200, Ms. & Ts., 8"x5" slips.
- 18 Janice Reid, 'Fieldnotes Yirrkala 15/6/78 – 18/6/78', re visit of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Ts., 3pp.
- 19 Janice Reid, correspondence with Penny Lee (Nhulunbuy, NT, and East Fremantle, WA), Oct 1982-Feb 1984, including a copy of Penny Lee's revised genealogy for Cape Arnhem Yolngu families based on Janice Reid's genealogy, Ms., roneo(?), 23pp.

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Finding Aid compiled by J. Churches, October 2005. Amended by Ewan Maidment, March 2013 & May 2017.

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