Public meeting and private hearing papers of the Committee of Inquiry into the Role of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee

1976

CONTENTS

COLLECTION SUMMARY 2
CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT 2
ACCESS TO COLLECTION 3
Access conditions for this collection 3
COLLECTION OVERVIEW 3
ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE 5
SERIES DESCRIPTION 6
Series 1 Public meeting minutes and notes of private hearings 6
BOX LIST 12
COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Committee of Inquiry into the Role of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee

Title: Public meeting and private hearing papers of the Committee of Inquiry into the Role of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC)

Collection no: MS 5095

Date range: 1976

Extent: 0.2 metre, 1 archive box

Repository: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

It is a condition of use of the AIATSIS Collection, and of the papers described in this finding aid, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Language

Users are warned that this finding aid may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally sensitive and which might not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Terms and descriptions which reflect the author’s attitude, or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, and which may be considered inappropriate today in some circumstances, may also be used.

Deceased persons

Users of 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 against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

Back to top
ACCESS TO COLLECTION

Access and use conditions

Materials listed in the AIATSIS Collection may be subject to access conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Users are advised that access to some materials may be subject to these access conditions.

Copying and quotation

Copying of, and quoting from, unpublished material may be subject to the conditions determined by the depositor of the manuscripts. In accordance with the Copyright Act 1968, Section 51, materials are only provided for private study and use.

Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions

In cases where these permissions are required they must be obtained in writing and must be signed. Further information can be found on the AIATSIS website on the Ordering collection items page. Contact Collections staff for further information.

Although Manuscripts are not available on Interlibrary loan, they may be available via document supply (photocopying), subject to access conditions, if they are already digitized.

Email Collections Staff or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

Access conditions for this collection

Open access – reading. Partial copying and use. Not available for Interlibrary Loan.

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:
Northern Territory, 24 May-4 Jun 1976, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, MS 5095 National Aboriginal Consultative Committee Inquiry papers, Series 1, MS 5095/1/1

Back to top
COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

The papers in this collection were created while the Committee of Inquiry into the role of the NACC was conducting public meetings and private hearings between May – July 1976. Jacquie Lambert was the Committee’s amanuensis and produced these records.

Typescripts, handwritten notes, hand-drawn diagrams, newspaper offprint

Provenance

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (the forerunner to AIATSIS) provided administrative support to the Committee of Inquiry.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

A list of works about the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee Inquiry, held in the Collection can be found here. For other related material consult Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

For works about the Inquiry held in other collections, search Trove

Records of the Committee of Inquiry into the Role of the NACC (Agency No. CA 2447, Series number SP 1444/4.) are also held by the National Archives of Australia.

Archivist’s note

The papers are organised in chronological order, following the committee’s itinerary.

Some of the abbreviations used in this finding aid and in the papers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LH</td>
<td>Dr Les Hiatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOD</td>
<td>Lois [Lowitja] O'Donoghue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’OD</td>
<td>Lois [Lowitja] O’Donoghue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Jim Stanley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML</td>
<td>Maurice Luther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JL</td>
<td>Jacquie Lambert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH</td>
<td>George Hutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAA</td>
<td>Department of Aboriginal Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAIA</td>
<td>Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACC</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Consultative Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some of the private hearings were conducted in confidence; this is indicated in the description of the document, e.g. ‘Nhulunbuy 24th May, statement by Cyril Cecil (Dug) Allom; Confidential’ in Item MS 5095/1/1. The National Archives of Australia advises that the Archives Act allows for the public to apply for access to anything over 20 years old. An access decision would override any confidential marking on the file.

Back to top

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE

The NACC had been established by the Whitlam Government in 1973. Following the election of the Liberal Country Party government in December 1975, the Hon Ian Viner, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, announced in March 1976 the establishment of a committee to consult with Aboriginal people and inquire into the role the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC).

The Committee was part of the Government’s aim to establish the best consultative machinery for Aboriginal people to participate at a national level in determining their own future.

The members appointed to the Inquiry Committee were:

- Dr LR Hiatt (Chairman) Reader in Anthropology at the University of Sydney and President of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
- Lois [Lowitja] O’Donoghue, formerly Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in South Australia
- Jim Stanley, President and Acting Secretary of the NACC
- Mr Wally Walanybuma, Yirrkala community, Northern Territory

The Committee Secretary was George Hutton, from the Department of Administrative Services.

Mr Walanybuma was unable to continue on the Committee past the first meeting and was replaced by Mr Maurice Luther, Community Adviser, Hooker Creek, Northern Territory.

These papers were prepared by Jacqueie Lambert, the Inquiry Committee’s amanuensis.

The Committee advertised for submissions in newspapers in all states and territories in May 1976. The advertisement was also forwarded to relevant people and organisations known to the Committee.

Evidence was also gathered at public meetings and private hearings at 40 different locations around Australia. Within the constraints of time (the Committee, appointed in April, had to report by the end of August) and economy, they attempted to achieve representative consultation. The itinerary encompassed communities in capital cities, country towns, fringe camps, settlements and missions.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Public meeting minutes and notes of private hearings

The Inquiry Committee travelled to the Northern Territory, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and Victoria during May – July 1976.

Public meetings and private hearings were held in a number of locations in each State and the Northern Territory. Some of the private hearings were Confidential; this is included in the information about individual hearings. In remote areas, people from other locations travelled to attend hearings for public meetings.

Items

MS 5095/1/1 Northern Territory, 24 May-4 Jun 1976

- Offprint of announcement of the Inquiry into the role of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, placed in national newspapers 12th May
- Diagram of consultative structure
  [Hand-drawn photocopy]
- [Public meeting] Yirrkala 24th May
- Nhulunbuy 24th May, statement by Cyril Cecil (Dug) Allom; Confidential
- [Public meeting] Maningrida 25th May
- Maningrida Council members
- Private hearing Darwin 25th May, Bryan Leo Walton (Social and Commercial Affairs, Department of the Northern Territory), and John McDonnell (Assistant Secretary, Social Development Branch, Department of the Northern Territory); Confidential
- Private hearing Darwin 25th May, Dr M Brandl (Department of Education); Confidential
- [Private hearing] Darwin 25th May, Frank Dwyer (Acting Administrator for the Northern Territory); Confidential
- Tuesday 25th May, Informal discussions with members of Legislative Assembly (and Advisors)
- Private hearing Darwin 25th May, Mr Ian Pittman (Department of Aboriginal Affairs); Confidential
- [Public meetings] Warrabri 28th May
- Warrabri – Notes for information
- Yuendemu [notes for information]
[Public meeting] Yuendumu Monday 31st May
Yuendumu 31st May, meeting with Frank Baarda; Sister Sandra Watt; Mr Priestley, Harry Nelson
[Public meeting] Hermannsburg 1st Jun
Public meeting Alice Springs 2nd Jun
Amata Council
[Public meeting] Amata 2nd Jun
[Private hearing] Amata, discussion with Ushma Scales (Community Advisor); Confidential
Private hearing Alice Springs 3rd Jun, Dick Kimber; Confidential
[Private hearing] [Alice Springs] 3rd Jun, Lionel Turner, (Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Department of Social Security); Confidential
Amoonguna 4th June, brief discussions with John Millhouse (Community Advisory), Ben Clyne (President of the Council and Freddy Webb (Council member)

New South Wales, 7-11 Jun 1976
Private hearing Sydney 7th Jun, Mr George Griffith (Department of Ethnic Community Services), Mr Bill Bird (Department of Labour); Confidential
[Private hearing] Sydney 7th Jun, Mr Ray Thorburn; Confidential
[Public meeting] Walgett 8th Jun
[Private hearing] Walgett 8th June, Mr Ted Fields (Barwon Aboriginal Co-operative), Mr George Fernando (Chairman, Barwon Aboriginal Co-operative), Mr George Rose (Aboriginal Legal Aid) Confidential
Brewarrina 9th Jun, brief discussions with the Aboriginal Legal Service
Brewarrina 9th Jun, brief discussions with Mr Paddy Gordon
Public meeting Bourke 9th Jun
Bourke 10th Jun, discussions with Jim Latham (Building and Health Surveyor), Bob Reynolds (Shire Clerk)
Bourke 10th Jun, public meeting with Widjeri Company
Public Meeting Sydney 10th Jun
Sydney 11th Jun, Phone call from Mrs William (wife of T Williams, NACC representative for NSW Electoral District 2); Confidential
Private hearing Sydney 11th Jun, Mike Stewart, Tony Pearce (Students from Sydney Technical College); Confidential
MS 5095/1/3 Queensland, 15-24 Jun 1976

- Information – Weipa
- Public meeting Weipa 15th Jun
- Private hearing Weipa 15th Jun, Karen McLeod (Social Worker and Liaison Officer, Comalco), Don Egan (DAIA Manager, Weipa South), Ray Roberts (Divisional General Manager, Comalco); Confidential
- [Public meeting] Thursday Island 15th Jun
- Private hearing Thursday Island 16th Jun, Ephraim Bani, (Linguistic Researcher, AIAS); Confidential
- Aurukun 16th Jun, discussions with Mr and Mrs Thomas; Confidential
- Aurukun 16th Jun, meeting with the Council
- Private hearing Cairns 17th Jun, Mr Fred Leftwich (Member of the Aboriginal Legal Aid Committee), Mr Peter White (Aboriginal Legal Aid); Confidential
- Private hearing Cairns 17th Jun, James Ray Bruce (Civil Engineer, Gutteridge Haskings and Davey Consulting Engineers and Surveyors), Ralph Phillip Hawkes (Works Overseer, Gutteridge Haskings and Davey Consulting Engineers and Surveyors); Confidential
- Private hearing Cairns 19th Jun, Mrs Rose Colless (Field Officer and Social Worker, Aboriginal Legal Aid); Confidential
- Palm Island 19th Jun, discussion with Jacob Baira Jnr (Council Chairman and Chairman of Co-operative)
- [Private hearing] Townsville 21st Jun, Evelyn Scott (DAA Area Office, Townsville); Confidential
- Private hearing Townsville 21st Jun, Cliff Fua (Administrator for the Aboriginal Medical Centre, Townsville); Confidential
- Private hearing Townsville 21st Jun, Eddie Mabo; Confidential
- Private hearing Townsville 21st Jun, Ernie Hoolihan (Formerly public servant – Social Security; now insurance agent); Confidential
- Public meeting Townsville 21st Jun
- Public meeting Mount Isa 22nd Jun
- Private hearing Mt Isa 23rd Jun, Dion Barnett (DAIA Acting Manager), Phil Pearson (DAIA Hostel Manager), Rodney Willie (DAIA Liaison Officer); Confidential
- Public meeting Brisbane 23rd Jun
• Private hearing Brisbane 24th Jun, Neville Bonner; Confidential
• Brisbane 24th Jun, discussions with Mr Les Stewart, Mrs Peggy Brown, Mrs Alice Yeatman, Mr Johnny Walker, Mr Jack Bambi, Mr Joseph Hobson, Mr Arthur Woosup, Mr John Gilbert, Mr Gatano Lui, Mr Wagea Waia (members of the Advisory Council); Confidential
• Private hearing, Brisbane 24th Jun, Manfred Cross; Confidential
• Private hearing, Brisbane 24th Jun, Dennis Walker; Confidential
• [Private hearing] Brisbane 24th Jun, R Wharton, P Killoran, J Burless; Confidential

South Australia, 5-8 Jun 1976
• Community Assessment
• Public Meeting Port Augusta 5th Jul
• [Public meeting] Yalata 6th Jul
• [Public meeting] Koonibba 6th Jul
• Adelaide 7th July, discussions with DAA
• Private hearing Adelaide 8th Jul, Leon Kent (President, Aboriginal Community Centre); Confidential
• [Private hearing] Adelaide, 8th Jul, David Hope (Administrator, Aboriginal Task Force); Confidential
• Adelaide 8th Jul, discussions with the Port Augusta Assessment Team
• [Private hearing] Adelaide 8th Jul, Mrs Natasha McNamara (Lecturer in Business Administration, CAE)
• [Private hearing] Adelaide 8th Jul, Mr Les Naydor (Aboriginal Housing Board), Mr Bernie Coate (Aboriginal Housing Board); Confidential
• Public meeting Adelaide 8th Jul

Western Australia-Northern Territory 12-22 Jul 1976
• Private hearing Perth 12th Jul, Mr Keith Main (Director, Department of Community Welfare), Mr G Aves (Chief of Welfare Services), Mr Ken Monson (Senior Social Work Supervisors), Mr John Booth (Senior Social Work Supervisor); Confidential
• Additional notes prepared by E Bruen – Public meeting 12 Jul; Minutes, public meeting at 176 Wellington Street Perth
• Private hearing Perth 13th Jul, George Abdulla (DAA); Confidential
Private hearing Perth 13th Jul, Mr Frank Gare (DAA), Mr Norman Harris (Secretary Aboriginal Advisory Council); Confidential; Also, notes for meeting with Committee of Inquiry into the Role of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee – Perth, 13 July 1976

[Public meeting] Pinjarra 13 Jul

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Maurice Brownley (Field Office, DAA); Confidential

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Fred Meredith; Confidential

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Bob Vandenbergh (DAA, Senior Community Advisor); Confidential

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Cyril Barnes (representative from the Lamb Group in Leonora); Confidential

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Les Tucker (Aboriginal Liaison Officer for Education, Kalgoorlie); Confidential

[Private hearing] Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Brian Wyatt (Commonwealth Employment Office); Confidential

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Lyn Ridett (Regional Coordinator, Regional Council for Social Development); Confidential

Private hearing Kalgoorlie 14th Jul, Fred Meredith, Les Tucker, Maurice Brownley; Confidential

Public meeting Kalgoorlie 14th Jul

Private hearing Perth 15th Jul, Ivan Yarran (President Aboriginal Legal Service), Mrs Gladys Yarran, Mrs Joan Isaacs; Confidential

Private hearing Perth 15th Jul, Mrs Bennell

[Public meeting] Port Hedland 15th Jul

Private hearing Broome 16th Jul, Phillip Cox (Storeman District Hospital, Member of the Regional Consultative Committee); Confidential

Private hearing Broome 16th Jul, Monica Stracke; Confidential

[Public meeting] Broome 16th Jun [Jul]

Private hearing Broome 17th Jun, Jack Mulady (La Grange), John Dodoo (Big John) (La Grange); Confidential

[Public meeting] Derby (Mowanjum) 19th Jul

Public meeting Derby 19th Jul

Wattie Creek – Notes for information

[Public meeting] Wattie Creek 21st Jul
• [Public meeting] Kununurra 20th Jul
• Private hearing Darwin, Len Muller (Acting Secretary Northern Lands Council); Confidential
• Private hearing
• Darwin 22nd Jul, Dr Reid (Department of Health); Confidential
• Public meeting Bagot 22nd Jul
• Private hearing Darwin 22nd Jul, Mr Pollach (MLA); Confidential
• Private hearing Darwin 22nd Jul, Bill Gray (Department of Aboriginal Affairs), Ian Pittman (Department of Aboriginal Affairs); Confidential
• Private hearing Darwin 22nd Jul, H Geise; Confidential
• [Private hearing] Darwin 22nd Jul, Mr Kentish (MLA); Confidential
• Private hearing Darwin 22Jul; Some members of the Aboriginal Cultural Foundation and others; Confidential
  [Others were people from Croker Island, Numbulwar/Groote, Port Keats, Aurukun, Lockhart, Bathurst Island, Fitzroy Crossing, Yirrkala]

MS 5095/1/6 Tasmania-Victoria, 26-29 Jul
• Private hearing Hobart 26th Jul, Brian Lindsey (Department of Aboriginal Affairs); Confidential
• Private hearing Hobart 26th Jul, Doug Lowe (Deputy Premier of Tasmania and Chief Secretary), John Jessup (Executive Officer); Confidential
• Public meeting Hobart 26th Jul
• Public meeting Cape Barren Island 27th Jul
• Private hearing Mildura 28th Jul, David Anderson; Confidential
• Public meeting Mildura 28th Jul
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Bruce McGuinness (NACC Rep), Gary Murray (Secretary); Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Noel Wallace; Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Mr Beaton (Acting Supervisor Aboriginal Education, State Department of Education); Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Eric McGuinness; Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Dr McCloskie (State Health Department), Sister Harrison (State Health Department); Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Barbara Hocking (Barrister); Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Peter Renkin (Regional Director DAA); Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Doug Nichols; Confidential
• Private hearing Melbourne 29th Jul, Commissioner Coven (State Housing Commission); Confidential
• Public meeting Melbourne 29th Jul

BOX LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Folder/Item</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finding aid compiled by Fiona Blackburn, November 2016