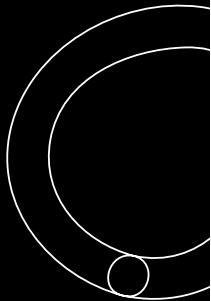


**AIATSIS**

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES

Second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2)

## **LANGUAGE ATTITUDE SURVEY**





**Thank you for agreeing to complete this questionnaire.**

The following questions will help us to gain a better understanding of your thoughts about traditional languages and language use as well as your language background. Please fill in the blanks or select the best answer(s) from the ones provided.

You do not have to answer any question that you do not want to answer.

Your participation is voluntary.

If you need more space for any of your answers, you can attach additional pages to the back of this questionnaire.

**Definition:** In this questionnaire, the term '*traditional language*' is used for languages which have been passed on to the current generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by their ancestors. It does not include languages which emerged recently, such as Kriol, Yumplatok, and Aboriginal English.



**FOR COMPLETION BY ABORIGINAL AND  
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER INDIVIDUALS**

ONCE YOU COMPLETE THE  
QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO  
YOUR FACILITATOR.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE  
CONTACT YOUR FACILITATOR

(YOU CAN FIND THEIR CONTACT DETAILS ON THE  
COVER LETTER YOU RECEIVED ALONG WITH THIS  
QUESTIONNAIRE).

For Office Use Only



## SECTION 1

### LANGUAGE BACKGROUND

**The following questions will help us to gain a better understanding of your language background.**

1. What is the name of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language you identify with (this could include traditional languages or more recently developed languages such as Kriol, Yumplatok, or Aboriginal English)? You may list more than one.

2. What was the first language that you learned as a child? You may list more than one.

3. What is the language that you speak most often now? You may list more than one.

4. What language is most commonly used in your community now? You may list more than one.

## SECTION 2

### YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGES

**The following questions will help us to understand your thoughts about traditional languages as well as recently developed Indigenous languages such as Kriol, Yumplatok, or Aboriginal English.**

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements by ticking the appropriate answer for each statement.

PLEASE READ EACH STATEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SELECTING YOUR ANSWER.

5. Traditional culture (Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) can survive without traditional languages.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree
  
6. Keeping our traditional languages strong is important to me.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree
  
7. Enough is being done to support the use of traditional languages in my community.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree
  
8. Traditional languages should be taught in school.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree
  
9. It is okay for people who are not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to learn traditional languages.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree
  
10. It is important for traditional language speakers to pass their language knowledge to future generations.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree
  
11. The use of traditional languages is a strong part of my identity as an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander person.  
 Strongly agree    Agree    Unsure    Disagree    Strongly disagree

## SECTION 2

### YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGES

12. There is too much support for recently developed Indigenous languages such as Kriol, Yumplatok, or Aboriginal English.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

13. The use of traditional languages helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people succeed at school.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

14. Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should teach traditional languages.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

15. It is more important to be able to speak recently developed Indigenous languages such as Kriol, Yumplatok, or Aboriginal English than traditional languages.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

16. The use of traditional languages improves the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [Wellbeing can be physical, mental or spiritual – you often feel good, strong or positive about yourself and your life.]

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

17. Please tell us more about your answer to Question 16. Why do you feel that way? Write your response below.

18. What place do you think traditional languages should have within Australia as a whole? Write your response below.

## SECTION 2

### YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGES

19. What place do you think recently developed Indigenous languages such as Kriol, Yumplatok, or Aboriginal English should have within Australia as a whole? Write your response below.

20. What do you think helps to keep traditional languages in use by people within a community? Write your response below.

21. What do you think might prevent people from learning traditional languages? Please write your response below.

22. What are the main obstacles that would prevent you from participating in a traditional language activity (please tick all that apply)?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled at the wrong time                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to learn the language another way                | <input type="checkbox"/> Too expensive                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm already fluent in my traditional language             | <input type="checkbox"/> I am too busy                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not available in my area                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation – it's hard to get there |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afraid, scared or shy                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't like formal classes             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested in learning my traditional language   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not happy with the people who are delivering the activity |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below)                              |  |

## SECTION 2

### YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGES

23. Please let us know if you would be interested in the following traditional language activities. We would also like to know if you have already participated in any of them. Please tick your answers.

Activities	I would <b>not</b> participate	I would participate	I have already participated
Attending adult language classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending child language classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reading traditional language community newspapers or newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Watching traditional language community TV or listening to radio programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending traditional language music and songwriting programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Viewing traditional language websites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using language curriculums for schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recording traditional language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SECTION 3

### TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

**The following questions will help us to gain a better understanding of your traditional language background and language use.**

24. Who was the main person who raised you when you were a child? You can tick more than one if appropriate.

- Mother     Grandparent     Great-grandparent  
 Father     Other family member     Non-related person

25. Did the person or people who mainly raised you speak traditional language(s)? Please tick the most appropriate answer. If more than one person raised you, please base your answer on the person who spoke the traditional language(s) most fluently.

- No, they didn't speak any traditional language(s).  
 Yes, they could say some words and simple sentences.  
 Yes, they could have a conversation in limited situations. They could not express everything in traditional language(s).  
 Yes, they could have a conversation about everything in all situations. They could express almost everything in traditional language(s).  
 They spoke recently developed Indigenous languages such as Kriol, Yumplatok, and Aboriginal English.  
 Unsure.

26. Which traditional language do you most strongly identify with? Also, please tell us who in your family is associated with this language by ticking the appropriate box(es)?

Language name \_\_\_\_\_

- Mother's people     Grandmother's people  
 Father's people     Grandfather's people  
 Other family member     Unsure  
 Not from family members (this language is not associated with any of my family members but with where I grew up or have lived).

27. Did you grow up in the area where this traditional language is from? Please tick your answer.

- Yes     No     Unsure



## SECTION 3

### TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

28. How well do you speak this traditional language? Please tick the most appropriate answer.

- I do not speak the language at all.
- I can say some words and simple sentences.
- I can have a conversation in limited situations. I cannot express everything in this traditional language.
- I can have a conversation about everything in all situations. I can express almost everything in this language.

29. Do you use this traditional language more often, less often, or the same amount as when you were younger? Please tick the most appropriate answer.

- I use the language more often now.
- The same amount.
- I use the language less often now.
- Unsure.

30. If you use the traditional language more often or less often than you did in the past, please list the reasons why you think your traditional language use has changed. If your traditional language use has not changed, what do you think helped to keep it the same?

31. When and how did you learn this traditional language? Please tick all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a child                   | <input type="checkbox"/> In school                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As an adult                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Through a language program               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From my parents              | <input type="checkbox"/> From books                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From my grandparents         | <input type="checkbox"/> On television                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At work                      | <input type="checkbox"/> I never learned the language             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On my own                    | <input type="checkbox"/> From language speakers outside my family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) |   |

## SECTION 3

### TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

32. How often do you use this traditional language now? Please tick the most appropriate answer.

- All the time, all day
- Frequently every day
- A few times every day
- A few times a week
- Rarely
- Never
- Other (please specify below)

33. Who do you speak to in this traditional language and how often? Please tick the most appropriate answer for each category of people.

Person(s)	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not applicable
Spouse or partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grandparent(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sibling(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other family members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Co-workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-related community members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SECTION 3

### TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

34. How often do you hear this traditional language being spoken? Please tick the most appropriate answer.

- All the time, all day
- Frequently every day
- A few times every day
- A few times a week
- Rarely
- Never
- Other (please specify below)

35. Which description best fits this traditional language? Please tick only one. In this question, 'fluent' means that people can express almost everything in all situations in the language.

- The language has not been used as an everyday language for some time, but some people are now learning the language.
- The language is known to very few speakers, mostly of the **great**-grandparental generation. Only people in this generation are fluent in the language.
- The language is used mostly by the grandparental generation and older. Only people in the grandparental generation and older are fluent in the language.
- The language is used mostly by the parental generation and older. Only people in the parental generation and older are fluent in the language.
- The language is used by most children in limited situations, but some children can use it in all situations. Some children and older people are fluent in the language but some children are not fluent.
- The language is used by all age groups, including children. People in all age groups are fluent in the language.
- There are no speakers left.

**If you have any additional comments about the current state of this traditional language, please write them here.**

## SECTION 3

### TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

36. Where and how often do you hear this traditional language being spoken? Please tick the appropriate answer for each place.

Where	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Community centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At my home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At the shops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At other family members' homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At friends' homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On Country	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At sporting events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During ceremonies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At other community meetings & events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SECTION 3

### TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

**Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about your traditional language by ticking the appropriate answer for each statement. Please read each statement carefully before selecting your answer.**

37. It is important to me that I know and use it.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

38. I feel that most people in my community are not interested in keeping the language strong.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

39. I would like to be able to help other people learn it.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

40. I am satisfied with my current ability to speak it.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

41. It is important to me that my children learn and use it.

- Strongly agree     Agree     Unsure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

42. Please explain your answer to Question 41. Why do you feel that way?

## SECTION 3 TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE BACKGROUND AND LANGUAGE USE

43. What would you like to see 20 years from now in regard to the use of your traditional language? You can answer for yourself and/or more widely.

44. Do you want to have any of the following services provided in this traditional language? Please tick the appropriate answer for each service.

Service	Yes	No	Unsure
Medical and dental care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Counselling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elder care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Banking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Daycare for children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newspapers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TV shows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpreting/translating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SECTION 4 DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

**The following questions are for demographic purposes so that we know we have included people from different backgrounds. As with all of the questions in this questionnaire, you do not have to answer any question that you do not want to answer.**

45. Which age group do you belong to?

- 0 – 19 years     20 – 39 years     40 – 59 years     60+ years

46. What is your gender?

- Female     Male     Other

47. Have you ever participated in any language activities?

- Yes     No

48. Are you a member of the Stolen Generations?

- Yes     No     Don't know

49. Do you have any children?

50. Where do you currently live?

Town

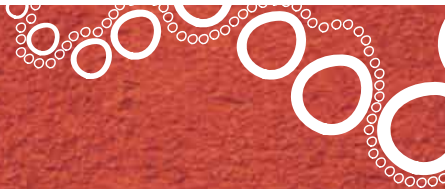
State     Postcode

51. Where did you spend most of your childhood years?

Town

State     Postcode

**SECTION 4**  
**DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**



52. What is your educational background? Please tick all that apply.

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Completed year 12
- TAFE or similar
- University degree
- Post-graduate degree
- Education in Customary Law
- Some university courses

Other traditional/cultural education (please specify below)

53. If you have a paid job, what is your occupation?







## SECTION 5 CONTACT INFORMATION

54. Is it okay for us to contact you if we have any follow-up questions regarding your responses?

Yes       No

If yes, please provide your contact details:

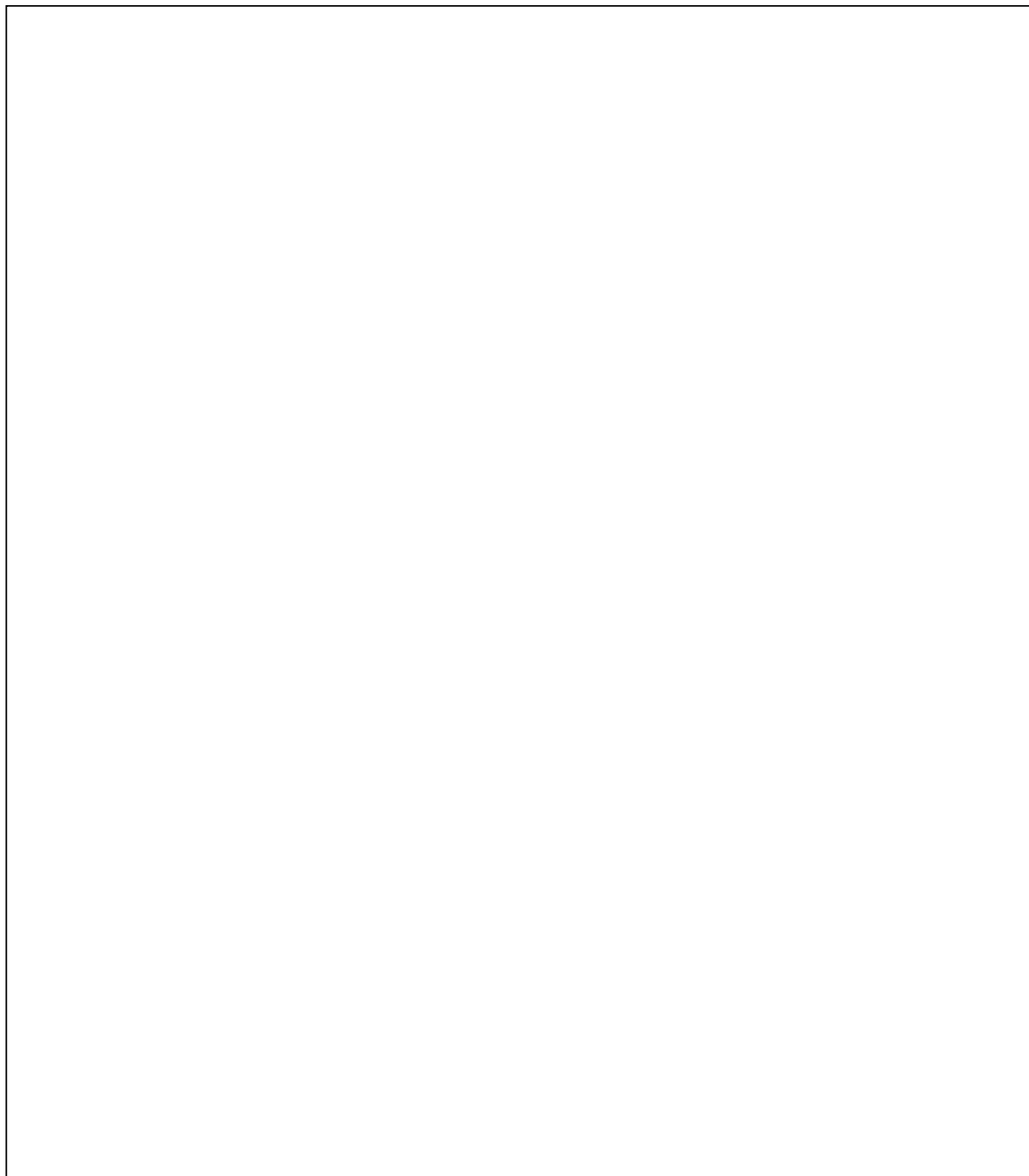
Name

Phone number

Email

**SECTION 6**  
FURTHER INFORMATION TO TELL US

55. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us? You can use additional blank pages if necessary.



**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**



A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a response or drawing.



A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a survey or response.

