2020 Grants Program Priorities

The AIATSIS Indigenous Research Exchange Advisory Board (the Advisory Board) provides strategic guidance to the Grants Program and ensures the outcomes and objectives are achieved. Each year the Advisory Board will establish priorities for the Program based on consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples.

Funding will only be provided to projects that are consistent with the published priorities for the particular year of funding or targeted round.

For projects commencing 2020, the program funding priorities are:

Priority 1: Indigenous Governance and Prosperity

The continued emergence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the governance of their traditional territories provides an opportunity for innovation in regional and local governance; while notions of Indigenous nationhood and relationships with the state continue to challenge our understanding of a reconciled Australia. Examples of projects under this Priority Area could include (although not limited to) the following themes:

- the economic, social, and cultural benefits that could be derived from effective governance arrangements coupled with ideas around regional autonomy
- realising the potential of Indigenous held land and waters, including models of Indigenous-led development and multi-faceted conceptions of wealth
- examination of local priority setting and best practice co-design principles of Indigenous research and evaluation, government policy-making, and economic and social investment
- the potential contribution of treaties or agreements to social fabric and economic security.

Priority 2: Cultural Resurgence and Resilience

Governments continue to struggle with how to measure cultural indicators of wellbeing and to understand the centrality of cultural strength to the enjoyment and fulfilment of life; yet this link is self-evident for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Examples of projects under this Priority Area could include (although not limited to) the following themes:

- examining the correlation between cultural strength and individual and community resilience and success, for example in the areas of education and employment, engagement with the criminal justice system, and social and political participation
- contemporary expressions of Indigenous identity and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lives might change over time
- capturing innovation and world leading best practice programs in cultural revitalisation
- innovative use of existing data and archival material to shed light on contemporary issues and ideas.