

Chapter 1 • Research



## **Goal 1**

### **To provide leadership and excellence in promoting, facilitating and undertaking high quality research in Australian Indigenous Studies**

#### **Role of research**

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is the leading national research institution on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. AIATSIS has responsibility for a multitude of research programs and services and engages in numerous partnerships with research institutions and Indigenous communities. As the peak, national multi-disciplinary Indigenous research institution, AIATSIS offers an ideal research environment.

The Research Program maintains wide-ranging expertise in Indigenous studies and policy research with established projects in social health, regional organisation and governance, intellectual property, history, language, archaeology and cultural tourism, native title, agreement making and mediation and decision making.

The reporting of research outputs this year against categories of peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed publications and reports demonstrates the quality of the research being produced by research staff and their competitiveness when measured against their peers in universities and other research institutions.

#### **Research advisory bodies**

The quality, independence and ethics of the research activities of AIATSIS are subject to the oversight of the AIATSIS statutory Research Advisory Committee, the Native Title Research Advisory Committee, Ethics Committee and Council.

Individual projects often have their own reference group, for example the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project Reference Group.

The Research Advisory Committee:

- assesses applications for research grants made to the Institute
- makes recommendations to the Council in relation to research matters, and
- advises the Council in relation to applications for membership of the Institute.

The Research Advisory Committee of the Institute consists of:

- three members of the Council appointed by the Council
- eight members of the Institute, elected by the members of the Institute in accordance with the Institute rules, and
- the Principal.

During 2003–2004 elected members of the Research Advisory Committee and their areas of expertise were:

- Mr Kim Akerman — archaeology
- Ms Jeanie Bell — linguistics
- Professor Ann Curthoys — history
- Dr Gaynor Macdonald — social anthropology
- Mr Djon Mundine OAM — arts

- Emer. Professor Garth Nettheim AO — public policy, politics and law
- Dr Colin Pardoe — health and biological sciences
- Mr Lester-Irabinna Rigney — education and cultural transmission

Council representatives on the Research Advisory Committee were Mr Eric Bedford, Professor Larissa Behrendt and Mr Michael Williams. The Committee met twice during 2003–2004, in September 2003 and April 2004. The September meeting was chaired by the Principal, Mr Russell Taylor; the April meeting was chaired by the Acting Principal, Mr Steve Larkin.

The members of the Native Title Research Advisory Committee are appointed by the AIATSIS Council. During 2003–2004 members of the Committee were:

- Professor Michael Dodson, Member of AIATSIS Council
- Professor Larissa Behrendt, Member of AIATSIS Council
- Mr Robert Blowes, Barrister
- Dr Mary Edmunds, Research Fellow, ANU Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (resigned October 2003)

ATSIC/ATSIS nominees were:

- Dr Peter Veth, A/g Deputy Principal (Research) (ex-officio)
- Dr Patrick Sullivan, Acting Deputy Director of Research (ex-officio).

### **Staff research activities**

Members of the Research Program have been exceptionally busy during the last reporting period. The following comments highlight some initiatives and achievements of the research fellows and staff, in addition to their engagement in larger collaborative projects with external parties, also profiled below (under Goal 5).

Intellectual Property Fellow, Dr Jane Anderson, has been awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institute for a three month period in early 2005, to examine aspects of Intellectual Property and Heritage. She was one of only two overseas appointments from a field of 600 applicants. During the year she presented numerous papers at a range of national and international conferences including an Intellectual Property forum in Cairns and a symposium on musicology and intellectual property in Sydney. Dr Anderson has been invited to submit a manuscript to the Edward Elgar Publishing House for publication as a book, entitled *The Production of Indigenous Knowledge in Intellectual Property Law*.

Ms Toni Bauman is the coordinator of the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP) within the Native Title Research Unit, which began its first full year of operation in July 2003. The project has attracted significant external funding and now has a contingent of 3.5 effective full time staff (with additional capacity for consultant research). Ms Bauman led four decision making and conflict management workshops for Native Title Representative Bodies in North Queensland, Perth and Adelaide during May. The workshops were in high demand with requests for further workshops to be conducted in the new financial year. A survey of native title mediation practitioners was completed and reported on to

the 2004 Native Title Conference. Ms Bauman has presented numerous papers on the project and the outcomes of the research, including at international conferences in Singapore and Italy.

Dr Stuart Bradfield has had primary carriage of the Native Title Research Unit priority research project on Comprehensive Approaches to Native Title and Agreement Making. Dr Bradfield convened the Semester 1 AIATSIS Seminar Series, *Regionalism, Indigenous Governance and Decision Making*. He is liaising with seminar series presenters and speakers from the Pathways to Regional Autonomy Stream at the 2004 Native Title Conference with a view to producing an edited collection. Together, these papers are prescient in the new policy environment, focusing on regional approaches to Indigenous affairs based on agreement-making. Dr Bradfield has participated in public academic debate, publishing a number of accessible, though considered pieces in online journals.

History Fellow, Dr Geoff Gray, has delivered a series of papers to national conferences including a post-colonialism history conference in Tasmania, and an invited paper to the Australian Historical Association's Biennial Conference in Newcastle. He also presented to a history symposium at Flinders University and delivered an invited paper entitled 'The Roth Family, Anthropology and Colonial Administration' to a special seminar on the contribution of Walter Roth, hosted by the University of New England.

Health Research, Fellow Dr Graham Henderson, continues to manage and contribute to a host of collaborative health projects — with a 100 per cent commitment to the CRC for Aboriginal Health (see Goal 5). He continues work on the social determinants of health including participation in The Regional Centre for Emotional and Well-Being Research. Dr Henderson has represented AIATSIS on a range of advisory groups including the: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Indigenous Health Survey Group; CDHA Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Branch Indigenous Strategies Working Group; Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LISC) Design Sub-committee; ANU Medical School Indigenous Curriculum Committee; and the Diabetes Australia Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Steering Committee. Some of Dr Henderson's collaborative work and recently completed commissioned research is profiled under Goal 5.

Dr Patrick McConvell recently represented AIATSIS and presented a paper in July at the China–Australia Human Rights Technical Co-operation Program. He is actively involved in the joint Research/AV/FATSIL National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) and, with Doug Marmion, recently completed the web-based survey questionnaire for the NILS project. Dr McConvell also continued to work on the ARC Project, How Mixed Language Input Affects Child Language Development, a volume entitled *Can Aboriginal Languages Survive?, A Gurindji Grammar and Dictionary*, and (with Dr Peter Veth) editing of the ARCLING II Volume and a volume (with Luise Hercus) on Aboriginal place names.

Health Fellow, Dr Heather McDonald, actively pursued her field work in the Halls Creek area examining health service-delivery provision, and the intersection between biomedical models of health and social and personal wellbeing. She has presented a range of papers on this topic over the last year, including at an International Health Conference held in Melbourne. Dr McDonald is co-authoring commissioned papers under the aegis of the CRC for Aboriginal Health and is party to a recent international bid for funding from the International Collaborative Indigenous research Partnership Grant Scheme on Resilience (with Dr Henderson and Mr Larkin).

Dr Lisa Strelein, Manager of the Native Title Research Unit, contributed a chapter examining the symbolic and functional importance of native title to the book, *Honour Among Nations* (edited by Professor Marcia Langton, and others). Dr Strelein's work on native title and oceans policy was reproduced in a collection of papers, *Water and Fishing Rights*, edited by Dr Paul Kauffman. She has also published work on commercial fishing and native title and provided a report on native title and the kangaroo industry as part of an ARC project examining the participation of Indigenous people in the South Australian kangaroo industry. Dr Strelein has played a leadership role in developing research consortia to assist Indigenous communities in the development and negotiation of large-scale agreements. Her case analyses continue to be distributed among Native Title Representative Body networks, her analysis of the *Ward v Western Australia* judgment was cited extensively in the revised text of *Indigenous Legal Issues*.

Governance Fellow, Dr Patrick Sullivan, was Acting Deputy Director of Research in addition to servicing a considerable number of governance, organisational and anthropology research briefs. During the year he has produced research papers and provided input into the Desert Knowledge Co-operative Research Centre, the Co-operative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and a Governance and Indigenous Nations in the Murray Darling Basin task for the Murray Darling Basin Commission. These activities are outlined in greater detail below under Goal 5.

Dr Luke Taylor acted as the Deputy Principal from November 2003. He conducted fieldwork in August 2003 with Kuninjku artists in association with a team from the Art Gallery of New South Wales led by Ms Hetti Perkins. This work is directed towards the production of a film, catalogue and the development of a major exhibition at the AGNSW for September 2004. In second semester 2003 he taught a course (with Mr Wally Caruana) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art for honours and graduate diploma students in the Department of Fine Art, ANU. He was also manager of the project on *Success in Aboriginal Communities — A Pilot Study* in association with the Australian Collaboration and manager of the National Survey of Indigenous Languages project funded by ATSIIS.

Dr Peter Veth gave the Plenary Lecture to National Archaeology Week at the National Museum of Australia in May. He has been invited to present the Inaugural Norman Tindale Lecture in Adelaide and present a plenary address to the Great

Basin Anthropological Conference in Nevada. He completed three weeks of fieldwork with Martu custodians in the Western Desert, east of the Canning Stock Route, where a team of rock art colleagues recorded over 100 art complexes and participated in further contemporary site recording (directed by Emeritus Professor Robert Tonkinson). A co-authored volume (with Drs Mike Smith and Peter Hiscock) entitled 'Desert Peoples: Archaeological Perspectives', has gone into production with Blackwell Publishing, UK. This is the first comparative review of the emergence of desert societies from around the world.

Dr Graeme Ward completed another season of fieldwork in the Wadey-Port Keates area focusing on the topic of cultural heritage tourism and the management of sites with rock-markings. He worked on editing the papers for the bi-annual AIATSIS Conference 2001 and is developing thematics for the 2004 Conference, in conjunction with the Conference Steering Committee. Dr Ward also formally took on higher editorial duties for the journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, Research Discussion Papers and other occasional papers.

Mr Steve Kinnane was offered the Visiting Research Fellowship in Social Organisation and Expressive Culture. He is scheduled to begin his VRF at the start of 2005.

Dr Anthea (Jo) Taylor formally accepted the Institute's offer of a Visiting Research Fellowship in Cultural Transmission and Education and will also begin her tenure at the start of 2005.

### **Visitors to AIATSIS**

AIATSIS is a centre for research excellence. To foster this excellence AIATSIS has pursued a vigorous intellectual environment and sought to maximise the benefits of developing networks of academics, practitioners and thinkers in Indigenous studies. To this end AIATSIS encourages people in the field to join the Research Program for academic sabbaticals, short stays and short-term fellowships. The value of this approach is two-fold: the first is its contribution to the professional development of both staff and visitors; and the contribution of papers, seminars and research outcomes. AIATSIS encourages a diversity of visitors, including the International Indigenous Fellowship in the Native Title Research Unit, the Indigenous Scholars Program for postgraduate scholars, short visiting fellowships (of 1–3 months), Honorary Visiting Fellows appointed by Council, as well as providing opportunities for seminars and workshops to be presented by occasional visitors.

The inaugural International Indigenous Fellow in native title was Professor John Borrows, an Anishinabe/Ojibway man, a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario, in Canada, and Professor and Law Foundation Chair of Aboriginal Justice and Governance at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Professor Borrows was resident at AIATSIS in February and March 2004. The Native Title Research Unit also assisted the visit to Australia by Assistant Grand Chief, Lloyd Phillips, of the Mohawk Council, Kahnawake in Canada, during November–December 2003.

Council appointed Professor Colin Tatz as an Honorary Visiting Fellow for three years. Professor Tatz is proposing to assemble a reference work entitled 'The Politics of Property: Aboriginal Land Policies 1966–2006'. The scope of the work is intended to include a chronology of land claims, a catalogue of case law, and summaries of reports and major critiques published on land rights. The work will also include commentaries.

For two years the Audiovisual Archives hosted Dr Peter Toner, a visiting researcher from the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, ANU, who was working on the audio collection of Daymbalipu Mununggurr. Dr Toner was documenting the collection for the archive and digitising it in order to return the materials to the Yirrkala community.

The Audiovisual Archives hosted Ms Laura Gerber, a visual anthropology student visiting from Germany, for two months. Ms Gerber worked at AIATSIS three days a week documenting video materials.

See Goal 2 p. 20 for further detail on visiting Indigenous researchers and scholars.

### **Native Title Conference 2004**

The annual national Native Title Conference, organised by the Native Title Research Unit Program, is the pre-eminent annual conference in Australia on native title and Indigenous policy. The conference attracts the highest level participation from government, Indigenous and academic sectors. The Conference places AIATSIS at the centre of policy and practice on Indigenous land and governance.

This year the Native Title Research Unit and the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (SA) Native Title Unit convened the fifth annual national Native Title Conference in Adelaide at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg on 3–4 June. The conference title was *Building Relationships: It's the people that matter; it's the people that make it work*.

Main plenary sessions included the annual Mabo Lecture, introduced by Mrs Bonita Mabo and this year delivered by Professor John Borrows, the inaugural AIATSIS International Fellow. Other keynote speakers included Professor Erica-Irene Dais, the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, and the Attorney-general Philip Ruddock.

Pre-conference workshops for native title representative body (NTRB) delegates only, were held on 2 June. NTRB staff and executives participated in legal and research strategic thinking, knowledge and skills-based workshops.

An Indigenous Youth Forum and Indigenous Talking Circles were convened by representatives from native title groups, community elders and native title practitioners to share experiences.

The conference was opened with a Greeting Ceremony hosted by Kurna Elders and the Kurna Native Title Committee, followed by a performance from the Parity Dance Group. The conference closed with a formal dinner with Carroll Barany's band Nocona and local Indigenous guest artists provided live entertainment.

## The AIATSIS Native Title Conference 2004

### Building Relationships

'We have never come to a peaceful settlement,' senior Kurna women, Georgina Williams told delegates to the AIATSIS Native Title Conference 2004.

Georgina was speaking at the opening of the hugely successful AIATSIS Native Title Conference 2004, *Building Relationships — It's the people that matter, it's the people that make it work.*

Opening on Mabo Day, the annual conference was held in Adelaide, on the traditional country of the Kurna people. Holding the conference on Kurna land offered recognition of the long history of dispossession the Kurna people have experienced.

'The Kurna people were dispossessed of their land in the 1840's. South Australia, was a free-man settled state . . . It was never meant to happen here,' Georgina said, 'and we have never come to a peaceful settlement.'

The conference brought together hundreds of Indigenous people and their representatives from across the country to discuss the critical issues in native title. A pre-conference workshop for the staff and leadership of the Native Title Representative Bodies, was an opportunity to focus their discussions, and share their experiences and ideas for the future directions in native title.

The Conference opened with a greeting ceremony hosted by Kurna Elders and the Kurna Native Title Committee. Performer Steve Goldsmith, called on the delegates to 'celebrate

this gathering, this coming together of Indigenous people to save our country, our environment, our land, our culture.'

The conference included a presentation by John Borrows, AIATSIS's inaugural Indigenous Visiting Fellow, who delivered the annual Mabo lecture. His presentation questioned whether 'practical recolonisation' would lead to practical reconciliation. A popular presentation was delivered by several Federal Court judges; the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project's website was launched by AIATSIS Chairperson, Mick Dodson; and the book *Honour Among Nations: Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous Peoples*, was launched. Other keynote speakers included Philip Ruddock, Federal Attorney-General and Erica-Irene Daes, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples.



A member of the Parity Dance Group performing at the opening of the Native Title Conference



This year 456 delegates registered for the Conference. Forty-three speakers presented papers, convened workshops and reported on projects and emerging issues in native title. The conference was strongly supported by staff and council of the NATBs, native title claimants and holders, their legal counsel, native title practitioners such as anthropologists, government institutions and departments, politicians, Federal Court judges and academics.

### **National Research Priorities Report**

The AIATSIS Implementation and Innovation Reports 2004, in response to the Federal Government's national research priorities initiative, were completed and forwarded to the Minister by the Chair, Professor Mick Dodson, in May.

The Research Program took the lead role in compiling the AIATSIS National Research Priorities (NRP) Annual Report, a response to the Government's national research priorities and (additional) priority goals. This was forwarded to Minister Brendan Nelson and the Standing Committee, Chaired by the Chief Scientist, at the end of July.

The AIATSIS Report notes where the AIATSIS research effort, as directed by Council, engages with the Federal Government's national research priorities and priority goals and provides detail of program activity outputs in different categories, such as user access statistics, collaborative monies attracted and peer-reviewed publications. The Federal Government requires that these data are provided in the *Annual Report* and are tracked on a yearly basis. The AIATSIS NRP *Annual Report*, containing this data, can be found at Appendix 6.

### **Review of National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans**

Planning began for an AIATSIS submission to the Review of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (National Statement). AIATSIS is a pioneer on this issue of national and international significance. The Institute developed its *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies* some years ago, and this review provides an opportunity to further influence national policy in relation to ethical conduct in research with Indigenous people. Dr Peter Veth and Dr Jane Anderson will co-ordinate the AIATSIS submission.

### **Grants update**

Council approved the awarding of 31 Research Grants totalling \$693,000, as recommended by the Research Advisory Council. Council approved an additional \$10,000 for an Indigenous knowledge system initiative. Applicants requested over \$2.7 million in grants, making the scheme as competitive as the ARC grants rounds.

Grants were made across a good spread of disciplinary areas including: social anthropology; linguistics; history; public policy; politics and law; arts; archaeology; education and cultural transmission; and Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property (the latter a special emphasis category).

A full list of grants awarded is presented at Appendix 2.

### **Publication of research material**

Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) facilitated and promoted high-quality research through its publishing program on Australian Indigenous studies. This included the dissemination of research findings on Australian Indigenous studies in print form, to a variety of readerships. In addition, it provided a reference point and a platform for future research in Indigenous studies. The AIATSIS journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, is distributed nationally and internationally in print form and selected articles are available through the online forums of the Australian Public Affairs Full Text (APAFT) and AGIS.

During the year, ASP published seven new books and two editions of the multi-disciplinary peer-reviewed AIATSIS journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies* (for details see page 29).

Of the books published, the subject areas included: race relations; land rights; reconciliation; native title; sovereignty; cultural identity; frontier race relations; researching and collecting Indigenous artefacts; stolen generation policies and their effects; health and scientific research; Torres Strait cultural identity; and political struggle.

### **Goal 2**

#### **To maximise the role of Australian Indigenous peoples in the activities and services of the Institute**

A large number of projects and initiatives managed by the Research Program ensure that Australian Indigenous peoples are involved to varying degrees in the research endeavour of the organisation. These include: the Visiting Indigenous Scholars' Scheme; the Competitive Research Grants Scheme; collaborative research with Indigenous communities and individuals; and national conferences, such as the Native Title Conference.

### **Grants**

Successful Indigenous participation in the Research Grants Scheme clearly makes a contribution to facilitating and increasing Indigenous research capacity — at both the individual and community level. The Competitive Research Grants Scheme is increasingly attracting quality applications from Indigenous researchers. In the 2003 and 2004 rounds, well over half of the applicants awarded grants were either Indigenous scholars working independently or in collaboration with non-Indigenous researchers. This represents a significant increase in both the participation rate and success of Indigenous scholars in the scheme — which has a success rate equivalent to the ARC research grants rounds.

Several research grants workshops have been delivered by the Grants Administration Staff over the last year (e.g. in Alice Springs) in order to increase the efficacy of applications from both individuals and organisations. In addition,

Research Fellows mentor Indigenous grantees to ensure that they have optimal access to resources and that they are linked into local and regional research networks, wherever possible. This year, applicants were invited to submit drafts of their applications for comment.

### **Advisory committees**

The RAC, which provides detailed comments on Research Fellowships, assesses research grant applications and provides high level advice to Council, has a major complement of senior Indigenous scholars from around Australia.

The Project Reference Group for the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project, established this year, has significant Indigenous representation. In May, the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project held workshops with Native Title Representative Bodies in Perth, Bundaberg and Cairns looking at decision making within Indigenous communities.

### **Collaborative research with Indigenous researchers, organisations and communities**

The Research Program engages in both applied and pure research projects with a range of early career through to more established Indigenous researchers. The majority of projects undertaken by Research Fellows involve collaboration with Indigenous researchers and their host organisations. Examples include the CRC for Aboriginal Health, the National Indigenous Languages Survey and the Australian Collaboration Project as well as Native Title Research Unit initiatives with the Murray Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Further examples may be found under Goals 1 and 5 in this chapter.

Research Fellows work with Indigenous organisations and individuals throughout Australia and Torres Strait. Host communities are located in Arnhem Land, the Kimberley, the Western Desert, Northern Territory, Southwest Australia, the Nullarbor, central Australia, Cape York, North Queensland, Torres Strait, urban and western NSW and Victoria.

### **Indigenous researchers and scholars at AIATSIS**

Mr Steve Kinnane, an Indigenous scholar, has been offered and formally accepted the Visiting Research Fellowship in Social Organisation and Expressive Culture. Mr Kinnane is an award-winning Indigenous researcher, writer, filmmaker and community worker with wide and varied experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. He has been a Lecturer in Indigenous Studies at Murdoch University for the last three years.

Mr Glen Kelly, a Nyunga man with a background in environmental law and policy, undertook a three-month Visiting Fellowship in the Native Title Research Unit focusing on the relationship between native title, autonomy and representativeness.

The Indigenous Scholars' Program provides an opportunity for two Indigenous post-graduate students to conduct research at AIATSIS for a three-month period. Ms Valerie Cooms conducted archival research for her PhD in History at the University of New England. Ms Donna Oxenham conducted research for her Masters thesis in history and anthropology at the University of Western Australia.

AIATSIS continued its association with Ngiya — National Institute for Indigenous Law, Policy and Practice, with Mr Mark McMillan being based at AIATSIS before his return to complete post-graduate work at the University of Arizona.

### **Seminars and conference participation**

The AIATSIS Seminar Series encourages participation from Indigenous scholars, policy makers and fieldworkers. In the *Health and Society* series, Professor Ian Anderson from the University of Melbourne and Professor Gordon Briscoe from the Indigenous History Program of the ANU were among the speakers. In the series on *Regionalism, Indigenous Governance and Decision Making*, a number of Indigenous speakers presented models of regional approaches, including Mr Bryan Wyatt from the Goldfields Land and Sea Council, and Mr Sam Jeffries from the Murdi Paaki Regional Council.

The Native Title Conference 2004 was convened together with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (SA) and hosted by the Kurna people, the traditional owners of Tandanya (Adelaide). The Conference involves the native title holders and their representative bodies in the planning of the event. The conference involves a large number of Indigenous speakers and participants, particularly from the local community. This year, Indigenous talking circles were a feature of the conference.

### **Goal 5**

#### **To develop and maintain strategic alliances that add value to our activities**

AIATSIS has seen a rapid growth in the development of new strategic alliances between members of the Research Program and outside partners over the past year. New potential alliances have been 'reviewed' in order to assess whether: they are consistent with the current mandate of AIATSIS (as determined by Council); they add value to the AIATSIS research quantum; and whether they address relevant aspects of the Federal Government's national research priorities (see AIATSIS National Research Priority Implementation Plan 2004 at Appendix 6).

*Some current Research Program strategic alliances are:*

#### **Native Title Research Unit**

AIATSIS maintained a key strategic alliance with ATSIC/ATSIS (now the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination) through the Native Title Research Unit. ATSIS

again provided \$430,000 for the core activities of the NTRU with further funding for additional projects including the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (\$250,000) and the Native Title conference (\$85,000). While the Unit maintains an independent research program, ATSIIS provided strategic input to the development of the research plan, and facilitated the engagement of Native Title Research Bodies (NTRB's) with the research of the NTRU.

The NTRU maintains a strong relationship with Nitres, providing advice and research targeted to the current and emerging priorities of native title practice. The Native Title Conference 2004 provided an opportunity to cement the Institute's bilateral relationship with the co-convening NTRB.

The NTRU is also located within networks of government agencies and academic and professional networks.

### **Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project**

As part of the Native Title Research Unit, and funded largely through additional funding from ATSIIS, the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP) has a strong focus on networks and alliances. The National Native Title Tribunal supported the project by providing funding for a series of workshops with NTRBs and the project has developed relationships with peak organisations such as the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (NADRAC). Part of the ongoing work of the project is to develop networks of mediation practitioners and Indigenous practitioners, in particular.

### **CRC for Aboriginal Health**

The CRCAH is a 'virtual' organisation bringing together in collaboration research users, research providers, policy makers and service delivery agencies.

Its twelve core partners are: the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Charles Darwin University, Danila Dilba Health Service, the Department of Health and Ageing (Commonwealth Doha), the Department of Health and Community Services (NT DHCS), Flinders University, La Trobe University, Melbourne University, the Menzies School of Health Research (MSHR), the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) and the University of Queensland. There are an additional six associate partners.

The CRC for Aboriginal Health Research Fellows Drs Henderson and McDonald and Ms Jilpia Jones presented papers (including one on behalf of the Principal, Mr Steve Larkin), to the 17th Union of Health Promotion in Melbourne. The Health Fellows (in combination with inter-institutional colleagues) completed five papers commissioned by the CRCAH. These were:

- Governance as a Social Determinant of Health Outcomes for Aboriginal People: A Scoping Paper for the CRC for Aboriginal Health
- Social and Emotional Well Being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Within the Broader Context of the Social Determinants of Health

- Social Capital and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: Problems and Possibilities
- Framework for Research on Aboriginal Health and the Physical Environment
- Culture in Health Research and Practice.

In addition, the Health Fellows and the Principal have been extremely active recently in helping to establish future strategies for the longer-term research agenda of the CRCAH. They are also working with researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Medicine, University of Manitoba (Canada) and Massey University (New Zealand) towards a major project for the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership on Resilience.

Dr Patrick Sullivan received a commission from the CRCAH to write an overview paper and carry out a review of the literature on governance as one of the social determinants of Aboriginal health. AIATSIS employed a CRC part-funded research assistant to help with this (Katharine Oliver). Dr Sullivan and Ms Oliver produced a 34,000 word paper which was delivered to the Social Determinants Workshop in Adelaide on 5–6 July.

### **Desert Knowledge CRC**

Work has continued on planning the thematic for governance research in this stream, referred to as the ‘Meta Project’. Dr Patrick Sullivan received an offer of funding from the Desert Knowledge CRC (DKCRC) for field work into whole-of-government service delivery in the Fitzroy Crossing region in the coming year, made possible by his enrolment as an Associate Fellow at Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), a partner of the DKCRC, and by coordinating with the CAEPR/Reconciliation Australia/ARC linkage grant on governance research.

### **Murray Darling Basin Commission**

Dr Lisa Strelein collaborated with the Murray Darling Indigenous Nations on their response to the Murray Darling Basin Commission ‘Living Murray Initiative’, and has provided support and mentoring to Project Managers within the Murray Darling Basin Commission to developing their Indigenous Action Plan (IAP). As part of this collaboration, AIATSIS has hosted a number of water rights forums and convened the academic roundtables for the IAP. Dr Strelein provided advice on the research program and peer review processes. A discussion paper was prepared by Monica Morgan, Lisa Strelein and Jessica Weir on the Indigenous response to the Living Murray Initiative, and a brief article was published on the issues in the *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol. 5 no. 29 pp. 17–20.

The Indigenous Action Plan Research Project of the Murray Darling Basin Commission employed Dr Sullivan as a consultant for the report *Governance and Indigenous Nations in the Murray Darling Basin*. The report is currently being assessed by the project managers. As part of this project Dr Sullivan gave a presentation on

governance processes for informed consent over development proposals at the Murray Darling Indigenous Nations Basin-wide Gathering at Old Parliament House in Canberra on 19–21 May.

### **Treaty Research Network**

Dr Lisa Strelein is a partner investigator in the ARC partnership with Professor George Williams (UNSW) and Professor Larissa Behrendt (UTS) to examine the public law implications of a treaty between Indigenous peoples and the Australian government. The project will result in a co-authored book (also with Mr Sean Brennan) which has been accepted for publication by Federation Press. The project has published a number of issues papers and will hold a public forum, titled *Indigenous health and the treaty debate*, in September 2004.

### **South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Academic Task Force (SWALSC)**

NTRU Research Fellows, Dr Strelein, Dr Bradfield and Research Officer, Ms Serica Mackay, conducted substantial research of relevance to the SWALSC to assist with its response to the WA Government initiative to develop a regional agreement for the south-west, and its relationship with the native title processes. This project builds on work conducted by Dr Strelein with SWALSC on the Noongar Single Claim strategy and governance arrangements. The research for this project will be of relevance to agreements processes more generally and other comprehensive strategies in particular.

SWALSC convened an academic taskforce of experts working in this area to support their work. The taskforce includes researchers from Melbourne University's 'Agreements Project' and the Jumbunna (UTS) and UNSW Treaty project.

Staff of the NTRU, including Dr Bradfield, Dr Strelein, Ms Serica Mackay and Ms Lara Wiseman, participated in an 'academic taskforce' meeting in May. The workshop included a meeting with the Full Executive Council of the Land Council (60 Noongar people) to discuss the possible content of a comprehensive Agreement. A brief article by Dr Strelein and Dr Bradfield on the Single Noongar claim was published in the *Indigenous Law Bulletin* vol. 6 no. 2 pp. 11–13.

### **Australian Collaboration**

The Australian Collaboration is a consortium of peak community organisations. Its members in 2003–2004 were the: Australian Conservation Foundation; Australian Consumers' Association; Australian Council of Social Services; Australian Council for Overseas Aid; Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission; National Council of Churches and its Social Justice Network; and the Trust for Young Australians.

The publication, *Success in Aboriginal Communities: a Pilot Study*, volumes 1 and 2, have been completed and copies distributed. The text was produced by Dr Julie Finlayson and overseen by a Steering Committee comprising Professor Larissa Behrendt (UTS), Ms Kerri Nelson (ATSIC), Dr Luke Taylor (AIATSIS) and

Professor David Yencken (Australian Collaboration). The report profiled the elements of success in two Indigenous organisations: Wangka Maya Language Centre and Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service.

### **International Union for Quaternary Research**

AIATSIS was party to a successful bid, co-ordinated by Professor John Dodson of UWA, to participate in an activity of the International Union for Quaternary Research (2004–2007). The proposal, ‘The great arc of human dispersal: the Australasian node’, has received funding for the first year. Dr Peter Veth is responsible for the project and the overall co-ordination of the Australasian human/landscape history stream.

### **National Indigenous Languages Survey**

AIATSIS is undertaking a survey of national Indigenous languages needs. The purpose of the project, initially funded by ATSI (now DOCITA), is to obtain a snapshot of language activity, available resources and needs in 2004, which can be tracked over time and to provide innovative tools for funding allocation.

The project is well underway with members from Research, Audiovisual Archives and the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages (FATSIL) working collaboratively on a range of tasks. Dr Doug Marmion and Dr Patrick McConvell presented an outline of the National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) project to the Annual Conference of Linguists in 2004. Ms Dianne Hosking, Ms Sally McNicol and Ms Marisa Harris presented an outline of the project to the FATSIL.

### **Illicit Substance Use and Policing Protocols Project**

This is a collaborative project being conducted by AIATSIS and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC). The project is fully staffed and all members of the project team are in place. Fieldwork was completed in WA (Kalgoorlie, Laverton and Warburton) and in Queensland (Rockhampton, Woorabinda and Mount Morgan). Mr Glenn Caton, an Indigenous officer from the WA Police planning and policy area, was seconded to the project. Comparative fieldwork is planned in Queensland. Mr Trevor Adcock was seconded to the Cairns jurisdiction. Work in the Anangu Pitjantajara Yungantjara Lands in SA is planned for August and for the Northern Territory in September. NSW (Queanbeyan) police met with representatives from the Australian National University Institute of Indigenous Australia (ANUIA) (including the AIATSIS Chair, Professor Mick Dodson) and staff from the AIATSIS–AIC project team, and agreed to participate in the study.