Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

ANNUAL REPORT
2003–2004

AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

The Institute logo is taken from a Gu:na:ni
(Kunjen) shield from the Mitchell River region,
Gulf of Carpentaria. The shield was purchased by
Ursula McConnel in the early 1930s on behalf of
the Australian National Research Council and is
now part of the AIATSIS Collection.

Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present

The Hon. Brendan Nelson MP,
Minister for Education, Science and Training,
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I am pleased to submit the *Annual Report* on the operations of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for 2003–2004.

Councillors are responsible, under Section 9 of the above Act for the preparation of this report. The report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.

Prof. Michael Dodson AM
Chairperson of Council

October 2004

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Chairperson's message

The last year has been one of change for AIATSIS and for Indigenous Affairs generally. Following the Government's announcement in April 2004 that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) would be abolished and program responsibilities would be transferred to mainstream departments and agencies, on 24 June 2004 AIATSIS was transferred to the Education, Science and Training portfolio. We anticipate that this decision will improve the Institute's ability to fulfill its responsibilities in our core areas of Indigenous research, collecting, dissemination and publishing.

As the leading national research institution in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, AIATSIS has responsibility for a plethora of research programs and services, most of which are undertaken jointly with Indigenous communities and many of which are undertaken in partnership with other research institutions. The research being undertaken by the AIATSIS Research Program — including its Research Grant Program — covers areas as diverse as social health, regional organisation and governance, intellectual property, Indigenous knowledge, history, arts, education and cultural transmission, language, anthropology, public policy, politics and law, archaeology and cultural tourism, native title, agreement making and mediation and decision making. I would like to draw attention, in particular, to the work being undertaken by AIATSIS in the area of Indigenous health.

The involvement of AIATSIS as a core partner in the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Aboriginal Health builds upon the Institute's long-standing commitment to this area. AIATSIS is represented on the Board of Management of the CRC by the Principal, Mr Steve Larkin. The Institute's commitment to the area of health includes the ongoing work of two AIATSIS Health Research Fellows, Dr Graham Henderson and Dr Heather McDonald. Dr Henderson is addressing the social determinants of health and, in particular, the area of social and emotional wellbeing and resilience (with Ms Jo Victoria). His case studies focus on the Indigenous communities in Canberra, ACT and Wagga, Narooma and Armidale, NSW. He is also continuing his work (with Dr Maggie Brady) looking at the effect of alcohol abuse on Indigenous communities. Dr Heather McDonald's research in Halls Creek, WA, focuses on the little researched area of Indigenous concepts of

health and illness in remote Australia. Other initiatives in the health area being carried out at AIATSIS focus on youth suicide (Professor Colin Tatz); Aboriginal health and the physical environment — including issues of water quality in remote communities and social capital (Dr Graham Henderson); evidence-based policy-making in Indigenous Health (Mr Steve Larkin, Dr Graham Henderson and Ms Leila Smith); the history of the trachoma program (Drs. Gordon Briscoe and Graham Henderson and Ms Jilpia Nappaljarri Jones); and governance as a social determinant of health outcomes for Aboriginal people (Dr Patrick Sullivan). Research has also been carried out by Dr Julie Finlayson to profile the elements of success in two Indigenous organisations, including a regional Aboriginal medical service. A number of other research initiatives at AIATSIS have implications for the health area, such as the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund project being carried out by Mr Brendan Delahunty (with Dr Judy Putt from the Australian Institute of Criminology) under the direction of the Acting Deputy Principal, Research, Dr Peter Veth, which is looking at the policing implications of cannabis, amphetamine and other illicit drug use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Study sites include Laverton, Kalgoorlie and Warburton, WA, Rockhampton and Woorabinda, Qld, the Tiwi Islands, NT, the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands, SA, and Queanbeyan, NSW. The research aims not only to improve the law enforcement sector's understanding of illicit drug use but to develop best policing practices that will help prevent and minimise harm from illicit drug use in Indigenous communities.

The issue of Indigenous health was also the subject of a seminar series held at AIATSIS during the year entitled *Health and Society: an Australian Indigenous Context*. The papers from that series, as well as publications from the research I have referred to above are or will be made available, either on the Institute's website (www.aiatsis.gov.au) or in hard copy. They are complemented by two publications in the health area produced this year by the AIATSIS publishing arm, Aboriginal Studies Press, *Something Special: the inside story of the Katherine West Health Board*, by the Katherine West Health Board, and *Reading Doctors' Writing*, by David Piers Thomas. I am optimistic that the high quality research in the area of health being carried out by AIATSIS will underpin improvements in this area of crucial importance for Indigenous Australians.

AIATSIS again held a number of events of significance in the year, many of which are profiled later in this *Annual Report*. I was particularly pleased to be involved, as AIATSIS Chairperson and as Convenor of the Australian National University Institute for Indigenous Australia (ANUIIA), with the *Likan'mirri – Connections* exhibition, an exhibition of many of the important artworks held by AIATSIS. The exhibition, jointly sponsored by ANUIIA, AIATSIS and the Drill Hall Gallery, opened to much acclaim on 19 February at the Drill Hall Gallery, at the Australian National University. *Likan'mirri* is a Yolngu term with a variety of meanings which range from the literal meaning 'elbow' or 'the fork in a tree'

through to connections between the sacred and secular worlds. The exhibition, curated by Mr Wally Caruana, featured a number of renowned artists, including Nym Banduk, Gordon Bennett, Kevin Gilbert and Rover Thomas. It included 19th century sketches, early bark paintings, crayon drawing from the 1950s, feathered poles, photographs and bird sculptures. It was a rare opportunity to view a number of items in the AIATSIS Collection, many of which had been collected by Institute researchers over the past forty years and which had never been seen publicly before. The exhibition was extremely popular and the attendance at the opening broke all previous Drill Hall Gallery records.

I was also delighted and indeed, honoured on 9 June 2004 to name the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access client area after the late Mrs Laura Mandima Dixon. The naming took place in the presence of some forty members of Mrs Dixon's family who had travelled from all over New South Wales to Canberra for the occasion. Laura Mandima Dixon worked with a number of Institute researchers in the early 1970s to record her language Wangkumara and information about her Wangkumara culture. The recordings, which are deposited in the Institute archives, are invaluable and irreplaceable. It was an emotional occasion especially for members of Laura Dixon's family as they listened to her rendition of a song she had recorded in her language in the 1970s. The occasion brought home to all of us the importance, especially to Indigenous peoples, of the work being carried out by AIATSIS to research, record and to make available its unique collections of Indigenous culture.

In my message last year I wrote about the Institute's Digitisation Program, a program aimed at allowing digital access to and preservation of the Institute's collections, particularly audio recordings, print material and photographic images. In my last message I recorded my appreciation to ATSIC for funding this important program. On this occasion I would like to express my appreciation to ATSIC and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs following the decision in May 2004 to award the Institute a grant of $1.5 million over the 2004–2005 financial year to continue with this program. The grant will enable AIATSIS to continue to make its collections of print and audiovisual material available to its clients, particularly those in remote locations.

Again, the Institute hosted a number of international visitors during the year, including Professor John Borrows from the Cape Croker Indian Reserve, Canada, who holds the Law Foundation Chair in Aboriginal Justice and Governance at the University of Victoria, British Columbia and Assistant Grand Chief Lloyd Phillips of the Mohawk Council, Kahnawake (Canada). Professor Borrows spent time at the Institute under the AIATSIS International Indigenous Visiting Fellowship program. Other visitors included Professor Erica-Irene Daes, the UN Founding Chairperson and Special Rapporteur on the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations; Ms Dalee Sambo Dorough from Alaska; Ms Nora Sanders, the Deputy Minister for Justice for Nunavut; Mr Jean Fournier the Canadian High Commissioner; a group of South African Land Restitution Commissioners who were undertaking a study

tour in Australia; and a delegation of some twenty Indonesian officials undertaking human rights training in Australia. As always, the visits provided a wonderful opportunity for a diverse range of views and information to be exchanged and discussed about Indigenous and other issues.

The year also saw the resignation of Mr Russell Taylor in October 2003, AIATSIS Principal since January 1997, and the appointment to the position in June 2004 of Mr Steve Larkin, previously the AIATSIS Deputy Principal. I would like to record Council's appreciation to Mr Taylor, for his significant contribution to the Institute, particularly his leadership as the Institute moved into its new building on Acton Peninsula, as well as of his skills in the areas of finance and governance. Mr Taylor is now Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office in Sydney. I would also like to welcome Mr Larkin to the position of Principal. Mr Larkin, a Kungarkany man from Darwin in the Northern Territory, who holds a Bachelor of Social Work and a Masters degree in Social Science. He has extensive experience in the area of Aboriginal health and in the government sector. I, together with my fellow Council members, look forward to working with him in the coming years.

Against the backdrop of the changes in Indigenous affairs, it is pleasing to be able to report continuity in the membership of the AIATSIS Council. In November 2003 Professor Martin Nakata was reappointed to Council for a further period of two years and in May 2004 Professor Robert Tonkinson, Professor Larissa Behrendt, Mr Michael Williams and I were re-elected to Council again for a further two years. Other Council members whose terms of appointment are continuing are Mr Eric (Dickie) Bedford, Ms Jackie Huggins AM, Ms Natascha McNamara AM, MBE, and Ms Raymattja Marika. Finally, I would like to end my report by paying tribute to my fellow Council members and the staff of AIATSIS. They have worked with cooperation and dedication to ensure yet another excellent and highly productive year for the Institute.

Professor Michael Dodson, AM
Chairperson

Principal's report

Change has been a major hallmark of the past year in both Indigenous affairs generally and for the Institute. With this change came new opportunities for AIATSIS.

New governmental arrangements saw responsibility for AIATSIS transferred on 24 June from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs portfolio to the Education, Science and Training portfolio.

I am greatly encouraged by the keen interest and early support shown for AIATSIS's activities by our new Minister, the Hon. Brendan Nelson, and the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Our move to DEST was not inappropriate given that AIATSIS is Australia's premier research organisation focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, has many forms of research outputs, and provides a range of valuable resources on a range of priority research topics.

AIATSIS stakeholders can be confident of the efforts of Institute staff during the year and their success in balancing budget restraints against the pressures of increasing client demands.

There were significant increases in demand for collaborative research, access to Library and Audiovisual resources, Aboriginal Studies Press initiatives and Corporate Services support. Nevertheless, staff have strived to realise efficiencies, enabling savings and freed resources to be reinvested in improved service delivery and outputs. For example, corporate expenses for 2003–2004 were 33 per cent lower than in 2000–2001. Moves to upgrade and/or outsource information technology services and management systems are expected to deliver further savings in the future.

The growth in demand for Indigenous research outputs and industry requests for collaborative research is likely to be due to AIATSIS engaging in research thematics seen by both the wider community and stakeholder agencies as both relevant and of a high standard, as well as the restructuring of service delivery in the Indigenous portfolio.

The Institute continued to build its strategic alliances, for example, through its membership of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH) and collaboration with the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Languages (FATSIL) on the National Indigenous Languages Survey. The Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP) commenced with significant external funding.

The Institute hosted the inaugural AIATSIS International Indigenous Fellow, Professor John Borrows, 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 presented in the AIATSIS seminar series on Regionalism, Indigenous Governance and Decision Making (March–May) and delivered the annual Mabo Lecture at the 2004 Native Title Conference in June. The conference, co-hosted by the Institute's Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) and the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) in Adelaide, attracted more than 450 delegates and reinforced the event as the pre-eminent annual conference in Australia on native title and Indigenous policy.

The Institute continued to build its reputation as a national and, arguably, world leader in the digital management of Indigenous materials. The AIATSIS digitisation program has begun the task of preserving and transferring the Institute's vast archive of written material and audio and visual recordings to digital format. The Institute was delighted, in May, to receive a new $1.5 million Federal Government grant to enable our staff to continue to preserve and transfer these records and materials to digital format to ensure their long-term protection.

The Institute is using cutting-edge technology to rescue recorded aspects of our ancient cultures from deterioration, significantly increase the materials' accessibility by Indigenous Australians, and enable a better understanding of our collective history.

Under the digitisation program, more than 60 audiovisual collections have already been digitised, creating more than 75,000 digital objects, including language compilations. Some of the extensive library material undergoing digitisation has also been captured in online exhibitions including the historic *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazines, 30 years of NAIDOC posters and a selection of rare books. An extensive suite of policies, procedures and technical standards dealing with digital objects within AIATSIS has been established for every stage of the digitisation process, and will culminate in the development of a secure, digital storage device and an effective digital asset management product.

Use of the AIATSIS Library has increased significantly during the year, as evidenced by a 30 per cent increase in reference desk enquiries, a 9 per cent increase in enquiries requiring a written response, and a 26 per cent increase in phone enquiries. The Library collection has grown through a range of acquisitions, gifts and donations such as the papers of former Director of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Barrie Dexter, and research print materials, photographs and audio tapes relating to the Freedom Ride of 1965 donated by Professor Ann Curthoys. Much of the latter was included in

Professor Curthoy's book *Freedom Ride: A Freedom Rider Remembers* which won the AIATSIS 2003 Stanner Award.

Aboriginal Studies Press continued to develop its publishing list, releasing seven books, including *Paddy's Road* on the life of Patrick Dodson, and two editions of the AIATSIS journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. A new management structure of a part-time Director and full-time Deputy Director has enabled the Press to finesse the publication schedule, develop new marketing opportunities, and launch an exciting new online publishing initiative *Our Tracks*.

To improve internal and external communications, Corporate Services initiated the *Insights* staff newsletter, whilst the new full-time Manager of Media and Communications worked to develop tools to lift the Institute's public profile. The proposed redevelopment of the AIATSIS website, which attracted 344,616 visits and 6,940,215 hits during the year, was also progressed.

Institute staff were active in planning activities including workshops with Council members to update the AIATSIS Corporate Plan, and participated in an internal governance review.

I was delighted to see the AIATSIS Indigenous Staff Caucus revitalised during the year. Of the Institute's 108 staff, 29 identify as Indigenous. The Caucus is contributing to the development of a number of Institute policies and procedures, including amendment of our Indigenous Training and Career Development Plan and the introduction of new staff induction procedures and cross-cultural awareness training.

As Principal, I express my appreciation of the support of the former and current Ministers for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Philip Ruddock and the Hon. Senator Amanda Vanstone respectively, as well as the staff of ATSIS and the elected representatives of ATSIC.

I pay tribute to the leadership of my predecessor, Mr Russ Taylor. I also thank sincerely the AIATSIS Council, our committees, members and staff for their dedication, hard work and warm welcome to me in my new role as Principal. It is one that I relish.

Mr Steve Larkin
Principal

Corporate overview

Enabling legislation

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (also known as AIATSIS and the Institute) operates under the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (Cwth) (No. 149 of 1989, assented to on 27 November 1989). This Act repealed the former *Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act 1964* (Cwth).

Responsible minister

The responsible Minister is the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson, MP. Until 24 June 2004 the responsible Minister was the Hon. Senator Amanda Vanstone, MP, Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. Under section 43(1) of the Act, the Minister may ask the Council of the Institute to provide advice on aspects of the culture, history and society of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Functions

The functions of the Institute are set out in Part 3, Section 5, of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989*, as follows:
- to undertake and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- to publish the results of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to assist in the publication of the results of such studies
- to conduct research in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to encourage other people or bodies to conduct such research
- to assist in training people, particularly Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, as research workers in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- to establish and maintain a cultural resource collection consisting of materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- to encourage understanding, in the general community, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies
- such other functions as are conferred on the Institute by this Act, and

- to do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

Members

Members of the Institute are people who were members, associate members or corresponding members under the preceding Act, or who have been appointed by Council under the current Act.

Membership accords with AIATSIS rules and members must demonstrate an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. Membership is awarded for five years and is renewable. Applications are considered by the Research Advisory Committee which then makes recommendations to Council.

During this financial year, 15 new members were appointed by Council resulting in 511 members at 30 June 2004.

Council

The Council of the Institute consists of:
- four people elected by the members of the Institute in accordance with the Institute rules, being people who are themselves members of the Institute
- one person appointed by the Minister, being a person who is a Torres Strait Islander and whose appointment has been recommended by the Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board, and
- four other people appointed by the Minister, being people who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

All Councillors are non-executive members and hold office on a part-time basis. A chairperson and a deputy chairperson are appointed by the Minister from among the Councillors.

During this financial year, membership of the Council and the term of each appointment were:

Elected members

Professor Michael Dodson, AM	16 May 2002–15 May 2004
	16 May 2004–15 May 2006
Professor Larissa Behrendt	16 May 2002–15 May 2004
	16 May 2004–15 May 2006
Emer. Professor Robert Tonkinson	16 May 2002–15 May 2004
	16 May 2004–15 May 2006
Mr Michael Williams	16 May 2002–15 May 2004
	16 May 2004–15 May 2006

Appointed members

Mr Eric Bedford	22 November 2002–21 November 2004
Ms Jackie Huggins, AM	22 November 2002–21 November 2004
Ms Natascha McNamara, AM, MBE	22 November 2002–21 November 2004
Ms Raymattja Marika	22 November 2002–21 November 2004
Professor Martin Nakata	20 September 2001–19 September 2003
	10 November 2003–9 November 2005

Professor Dodson, AM was appointed Chairperson and Emer. Professor Tonkinson was appointed Deputy Chairperson from 24 March 2003 until 15 May 2004. Council held three meetings in Canberra, ACT and one meeting in Fitzroy Crossing, WA in 2003–2004.

Councillors are provided with an indemnity for claims against them whilst performing their duties as Councillors. The indemnity is in the form of a standard insurance policy with Comcover, the Commonwealth's self-insurance agency. The value of the indemnity is $100 million per claim. The premium in 2003–2004 was $5,754.

Professor Michael Dodson, AM is a prominent advocate on issues affecting Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as other Indigenous peoples around the world. He was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. He currently holds the Chair of Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University, and he is a Director of Dodson, Bauman & Associates Pty Ltd, Legal and Anthropological Consultants. He holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University, an honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Technology and an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of NSW.

Professor Larissa Behrendt is Professor of Law and Indigenous Studies and Director of the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney. Her research interests focus on the protection of Indigenous rights, particularly those of Indigenous women, culturally appropriate mediation models and international human rights. She holds a Doctorate of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Bachelor of

Laws/Bachelor of Jurisprudence from the University of New South Wales and a Diploma of Practical Legal Training from the University of Technology, Sydney. She sits as a Judicial Member on the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal (Equal Opportunity Division) and the Serious Offenders Review Council.

Emer. Professor Robert Tonkinson held the Chair of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia until his retirement in 2003. He is well-known internationally in his field of social anthropology for his contributions to the Aboriginal Australian and Melanesian literature. He has worked with Aboriginal people since 1962 and he has published extensively, especially on Western Desert society and culture. His closest links are with the Mardu people in the eastern Pilbara, with whom he has been closely involved for forty years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Master of Arts from the University of Western Australia and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia.

Mr Michael Williams is the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at the University of Queensland. His ongoing research focuses on cultural heritage, archaeology and social history and is conducted in close collaboration with other members of his Goorang Goorang community. Other research interests include issues in higher education and ethics as well as research in the Torres Strait. He holds an MPhil (Qual.) from Griffith University.

Mr Eric Bedford is Chairman of the Malarabah Regional Council. He has strong family and cultural links throughout the Fitzroy Valley in the Kimberley region of WA. He was previously the Executive Director of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre. He has been active in developing concepts and models for regional autonomy for Aboriginal people to enable communities to exercise their right to self-determination, and in promoting economic development projects in the Fitzroy Valley.

Ms Jackie Huggins, AM is Deputy Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at the University of Queensland, a Co-chair of Reconciliation Australia and a Director of the Telstra Foundation. Her work spans academia, bureaucracy and community activities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Queensland, and a Diploma of Education and Honours Degree in History/Women's Studies from Flinders University.

Ms Natascha McNamara, AM, MBE has a distinguished career in Aboriginal education. She is extensively involved across a broad spectrum of public life in both the Aboriginal and mainstream communities, with many and varied interests including the media and the international domain. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies, a Diploma in Teaching and a Diploma in Business Administration.

Ms Raymattja Marika is the Teacher Linguist at the Yirrkala Community Education Centre. She has a long involvement with issues relating to Aboriginal education and is the author of some twenty papers covering a range of topics in the areas of education, history and ethnobotany. She is a Rirratjingu woman and speaks Rirratjingu, Gumatj and English. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Adult Education and Training from the University of Melbourne and an Advanced Diploma of Teaching (Primary) and a Certificate of Literacy Attainment from Batchelor College, NT.

Professor Martin Nakata is Director Indigenous Academic Programs, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney. He has worked in the field of Indigenous education for over two decades and has published extensively in national and international journals and anthologies. His current research interests are in Indigenous Knowledge systems and online learning possibilities for Indigenous students. He holds a Bachelor of Education with First Class Honours and a Doctorate of Philosophy from James Cook University.

Council meetings

The following table sets out the number of Council meetings held during the financial year and the number of meetings attended by each Councillor.

Name	Meetings eligible to attend	Meetings attended
Professor M. Dodson, AM	4	4
Emer. Prof. R. Tonkinson	4	4
Mr E. Bedford	4	3
Professor L. Behrendt	4	3
Ms J. Huggins, AM	4	2
Ms R. Marika	4	1
Ms N. McNamara, AM, MBE	4	4
Professor M. Nakata	4	4
Mr M. Williams	4	4

Corporate goals

To carry out its functions as defined in the Act, the Institute has adopted the following goals:

1. To provide leadership and excellence in promoting, facilitating and undertaking high quality research in Australian Indigenous Studies.
2. To maximise the role of Australian Indigenous peoples in the activities and services of the Institute.
3. To develop, maintain and preserve well-documented archives and collections, and to maximise access to these, particularly by Indigenous peoples, in keeping with appropriate cultural and ethical practices.
4. To create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures.
5. To develop and maintain strategic alliances that add value to our activities.
6. To manage efficiently and effectively in a transparent, accountable and supportive manner.

Outcome and outputs structure

There was no change to number, wording or structure of AIATSIS's outcome or outputs structure during 2003–2004.

Outcome 1		
Promotion of knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures past and present		
Output 1	**Output 2**	**Output 3**
Research	Dissemination of information	Collection development and management

Report structure

The structure for this Annual Report differs from other years. This report more directly reflects the outputs across the organisation to achieve the outcome, rather than by individual program area. Each chapter contains information on the activities of the Institute's program areas — Research, Audiovisual Archives, Library, Aboriginal Studies Press and Corporate Services — relevant to the output.

Chapters 1 to 3 capture the following outputs:

1. Research.
2. Dissemination of information.
3. Collection management and development.

Chapter 4 deals with corporate management and accountability.

AIATSIS's Corporate Goals, outlined in the *AIATSIS Business Plan*, have been used as sub-headings within each chapter as they relate to each output. This second level of subheadings more closely defines the content of the paragraphs that follow them, and demonstrate the achievements across the organisation to meet its goals.

AIATSIS organisation structure — senior managers

Council
Principal   Steve Larkin

A/g Deputy Principal Collections Luke Taylor	**A/g Deputy Principal Research and Information** Peter Veth
Director **Audiovisual Archives** Di Hosking	**Deputy Director** **Research** Patrick Sullivan
Director **Corporate Services** Tony Boxall	**A/g Director** **Aboriginal Studies Press** Rhonda Black
Director **Library** Barbara Lewincamp	

Corporate governance

Under the AIATSIS Act (s13) the Council is responsible for 'the proper and efficient performance of the functions of the Institute and to determine the policy of the Institute'. The Principal is responsible for day-to-day administration of the Institute.

Council is supported by a Finance Committee and an Audit Committee. The Finance Committee consists of two Council members, the Principal, the Deputy Principal and the Director of Corporate Services. During the year, Council representatives were Professor Martin Nakata and Mr Michael Williams.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu provides internal audit services under contract. This work is overseen by the Audit Committee, which consists of the members of the Finance Committee plus representatives from Deloitte and the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). The ANAO did not report any adverse findings during 2003–2004. There were no reports on AIATSIS's operations by Parliamentary committees and there were no judicial decisions which are expected to have a material impact on operations.

A review of governance arrangements was close to completion at 30 June 2004. The preliminary findings indicate that AIATSIS has sound governance structures, but that more work is needed on risk management.

Other reviews commenced during the year dealt with the management and operation of the Audiovisual Archives (conducted by Archive Associates), the Library (Libraries Alive!) and strategic aspects of the Institute's IT security. The Institute has completed a fraud risk assessment which is being used to update the fraud control plan. Progress is monitored by the Audit Committee.

The Principal is supported by the Executive Board of Management (EBM), which comprises the senior managers and other officers. EBM meets monthly to discuss matters affecting the Institute. Meeting minutes are published on the internal Intranet.

The Information Technology Advisory Committee provides advice to the EBM on IT and information management matters. The Consultative Committee is a management/staff forum which deals with workplace relations issues. Minutes for both of these committees are also published on the Intranet.

The AIATSIS Corporate Plan for 2002–2004 was reviewed and some minor amendments drafted. Subject to endorsement by Council, the updated Plan will be published during 2004–2005. An annual business plan for 2004–2005, which includes specific projects to be undertaken, was endorsed by Council in May 2004.

Social justice and equity

AIATSIS is committed to social justice. It has constituted committees and has a policy of 'Aboriginalisation' of the Institute's membership, governance, staff and functions to achieve this aim. Provision is made in the Institute's Act for the Council to have a majority (five out of nine) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

members. Since November 2002 there have been eight Council members in this category. At 30 June 2004 twenty-nine of the Institute's 108 staff were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

One of the greatest contributions that the Institute makes to social justice in general terms is its dissemination of information on Indigenous Australians resulting from research. It does this through publishing books and CD-Roms; through its journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*; through seminars, and by answering requests for information.

Prof. Dr Erica-Irene Daes, United Nation's Special Rapporteur on Indigenous peoples; Parry Agius, Manager, Native Title Unit, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Inc; and the Hon. Philip Ruddock, Federal Attorney-General, at the opening session of the 2004 Native Title Conference

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 ATSIS.

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 Wadeye-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.

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 Kaurna Elders and the Kaurna 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 Kaurna 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 Kaurna people. Holding the conference on Kaurna land offered recognition of the long history of dispossession the Kaurna people have experienced.

'The Kaurna 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 Kaurna Elders and the Kaurna 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.
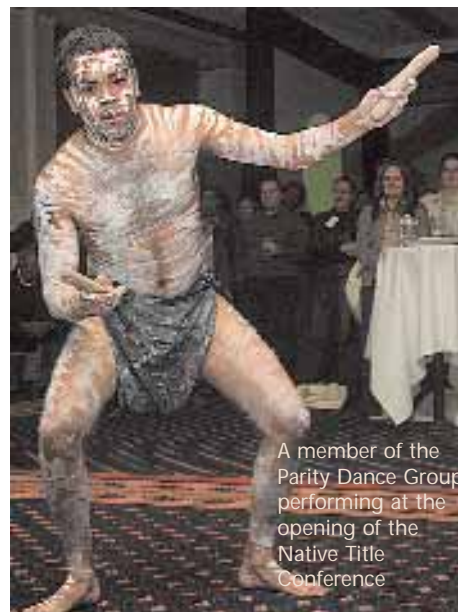
A member of the Parity Dance Group performing at the opening of the Native Title Conference

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 through-out 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 Kaurna 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, ATSIS 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 ATSIS, 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 ATSIS (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 Yunganjatjara 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 (ANUIIA) (including the AIATSIS Chair, Professor Mick Dodson) and staff from the AIATSIS–AIC project team, and agreed to participate in the study.

Chapter 2 • Dissemination of information
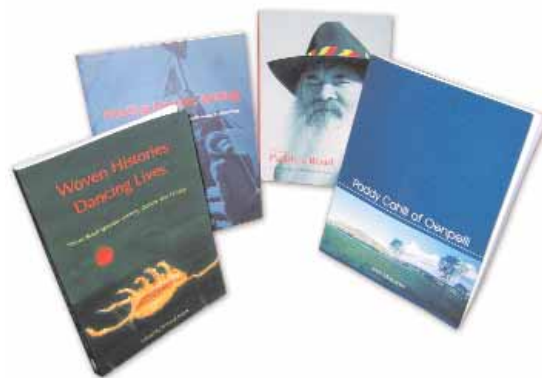
Goal 2
To maximise the role of Australian Indigenous peoples in the activities and services of the Institute

Publications — overview

Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) continued to involve Australian Indigenous peoples in its undertakings during 2003–2004. ASP published the same number of books as in 2002–2003, including one title with an Indigenous author and three with writing teams which included Indigenous authors. While fewer Indigenous authors were published compared to the previous year, all five manuscripts approved, out of thirty-one submitted in the year, were authored or included, Indigenous authors. Looking forward, of the titles currently scheduled for publication in 2004–2005, four Indigenous authors and three collected or co-written works which include Indigenous authors are scheduled for publication.

All five external members of the Publishing Advisory Committee (PAC) are Indigenous and this is their second year on the committee. Between them they bring strong academic credentials and Indigenous community and language knowledge, as well as writing and editing expertise. This ably complements the strong publishing-industry knowledge of ASP's managers.

Two independent peer assessors' reports were provided to the PAC for each manuscript supplied for consideration. Of these, approximately 50 per cent of the reports were from Indigenous assessors.

Wherever possible, ASP has used freelance Indigenous authors and scholars to support Indigenous authors in rewriting or restructuring their manuscripts. Although most of the design work is carried out by ASP staff, opportunities are also sought to use Indigenous designers, illustrators or photographers.

ASP employed six staff in 2003–2004, including the appointment of a new position of Deputy-Director. Indigenous staff comprise 25 per cent of the total full-time ASP staff.

Goal 4
To create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures

Publishing list

ASP continued to develop a varied publishing list which includes scholarly works and others intended for a broader readership. Of the seven titles published, three are intended for a general audience, while four address an academic or student audience.

The books were published at regular periods, to better manage ASP's production processes and quality-management systems. This also allowed for marketing plans to be spread across the year.

During the year, 31 unsolicited manuscripts were received, compared to 41 in 2002–2003. ASP staff have provided guidelines to authors to improve the quality of unsolicited manuscripts being submitted.

The ASP titles published in 2003–2004 were:

- *Paddy's Road* — August
- *Treaty: let's get it right!* — September
- *Something Special: Katherine West Health Board* — October
- *Very Big Journey: My Life as I Remember It* — January
- *Paddy Cahill of Oenpelli* — March
- *Reading Doctors' Writing* — April
- *Woven Histories, Dancing Lives* — May

Of the titles published, one derived from a research grant previously provided by AIATSIS, one from a strategic collaboration created by the Research program area, four from the authors' own research and one from an earlier AIATSIS conference. For further detail on ASP's contribution to the facilitation and promotion of research in Australian Indigenous studies see Chapter 1.

ASP also published the following:

- two editions of the AIATSIS journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*
- one *Annual Report 2002–2003*
- one *Institute News* (a newsletter for Institute members)
- three *Insight* newsletters (an internal AIATSIS publication for staff)
- numerous corporate and promotional products including stationery, invitations, brochures and posters.
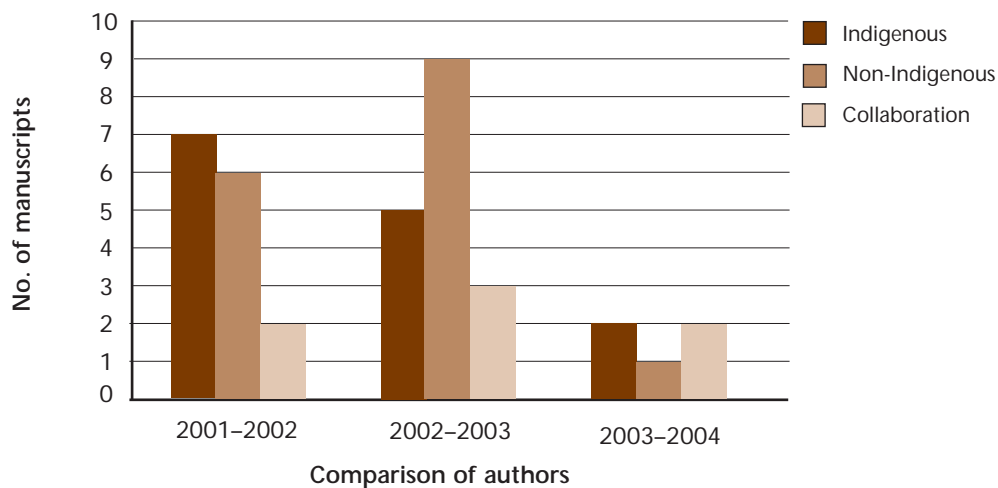
Note: This figure represents manuscripts approved in the relevant years, not books published. Not all approved manuscripts achieve publication.

Publishing Advisory Committee

The Principal continues to draw on the advice of ASP staff and the Publishing Advisory Committee (PAC) in making decisions about the titles it publishes. At 30 June 2004, members of the PAC were:

- Principal and Chair, Mr Steve Larkin
- Deputy Principal, Dr Luke Taylor

The external members were:

- Ms Jackie Huggins AM
- Professor Martin Nakata
- Ms Kerry Reed-Gilbert
- Mr Philip Morrissey
- Ms Jennifer Martiniello.

Ms Rhonda Black stood aside from her position on the PAC in order to take up the part-time position of Acting Director of ASP.

The PAC's work was supported by the ASP staff who have worked to improve the flow of information from authors and independent peer assessors. ASP staff continue to work with the PAC members to ensure equitable and transparent assessments of the manuscripts, across genres. Increasingly, attention will be paid to matching these to ASP's budgets and resources.

New production strategies

While the number of books published in the year remained the same as in 2002–2003, ASP staff helped prepare and make ready for production more manuscripts than in the previous year. This will increase by approximately 50 per cent the number of books to be published in 2004–2005, if budgets allow. A backlog of manuscripts awaiting publication has built up over several years and will require two years to clear. Some of the authors of these manuscripts have required advice and support from the ASP staff and independent manuscript assessors, after which further authorial work has been or is being undertaken.

Increasing the number of titles published in 2004–2005 will require careful monitoring of budgets. The aim will be to publish more titles, whilst decreasing production costs and maintaining or increasing production values. Decisions on production issues will accord with the style of publication, its audience and the marketplace. To assist, improved production processes, and selective choices about printing and finishing are being implemented.

Over time, the stockholding of ASP's titles in the warehouse has increased. This is due to overly ambitious print runs and/or unsuccessful or limited marketing in the past. Several strategies have been undertaken to improve the situation. Initially, and in the short term, print runs were lowered to avoid overstocking new titles. Digital printing will be used to restock in small quantities. A marketing consultant was employed on a short-term contract to help provide expertise, in line with best

industry practice, and planning is now underway for stock rationalisation; a marketing strategy for ASP's lists; selective choices about marketing collaborations; possible overseas trade distributors; sales and marketing templates; and tailored plans and mailing lists for selected individual titles.

Overall, ASP's aim is to increase the total sales and its presence in the industry marketplace, as well as with Indigenous communities of interest. Turnover in 2003–2004 increased by 26 per cent from the 2002–2003 figure. A particular aim is to maximise the proportion of sales direct from AIATSIS via the bookshop, direct mail, email, fax and phone sales.

To assist this ASP undertook the following initiatives in 2003–2004:

- Book and information stalls were held at various venues, including the Native Title Conference.
- Launches of the seven published titles were held at the 2004 International Health Conference in Melbourne, Parliament House in Canberra, the Melbourne Writers' Festival, the Sydney Writers' Festival, and in Katherine and Darwin.

The AIATSIS Media and Communications Manager began working with ASP on the launches and marketing of individual titles. ASP aims to improve the information being provided to Indigenous media and communities of interest to promote its titles more effectively to these audiences.

Feedback received from the tailored mailing lists is being monitored and used to prepare a sales database.

ASP created new material for its website, part of the AIATSIS website. A 'What's New' section was added and will be updated monthly. Forms and information have also been added to the site for intending authors to download.

The flow of information to the trade distributors (both lead time and quality) was improved.

Plans have been put in place for joint initiatives with other cultural publishers. It is hoped that discussions with other Indigenous presses may result in joint sales or marketing initiatives in the coming year.

ASP worked closely with Corporate Services on two other initiatives to improve its operations. Early in 2004, Booknet, a sales accounting system, was introduced. This system is more reliable, easier to use and provides more useful data than the previous system. More accurate stock control and meaningful data upon which to judge the print runs for new titles is now available, allowing ASP to provide accurate sales reports and financial information to Corporate Services, which will also improve the delivery of royalty payments to authors.

To complement the new accounting system, a new warehouse was leased which provides a cleaner and cheaper space for storing ASP's publications. ASP took advice on the laying out of the warehouse to speed up the processing of orders. Some finessing of the AIATSIS bookshop is planned to improve customers' access to the publications.

Very Big Journey

A publishing milestone for AIATSIS

The launching of *Very Big Journey: My life as I remember it*, on Australia Day, 26 January 2004, was a milestone for Hilda Jarman Muir, the author. It was also her 84th birthday.

Aunty Hilda, as she's fondly known, chose to celebrate her book on a day others call invasion day. 'I know for some people it's a sorry day, but it's my story. It's my life and my story and I want to celebrate,' she said.

Her book was ten years in the making. It's a journey that others, including her family, made with her. Many people helped. As an Indigenous publisher dedicated to promoting an understanding of Indigenous Australian cultures and peoples, Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) was uniquely positioned. It provided funding, writing, rewriting and editorial support, travel and accommodation — and emotional support.

Having survived incarceration in the Kahlin half-caste home, and with little formal education, Hilda Muir has gone on to live a full life. Her growing engagement with the world led to her desire to speak out. In 1995 Hilda Muir was one of those chosen to present a writ to the High Court on behalf of her fellow stolen generation, asserting that the removals were illegal as well as immoral. In 1997 the writ was rejected by the High Court, but that hasn't dampened her spirits. Forgiveness and warmth emanate from this wonderful Aboriginal Australian.

In 2000, Hilda finally travelled back to her Yanyuwa land and was recognised as an owner and custodian of that country.

Although this is Hilda's own story, in other ways it's emblematic of a generation of Aboriginal women who have worked hard all their lives — against difficult odds — to raise large and thriving families. Truly a reminder that governments cannot always shape human lives in ways they might wish.

Sir William Deane was moved to write: 'I wish that it could be read by every Australian.' As do we.

Hilda Muir and son, after being presented with a portrait at the Darwin launch of *Very Big Journey* in January 2004.

Publication of research material

Fellows and staff of the Research Program prepare and deliver a wide range of books, chapters, papers, conference presentations, seminars and general talks to an extremely wide range of audiences. Some 120 books, chapters, papers and technical reports were produced by the Research Program staff during the year. These are listed at Appendix 5.

Over 200 public presentations were made by Research staff to Indigenous visitors, communities, agencies, national and international conferences/workshops as well as numerous media and education outlets.

The Research Discussion Paper series was re-launched this year with a new design for web and hardcopy distribution. Three discussion papers were published this year.

Seminar series held at AIATSIS each semester attract a regular audience of between 20 to 70 people. To ensure the accessibility of the material presented to the limited local audience, seminar speakers are asked to provide papers for inclusion on the AIATSIS website. Seminars are also taped and transcribed. Where written papers are not available, transcriptions can be included on the website.

The topic for the Semester Two, 2003 Seminar Series was *Health and Society: An Australian Indigenous Context*. The series commenced on 15 July 2003 and concluded on 27 October 2003, and involved 11 presentations and two Indigenous Health forums. A variety of researchers, community leaders and representatives from Indigenous health organisations and agencies participated. The series was convened by Research Fellows, Drs Heather McDonald and Graham Henderson. A list of papers presented during the seminar is included at Appendix 6.

The topic for the Semester One, 2004 Seminar Series was *Regionalism, Indigenous Governance and Decision Making*. The series commenced on 22 March 2004 and concluded on 31 May 2004, with a total of 10 presentations offered by a variety of researchers, community leaders and representatives from Indigenous organisations. The series was convened by Research Fellow, Dr Stuart Bradfield. A list of papers presented is included at Appendix 6.

The Native Title Research Unit produced regular Newsletters, Issues Papers and contributed to the Research Discussion paper series.

The *Native Title Newsletter*, compiled by NTRU staff, contains current news and developments in native title issues, information on the progress of native title applications, significant events, contributions from people working in the field, highlights of relevant reports, reviews and case notes on native title. The Newsletter is published every two months and is available in both hardcopy and online.

The NTRU Issues Papers, *Land Rights Laws: Issues in Native Title*, are available free of charge and distributed widely. The occasional series offers clear professional and independent commentary on topical native title issues. Five Issues Papers were published in 2003–2004.

Mr Rod Stroud wrote a chapter on Indigenous family history research for the 13th edition of *Family History for Beginners and Beyond*, published by the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. This is the first time Indigenous family history research has been included in a mainstream genealogy textbook.

Other Audiovisual Archives staff publications include articles published in the following journals: the *Australian Society of Archivists, Indigenous Issues Special Interest Group Newsletter, Online Currents, Australia's journal for users of online services CD-Roms and the Internet*; and the *Australian Library Journal*.

Digitisation services

Digitisation is the mechanism by which AIATSIS returns materials to communities in the form of digital surrogates (usually in CD-Rom format). It's also used to create online exhibitions highlighting a selection of materials from the collection which focus on topical issues of research interest.

The AIATSIS Digitisation Program was extended to the end of the financial year and funding has been secured for a further 12 months. Unfortunately, uncertainty of tenure led to some staff taking up other employment opportunities at the end of 2003.

The following titles from the Library Collection were digitised and returned to communities:

- Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological expedition to Torres Strait, TSRA, Torres Strait Island Regional Authority, Thursday Island, Qld
- Maningrida Mirage, Maningrida, NT
- Kuring language slips and field notebooks from the Gerhardt Laves manuscript, Noongar Community, WA.

All the Library's CD-Roms are now readily available to clients either networked or through dedicated PCs. A thorough guide has been prepared listing the wide range of material available.

The Audiovisual Archive also provides high quality digitisation services to a number of external organisations and researchers on a cost recovery basis. Since establishing this service, AIATSIS provided the digitisation capability for the National Museum of Australia's *Outlawed* exhibition and is assisting with its forth-coming *Deserts* exhibition. This service returned $20,000 to AIATSIS in 2003.

The service digitised 161 hours of Professor Francesca Merlan's audio collection of Jawoyn language elicitations, oral histories and stories, for her work on an Endangered Languages Project.

Ngiyampaa language tapes are being digitised for inclusion on the access database being developed by the NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre.

The Ian Dunlop Photographic Collection comprising more than 2300 trans-parencies, detailing the Yirrkala community in the early 1970s and documenting his film series is being digitised.

The Clair Bowern Digital Audio Collection is the first 'born digital' collection of more than 40 hours, archived wholly in the digital realm. During the reporting period the Audiovisual Archives decided to archive audio materials in digital format only and to cease using magnetic tape. Until this time there would always have been an analogue and digital copy of the materials, including so-called 'born digital' materials. In future such materials will only exist in digital form.

Client viewing and listening copies totalling nearly 25,000 items have been created during the digitisation process. These lower resolution, more convenient and smaller-sized files, are easily forwarded electronically by email or CD, or can be rapidly combined together to form composite proof sheets that can be mailed or faxed to clients for image selection and/or confirmation. A side benefit is the ability to be able to make open access image or audio files available via the Mura® web interface to AIATSIS catalogue.

Digital Preservation copies of the first 1250 recorded audio tapes AIATSIS collection have been created, creating 2363 listening files. This has allowed more extensive cataloguing and auditioning of the material contained on the tapes plus the opportunity to create digital audio 'listening copies' or MP3s that can be easily emailed to clients or downloaded across the Internet.

In conjunction with the Preservation of Endangered Languages Project, compilations of language CDs for the following languages have been constructed: Badjala/Butchulla; Bundjalung; Dhanggadi; Dhurga; Dharawal; Guugu Yimidhirr; Gumbaynggirr; Gamilaraay Goinbal; Ngiyampaa Muruwari; Paakantyi; Wargamay; Waka Waka; Warrgamay; Wangkumara; Yidiny; and Yugambeh. Digitisation of the source materials improves productivity and allows access clients the opportunity to precisely tailor the contents of the compilations to better suit their needs. These compilation recordings are being used for language reclamation purposes in the relevant communities. It is anticipated that AIATSIS will produce compilations for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait language.

Internet resources

One of the Institute's most valuable research resources is Mura®, the online collections catalogue available at the AIATSIS website. It provides bibliographic access to all materials held in the Audiovisual Archives and the Library. Together they hold the world's premier collections relating to Australian Indigenous studies.

Mura® was accessed 27,002 times during year, making a cumulative total of 121,886 'hits' since 15 February 1999. In March 2004, a new client interface was launched. New features include links to websites through the research resources document and links to relevant pages within the AIATSIS website. The Digital Library option provides easy access to over 1480 full text documents.

Numerous access points are available to the researcher. Apart from the usual author/depositor and title, there are:

- AIATSIS-specific topical subject headings

- language names and language group names (including variant spellings)
- geographic names (including map references)
- key words (including annotations).

Language resources available online include 40 language bibliographies of Library materials, information on the Library's languages collection, as well as valuable links to language resources on other websites. See www.aiatsis.gov.au /lbry/fct_shts/biblio_lang.htm. Online resources for other subject areas are covered in Research Resources. Subjects include native title, health, treaty and education. See www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/resources.html.

Three new online exhibitions have been added to the Library Internet pages. These are *Ethnomathematics in Australia*, *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazines, and *NAIDOC posters.* A complete list of online Exhibitions, website addresses and access figures during the year is available at Appendix 4.

The Family History Unit is the main provider of web-based information for Australian Indigenous family history research resources in Australia. The website receives more than 8000 accesses per month, which represents a 22 per cent increase on the previous year.

Aboriginal Studies Press has prepared for the 4 July 2004 launch of a unique online publishing forum during NAIDOC week. This new venture, *Our Tracks*, consists of additional web pages on the AIATSIS website. They provide an online space to read excerpts of previously unpublished stories by Indigenous authors. The web pages also encourage interactivity by allowing readers to email comments about the authors and stories they have read. If successful, ASP will explore adding further functionality such as a moderated bulletin board, audio-on-demand or the production of a CD-Rom based on the website.

All NTRU publications are placed on the AIATSIS website and archived. The website also hosts the Native Title Conference website which contains abstracts and papers from past conferences (see www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/conf2004/ splash.html).

On completion, the Native Title Resource Guide will be an online resource for information and resources on native title. The compilation of material for the *Guide* was completed by project officer, Ms Lara Wiseman and feedback from NTRBs has been sought. The *Guide* will be launched as part of the new NTRU website in the new financial year. The *Guide* provides direct access to a broad range of native title-related resources and also repackages information currently hosted by other organisations such as the National Native Title Tribunal, the Indigenous Land Corporation, the Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements Database and the Federal Court. The NTRU has received support from all of these project partners for use of their data in the *Resource Guide.*

The Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project launched a major website in June 2004 that provides an extensive array of information and resources relating to Indigenous conflict management and decision making information on the website

is regularly updated to ensure it remains relevant and useful to Indigenous people, communities and organisations. See www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/ifamp/ index.html.

Public exhibitions

The photographic exhibition *Chicka Dixon: The Struggle in Black and White* was loaned to the Australian Museum in Sydney from January to March 2004. It was highly successful and generated a great deal of interest from other institutions keen to display it.

The exhibition was developed from Mr Charles (Chicka) Dixon's collection which he had deposited with the Audiovisual Archives the previous year and launched at AIATSIS on Mr Dixon's 75th birthday. The collection comprises over 400 images documenting Mr Dixon's life, interwoven with audio and video of his experiences with major political events and the lives of other Aboriginal activists.

The exhibition also included a video produced from the primary and secondary collection materials entitled *Life is for Learning*.

Charles 'Chicka' Dixon (left) working with David Jeffery, Curator of the exhibition: *Chicka Dixon: The Struggle in Black and White*

Likan'mirri — Connections, the AIATSIS Collection of Art exhibited the most signifi-cant artworks held by the Institute and sponsored by the ANU Institute for Indigenous Australia (ANUIIA) in conjunction with the ANU Drill Hall Gallery in Canberra.

Likan'mirri is a Yolngu term with a variety of meanings which range from the literal meaning 'elbow' or fork in a tree, through to connections between the sacred and secular worlds. Over a hundred items were exhibited from the Institute's artwork and artefact collections, featuring renowned Indigenous artists, rare and delicate works and items on display for the first time. Among works on display were four paintings by Nym Banduk from Wadeye (Port Keats, NT), collected by Professor WEH Stanner in 1959; one of the series of Gordon Bennett's *Notes to Basquiat — Subject Matters 2000*; prints by Kevin Gilbert; pencil and watercolours by Mickey of Ulladulla c1880s; paintings by Rover Thomas; and 1964 pencil and watercolour drawings by Butcher Joe Nangan. One gallery was devoted to objects which have been held in Canberra from the three Rom ceremonies by the Anbarra people of the Blythe River East Arnhem Land and featuring the *Goyulan* and *Jambich* poles and other objects. The unique exhibition also included bark paintings, photographs and sculptures.

Valuable cross-institutional assistance, received from the NMA, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Library of Australia, contributing conserva-tion, documentation, photographs, information and the loan of frames, ensured the success of the Likan'mirri exhibition.

Language compilation CDs

AIATSIS-sponsored research and resource production work with Mr Brad Steadman, a Ngiyampaa man from NSW and Ms Tamsin Donaldson a linguist and expert in the Ngiyampaa language. The work was funded by the Audiovisual Archives program to undertake research on the language and the collection, make some recordings and produce a Ngiyampaa resource CD.

Australian Indigenous Cultural Network

The Australian Indigenous Cultural Network collections overview is now available for use by communities and researchers. The sample of materials comprising the overview derives from nineteen museums and galleries throughout all Australian states and territories. Collections are accessible by institution. The links to each are followed by bibliographies for Australian museums and art galleries, each arranged by institution. See www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/rsrch_pp/aicn/index.html.

Stanner Award

The Research Fellows reviewed numerous books eligible for consideration for the Stanner Award, which in some disciplinary categories comprised more than five books. Three assessment/moderation meetings were held resulting in a shortlist rec-ommended to Council for external review and assessment by a reader.

Goal 5
To develop and maintain strategic alliances that add value to our activities

Alliances in sales and marketing

Aboriginal Studies Press undertook several initiatives to further develop its strategic alliances, mainly in the sales and marketing area, including:

- Planning for collaborations with other Canberra-based cultural institutions for a joint marketing initiative to eastern state booksellers early in 2005.
- Meetings with the two other Indigenous presses, IAD and Magabala Books. A continuation of earlier discussions, the meetings dealt with joint marketing initiatives, industry information-sharing and cost-sharing at book fairs.

ASP worked with the CRCAH in Darwin on the promotion of *Reading Doctors' Writing*. As ASP published four health-related titles during the year, building this alliance will be valuable for marketing and for future publications.

Six book launches were held during the year, two at major Australian writers' festivals. On each occasion, ASP sold its books via trade bookshops. This ensures good relations with the booksellers and the media, a relationship which supports the sale of ASP publications across the list. This supplemented the work of ASP running its own bookstall at relevant conferences and festivals.

ASP maintained its important relationship with the Literature Board of the Australia Council during the year. The Literature Board's supplementary funding for ASP's production budget is crucial to the viability of the list given the special demands placed on ASP as an Indigenous publisher, respectful of cultural protocols and sensitivities.

The ABC requested access to a large number of images from the Audiovisual Archives during the reporting period, including a photograph of 'Dhakiyarr' from the Eric Wilson collection, for an ABC series *Dynasties*, colour transparencies for the film *Dhakiyarr verses the King* and images for a documentary on Ken Colbung for the Indigenous program *Message Stick*.

Four images of Wave Hill and Vincent Lingiari from the Audiovisual Archives were used in the Indigenous Leadership Monument at Reconciliation Place near Parliament House, Canberra.

The NSW Art Gallery were supplied with a large number of images for reproduction in the exhibition catalogue *Crossing Country: the alchemy of western Arnhem Land Art* published in association with Maningrida Arts and Culture.

An original albumen print of a group of South Australian Aborigines at their camp (*c.* 1870). The photograph was taken by Captain Samuel Sweet, an early pioneer of Australian photography.

Chapter 3 • Collection management and development

Goal 2
To maximise the role of Australian Indigenous peoples in the activities and services of the Institute

Family history tracing

The AIATSIS Library provides a family history information service to Indigenous clients Australia-wide.

The majority of the Family History Unit staff are Indigenous.

In June, responsibility for funding the service was transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, and extended for a further 12 months. Prior to this, ATSIC funded the service.

Uncertainty regarding the future of the service has impacted negatively on staff morale and retention. A significant backlog of enquiries has resulted from increased demand for services and staffing difficulties caused by funding uncertainties.

A Family History skills training program was delivered to Link-up case workers in March 2004. Visitors to the Unit included Link-Up case workers from NSW and Queensland, as well as 'Bringing Them Home' counsellors from Victoria and Western Australia.

A combined list of groups visiting the Library and the Family History is available at Appendix 8.

The Family History Unit provides web-based information for Australian Indigenous family history research. For further detail see page 48 above.

Family History staff worked closely with the Library digitisation team to prepare website access to all issues of the *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazines from 1952–1975. These are a wonderful source of community and family histories for New South Wales during the period 1952–1975.

Productivity has been improved with networking of access to a wide range of CD-Roms including birth, death and marriage indexes. Indexing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) was suspended and resources were redirected to answering client requests.

Recording and archiving workshop

The *Keeping your history alive* package, comprising an information handbook and a practical hands-on course, was designed to address the growing need of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities and individuals for information and advice concerning the care and handling of audiovisual material.

Photographs, sound recordings and videos are an important part of the Indigenous historical record in Australia, which has traditionally been transmitted orally and visually through narrative, song, dance and art. An audiovisual record is an important and immediate link between past, present and future generations. However, these materials are fragile and extremely vulnerable to Australia's harsh climatic conditions and to obsolescence of technology.

AIATSIS was the recipient of a major grant from the New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs for 2003–2004. In December 2003 two one-day training workshops were held for around 10 community members each from the Vincentia High School and the Eden Land Council, both on the south coast of New South Wales.

In June 2004 AIATSIS conducted an intensive three-day workshop for 40 community representatives from many regional areas around New South Wales. All the staff of the Audiovisual Archives program participated in the training. Participants learnt how to take good photographs, video and audio recordings, how to process film in the dark room, and manipulate photographs and audio using digital technology. Training was also provided in documentation, systems for cataloguing, preventative conservation, storage of audiovisual material, project scoping and interview techniques.

Each participant was given an information handbook developed by the staff to accompany the training course and the names and contact details of relevant staff for future assistance. The workshop was extremely successful, with most people expressing particular interest in learning about the use of audiovisual technology. The participants all expressed surprise and alarm at how they were currently 'looking' after their materials and were keen to get home and put what they had learned into practice (see story page 45).

Return of materials to Indigenous communities (ROMTIC) and client requests

The Audiovisual Archives runs a program of repatriation of materials from the archives back to communities. The amount of material returned through this program has almost doubled during this reporting period.

During the year, the number of access requests increased slightly from 646 to 650. However, the size of the requests has increased dramatically — clients have requested everything AIATSIS holds on a particular language, group or place from all media collections: the film and video, audio and photographic. On occasions these requests can involve hundreds or even, thousands of separate items.

Clients discovered hidden treasures in the audiovisual collections, for instance, a Canberra man discovered a photograph of his great-grandfather taken in the 1920s at the Kerry King studios in Sydney; a Western Australian woman found a sound recording of her grandfather made by Norman Tindale in the 1960s; a Queensland man was given copies of all the Gugu Badhun materials which included recordings of his grandfather; and a woman from north-west NSW was given a copy of a sound recording of her great-uncle singing in language.

The Audiovisual Archives staff also located a photograph for a client and his brother as children at Walgett Aboriginal Station, in the Aboriginal Welfare Board Collection. Photographs were supplied to the Injinoo Aboriginal Council in Queensland. The elders requested the photographs as teaching aids to use when talking to young people about their history and culture.

Representatives of the Mer Island Community Council visited AIATSIS to search for information relating to their community. Relevant photographs found in the archives were made available to the Mer Island community through the community council.

Mr Greg Mackellar of the Muda Aboriginal Corporation spent a week in the Audiovisual Archives researching sound recordings of the Wangkumara language. Mr Mackellar is developing a talking dictionary and requested a digitised copy of all of the Wangkumara language recordings.

From 24–28 May AIATSIS sponsored a visit by women from the Geraldton community for a week to research materials in the AIATSIS collection about their community and families. With the assistance of Audiovisual Archives staff the women were successful in discovering photographic and audio materials, including photos of their grandmothers, aunties and themselves when young.

All the materials have been copied and returned to the community. They indicated they would talk to the communities in Geraldton with a view to depositing recordings at AIATSIS in the future.

No. of audiovisual items delivered to clients relative to no. of requests

■ No. of requests

☐ No. of items delivered

AV materials returned to communities
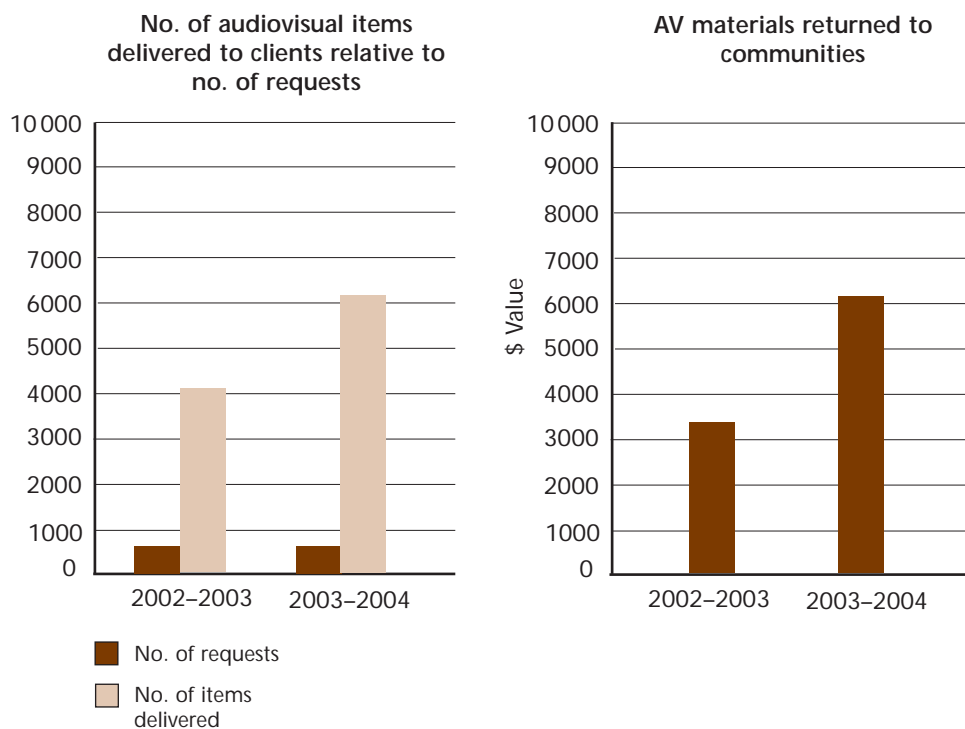
Audiovisual Archives

Keeping languages and history alive

'We've got no fluent speakers [of our language] left. I have one Auntie at home and she's still got the intonation, she's still speaking, but she's not speaking it everyday. I've got the skills now and I want to go back and record her properly.'

Bernadette Dunkin from Boggabilla, teaches Indigenous language to primary school children in both Boggabilla and the old Tomalin mission. She was one of the enthusiastic participants in an AIATSIS workshop in 2004, 'Keeping Your History Alive', that provided inspiration and needed skills to Indigenous language teachers working to conserve and revive their Indigenous language heritage.

The workshop focused on the collection, storage and preservation of audiovisual language materials. Conducted by the Institute's Audiovisual Archives Program, 40 Indigenous language teachers participated in the workshop.

A core component of the workshop involved lots of 'hands on' activities with still and video cameras, and audio recording equipment. Along with discussions about methods and techniques for gathering audiovisual material, participants were also shown how the Institute's technicians digitise audiovisual material and enhance the images or sound. Work on preventive conservation, storage, handling and cataloguing was also included and participants were made aware of intellectual property rights and the legal obligations of people holding audiovisual material.

Kirby and Simone Barker from Corakai during the workshop

To help the participants transfer their newly acquired knowledge and skills back into their local community, a handbook based on the workshop was also provided.

All the participants expressed real appreciation for all they learnt about the role AIATSIS plays in conserving Indigenous materials.

Clancy McKellar from Bourke said, 'I'm so proud that we have the Institute to hold our records of Aboriginal history. We've found materials here on our Wangkumara language that we'll take back to Bourke, and we've invited a linguist to come down and help us to revive our language.'

Bernadette said learning their own language is crucial for Indigenous children's self esteem and cultural knowledge. The course provided her support, encouragement and inspiration to continue her work with them.

The workshop was also valuable for the Institute's technicians who gained a stronger understanding of difficulties people working in the field encounter.

Endangered Languages Project

This project, funded by ATSIC, aimed to document, catalogue, preserve and digitise language audio materials for greater accessibility to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language workers. Materials were returned to communities free of charge throughout the life of the project which finished in December 2003. The project was able to make a significant inroad into the backlog of original, unique tapes which required urgent preservation work.

Throughout the project over 2000 hours of recordings were returned to Indigenous language workers in 78 languages, and finding aids were created for a further 41 languages.

One of the most exciting outcomes of the project was the production of several sets of language compilation CDs for frequently requested languages. Recordings of a given language were edited together on CDs and stored in the Archive to facilitate future access. CD compilations have been produced for Gumbaynggirr, Dhanggadi, Wangkumara, Yugambeh, Badjala/Butchulla, Dharawal and Dhurga, Gamilaraay, Warrgamay and various other languages. All of the compilations were very popular and are still in high demand. Ideally, AIATSIS would like to produce a set of compilation CDs for every Australian language. The production of a finding aid is the first step towards producing a compilation.

The project received several large requests from language centres and other Indigenous organisations who were seeking to expand their own holdings. The repatriation of language recordings to relevant community organisations is central to building a community's capacity to maintain or reclaim their language(s). Organisations which obtained material through the project included: Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre; Muda Aboriginal Corporation; Papalu Aparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation; Yaegl Language Program; Yulawirri Nurai Indigenous Association; Yaitja Warra Wodli Language Centre; Narungga Aboriginal Progress Association; Morowari Tribal Aboriginal Corporation; Ngunnawal Community Care; Tibooburra Local Aboriginal Land Council; Wangkanyi Ngurra Tjurta Aboriginal Corporation; Yugambeh Museum; Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal Corporation; Tiwi Local Government Council; Coffs Harbour Gumbaynggir Elders; Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative; Gamilaraay/ Yuwaalaraay Language Program; Inala Elders; Arwarbukarl Cultural Resource Association; Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation; and Wirra Waalpa Aboriginal Corporation.

The project has also provided assistance to individuals and other organisations working on language preservation and revival. For instance, Queensland State Library is in the process of establishing Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) in a number of communities, including Wujal Wujal, Mabuiag, Hopevale, Woorabinda, Kubin, Mossman Gorge, Napranum and Doomagee. Through AIATSIS, the Preserving Endangered Languages Project has contributed many detailed lists of relevant languages and began copying selected recordings for lodgement at the centres once established.

Indigenous researchers and tertiary students

Ms Joanne Taylor, Ms Rebecca Stubbs and Ms Sue Carnell attended the Indigenous Researchers' Forum held at the Australian National University, Canberra. It was an invaluable opportunity to promote Library services and collections, in particular the services provided by the Family History Unit. Over 55 forum attendees participated in AIATSIS Library tours and took advantage of extended opening hours.

As a follow up, all University Indigenous Studies centres received information packages covering all aspects of the collections and the services available to remote clients.

Laura Mandima Dixon room

On 9 June 2004, the Audiovisual Access client area was officially named the Laura Mandima Dixon Room by Professor Mick Dodson. Forty members of Mrs Dixon's family, representing three generations, travelled from Dubbo to attend an emotional ceremony in the room, along with the Principal and Chairman. Mrs Dixon was the last of the Wangkumara women from Coopers Creek. Until around the age of 25 she had spent most of her time with her grandparents, which is where she gained her strong knowledge of the Wangkumara culture. Her great-grandfather, a respected Wangkumara elder, could recall the 1861 Burke and Wills expedition.

In the early 1970s Mrs Dixon began working with several researchers recording the Wangkumara language, reminiscences and sites and these valuable and irreplace-able recordings are held in the AIATSIS archives. Mrs Dixon became a member of AIATSIS in 1974.

Mrs Dixon has 382 descendants: 12 children, 72 grandchildren, 224 great-grand-children and 74 great-great-grandchildren. Through her work recording her knowledge and memories, she wanted to ensure that she left a legacy that can be passed to her family.

At the naming ceremony, Don Dixon presented the Institute with one of his paintings, depicting Wangkumara country to hang in 'his mother's room'. The family also donated a collection of photographs of Wangkumara country and in return AIATSIS gave the family all the recordings of Laura Dixon from the archive.

Goal 3
To develop, maintain and preserve well-documented archives and collections and to maximise access to these, particularly by Indigenous peoples, in keeping with appropriate cultural and ethical practices

The Library aims to collect all materials relating to Australian Indigenous studies including published and unpublished materials. Its acquisition budget is $47,500. Film, video, sound recordings and photographic materials are in the Audiovisual Archives. The Library's collection development policy is available online.

Priorities for the acquisition program include:
• materials of Indigenous authorship

- archives of people significant in Australian Indigenous affairs
- archives of people prominent in Australian Indigenous studies
- materials to support family history research.

Family History usage statistics	
Enquiries	650
Visitors	218
Link-Up training courses	1
1800 free calls received	2559
Website visits	110,682

The Audiovisual Archives is a major archive of unique primary research materials of audio, film, video photographs, works of art and artefacts all related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and issues. It is the largest archive of such material in the world. In size the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive collection is comparable to those of the National Library of Australia and ScreenSound Australia.

The role of the Audiovisual Archives is to preserve the materials in its custodial care for future generations. The Archives does this by undertaking conservation work on original materials, making preservation copies of all materials, undertaking research and documentation of the collection for ease of access to its clients and by providing access through a designated access unit.

Increasingly, Indigenous people are depositing their audiovisual materials with AIATSIS and many researchers are also becoming concerned about the deteriorating state of their audiovisual materials and seeking to place them safely in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives.

The Audiovisual Archives aims to create a comprehensive collection of audiovisual materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia. Historical materials are sought as well as contemporary materials to reflect the richness, diversity and dynamic nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures both past and present.

The Audiovisual Archives Program seeks to disseminate its collections and expertise to the Indigenous community through Community Access, Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC) program and also through a recording and archiving training course *Keeping Your History Alive*.

Research grantees awarded monies from the Institute's Competitive Research Grants Scheme enter into contractual arrangement to provide a deliverable product at the end of the tenure of the grant — including postgraduate theses, detailed audiovisual materials resulting from research, language databases and the like. The Research Program liaises closely with the AVA and Library to ensure that these deliverables are properly accessioned and are of suitable standard for permanent archiving. Grantees requiring specialist audiovisual assistance are now contacted early in the grant round.

Collections management

During the year, the Library acquired the research materials of Professor Ann Curthoys relating to the Freedom Ride of 1965 under the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts *Cultural Gifts Program*. The donation also included material collected by Pat Healy. Of great interest in this collection is a diary written on the Freedom Ride by Professor Anne Curthoys when she was a student at Sydney University.

A total of 4151 items were added to the collection (a 28% increase on last year). This figure includes:
- 637 items purchased
- 1298 serial issues received
- 21 items received through Research Grants program.

A list of donations and gifts is available at Appendix 7.

The following items were added to the Rare Book collection through purchase:
- A set of four 'copy book' water colour portraits of Aborigines *c.* 1850.
- McCombie, Thomas, 1858, *The colonist in Australia; or the adventures of Godfrey Arabin*, London.
- Turnbull, John, 1805, *A voyage round the world in the years 1800–1804; in which the author visited the principal islands in the Pacific Ocean, and the English settlements of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island*, London.

During the year, the Audiovisual Archive began work on the project to facilitate better access to information on individual photographs it holds. Over 300 caption lists were converted to html documents and attached to the corresponding Photographic Collection Level records in the AIATSIS online collection retrieval system Mura®. Upon completion, clients will have access to over 92,000 detailed descriptions by searching on personal name, place or subject.

A major film and video documentation project has commenced to make better access to this important collection. The paper documentation is being reorganised in a more logical manner, consolidated and information will be entered onto the collection management system. The films and videos are currently being documented to extract information which will assist our clients locate relevant materials within the collection. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people require information for many varied reasons, including family history, language and cultural revival, native title. Information about language group or personal names has not in the past been documented for the film and video collection, meaning that Indigenous people searching for this type of information may have been missing valuable resource materials.

The film collection includes thousands of hours of audio materials, much of which is audio created as the sound track for film. However, a large number of the tapes are incidental to the film and are an invaluable resource on their own. A project is underway to reorganise these collection materials into the audio collection for better client access.

A number of working groups have been established in the Audiovisual Archives; technical standards, quality control, registration, special projects, audio, video, photographic, artworks and artefacts. The groups meet to review procedures and progress for ongoing improvement and greater efficiencies.

This year the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives purchased two important photographic collections from 'Oceania Ethnographica': a photo album compiled by Ernest E Kramer Collection and a postcard collection featuring portraits of Aboriginal people.

The Ernest E Kramer, Missionary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association, photo album, containing images taken during two of his 'camel caravan' tours through Central Australia, was purchased. The 65 prints, many with Kramer's own inscriptions on the verso, provide a fascinating visual account of his travels among the Luritja, Pintupi and Ngalia Warlpiri people in 1931 and 1932. Much of the content reflects Kramer's prime goal of taking the Christian religion to remote Aboriginal communities: the landscape he traversed, the outdoor religious services conducted and portraits of the Indigenous people who assisted him. Also included are photographs that demonstrate a curiosity into the material culture of the people he worked with. The gathering of bush tucker and other everyday activities are well represented.

That he was not only accepted but trusted by many within these communities prompted JB Cleland to call upon his services to provide assistance to members of the Board of Anthropology Research expedition to Cockatoo Creek. A letter of thanks from Cleland to the Aborigines' Friends Association following the fieldwork indicated the extent to which Kramer's good relations with the Aboriginal people paved the way for a successful expedition. The album contains a selection of images taken during this trip.

AVA also purchased a collection of early 20th century postcards featuring portraits of Aboriginal people in both studio and location settings, by photographers such as Charles Kerry and EF Reichenbach (aka Ryko). While these images show a strong emphasis on portraying what was considered the 'exotic' or 'unusual' aspects of Indigenous culture, they are nevertheless of immense value to researchers and descendents of the people depicted. Of particular note is a rare colour postcard printed c1910 featuring a family group from Western Australia, and an original albumen print of a group of South Australian Aborigines at their camp. This image dates from the 1870s and was taken by Captain Samuel Sweet, an early pioneer of Australian photography.

These collections are important acquisitions for AIATSIS in terms of their intrinsic worth and the fact that they can be both physically preserved, and to ensure the content is protected from inappropriate reproduction. Both collections are currently being digitised to preserve the original prints and to facilitate wider access for family history and research purposes.

Significant photographs were also donated to the Archive by the daughter and niece of the manager of the Roseby Park and Brewarrina missions in the 1920s. The family loaned the family photograph albums to AIATSIS and have given permission to copy any photographs of interest. There are several photos of mission buildings at the time, and people including school groups.

Ian Dunlop, pioneer of the genre that was to become known as 'ethnographic filmmaking', deposited nearly 1000 slides taken on location during work on the Commonwealth Film Unit's 'People of the Western Desert' series between 1965 and 1968. He also deposited nearly 3000 slides taken at Yirrkala and environs while filming the Yirrkala film project between 1970 and 1982. These beautifully photographed images provide valuable insight not only into the filmmaking process in often difficult conditions, but the material culture and daily activities of the communities with which he worked. The portraits of prominent community leaders and artists are particularly noteworthy. Approximately half of the Yirrkala material has now been digitised with some of those images now available for clients to view onsite through the AIATSIS Digital Picture Library.

The Institute was fortunate to acquire, at auction, a set of recordings of Jack Wherra recorded by John McCaffery at Mowanjum in the 1960s.

In 1964, John McCaffery, a PhD candidate from Stanford University, lecturer in anthropology at San Francisco State College and Fullbright Scholar was selected to work with the late Professor Ronald Berndt. Later that year he undertook fieldwork in the Mowanjum community in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. His interest was the process of creating visual art objects. The result of his research was a large collection of objects and documentation. The tapes which AIATSIS has acquired are recordings of Jack Wherra, an artist notable for carving boab nuts.

McCaffery worked closely with Wherra and recorded many important details about boab nut carving, a much neglected area of Indigenous art. The nuts that McCaffery detailed with Jack's assistance are, in many instances, on par with the sort of detailed recording that was to be done on Arnhem Land barks or Central Australian dot paintings: they are most important depictions of so many aspects of Indigenous life of the Kimberley.

The collection comprises 29 tapes, each reel of which is 1800 feet in length. The tapes contain Jack Wherra's life history and the history, stories and imagery depicted on the boab nuts. AIATSIS is currently in the process of preserving these valuable tapes comprising 1,800 feet reels and as yet the total hours of recording is unknown but could well number hundreds of hours. The Powerhouse Museum successfully bid to acquire the boab nuts documented on the tapes and a future mutual partnership is anticipated with the Museum.

AIATSIS has acquired the only print of the 16mm film *Grain of the Voice* by highly regarded film makers Arthur and Corinne Cantrill. The film, made in 1976, interprets the landscape in the Areyonga area, Northern Territory, through both

men's and women's song cycles, highlighting the strong relationship of the Pitjantjatjara to their land.

The soundtrack is unedited, preserving the long pauses in the singing and the discussions between the women as about the songs and verses, capturing the true nature of the performance song cycles.

Dr Betty Meehan donated one of her and the late Professor Rhys Jones's works of art to the AIATSIS Artwork Collection.

The piece is a desert painting, by Charlie Tjapangarti acrylic on linen, 94cm x 63.5cm and was purchased for Rhys Jones and Betty Meehan by Professor Fred Myers. In the documentation, Professor Myers states that Charlie Tjapangarti and Yumpulurru Tjungurrayi, Pintupi men are the probable owners of the design.

An accompanying audio recording provides further documentation for the painting. The interview by Fred Myers with the artist, Charlie Tjapangarti is in Pintupi and Yumpulurru Tjungurrayi sings the song relating to the artwork.

Preservation, conservation and maintenance

A fundamental responsibility of any collecting institution is to ensure that the audiovisual materials it holds — which are extremely vulnerable to decomposition and damage — are preserved, conserved and constantly monitored. Technical staff are also responsible for copying materials for internal and external client requests, recording and photographing AIATSIS events, and creating original media materials.

The Library houses materials to archival standards and collections are held in a secure temperature controlled storage space. Conservation and preservation activities were expanded because of additional activities funded through the digitisation program. This additional money enabled the employment of two conservators for a considerable part of the year.

The Library treated 121 items including: 35 NAIDOC posters; six volumes of rare books in preparation for 'Portraits from Rare books' online exhibition; and 15 Aurukun diaries. Fifty of these items were placed in custom made archival storage enclosures.

Conservators played a major role in the establishment of a joint use quarantine room. Plans have been completed and tenders have been let. The project has included the selection and purchase of equipment and fixtures, including a freezer, shelving and benches. It is anticipated that the room will be operational by the end of August 2004.

Conservation staff also provided expert advice to Link-Up caseworkers as a part of their training at AIATSIS. Advice was given on the preservation of documents and photographic records with specific reference to preservation products which are readily available and low in cost. Much of this information can be found online in a series of Home Preservation information sheets on the AIATSIS website.

A conservation plan was provided for the AIATSIS Library's nomination for the 'Sorry Books' to be included on the Australian Memory of the World Register. One staff member received training in Disaster Preparedness.

During the year, a number of displays were mounted in the Stanner Room. One featuring the work of Indigenous researchers coincided with the Indigenous Researchers' Conference held in October 2003. The current display has been prepared by Conservation staff and demonstrates how readily available items can be used to store documents and photographs at home.

AIATSIS continually conducts testing for Vinegar Syndrome — the decomposition of cellulose acetate materials so-called because it smells like vinegar. One hundred per cent of the AIATSIS film collection and 85 per cent of its photographic collection is cellulose acetate. When this material decomposes it not only destroys the item itself, it releases chemicals which will infect other materials in the archive.

Technical staff have hosted a number of whole day workshops this year for representatives from other archives around Australia, the New Zealand Radio Archives and the Archive of Maori and Pacific Music. The world-class digital audio facility at AIATSIS is of great interest to others in the field.

A new purpose designed film and video room has been installed and commissioned. The film handling facility enables significant advances in the ongoing preservation and maintenance of the AIATSIS film and video collections. In a dust free environment film can be inspecte and rewound for preservation. The room is equipped with both old and modern technology which gives staff the ability to migrate obsolete video tape formats to current formats including digital master tapes. The room also has a tape baking oven which temporarily rejuvenates decomposing magnetic tapes in order that they can be played one more time and migrated to current formats.

Collection documentation

The Library controls materials in the collection through library stock-control practices. Documentation of materials is in accordance with standard bibliographic practices, and in line with Indigenous cultural practices. Value-added documentation includes annotations and the use of specialist thesaurus terms to enhance bibliographic access. Manuscript records are added to the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts. Monograph and serials records are added to the National Bibliographic Database.

1401 analytics were added (an increase of 17.8% compared to the previous year). 1408 annotations were added to monograph records.

The following guides to manuscripts are available online at AIATSIS website.

MS number	Title
MS 2188	Papers of Gerhardt Laves (Original papers)
MS 2189	Papers of Gerhardt Laves (Photocopies of originals)
MS 2907	July Inglis Papers. Addition
MS 2995	Papers of Jack Waterford (revised from 2001)
MS 3510	Seminars on the 'Rights of Peoples'
MS 3752	WEH Stanner Collection – Revised version to include Addition
MS 3764	Father Dixon and the Stuart Case
MS 3803	Papers of Marjorie J Oakes
MS 4054	Coral Dow's Aboriginal Tent Embassy Press Clippings
MS 4112	Jack Horner's Research Notebooks on the Life and Times of Bill Ferguson
MS 4114	Miscellaneous Australian notes of Kenneth Hale
MS 4114	Miscellaneous Australian notes of Kenneth Hale. Addition
MS 4127	Papers of Neil McGarvie
MS 4165	Aboriginal Families of the Moree Region
MS 4167	Papers of Barrie Dexter
MS 4169	Papers of Beth Graham
MS 4170	Linguistic materials of Frank Zandvoort

Access to the collections and services

Bibliographic access is provided to all newly acquired items. Online access, when available, is provided through catalogue records. Physical access is provided in accordance with copyright provisions and in accordance with conditions determined by depositors and donors in consultation with the collection management staff.

An inter-library loan service and a document delivery service are available and these are provided in accordance with copyright provisions and in accordance with access conditions. Specialist reference staff provide information services to visitors and access to collections in the Stanner Room. Remote clients access information services by telephone, mail, fax and email.

All CD-Roms are now available to clients in the Stanner Room. A detailed guide provides information on subject coverage and instructions on its use. A proposal for access to commercial databases, both bibliographic and full text is under consideration.

Usage statistics	
Entries in visitors book	1392
Reference desk enquiries from visitors	1356 (an increase of 30% from previous year)
Enquiries requiring a written response	644 (an increase of 9% from previous year)
Phone enquiries	1033 (an increase of 26% from previous year)

For details on group visits to the library see Appendix 8.

Online full text access	
Number of full text documents accessible through catalogue records	406
Cumulative total of full text documents accessible through catalogue records	1463

Document delivery (inter-library loans)	
Requested by Institute from other libraries	286
Requested by clients and other Libraries from Institute	202
On-site delivery (number of items delivered to clients in the Stanner Room)	10 591 (an increase of 16 per cent from previous year)

The NTRU provides a dedicated service for people doing research on native title claims wanting to access the AIATSIS collections. Research and Access Officer, Ms Grace Koch, provides information, advice and access to library and audiovisual archive materials held at AIATSIS.

Total transactions for the year were 1040 (66% more than in 2001-2002, but 15% less than 2002–2003). It was pleasing to see a continuing increase in requests from Indigenous people.

Access statistics 2001–2004						
	2001–2002		2002–2003		2003–2004	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous individuals	53	(8%)	76	(6%)	126	(12%)
Indigenous organisations	198	(29%)	198	(16%)	195	(19%)

(cont. next page)

Access statistics 2001–2004						
	2001–2002		2002–2003		2003–2004	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Government	300	(43%)	783	(63%)	510	(49%)
Consultants/ private companies	109	(16%)	143	(11%)	117	(11%)
Other	28	(4%)	30	(2%)	92	(9%)
Total transactions	688	(100%)	1230	(100%)	1040	(100%)

Digitisation project

The consumer-driven music and video industries are dictating the move to digital technologies and the abandonment of analogue technologies. This poses quite a challenge for audiovisual archives as tape, play back equipment and spare parts can no longer be purchased. AIATSIS is digitising its audiovisual collections; however, it is imperative that it maintain its analogue playback equipment in order to do so.

ATSIS provided 12 months of funding for the AIATSIS digitisation project, following its initial funding for a pilot project. The objectives of the pilot project were to:

- establish the infrastructure and policies needed to digitise collection materials
- begin digitising components of the collection for preservation and access
- improve and simplify access to collection materials
- make material available through the Internet, subject to satisfactory controls
- return to communities, materials relating to their heritage in a digital form
- undertake substantial conservation work on the collections
- create opportunities to 'add value' to the collections by creating digital linkages
- create materials suited to the development of educational, commercial and promotional product.

The project has been highly successful and the level of achievement has far exceeded expectations. This was due in part to the dedication and commitment of the digitisation staff, who undertook the task of creating thousands of digital objects and records, and who also participated in a highly productive and involved fashion, in the formulation, testing and proving of digitisation policies and procedures.

Through an extensive process of inter-program collaboration, an extensive suite of policies, procedures and technical standards dealing with digital objects within AIATSIS was established for every stage of the digitisation process. These standards are in keeping with 'best practice' and are equal to or exceed those in use by other major Australian collecting institutions.

Library Acquisition

A coup for AIATSIS

'Mr Prime Minister, you're asking me to open Pandora's Box!'

'That', he replied, 'is precisely what I am asking you to do, Barrie.'

And so began Barrie Dexter's plunge into one of the most dramatic periods in Indigenous affairs in Australia.

Barrie Dexter played a crucial role in national Indigenous affairs from his appointment by the Prime Minister, Harold Holt, in 1967 as an Executive member of the newly formed Council for Aboriginal Affairs and Director of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, through to 1976, when the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) was passed by the Fraser government.

In 2002, in what AIATSIS Principal Steve Larkin described as 'something of a coup', the Institute acquired Dexter's personal papers from the ANU.

'The Institute's function is to promote knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, peoples and cultures', Mr Larkin said. 'Barrie's papers make a magnificent contribution to this pursuit.'

The papers chronicle 10 years of Barrie's work and as Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, provide an invaluable insight for researchers into the day-to-day machinations, debates and personalities that shaped Indigenous affairs at the time.

While the papers were not part of the official filing system, they include a large amount of material originating from, or relating to 'Nugget' Coombs and Professor William Stanner, Chairman and Member, respectively, of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs.

(From left) AIATSIS visiting scholar Dr Gordon Briscoe, Mr Jack Horner, Mr Barrie Dexter, AIATSIS archivist Ms Jann Kirkham and AIATSIS Principal Mr Steve Larkin with one of 35 boxes which form the 'Papers on Aboriginal Affairs of Barrie Dexter' held in the AIATSIS Library.

Mr Dexter said the papers, which include reports, photographs, correspondence, minutes and personal notes, came from a filing cabinet behind his desk.

'I do emphasise that they are not the official files and are therefore not the whole story. If you want the whole story, you must go to official archives,' he said.

The AIATSIS Library undertook the extensive cataloguing, archiving, editing and digitising of the 35-box collection, and launched an online catalogue to the collection in 2004 (see the Institute's Mura online catalogue at www.aiatsis.gov.au. Associated audiovisual material is held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archives. *Note*: some material is closed access).

To achieve the above objectives several significant improvements were required to the computing, network and peripheral structure of AIATSIS's computing facilities. As a result, AIATSIS now operates an audio digitisation facility that is the equal of the best collecting institutions in Australia. In addition to high quality, faithful digitisation, the sophisticated restoration tools available to our technicians can add value to these priceless, historic recordings by removing sound flaws and age damage, making the content clearer and more audible.

AIATSIS clients now benefit directly from the improved quality and enhanced access to digital audio objects. Pictorial digitisation also established digitisation capabilities that are at the peak of the current technology.

All AIATSIS programs benefited from improvements and enhancements such as:
- automated high speed and high resolution film scanners
- professional high resolution digital still camera
- automated full colour document page scanner
- specialised digital audio and data cabling complete with network switching
- high speed sub-network with 1.8 terabytes of work-in-progress data storage
- colour management tools for highly accurate colour fidelity
- 'near photo quality' plain paper colour laser printer
- centralised automated CD/DVD burner/printer
- large format (1mt wide) 'near photo quality' poster printer
- computer based non-linear digital video editing and titling suite.

More than 60 collections have been digitised, creating more than 75,000 digital objects, including:
- 10,600 Pictorial Digital Preservation Masters (approx 1.6% of the Pictorial Collection);
- 22,100 Pictorial Digital Viewing Copies;
- 2363 Audio Digital Preservation Masters (approximately 4.5% of the Audio Collection);
- 2363 Audio Digital Listening Copies; and
- 21 language compilations, each consisting of more than 16 hours of language materials.

After two years of testing and exploring the potential pathways and guidelines optimum procedures to enable routine digitisation of the audiovisual collections have been established. The final cornerstones of this process will be the provision of a secure, digital storage device, and an effective digital asset management product.

AIATSIS has developed a world-class digitisation facility, applying best-practice across its photographic and audio collections. Fruitful explorations have been made of the possibilities of applying the lessons learnt during this project to developing a video digitisation process that achieves the same quality standards as the pictorial and audio processes.

| Audiovisual collections digitised 2002–2004 | Audiovisual digital assets created 2002–2004 |

Audiovisual collections digitised 2002–2004

Audiovisual digital assets created 2002–2004
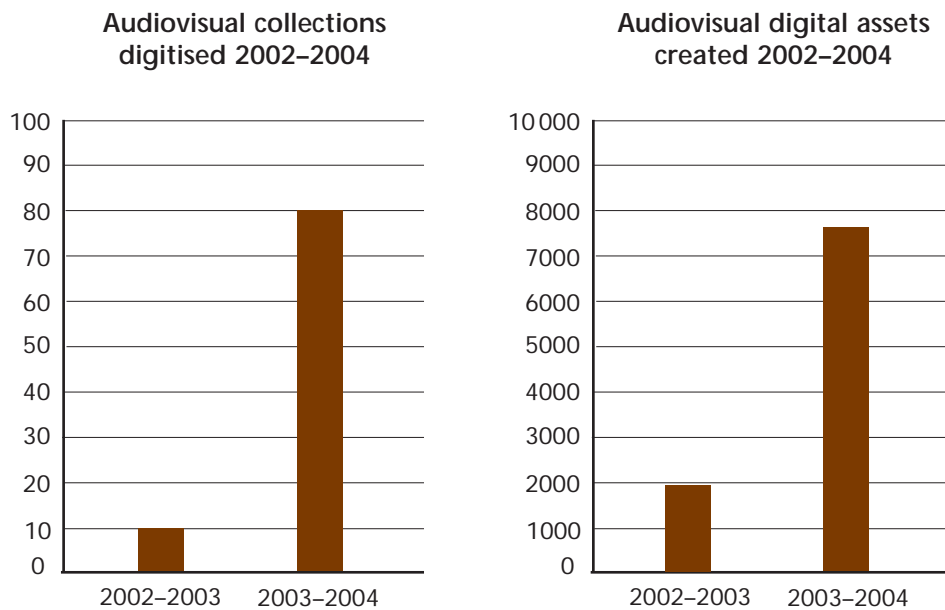
An additional resource created by this project is the broader understanding and greater knowledge gained by staff, of the issues and technical aspects relevant to archival digitisation processes which they have been sharing with representatives of other organisations who are wishing to develop digitising facilities.

Goal 5
To develop and maintain strategic alliances that add value to our activities

Digital Endangered Languages and Music Network

AIATSIS through the Audiovisual Archives has become a member of the Digital Endangered Languages and Music Archive Network (DELAMAN) based in the Netherlands at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. This international network is a valuable information sharing forum in the new area of digital archives.

Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures

AIATSIS has formed a strategic alliance with the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC). This digital archive network is an initiative of three major universities: Sydney University, Melbourne University and the Australian National University. This alliance offers AIATSIS a valuable opportunity for information sharing, complementary work and data sharing.

Dawn and *New Dawn* CD-Rom project

This important project was made possible with financial and other support from ATSIS, the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs and State Library of NSW. The production is nearing completion. Copies will be distributed in the coming year. It will provide unprecedented access to a unique family and community history resource for Aboriginal people living in New South Wales.

A 1954 edition of *Dawn* Magazine; 252 editions of the magazine were digitised by staff in the AIATSIS Library under the Institute's pilot Digitisation Program funded by ATSIS.

Pandora community website

In 2004, the AIATSIS Library became the 10th Pandora partner. A main focus of the Library's selection policy is community web sites. Pandora is an acronym for 'Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Resources of Australia'. It is a collaborative online archive of web sites and online publications, developed by the National Library of Australia, to ensure long-term access to selected Australian online publications and website.

Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (RAAM)

The Library contributes to the RAAM website (www.nla.gov.au/raam/), a guide to collections of personal papers and non-governmental organisational records held by

Australian libraries and archives. It provides researchers with a convenient, centralised register of locations for primary research material. It does not provide detailed descriptions of the collections themselves; rather, it alerts researchers to the existence of collections and enables them to pursue further enquiries about the material, either online or through direct contact with repositories. The AIATSIS Library has added 645 manuscript records to date.

Ethnomathematics Project

An online exhibition highlighting Australian Indigenous mathematics was completed in conjunction with the United States National Science Foundation (NSF), as a part of the Ethnomathematics Digital Library (EDL), located at www.ethnomath.org. This is a resource network and interactive learning community for ethnomathematics, with an emphasis on the indigenous mathematics of the Pacific region.

Canberra Institute of Technology

The Library has continued its relationship with the School of Library and Information Services with the placement of Maureen McIntyre, a final-year student supervised by Pat Brady and Bella Morgan.

Kinetica Document Delivery

The Library is an active participant in the Kinetica Document Delivery, an Internet-based system for inter-library lending and document delivery, managed by the National Library. All the Library's monograph and serial records are added to the database. This ensures wider access to printed materials on Australian Indigenous studies to other Australian libraries and their clients.

The AIATSIS Library is an active participant in the following organisations:
- Commonwealth Collecting Institutions Group
- ACT Sirsi Users Group
- Digitisation Group
- Copyright Group.

Conferences and seminars

During the year, Family History staff contributed to the National Archives of Australia's staff development program, presenting information sessions on services to Indigenous clients.

Library staff gave papers or presentations at the following conferences:
- Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC) Seminar
- National Conference of Link-Up organisations
- 11th Information Online Conference, the Information Specialists Group of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA).

Chapter 4 • Corporate management and accountability

Goal 2
To maximise the role of Australian Indigenous peoples in the activities and services of the Institute

AIATSIS attracts Indigenous people to vacant positions through advertising in Indigenous newspapers and networks in addition to advertising in the mainstream press. Indigenous cadetships and training positions are being identified throughout the Institute to provide paid work experience and to enhance future employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

The Institute currently employs 108 ongoing and non-ongoing staff. Twenty seven per cent of those employees identify as Indigenous.

During the financial year the Indigenous Caucus was revitalised with the support of the Principal. The Caucus is an internal working group supported by management, that provides Indigenous staff with a forum to discuss various issues affecting them, including employment issues. Indigenous staff are encouraged to attend regular meetings of the Caucus. The Caucus is consulted separately for comment and input into employment policies and consideration of amendments to our Indigenous Training and Career Development plan, and has been involved in reviewing policies such as the studies assistance guidelines. The Caucus is actively represented at the AIATSIS Consultative Committee, which brings staff and management together to discuss employment issues. Information is regularly shared between these groups.

AIATSIS's Indigenous staff members are also eligible to join the Indigenous APS Employees Network which supports and advocates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests, values and perspectives in the APS. Indigenous staff members are encouraged to join the Network and participate in discussion groups. Arrangements are in place to advise new Indigenous staff about the Network.

During the year, five Indigenous staff members attended the Indigenous Australian Public Service Careers Workshop for APS 1–4 staff. The workshop helps participants to identify their career aspirations and provides strategies for career development. Feedback from participants is that the course gave them some valuable information and insights into their career needs.

AIATSIS is also involved in the Indigenous Employment Group administered by the Public Service Commission. The Institute is working with the group to develop a survey on early exits from the public service by Indigenous staff members.

Goal 5
To develop and maintain strategic alliances that add value to our activities

As a small agency, AIATSIS has limited resources available to deal with the plethora of accountability, management and reporting policies required to support good corporate governance. The Institute works to improve its effectiveness by joining

with other agencies with similar corporate directions to share policy ideas. During 2003–2004 membership of the Cultural Managers Forum — a group comprising the National Library of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and other cultural agencies — was maintained, to discuss policies on information technology and human resources management.

Staff in Corporate Services have maintained and built on our strategic alliance with the Indigenous Employment Strategy team at the Australian Public Service Commission. The Commission has commented favourably on the Institute's participation in discussions about the State of the Service Report relating to Indigenous employment and our participation in the Commission's Indigenous Employment Strategy.

Executive and Corporate Services staff are members of the Corporate Management Forum known as COMNET which includes human resource managers, financial management and information technology working groups. These forums and groups provide information on issues affecting the Australian Public Service and opportunities for discussion and input to policy development.

Goal 6
To manage efficiently and effectively in a transparent accountable and supportive manner

Corporate Services provides finance, human resources, information technology and building management support to all Institute Programs. This includes assistance with regulatory compliance and accountability requirements; planning for sustainability; and risk management.

Further progress was made on reducing the real cost of corporate support to the Institute; over the past three years, the reduction has totalled about 33 per cent for each staff member:

Corporate support cost indexation
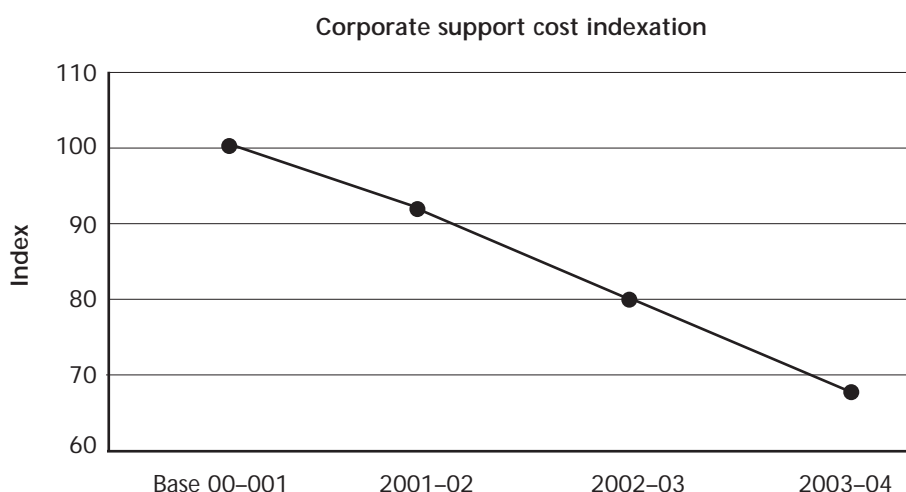
These savings have been reinvested to provide enhanced services.

Planning for the 2003–2004 year identified two activities which required substantial enhancement during the year: improved communication with staff in other programs; and upgrades to information technology services.

Communicating accountability for service delivery

Discussions with staff from other programs during the 2002–2003 year indicated that while changes to activities by Corporate Services were usually supported and seen as worthwhile service improvements, the value of changes was not often understood. It also became clear that copies of policy statements developed by Corporate Services were difficult to find, that not all staff were necessarily aware that changes had been made and that generic advice through 'all staff' emails was not a successful medium to communicate information about Corporate Services activities.

These problems were addressed by a redesign of the corporate Intranet site and the development of a hard copy bi-monthly staff newsletter, *Insights*, delivered to all staff.

Insights was first published in March with the second edition in May. Topics covered include occupation health, safety and welfare, IT security and the management of 'spam' and editorials from the Principal. Initial comments indicate that this initiative is making a positive contribution to staff awareness of Corporate Service's activities.

The new AIATSIS Intranet site was launched in May. The site includes the most requested policy statements, forms and calculators. Additional material will be added as policies are reviewed in the future.

Communications were also enhanced by changes to the information contained in Executive Board of Management reports. These now include activities under way or planned for the near future, to advise staff of forthcoming service enhancements.

Information technology services

A review of IT services in 2002–2003 demonstrated the need for major upgrades of the Institute's IT infrastructure. Equipment had been bought on an ad hoc basis, print equipment was mostly well past its useful life, six different versions of desktop operating systems were being supported and there was no planning for future needs. This lead to substantially increased costs and poor use of IT staff time.

During 2003–2004 contracts for the supply of standard desktop computers and multifunction printers commenced. A standard desktop software environment was established, using the XP version of Windows and Office software suites. This resulted in a large reduction in the number of minor technical problems experienced by staff, allowing IT staff to spend more time dealing with more difficult issues which had previously been set aside.

AIATSIS's status as an educational organisation was recognised by major software vendors who allowed substantial reductions in software licence fees. This had flow-on effects to several other suppliers.

Automated high-speed tape backup systems were installed. This has increased the reliability of backups whilst providing improved support for disaster recovery. This will become more important into the future as the digitisation of archival records generates very large volumes of data.

The EBM recognised the difficulties of providing IT services in a rapidly changing environment, particularly the development of new skills and retention of good staff. Whilst commending IT staff for their outstanding efforts during the year, it was agreed that IT operations could be better provided by a contractor. On 30 June a contract for the provision of IT support was being negotiated with Exceed Systems Integration Pty Ltd and services should commence in August 2004. These services are expected to provide enhanced technical capacity whilst containing cost increases over the contract term.

Overall, during 2003–2004, IT was able to substantially improve system capacity and reliability whilst reducing long-term costs.

A review of IT system security commenced in May 2004; an update of the review completed in November 2002. It follows two incidents where 'hackers' successfully penetrated the Institute's Internet communications.

The current AIATSIS Internet site needs to be updated. Tenders were received in October 2003, but did not proceed, pending decisions on a proposed digital asset management system (DAMS). In June 2004 the Government allocated $1.5m for digitisation activities in the 2004–2005 year, including acquisition of a DAMS.

Finance systems

The Accpac financial system continued to be used during 2003–2004. Deficiencies with this system, noted in previous years, again presented serious problems which were not resolved. Consequently, it was decided to move to a sub-contract arrangement with ATSIS using its SAP R/3 system from 1 July 2004. The Government's decision to abolish ATSIS in April 2004 however, removed this opportunity. Subsequently, Microsoft Great Plains was selected as an alternative finance system. An outstanding effort by finance staff resulted in this system 'going live' on 5 July 2004, only 9 weeks after contract terms were settled. Development of Great Plains and associated banking software has the potential to further reduce processing costs during 2004–2005.

The financial result for the year — a loss of $427,000 — represents a significant improvement compared with the initial budgeted loss of $893,000. The main reason for this is the timing of expenditure.

More extensive use of corporate credit cards to pay accounts has continued to reduce the costs of accounts processing. The use of cards will be reviewed during

2004–2005, as a number of suppliers have commenced charging fees for payment by card, possibly removing the financial benefit of using cards.

A review of publications inventory management resulted in the acquisition of BookNet software, which will provide useful information to support the retail activities of Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP). New storage facilities provide a much improved environment for ASP stock at a saving of 75 per cent of the previous cost.

Human resources

Appointment of new staff in the HR area provided the impetus to offer a wider range of training courses to improve staff skills and to streamline recruitment practices. In addition, significant progress was made on resolving long-term problems with superannuation and leave entitlements, some of which are over ten years old.

AIATSIS has a staff performance management system which aims to provide a forum to discuss an individuals' performance, provide a basis for the provision of training and development opportunities and to assist with workforce planning. Statistics collated during the year indicated that the system may not be performing as expected and needed revising. Initial activities to resolve the problems include continuing discussions in the staff Consultative Committee and planning for additional training for supervisors and a review of work level standards.

The Institute is committed to the continued development of its staff through the provision of training and career advancement. The Institute's Agency Agreement includes a Performance Feedback Scheme.

The Institute operated according to its Human Resource Development Plan and Indigenous Recruitment and Career Development Plan. Copies of the plans are available on request.

Three Indigenous staff from the Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation Indigenous Employment Centre were engaged by the Institute for a period of six months. For further detail on Indigenous recruitment and employment provisions see Goal 2, p. 64.

The Institute spent $90,106 on staff development activity during 2003–2004.

A dissection of staff employed at 30 June 2004 is shown on the following page. During the year ten permanent positions were filled. At 30 June 2004 two staff were on leave, one on maternity leave, the other on temporary transfer to another agency. There were twenty-three separations during the year comprised of six resignations, one transfer, fifteen contracts expired and one retirement.

Level	Male	Female	Ongoing	Non On-going	Indigenous	Full Time	Part Time	PWD*	NESB**
PEO	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
SES	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Exec 2	2	4	4	3	1	1	6	0	0
Exec 1	11	11	11	9	1	20	0	0	0
APS6	5	13	11	7	6	15	3	1	1
APS5	4	9	6	7	1	12	1	0	0
APS4	7	17	12	13	6	20	5	0	0
APS3	3	9	2	10	4	12	0	0	0
APS2	3	5	2	6	7	7	1	0	0
APS1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
Total number	39	69	48	60	29	91	17	1	1
% of staff	36	64	44	56	27	84	16	1	1

Table title: **Staffing levels and numbers, 30 June 2004**

* People with a disability
** Non-English speaking background

All staff except our SES Staff are covered by the AIATSIS Agency Agreement 2002–2004. AIATSIS provides a range of non-salary benefits, details of which are set out in the Agreement. A new Agreement is being negotiated and is expected to operate from early in 2005.

The following table shows the range of salaries under the Agency Agreement, by classification:

Salaries	Minimum	Maximum
Executive Level 2	73,717	83,593
Executive Level 1	63,942	69,053
APS Level 6	49,948	57,376
APS Level 5	46,245	49,037
APS Level 4	41,462	45,018
APS Level 3	37,201	40,151
APS Level 2	32,661	36,218
APS Level 1	17,316	26,262
Cadet	9,798	15,960
Apprentice / trainee	15,677	28,741

Four AIATSIS staff are covered by AWAs (one SES, three non-SES). Except for remuneration, the employment conditions in these AWAs are identical to those in the Agency Agreement. One employee not covered by an AWA is paid outside the Executive Level 2 range, as allowed by the Agency Agreement.

Three employees received performance bonuses in 2003–2004, totalling $50,094.

Further information on AWAs and performance bonuses is not provided for confidentiality reasons.

The Institute is committed to promoting a cooperative workplace and to ensuring that there is appropriate participation by staff in the decision-making processes. Both staff and management recognise that the maintenance of cooperative workplace relations will provide all staff with an opportunity to participate in decisions that impact directly on them.

The Institute's Agency Agreement 2002–2004 operated during the reporting period; it will expire in December 2004. The AIATSIS Consultative Committee, which brings staff and management together to discuss employment related issues, began discussions on a replacement Agreement. Health and safety, human resource development, workplace diversity and access and equity issues were also addressed through the Institute's consultative mechanisms, ensuring that the Institute's obligations were met whilst maintaining a cooperative workplace environment.

The Institute's program for workplace diversity, set out in the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Workplace Diversity Program, continued operation during the year.

The Agency Agreement includes a number of specific provisions to facilitate the employment and retention of Indigenous staff and recognise the richness and diversity of Indigenous cultures. See Goal 2, p.64 for details.

Occupational health and safety

The Institute has a policy of providing and maintaining the highest degree of health and safety of all employees. It aims to:

- prevent all accidents and ill health caused by working conditions
- protect all employees from any health hazard which may arise out of their work or the conditions in which it is carried out
- place and maintain employees in an occupational environment designed to satisfy their needs for health, safety and welfare at work.

The Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Committee meets quarterly to discuss OH&S. Measures taken during the year to protect the health, safety and welfare at work of employees of the Institute included:

- the testing of emergency evacuation procedures
- staff training in workplace practices, including the responsibilities of fire wardens
- the provision of equipment needed by staff to deal with OH&S concerns.

No accidents requiring notification under Section 68 were reported. No notices were given to the employer under Sections 30, 46 and 47 during the year, nor were any directions under Section 45 given.

Information management

The first stage of a long-term plan to improve information management was finished in 2003–2004. The TRIM records management system now contains a complete record of all files created since AIATSIS was established in 1963. Work has commenced on 'sentencing' old files for disposal or long-term retention, depending on their historical value.

Initial trials into digitising corporate records began in April 2004. A study on Institute-wide information management needs for the future also commenced. Together these projects will provide a comprehensive database of all AIATSIS information for research and archival purposes.

Building management and environmental performance

There were no major problems with AIATSIS building operations during 2003–2004. Most maintenance problems were rectified under contracts negotiated in previous years.

Planning for revised office layouts continued, with extensive consultations with staff and managers. It is expected that building works will commence early in 2004–2005. During 2003–2004 fit-out for a video editing suite was completed and work on a quarantine room commenced.

AIATSIS occupies a relatively new building with modern controls for energy management, which are designed to minimise environmental effects. Energy use is monitored to ensure the lowest use consistent with archival and office requirements. Natural gas is used for most heating requirements.

Water use is minimised e.g. through the use of dual-flush toilets and by not irrigating lawns around the building.

Used paper is recycled where possible.

Freedom of information

One request for information was received under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during the year. It was dealt with within the prescribed time limits.

Advertising and market research

The Institute spent $52,192 during the year on recruitment advertising in the press. In addition $7,283 was spent on marketing Institute publications. No expenditure was made to fund advertising campaigns, market research, outdoor, television, radio or cinema advertising or to direct mail advertising organisations.

Service charter

The Institute's Service Charter operated throughout the reporting period. The Charter provides for the monitoring of performance and service provision, and encourages client feedback. Any indications of dissatisfaction on the part of clients are followed up by investigation and, where possible, resolved.

Consultants and contracts

AIATSIS let 12 consultancies during the year with a total estimated value of $196,000. In addition, 13 contracts each valued at $10,000 or more and totalling $415,000 were let. The majority of these contracts were for the supply of equipment. For details of consultancies and major contracts see Appendix 3.

Competitive tendering and contracting

All contracts had provisions allowing access by the Auditor-General.

Exempt contracts

No contracts were exempt from publication in the *Commonwealth Purchasing and Disposal Gazette.*

Financial statements

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

<u>Scope</u>

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Councillors;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedule of Commitments; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, for the year ended 30 June 2004.

The members of the Council are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit approach

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Procedures were performed to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' financial position, and of its performance as represented by the statements of financial performance, and cash flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and

- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Councillors.

Independence

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

(i) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and applicable Accounting Standards; and

(ii) give a true and fair view, of the matters required by applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial of position Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies as at 30 June 2004, and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

Rebecca Reilly
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
1 September 2004

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2004
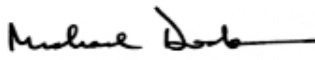
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Statement by Councillors

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2004 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Institute will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of Councillors.

Prof. M Dodson
Chairperson
August 2004

Councillor
August 2004

S Larkin
Principal
26 August 2004

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
REVENUE			
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenue from Government	4A	7,639	9,788
Goods and services	4B	2,177	1,674
Interest	4C	221	267
Revenue from sale of assets	4D	23	62
Other revenues	4E	460	620
Revenues from ordinary activities		10,520	12,411
EXPENSE			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employees	5A	6,320	5,939
Suppliers	5B	2,935	3,094
Grants	5C	571	861
Depreciation and amortisation	5D	944	878
Write-down of assets	5E	54	12
Value of assets sold	4D	123	69
Expenses from ordinary activities		10,947	10,853
Operating surplus from ordinary activities		(427)	1,558
Net profit		(427)	1,558
Net credit to asset revaluation reserve		-	1,562
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		-	1,562
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with the Australian Government as owner		(427)	3,120

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	11B	1,797	6,367
Receivables	6A	198	279
Investments (s18 *CAC Act*)	6B	3,650	-
Total financial assets		5,645	6,646
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7A, 7C	8,939	9,075
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7B, 7C	9,459	9,884
Intangibles	7D, 7C	168	8
Inventories	7E	61	141
Other non-financial assets	7F	94	129
Total non-financial assets		18,721	19,237
Total assets		24,366	25,883
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employees	8A	1,334	1,474
Capital use charge	8B	-	2,186
Total Provisions		1,334	3,660
Payables			
Suppliers	9A	408	138
Grants	9B	-	488
Other payables	9C	1,712	261
Total payables		2,120	887
Total liabilities		3,454	4,547
NET ASSETS		20,912	21,336
EQUITY			
Reserves	10	2,717	2,717
Contributed equity	10	3	-
Accumulated surpluses	10	18,192	18,619
Total equity	10	20,912	21,336
Current assets		5,800	6,916
Non-current assets		18,566	18,967
Current liabilities		2,803	3,893
Non-current liabilities		651	654

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations	19	7,639	9,788
Goods and services		3,628	2,701
Interest		243	224
GST received from ATO		136	159
Total cash received		11,646	12,872
Cash used			
Employees		(6,468)	(5,630)
Suppliers		(2,582)	(3,307)
Grants		(628)	(894)
Total cash used		(9,678)	(9,831)
Net cash from operating activities	11A	1,968	3,041
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant & equipment		23	62
Proceeds from sales of investments (s18)		3,100	-
Total cash received		3,123	62
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(728)	(629)
Purchase of investments (s18)		(6,750)	-
Total cash used		(7,478)	(629)
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(4,355)	(567)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations - contributed equity	19	3	-
Total cash received		3	-
Cash used			
Capital use charge paid		(2,186)	(1,862)
Total cash used		(2,186)	(1,862)
Net cash from financing activities		(2,183)	(1,862)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(4,570)	612
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		6,367	5,755
Cash at the end of the reporting period	11B	1,797	6,367

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
as at 30 June 2004

	Note	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS			
By Type			
Capital commitments			
Infrastructure, plant and equipment [1]		174	37
Total capital commitments		174	37
Other commitments			
Research grants [2]		107	789
Other commitments [3]		270	53
Total other commitments		377	842
Commitments receivable		9	80
Net commitments		542	799
By Maturity			
One year or less		542	799
Net commitments		542	799

NB: Commitments are GST-inclusive where relevant.

[1] Plant and equipment commitments are mainly for computer software upgrades.

[2] Research grant commitments are amounts payable under grant agreements in respect of which the recipient is yet to perform the services required.

[3] Other commitments are mainly consultancy agreements or book printing contracts where the services have not yet been provided.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

No.	Description

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 and are a general purpose financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2004);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board;
- other authoritative pronouncements of the Board; and
- the Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The statements have been prepared having regard to:

- The Explanatory Notes to Schedule 1 issued by the Department of Finance and Administration; and
- Finance Briefs issued by the Department of Finance and Administration.

The Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. Assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are however not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments.

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefit has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.2 Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2002–03.

In 2002-03 the Finance Minister's Orders introduced an impairment test for non-current assets which were carried at cost and not subject to *AAS10 Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets*. In 2003-04, the impairment test provisions of the FMOs have been extended to cover non-current assets carried at deprival value. There is no indication of impairment for any assets recognised in the financial statements.

1.3 Revenue

The revenues described in this Note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Institute.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportional basis that takes into account the effective yield on the relevant asset.

Revenue from disposal of non-current assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract to provide the service. The stage of completion is determined according to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provisions for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collectability of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.

Revenues from Government – Output Appropriations

The full amount of the appropriation for departmental outputs for the year is recognised as revenue.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as revenue at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition. Services are provided free of charge to support the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre Ltd, the Australian Indigenous Cultural Network and Ngiya – the National Institute for Indigenous Law, Policy and Practice. The fair value of these services in 2003–04 was $34,000 (2002–03 $99,860)

1.4 Transactions by the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated by the Parliament as equity injections are recognised as 'contributed equity' in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders.

1.5 Employee Benefits

Benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and sick leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are also measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date, using a short-cut methodology to estimate the present value.

Leave

The liability for employee entitlements includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Institute is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Institute's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The non-current portion of the liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2004. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. AIATSIS has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

Most Institute employees are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme or the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. The liability for their superannuation benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course.

AIATSIS makes employer contributions to the Australian Government at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the Institute's employees. Some employees are members of private schemes; AIATSIS contributes to these schemes at agreed levels, which are at least equal to the minimum employer contributions.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

1.6 Grants

Most grant agreements require the grantee to perform services, provide facilities, or meet eligibility criteria. In these cases, the Institute recognises grant liabilities only to the extent that the services required have been performed or the eligibility criteria have been satisfied by the grantee.

In cases where grant agreements are made without conditions to be monitored, liabilities are recognised on signing of the agreement.

1.7 Cash

Cash means notes and coins held, and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution, plus cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are term deposits with a bank for periods of less than 3 months. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.

1.8 Investments

Term deposits of 3 months or longer are classified as investments under s18 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act). They are recognised at cost. Interest is payable on maturity.

1.9 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

1.10 Property (Land, Buildings and Infrastructure), Plant and Equipment

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than $2,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Revaluations

Land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (P & E) are carried at cost or valuation. Revaluations undertaken up to 30 June 2002 were done on a deprival basis; revaluations since that date are at fair value. This change in accounting policy is required by Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets*. The effect of this change in 2003-04 is immaterial.

Valuations are as at 30 June (Library rare books collection) and 6 May (Artworks and artefacts).

Fair and deprival values for each class of assets are determined as shown below.

Asset Class	Fair Value Measured at:	Deprival Value Measured at:
Land	Market selling price	Market selling price
Building	Market selling price cost	Depreciated replacement
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost	Depreciated replacement cost
Plant & Equipment	Market selling price cost	Depreciated replacement

Under both deprival and fair value, assets which are surplus to requirement are measured at their net realisable value. At 30 June 2004 AIATSIS the net realisable value of surplus assets was $600. (30 June 2003: $0)

Frequency

Land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment have been revalued on a progressive basis over a three year cycle in previous years. In 2003–04, the planned revaluations of the AIATSIS building and Library rare books collection were deferred until 2004–05. This was because of the uncertainty over the effects of prospective valuation requirements under the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards, and is allowed under the Finance Minister's Orders. Whilst the effect of the delayed revaluation can't be reliably estimated, it is most likely to have understated the value of assets in light of increased building costs since 2001.

The Institute acquired a new building in March 2001; the building and related property, plant and equipment are carried at cost pending revaluation. Art and artefacts were revalued in 2002–03 by Wally Caruana from Caruana Fine Art. The library rare book collection was revalued in 2000–01 by the Australian Valuation Office. All other P&E assets are measured at cost.

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of a revaluation are recorded at cost until the next revaluation.

Conduct

Revaluations are conducted by independent qualified valuers.

Depreciation

Depreciable property plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Institute using, in all cases, the straight line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Residual values are re-estimated for a change in prices only when assets are revalued.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2004	**2003**
Building	40 to 70 years	40 to 70 years
Major plant and equipment items	5 to 20 years	5 to 20 years
Minor plant and equipment items, mainly office equipment.	2 to 5 years	2 to 5 years
Library rare book collection	50 years	50 years

Art and artefacts are not depreciated due to their indefinite lives.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 5D.

1.11 Intangibles

The Institute's intangibles at 30 June 2004 comprise of software licences and associated implementation costs, a registered trademark and internally-developed software. At 30 June 2003 they comprised a registered trademark and internally-developed software. The assets are carried at cost.

All intangible assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2004. None were found to be impaired.

Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their anticipated useful lives.

Useful lives are:

	2004	**2003**
Internally-developed software and software licences	3 to 7 years	5 years
Trade marks	5 years	5 years

1.12 Inventories

Inventories held for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Inventories not held for resale are valued at cost, unless they are no longer required, in which case they are valued at net realisable value.

Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and condition are assigned as cost of direct materials plus attributable costs that are capable of being allocated on a reasonable basis.

1.13 Taxation

The Institute is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of GST:

- except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- except for receivables and payables.

1.14 Capital usage charge

Until 30 June 2003 a Capital Use Charge was imposed by the Government on the net assets of the Institute. The Charge is accounted for as a dividend to Government. During 2003–04 a payment was made to discharge the liability accrued in 2002–03.

1.15 Insurance

The Institute has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund, 'Comcover'. Workers' compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

Note 2: Economic Dependency

AIATSIS was established by section 4 of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 198*9 and is controlled by the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Institute is dependent on appropriations from the Parliament of the Commonwealth for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities.

Note 3: Events Occurring After Reporting Date

The Institute is not aware of any events occurring after the reporting date which materially affects its future viability.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 4: Operating Revenue		
Note 4A: Revenues from Government		
Appropriations for outputs	7,639	9,788
Total revenues from government	7,639	9,788
Note 4B: Sales of Goods and Services		
Goods	335	295
Services	1,842	1,379
Total sales of goods and services	2,177	1,674
Provisions of goods to:		
Related entities	97	147
External entities	238	148
Total sales of goods	335	295
Rendering of services to:		
Related entities	1,501	1,147
External entities	341	232
Total rendering of services	1,842	1,379
Note 4C: Interest Revenue		
Deposits	221	267
Total interest revenue	221	267
Note 4D: Net Loss from Sale of Assets		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment:		
Proceeds from disposal	23	62
Net book value of assets disposed	(123)	(69)
Net loss from sale of assets	(100)	(7)
Note 4E: Other Revenue		
Conference fees	199	468
Other revenue	261	152
Total other revenue	460	620

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	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 5: Operating Expenses		
Note 5A: Employee Expenses		
Wages and salaries	4,700	4,525
Superannuation	740	725
Leave and other entitlements	469	359
Separation and redundancy	103	18
Other employee benefits	233	249
Total employee benefits expenses	6,245	5,876
Workers compensation premiums	75	63
Total employee benefits expenses	6,320	5,939
Note 5B: Supplier Expenses		
Goods from external entities	2,032	2,268
Services from related entities	238	213
Services from external parties	665	613
Total supplier expenses	2,935	3,094
Note 5C: Grants Expense		
Research grants	570	857
Manuscript development grants	1	4
Total grants expenses	571	861
Note 5D: Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	892	875
Amortisation of intangible assets	52	3
Total depreciaton and amortisation	944	878

The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable asset are as follow:

	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Building on leasehold land	136	135
Plant and equipment	756	740
Intangibles	52	3
Total depreciation and amortisation	944	878
Note 5E: Write-Down of Assets		
Provision for obsolete inventory	(8)	-
Write down of I, P & E	62	-
Plant & equipment – revaluation decrement	-	12
	54	12

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 6: Financial Assets		
Note 6A: Receivables		
Goods and services	167	243
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(2)	(38)
	165	205
Interest receivable	16	43
GST receivable	17	31
Total receivables (net)	198	279
All receivables are current assets		
Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	165	256
Overdue by:		
30 to 60 days	-	18
60 to 90 days	-	3
More than 90 days	35	40
Total receivables (gross)	200	317
The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
More than 90 days	2	38
Total provision for doubtful debts	2	38

Receivables for goods and services
Credit terms are generally net 30 days, however some suppliers are on 90 day terms

Accrued interest
The interest rates range from 3.44% to 5.63%. Interest is payable either on the 1st of each month or on maturity

Note 6B: Investments (section 18 *CAC Act*)		
Term deposits	3,650	-
Total investments	3,650	-

Term deposits are with Bankwest. Their maturity ranges from 6 December 2004 to 5 January 2005. The effective yield is 5.63%, payable on maturity.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 7: Non-Financial Assets		
<u>Note 7A: Land and Buildings</u>		
Leasehold improvements		
Building on leasehold land - at cost	9,425	9,425
Accumulated depreciation	(486)	(350)
Total Land and Buildings (non-current)	8,939	9,075

Leaseholds improvements are the AIATSIS building at Acton, ACT.

<u>Note 7B: Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment</u>

	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Plant and equipment - at cost	7,298	7,621
- Accumulated depreciation	(2,022)	(1,951)
	5,276	5,670
Artworks and artefacts - at cost	17	17
Library rare book collection - at cost	5	5
	5,298	5,692
Artworks and artefacts - at 2002-03 valuation (fair value)	2,435	2,435
Library rare book collection - at 2000-01 valuation (deprival)	1,836	1,830
- Accumulated depreciation	(110)	(73)
	1,726	1,757
Total Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (non-current)	9,459	9,884
Movement in asset revaluation reserve		
Increment for artworks and artefacts	-	1,562

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Note 7C - Analysis of Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

TABLE A - Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant, equipment and intangibles

Item	Buildings $'000	Infrastructure, plant and equipment $'000	Intangibles $'000	Total $'000
Gross value as at 1 July 2003	9,425	11,909	12	21,346
Additions: purchase of assets	-	604	126	730
Revaluation increment	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	(342)	342	-
Assets written down	-	(73)	-	(73)
Disposals	-	(506)	(29)	(535)
Gross value as at 30 June 2004	9,425	11,592	451	21,468
Accumulated Depreciation/Amortisation as at 1 July 2003	350	2,025	4	2,379
Depreciation / Amortisation charge for the year	136	757	52	945
Assets written down	-	(73)	-	(73)
Transfers	-	(244)	244	-
Disposals	-	(332)	(17)	(349)
Accumulated Depreciation/Amortisation as at 30 June 2004	486	2,133	283	2,902
Net book value as as at 30 June 2004	8,939	9,459	168	18,566
Net book value as at 1 July 2003	9,075	9,884	8	18,967

TABLE B - Assets at valuation

Item	Buildings - Leasehold Improvements $'000	Other infrastructure, plant and equipment $'000	TOTAL $'000
As at 30 June 2004			
Gross value	-	4,265	4,265
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(110)	(110)
Net book value	-	4,155	4,155
As at 30 June 2003			
Gross value	-	4,265	4,265
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(73)	(73)
Net book value	-	4,192	4,192

TABLE C - Assets under Construction

There were no assets under construction at 30 June 2004 or at 30 June 2003.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 7D: Intangibles		
Software licences - purchased	422	-
Internally developed software and trade mark	29	12
	451	12
- Accumulated amortisation	(283)	(4)
Total intangibles	168	8
Note 7E: Inventories		
Inventories held for sale	459	583
Provision for obsolete stock	(398)	(442)
Total inventories	61	141
All inventories are current assets.		
Note 7F: Other Non-Financial Assets		
Other prepayments	94	129
Total other non-financial assets	94	129

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	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 8: Provisions		
Note 8A: Employee Provisions		
Salaries and wages	-	177
Leave	1,182	1,210
Superannuation	87	87
Separation and Redundancy	65	-
Aggregate employee entitlement liability	1,334	1,474
Employee provisions are categorised as follows:		
Current	683	820
Non-current	651	654
	1,334	1,474
Note 8B - Capital Use Charge		
Balance owing 1 July	2,186	1,868
Capital Use Charge provided for during the period	-	2,186
Capital Use Charge paid	2,186	(1,862)
Adjustment for over-provision in 2001-02	-	(6)
	-	2,186
Note 9: Payables		
Note 9A: Supplier Payables		
Trade creditors	272	138
Other	136	-
Total supplier payables	408	138
All supplier payables are current.		
Note 9B: Grants Payable		
Non-profit entities	-	488
All grants payable are current.		
Note 9C: Other Payables		
Unearned revenue - grants	1,709	183
Unearned revenue - other	3	78
Total other payables	1,712	261
All other payables are current.		

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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Note 10: Equity

Note 10A - Analysis of Equity

Item	Accumulated Results		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Total Contributed Equity		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Opening balance as at 1 July	18,619	19,241	2,717	1,155	-	-	21,336	20,396
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(427)	1,558	-	-	-	-	(427)	1,558
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	1,562	-	-	-	1,562
Transactions with owner:								
Returns on Capital								
Capital Use Charge	-	(2,180)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,180)
Contributions by owner								
Appropriation (equity injection)	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	18,192	18,619	2,717	2,717	3	-	20,912	21,336
Less: outside equity interests	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total equity attributable to the Australian Government	18,192	18,619	2,717	2,717	3	-	20,912	21,336

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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Note 11: Cash Flow Reconciliation	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Note 11A: Reconcilitation of Operating Surplus to Net Cash from Operating Activities		
Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash from operating activities:		
Operating surplus before extraordinary items	**(427)**	1,558
Non-cash items		
Depreciation and amortisation	**944**	878
Net write-down of non-current assets	**62**	12
Net loss from sale of assets	**100**	7
Change in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables (other than loans)	**81**	(77)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	**80**	130
(Increase)/decrease in other non-financial Assets	**35**	(14)
Increase/(decrease) in supplier payables	**335**	(38)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for employees	**(205)**	307
Increase/(decrease) in grants payable	**(488)**	446
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	**1,451**	(168)
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	**1,968**	3,041

Note 11B: Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash balance comprises:		
Cash on hand	**40**	830
Deposits at call	**1,757**	5,537
	1,797	6,367
Balance of cash as at 30 June shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	**1,797**	6,367

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	2004	2003

Note 12:- Contingent Liabilities and Assets

The Institute has no knowledge of any material contingencies, whether remote or otherwise.

Note 13: Remuneration of Councillors

	2004	2003
The number of Councillors of the Institute included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands		
$Nil - $10,000	**9**	9
	$	$
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Council of the Institute	**52,218**	30,001

A description of the methods by which Councillors are appointed is included in the "Overview" section of the Annual Report.
Remuneration includes payments to Councillors for Council and for Research Advisory Committee business.

Note 14: Related Party Disclosures

Members of Council
The members of the Council of the Institute during the year were:

M. Dodson, Chair
R. Tonkinson, Deputy Chair
M Williams
J Huggins AM
M Nakata
E Bedford
R Marika
N McNamara AM, MBE
L Behrendt

The Institute paid a Directors and Officers indemnity premium of $5,754 on behalf of Councillors during the year. Royalty payments totalling $428 were made to Ms Huggins, a Council member during the year, in relation to her book published through Aboriginal Studies Press. Other than these payments and remuneration as Councillors, no benefits were provided to Council members.

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Note 15: Remuneration of Officers

	2004	2003
The number of Officers who received, or were due to receive, total remuneration of $100,000 or more:		
$110,001 - $120,000	1	-
$130,001 - $140,000	1	-
$150,001 - $160,000	-	1
$180,001 - $190,000	1	-
$190,001 - $200,000	-	1
Total	**3**	**2**
	$	$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of officers shown above.	427,740	354,485

Note 16: Remuneration of Auditors

	2004	2003
	$	$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for the audit of special purpose financial statements of grant activities for the reporting period.	4,000	6,500
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	32,000	32,000
	36,000	38,500

These amounts represent the fair value of services provided.

RSM Bird Cameron has been contracted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) to provide audit services on the ANAO's behalf. Fees for these services are included above. No other services were provided by the Auditor-General or RSM Bird Cameron during the reporting period.

Note 17: Average Staffing Levels

	2004	2003
The average staffing levels for the Institute during the year were:	93	91

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 18: Financial Instruments

Note 18A: Interest rate risk

	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing In 1 year or less		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
		2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 %	2003 %
Financial Assets											
Cash on hand	11B	39	830	-	5,536	1	1	40	6,367	3.38	4.85
Deposits at call		363	-	1,394	-	-	-	1,757	-	5.46	NA
Term deposits		-	-	3,650	-	-	-	3,650	-	5.63	NA
Receivables for goods and services (gross)	6A			-	-	198	279	198	279	NA	NA
Accrued interest				-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA
Total		402	830	5,044	5,536	199	280	5,645	6,646		
Total Assets								24,366	25,883		

	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing In 1 year or less		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
Financial Liabilities											
Supplier payables	9A	-	-	-	-	408	138	408	138	NA	NA
Grants payable	9B	-	-	-	-	-	488	-	488	NA	NA
Unearned revenue	9C	-	-	-	-	1,712	261	1,712	261	NA	NA
Total		-	-	-	-	2,120	887	2,120	887		
Total Liabilities								3,454	4,547		

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 18: Financial Instruments (continued)

Note 18B: Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	2004 Total Carrying Amount $'000	2004 Aggregate Net Fair Value $'000	2003 Total Carrying Amount $'000	2003 Aggregate Net Fair Value $'000
Financial Assets					
Cash on hand		40	40	6,367	6,367
Deposits at call		1,757	1,757	-	-
Term deposits		3,650	3,650	-	-
Receivables for goods and services (gross)	6A	198	198	279	279
Accrued interest		-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets		5,645	5,645	6,646	6,646
Financial Liabilities					
Supplier payables	9A	408	408	138	138
Grants payable	9B	-	-	488	488
Unearned revenue	9C	1,712	1,712	261	261
Total Financial Liabilities		2,120	2,120	887	887

The net fair values of all assets and liabilites approximate their carrying amounts.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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Note 18: Financial Instruments (continued)

Note 18C: Terms, Conditions and Accounting Policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods adopted (including the criteria for recognition and the basis of measurement applied).	Extent and nature of underlying financial instruments, including significant terms and conditions that may affect the carrying amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows.
Financial Assets		*Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefits can be reliably measured.*	
Cash		Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash includes term deposits of less than 3 months.	Temporarily surplus funds are held at call with the Institute's banker or placed on term deposit with a bank. Interest on call deposits is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate and is paid at month end. Term deposits are invested based on a tender process. At 30 June 2004, there were 3 term deposits with annual interest rates between 5.46% and 5.56%.
Receivables for goods and services	6A	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less a provision for doubtful debts.	Credit terms are generally net 30 days, however some suppliers are on 90 day terms (2002-03: 30 days).
Accrued interest	6A	Accrued interest is recognised on an accrual basis.	As for receivables for goods and services once billed.
Investments	6B	Term deposits for three months or more are classified as investments for the purpose of s18 of the CAC Act. They are recognised at their nominal amount.	Term deposits are invested based on a tender process, interest is paid at maturity. At 30 June 2004, there were 3 term deposits with annual interest rates of 5.63%.
Financial Liabilities		*Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.*	
Supplier payables	9A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods and services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Grants payables	9B	Grants made by the Institute are recognised as liabilities and expenses only at the time that the grantee has met all obligations and conditions implicit in the grant agreement.	The Institute approves applications for grants based on application merits and selection criteria. Grant payments are made in accordance with the grant agreement. The timing of the payments is based on the nature of the project to which the grant is to be put towards and can be subject to the grantee fulfilling requirements relating to the project.
Other payables	9C	Revenue is recognised as unearned to the extent that activities for which revenue has been received have not yet been undertaken.	The Institute receives grants and consultancy fees, primarily from ATSIS. Funds not expensed for the purposes of the grant / consultancy are generally required to be repaid to the funding agency.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 19: Appropriations

	2004 $'000	2003 $'000

The Institute received the following appropriations during the year out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, for Departmental Outputs.

	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Appropriation Acts Nos 1 & 3	7,639	9,788
Appropriation Acts Nos 2 & 4	3	-
	7,642	9,788

This table reports on appropriations made by the Parliament of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for payment to AIATSIS. When received by the Institute, the payments made are legally the money of the Institute and do not represent any balance remaining in the CRF.

Note 20: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 20A: Outcomes of the Institute

AIATSIS is structured to meet one outcome:
"Promotion of knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present".

Three outputs have been identified for this outcome:
Output 1. Research
Output 2. Dissemination of information
Output 3. Collection development and management

Note 20B: Net Cost of Outcomes Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Departmental expenses	10,947	10,853
Total expenses	10,947	10,853
Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector	579	379
Total costs recovered	579	379
Other external revenues		
Interest	221	267
Proceeds from sale of assets	23	62
Other	460	620
Total other external revenues	704	949
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	9,664	9,525

The Institute only has one outcome and therefore fully attributes shared revenue and expenditure items to that outcome. Attribution of shared costs to outputs is based on staff numbers, adjusted where relevant for significant one-off costs.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 20: Reporting of Outcomes *(continued)*

Note 20C: Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output

	Output 1		Output 2		Output 3		Total	
	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2,004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2003 $'000
Operating expenses								
Employees	2,202	1,964	505	536	3,613	3,439	6,320	5,939
Suppliers	1,363	1,252	560	611	1,012	1,231	2,935	3,094
Grants	570	857	1	4	-	-	571	861
Depreciation and amortisation	324	303	93	87	527	488	944	878
Write-down of assets	21	5	3	3	30	4	54	12
Value of assets disposed	44	40	12	17	67	12	123	69
Total operating expenses	4,524	4,421	1,174	1,258	5,249	5,174	10,947	10,853
Funded by:								
Revenues from Government	2,777	3,559	794	1,017	4,068	5,212	7,639	9,788
Sale of goods and services	1,138	779	336	254	703	641	2,177	1,674
Interest	82	100	23	27	116	140	221	267
Revenue from sale of assets	8	33	2	16	13	13	23	62
Other revenues from independent sources	320	512	22	9	118	99	460	620
Total operating revenues	4,325	4,983	1,177	1,323	5,018	6,105	10,520	12,411

Note 21: Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-06

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accounting Standards to apply from 2005-06. The new standards are the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) which are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-06, but continue to apply in the meantime.

The purpose of issuing Australian Equivalents to IFRSs is to enable Australian entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 to be able to more readily access overseas capital markets by preparing their financial reports according to accounting standards more widely used overseas.

It is expected that the Finance Minister will continue to require compliance with the Accounting Standards issued by the AASB, including the Australian Equivalents to IFRSs, in his Orders for the Preparation of Authorities' financial statements for 2005-06 and beyond.

The Australian Equivalents contain certain additional provisions which will apply to not-for-profit entities, including AIATSIS. Some of these provisions are in conflict with the IFRSs and therefore AIATSIS will only be able to assert compliance with the Australian Equivalents to the IFRSs.

Existing AASB standards that have no IFRS equivalent will continue to apply.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 *Disclosing the Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRSs* requires that the financial statements for 2003–04 disclose:

- an explanation of how the transition to the Australian Equivalents is being managed, and
- a narrative explanation of the key differences in accounting policies arising from the transition.

The purpose of this Note is to make these disclosures.

Management of the transition to AASB Equivalents to IFRSs

AIATSIS has taken the following steps in preparation towards the implementation of Australian Equivalents:

- The Institute's Audit Committee is tasked with oversight of the transition to and implementation of the Australian Equivalents to IFRSs. The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is formally responsible for the project and reports to the Audit Committee on progress.

- The CFO will identify systems changes necessary to be able to report under the Australian Equivalents, including those necessary to enable capture of data under both sets of rules for 2004–05, and the testing and implementation of those changes.

- Preparation of a transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004, under Australian Equivalents, during the 2004–05 year.

- Preparation of an Australian Equivalent balance sheet at the same time as the 30 June 2005 statements are prepared.

- Meeting reporting deadlines set by Finance for 2005–06 balance sheet under Australian Equivalent Standards.

Major changes in accounting policy

Changes in accounting policies under Australian Equivalents are applied retrospectively i.e. as if the new policy had always applied. This rule means that a balance sheet prepared under the Australian Equivalents must be made as at 1 July 2004, except as permitted in particular circumstances by AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*. This will enable the 2005–06 financial statements to report comparatives under the Australian Equivalents also.

Changes to major accounting policies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Property plant and equipment

It is expected that the Finance Minister's Orders will require property plant and equipment assets carried at valuation in 2003-04 to be measured at up-to date fair value from 2005-06. This differs from the accounting policies currently in place for these assets which, up to and including 2003-04, have been revalued progressively over a 3-year cycle and which currently include assets at cost (for purchases since the commencement of a cycle) and at deprival value (which will differ from their fair value to the extent that they have been measured at depreciated replacement cost when a relevant market selling price is available).

However, it is important to note that the Finance Minister requires these assets to be measured at up-to-date fair values as at 30 June 2005. Further, the transitional provisions in AASB 1 will mean that the values at which assets are

carried as at 30 June 2004 under existing standards will stand in the transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004.

Intangible Assets

AIATSIS currently recognises internally-developed software assets on the cost basis.

Impairment of Non-Current Assets

The Institute's policy on impairment of non-current assets is at note 1.2. Under the new Australian Equivalent Standard, these assets will be subject to assessment for impairment and, if there are indications of impairment, measurement of any impairment (impairment measurement must also be done, irrespective of any indications of impairment, for intangible assets not yet available for use). The impairment test is that the carrying amount of an asset must not exceed the greater of:

(a) its fair value less costs to sell and
(b) its value in use. 'Value in use' is the net present value of net cash inflows for for-profit assets of the Authority and depreciated replacement cost for other assets which would be replaced if AIATSIS was deprived of them.

The impairment test is not expected to have a material impact on AIATSIS assets.

Employee Benefits

The provision for long service leave is measured at the present value of estimated future cash outflows using market yields as at the reporting date on national government bonds.

Under the new Australian Equivalent standard, the same discount rate will be used unless there is a deep market in high quality corporate bonds, in which case the market yield on such bonds must be used.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are likely to be accounted for as 'held at fair value through profit and loss' or available-for-sale where the fair value can be reliably measured (in which case, changes in value are initially taken to equity). Fair values will be published prices where an active market exists or by appraisal.

Cash and receivables are expected to continue to be measured at cost

Financial assets, except those classified as 'held at fair value through profit and loss', will be subject to impairment testing.

Appendices

Appendix 1
Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The Institute recognises the significance of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy and continues to work on developing its policy towards formal implementation of the Strategy.

In its capacity as an employer the Institute enhanced its reporting arrangements during 2003–2004 to more accurately identify staff with disabilities and to better meet their needs. Appropriate equipment has been provided to assist staff in their work.

As a public access provider the Institute is making use of new technologies to provide an enhanced service to people with disabilities. The Institute's reference library and audiovisual collections are located on the ground floor of its premises and lifts are available to assist in access to other areas of the building. The Institute's reception desk and the library's reference desk have been constructed at a height appropriate to meet the needs of clients with wheelchairs.

In its role as policy adviser the Institute recognises the importance of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy in the development of government policy.

Appendix 2
Research grants released 2003–2004

Name of grantee	Project title	$amount offered
Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corp	DHIMURRU Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	$32,618.40
Ernabella Arts Incorporated (Ute Eickelkamp)	Ernabella Artists' Family Trees	$15,078.82
Breen, John Gavan	Arrernte Phonetic Illustration	$1,745.97
Institute for Aboriginal Development	Further Lexicographic Research on Alyawarr	$25,198.41
University of Newcastle (Maynard, John)	The Aboriginal 'Soccer Tribe'	$34,060.16
Rentschler, Ruth (Bagaric, Mirko)	Indigenous Art Market: Intellectual Property Case Studies	$31,363.67
The Australian National University (Wallis, Lynley)	Archaeological Investigations on Bora Station, Northwest QLD	$32,954.00
Turner, Margaret (McDonald, Barry)	Iwenhe Tyerrtye Project	$3,699.62
Abdullah, Yasmin Jill	George C Abdullah: A Community and Political Soldier	$15,408.00
Alder, Alison	Wumpurrani Lives Through the Lens of a Camera	$25,425.74
Eira, Christina	Still Taking Our Language — Language Research and Intellectual Property	$11,601.36
Davenport, Susan Jane	A Century of Change: A History of the Martu Aboriginal People in Western Australia 1900–2000	$45,344.50
La Trobe University (Garvey, Jillian; Cosgrove, Richard)	Did Tasmanian Ice Age Communities Hunt Duringr the Winter	$46,270.07
Nungarrayi Egan, Jeannie	Ngurra Warlalja: Mapping our Warlpiri Homeland	$22,272.00

Name of Grantee	Project Title	$amount Offered
Reser, Ray	Gregory Park Rock Art Survey	$17,986.00
The Australian National University (Glynn, Barrett)	A Leenowwenna Boy in Lancashire 1822–26	$8,442.93
The Australian National University (Dominique, Sweeney)	Masks of NW Australia	$17,338.00
Henderson, John; Scott, Kim; McGlade, Hannah; Smith-Ali, Denise	Laves' Noongar Field Notes	$40,534.08
David, Bruno (Manas, Louise)	Archaeology of Gelam's Homeland, Mua Island, Torres Strait	$22,112.96
Kaiwlagal Aboriginal Corporation (Mr Elizah Wasaga)	Documenting Kaurareg Cultural Heritage Sites (Torres Strait)	$12,998.25
Schwarz, Carolyn	Exchange, Identity and Christian Business	$13,269.82
Cadet-James, Yvonne	Gugu Badhun Digital History Project	$21,024.00
Crouch, Joe	Badulgal Sea-Stations	$12,229.88
Jebb, Mary	Kimberley Boab Nut Imagery	$24,050.25
Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Yinhawangka Research Project	$32,539.00
Jones, Phillip (Hercus, Luise)	Site Recording in the Birdsville district	$20,713.80
Holdaway, Simon (Fanning, Patricia)	Predicting the Past	$26,330.00
Saunders, Grant Leigh Silent Revolution	Indigenous Hip-Hop and the	$10,000.00
Drew, Julie	Wardaman Women's Business	$18,576.91
Thompson, Jennifer	Bringing up Children Gran's Way	$23,033.43
Meehan, Betty	An-barra — Archaeological Project	$12,865.00

Appendix 3
Contracts and consultancies over $10,000

Consultant's/Contractor Name	Description	Value of contract (exclusive of GST)
Canon Australia P/L	Supply of printers	162,416
Real World Enterprise P/L Ta Delta Technologies	Supply of printers	23,337
ComputerCorp P/L	Supply of printers	14,902
Logicalis Ltd	Network switches and firewall	22,927
Storage Technology of Australia P/L	Tape backup (Storagetek L-40)	17,395
Exceed Systems Integration P/L	Network servers	37,430
Integrated Vision P/L	Polycomm videoconferencing	17,617
ISI Project P/L	Quarantine room	22,000
Tyco Building Services P/L Ta Haden	Video fitout	21,857
Proscan Australia P/L	Imacon flextight scanner	28,500
Kayell NSW P/L	Rimage CD publisher	10,905
Federation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages (Corporation)	Undertake a National Indigenous Language Survey	96,250
Libraries Alive! Pty Ltd	Review of AIATSIS library operations	18,590

Appendix 4
Library online exhibitions

Treaty debate
www.aiatsis.gov.au/treaty.htm

The Wentworth Lectures
www.aiatsis.gov.au/wentworthlectures.htm

Indigenous Newsletters
www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/indigenousnewsletters/community_hm.htm

Sorry Books
www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/sorrybooks/sorrybooks_hm.htm

Ethnomathematics in Australia
www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prgm/ethnomathmatics/ethno_hm.htm

Dawn and *New Dawn* Magazines
www.aiatsis.gov.au/dawn.htm

NAIDOC posters
www.aiatsis.gov.au/naidoc.htm

Internet access to the AIATSIS Library online exhibitions

Online exhibition	No. of times accessed
Wentworth lectures	1126
Treaty historical documents	2099
Community newsletters	1180
Sorry books	1306
Total	6287

Appendix 5
Research papers and presentations published

Peer-reviewed books, chapters, papers and reports

Anderson, J 2004, 'Indigenous Communal Moral Rights: The Utility of an Ineffective Law', *Indigenous Law Bulletin* vol.5 no. 30 pp. 8–11.

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Nash, D 2003, 'Authenticity in toponomy', in J Blythe and R McKenna-Brown (eds) *Proceedings of the Seventh Foundation for Endangered Languages Conference*, Broome, Foundation for Endangered Languages, Bath, pp. 36–40.

Spriggs, M, O'Connor, S and Veth, P 2003, 'Vestiges of Early Pre-Agricultural Economy in the Landscape of East Timor: Recent research', in A Karlström and A Källén (eds) *Fishbones and Glittering Emblems: Proceedings of the 9th International Conference of the EurASEAA in Sigtuna Sweden*, Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, pp. 49–58.

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—— 2003, 'Law and Cultural Production'. Paper presented at the launch of Native Title Business Art Exhibition, National Museum of Australia, Canberra.

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—— 2003, 'The Politics of Context: Issues for Law, Researchers and the Compilations of Databases'. Paper presented at the Digital Audio Archiving Workshop, University of Sydney, Sydney.

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Appendix 6
AIATSIS National Research Priority Report

A REPORT TO THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, July 2004
For Consideration by the Standing Committee,
Chaired by the Chief Scientist

The AIATSIS mission

AIATSIS is an independent Commonwealth government statutory authority. It is Australia's premiere research organisation focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It promotes scholarly, ethical community-based research and aims to promote knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, both past and present. It houses a world class collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resource materials, including the world's most extensive holdings of printed resource materials. It holds a priceless collection of sound recordings, pictures, films and videos and also houses the Institute's publishing unit, Aboriginal Studies Press. This broadly based research and archival emphasis is articulated in the Vision Statement of the current Research Plan, where it is noted that AIATSIS:

- negotiates research of relevance to Indigenous Australia
- develops and maintains relationships with Indigenous communities and organisations and the academic community
- responds to the research needs of Indigenous communities
- initiates and conducts high quality and innovative research
- actively disseminates the products of research
- trains Indigenous researchers.

AIATSIS thus has many responsibilities that go beyond pure research and that require considerable commitments of personnel and infrastructure. Where relevant, these are expanded on below.

Progress in adopting the Implementation Plan

As noted in the Implementation Plan the AIATSIS Research program currently has ten Research Fellows focusing on a range of applied and pure research topics. These include:

- public policy/law — native title, treaty, governance
- indigenous cultural expression — social anthropology and arts
- language and society
- health research — Indigenous social health
- Indigenous Education and Leadership
- history — tradition and transformation
- archaeology and material culture
- intellectual property and Indigenous knowledge.

Longer-term programs include:
- the Native Title Research Unit
- the Treaty Research Project
- the Preserving Endangered Language Heritage Project
- the Family History Unit
- Indigenous Cultural Networks
- the Australian Leadership Centre
- the Digitisation Program
- the Research Grants Program.

Significant achievements that support longer term objectives

The actions recommended for greater engagement with national research priorities (NRPs) and priority goals arising from the AIATSIS Implementation Plan 2004 are summarised in the following table.

National Research Priority	Proposed Contribution to Outcomes
Responding to climate change and variability	Increase research focus on issues relating to Indigenous land management, co-management plans and ATSI natural resource knowledge banks
	Foster research on the history of human/landscape relationships
Strengthening Australia's social and economic framework	Support project Facilitating Indigenous Decision and Agreement Making and Managing Disputes in Land Issues
	Prioritise activities of the Research Fellows in Health towards outputs in the CRC for Aboriginal Health
	Use role of AIATSIS on the CRC Board to initiate further research links with industry and community
	Continue emphasis of research into the environmental and social causes of ill-health (with research partners)
	Mobilise Fellows' work on governance to address the provision of health servicing to Indigenous clients

(cont. next page)

National Research Priority	Proposed Contribution to Outcomes
Promoting an innovation culture and economy	Increase research outputs on Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property
	Maintain focus and increase outputs on Indigenous success stories (both community and industry)
	Focus on current and future projects which enhance understandings of cultural transmission, education and cultural heritage
Understanding our region in the world	Foster research that has a bearing on regional and international treaties/agreements and protocols
	Increase focus on historical trends by which Indigenous communities increasingly become profiled in international portrayals of wider Australian society

Significant progress has been made even in the last reporting period 2003–2004.

Increase research focus on issues relating to Indigenous land management, co-management plans and ATSI natural resource knowledge banks

Council has approved monies towards an Indigenous intellectual property initiative from the Northern Territory. A Visiting Research Fellowship has been offered to an Indigenous scholar who will specifically focus on co-management regimes. Consultancies/reports for governance structures for the Murray Darling Basin Commission and CRC for Desert Knowledge have been completed. A Visiting Indigenous Scholars' internship has been completed and a Discussion paper on nationhood and management regimes.

Foster research on the history of human/landscape relationships

The International Union for Quaternary Research has funded an initiative with UWA, part of which will look specifically at ATSI ethno-economic dBs and models for collaborative land management (e.g. past and present fire regimes). AIATSIS officers convened a Plenary session on new models for climate history and human responses and presented on human/landscape relationships at three international fora.

Support Project Facilitating Indigenous Decision and Agreement Making and Managing Disputes in Land Issues

The project has just been successful in a new bid with the OIPC and received increased funding which will help to address ongoing demands due to increased project management, survey data processing and analysis requirements. The projects has co-ordinated five national mediation workshops, completed a national survey and increased its capacity via additional backup for project management.

Prioritise activities of the Research Fellows in Health towards outputs in the CRC for Aboriginal Health

The activities of the Health Fellows are now dedicated nearly 100% towards the CRC for Aboriginal Health. Over the last year the Health Fellows (in combination with inter-institutional colleagues) have completed five papers commissioned by the CRCAH. These were:

1) Governance as a Social Determinant of Health Outcomes for Aboriginal People: a scoping paper for the CRC for Aboriginal Health.
2) Social and emotional well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the broader context of the social determinants of health.
3) Social Capital and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: Problems and Possibilities.
4) Framework for Research on Aboriginal Health and the Physical Environment
5) Culture in health research and practice.

In addition they have presented at a range of international fora, made major contributions to the overall research agenda of the CRCAH and are currently consolidating an international bid for a study of health and resilience.

Use role of AIATSIS on the CRC Board to initiate further research links with industry and community

The Health Fellows and Principal have been extremely active in helping to establish future strategies for the longer-term research agenda of the overall CRCAH including working with researchers from the George Institute in Sydney and the London School of Hygiene and Medicine towards a major application for funding from the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership Grant Scheme on Resilience. The Expression of Interest will be completed in early August.

Mobilise Fellows' work on governance to address the provision of health servicing to Indigenous clients

AIATSIS received a commission from the CRC for Aboriginal Health to write an overview paper and review of the literature on the subject of governance as one of the social determinants of Aboriginal health. AIATSIS employed a CRC part-

funded research assistant to help with this. A 34,000 word report was delivered to the Social Determinants workshop in Adelaide on 5th and 6th of July. A Seminar series on Governance (and effective representation and service delivery) was hosted by AIATSIS in 2004, the results of which are being prepared for publication.

Increase research outputs on Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property

A formal contract with the International Property Institute of Australia (University of Melbourne) has been exchanged providing multi-year funding for an IP Fellow. That Fellow has study sites confirmed in the NT and Torres Strait. They were also one of two overseas scholars to receive a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institute from a field of 600. AIATSIS made major representation on the Moral Rights Bill and has been represented on numerous national and international symposia/workshops dealing with intellectual property and tangible and intangible heritage, art production, music and biodiversity.

Maintain focus and increase outputs on Indigenous success stories (both community and industry)

A full-time placement of a Media and Communications Officer has been made and that officer sits on the Executive Board of Management. Past AIATSIS grantees, their projects and profile success stories have been featured in national media, such as *The Australian*'s Higher Education Supplement.

Focus on current and future projects which enhance understandings of cultural transmission, education and cultural heritage

The publication *Success in Aboriginal Communities: a Pilot Study* has 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. An appointment has also been made for a Visiting Research Fellowship in Cultural Transmission and Education for the start of 2005. The AIATSIS 2004 Conference entitled Sharing the Space will contain a number of major sessions specifically examining the issues of Indigenous knowledge systems, ATSI tertiary curriculum, Indigenous and European epistemologies and cultural reproduction, to name just some.

Foster research that has a bearing on regional and international treaties/agreements and protocols

A considerable number of peer-reviewed publications have been completed in the reporting period area, including:

Bradfield, S 2004, 'Agreeing to terms: What is a 'Comprehensive' Agreement?', *Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title* 26(2):1–16.

—— 2004, 'Citizenship, History and Indigenous Status in Australia: Back to the Future or Toward Treaty?', *Journal of Australian Studies* 80:165–76.

Bradfield, S and Strelein, LM 2004, 'The Single Noongar Claim: negotiating native title in the South West', *Indigenous Law Bulletin* 6(2):11–13.

Strelein, LM 2004, 'Australia's Oceans Policy and Native Title', In P Kauffman (ed.), *Water and Fishing: Aboriginal Rights in Australia and Canada*, ATSIC, Canberra, pp.101–33.

—— 2004, 'Symbolism and Function: From native title to Indigenous self-government', In M Langton, M Tehan, L Palmer and K Shain (eds), *Honour Among Nations: Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous People*, Melbourne University Publishing, Melbourne, pp.189–202.

—— 2004, 'A Comfortable Existence: The commercial use of marine resources under Native Title', *Balayi: Culture Law and Colonialism* 5:94–123.

—— 2004, 'Indigenous Nations of the Murray Darling Basin', with M. Morgan and J. Weir, *Indigenous Law Bulletin* 5(29):17–20

Increase focus on historical trends by which Indigenous communities become profiled in international portrayals of wider Australian society

Initiatives in Family History Unit, ANUII/AIATSIS art exhibition and Fellow seminar presentations in China, France, England and the USA. New websites (with major research dB) have been created for the Native Title Unit, the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP), the National Indigenous Language Survey and the AIATSIS 2004 Conference.

Support for individual priority goals

AIATSIS Council, Executive and the Executive Board of Management have endorsed the Implementation Plan and with the Research Program driving the engagements with NRPs, with relevant levels of support from the Library and Audio-Visual Unit (within their current capacity and acquisition limits). As demonstrated above, external sources of income have been obtained to underpin many of these initiatives and priority goals.

Ability to meet key deliverables

The AIATSIS ability to meet forecasted key deliverables has already been demonstrated for the reporting period.

It is clear that demand for research outputs (relevant to national research priorities and the mandate for the organisation as currently outlined by the AIATSIS ACT 1989) is growing rapidly as are industry requests for collaborative research. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors including AIATSIS engaging in research thematics seen by both the wider community and stakeholder agencies as

being relevant and of a high standard, as well as the restructuring of service deliveries in the Indigenous portfolio. These burgeoning demands on the Research, Library, AV, Aboriginal Studies Press (and Corporate Services support) can only be met by converting external monies and resources into non-ongoing or fractional positions.

It is estimated that the volume of such requests (specifically of relevance to the NRPs) has grown by up to 20% in the last financial year. While Government appropriation was 7.639M last year, specific purpose grants were 3.419M and other income 1.113M.

Changes, initiatives or amendments to the Plan

AIATSIS amended its Implementation Plan in response to submissions by the Humanities and Social Sciences Academies (May 2004). Initiatives have been highlighted above.

Collaboration and leadership in under-represented areas

Although there are many sites for under-representation concerning research on Indigenous issues, the crucial area identified by AIATSIS Council is the need to increase Australian and worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Societies. It also gives primacy to the need to increase the research capacity of Indigenous scholars.

Implications of change in portfolio

The move of AIATSIS to DEST is a welcome one given that the organisation is Australia's premier research organisation focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As such, it has many forms of research outputs and resultant quantum equivalent to those of a University research stream. Importantly, however, in addition to these outputs it provides Indigenous peoples and the wider community a range of valuable resources — such as unique family history archives, moderated language databases, journals/newsletters/updates on mediation, agreement making and land tenure issues and discussion papers concerning topics such as health, governance, education and intellectual property. Given the change in portfolio it is *strongly* recommended that staff of AIATSIS are eligible to apply for nationally competitive grants schemes (NCGS), such as the ARC grant rounds.

A detailed Discussion Paper outlining the rationale of, and benefits for, AIATSIS eligibility in NCGSs will be forwarded to the Minister in the near future.

National Research Priority Goals

Matrix for assessing research outputs against national research priority areas

National Research Priority Goals	AIATSIS Research Programs	Peer-reviewed papers, chapters and books	Technical and applied reports	Other public communications	External funds (numbers in brackets – number of grants)	Conferences and Seminars (numbers in brackets – participants)	Monies awarded in Grants Program	Library and archive requests	Requests for research and capacity building	Nationally competitive grants / awards	Aboriginal Studies Press: Books / Journals
A) Responding to climate change and variability	Culture;Heritage; Transmission; Education	1		1						1	
B) Strengthening Australia's social and economic framework	Health, Governance, Family History, Land Tenure; Mediation;Treaty, Grants, Publications;Conferences	18	21	37	$1,510,800 (n=11)	1 conf (over 3 days) (n=1150) 25 seminars (n=1280)	$399,900	1536	19 research projects 5 capacity building	2	7
C) Promoting an innovation culture and economy	Culture;Heritage; Transmission; Education, Grants, Publications, Conferences	5	3	9	$1,758,900 (n=4)		$127,000			1	
D) Understanding our region in the world	Culture;Heritage; Transmission; Education, Land Tenure; Mediation;Treaty, Grants, Publications;Conferences, Family History	4	2	3		2 seminars (n=80)					2
Research Outputs		28	26	50		3 (n=1150) 27 (n=1360)	$526,900	1536 +442.5* +27,387#	24	4	11

* = library enquiries that cannot be categorised into NRP areas; # = library catalogue online enquiries that cannot be categorised to NRP area.

Appendix 7
Gifts and donations

Name of donor	Description of donation
Professor Ann Curthoys	Donation under the Cultural Gifts Program of printed materials, photographs and audio tapes relating to the Freedom Ride of 1965
Brother John Giacon, Christian Brothers, Walgett, NSW	Research material for Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Yuwaalayaay dictionary
State Library of Queensland	Rare pamphlets
Professor KS Inglis	Additions to Judy Inglis papers
Dr Nancy Williams	Papers relating to East Kimberley Impact Assessment Project, Traditional Ecological Knowledge Conference, CINCRM, Reeves Review, ALRC Inquiry into Customary Law
Mr Glen Shaw	Cape Barren Island material
Ms Clair Jackson	Belvoir Street Theatre programs of Indigenous plays and plays with Indigenous cast members
Dr Lisa Strelein	Copies of theses, articles
Dr June Ross	Copy of PhD thesis
Dr Lisa Palmer	Copy of PhD thesis
Summer Institute of Linguistics, Darwin, NT	Language concordances for Murinbata and Kriol
Dr Kingsley Palmer	Personal library - books, serials, pamphlets and reports
Dr Nicolas Peterson	Papers of CWM Hart
Dr Dorothy Billings	Papers of CWM Hart
Dr Laurent Dousset	Offprints of papers on Ngaatjatjarra-speaking people
Mrs Joan de Cressac Villegrand (nee Eatock)	Research papers and tapes for book 'Delusions of Grandeur'
Professor Colin Tatz	Personal Library – books, pamphlets
Ms Margaret McLeod	Copies of poster advertising the 1967 Referendum
Ms Kaye Price	Education material

Name of donor	Description of donation
Ms Kerrie McKenzie & Lane Cove Residents for Reconciliation	Speech and photos from Woodford Bay Reconciliation Memorial Ceremony in Sydney. Copy of publication, *Children's Voices for Reconciliation*
Western Australia, Dept of Indigenous Affairs	Pamphlets
Dr Betty Meehan	Offprints
ATSIS, ATSIC	Books, pamphlets and reports
Dr Karl Neuenfeldt	Articles
Dr Jim Poulter	Articles
Rev. Dr John Harris	Articles
Dr Ruth Latukefu	Copy of speech
Dr Susan McIntrye-Tamwoy	Copy of PhD thesis
Wollotuka Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Centre	Wurreker Newsletters
Ms Marg Cranney	Indigenous histories and cultures learning module
Ms Jenny Tyler	Saibai Art
Mr Bernard Whimpress	Article
Dr Jon Altman	Paper
Central Land Council	Books and pamphlets
Dr Betty Meehan	*Desert painting* by Charlie Tjapangarti acylic on linen, 94cm x 63.5cm. From the collection of Dr Betty Meehan and the late Professor Rhys Jones

Appendix 8
Library group visitors

Group name	Home base
Macquarie University	Sydney, NSW
Active ALIA (Librarians group)	ACT
TAFE College	Lismore, NSW
Eora College	Sydney, NSW
TAFE College	Dubbo, NSW
Sydney University of Technology	Sydney, NSW
Friends of the National Museum of Australia	Canberra, ACT
Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, ACT Office	Canberra, ACT
Australian National University (ANU) visiting overseas students	Canberra, ACT
Dhunghutti Elders	Kempsey, NSW
Jabal Centre (ANU)	Canberra, ACT
Greencorp Community group	Yass, NSW
Greencorp Community group	Cowra, NSW
Women's group from Winnunga Nimmityjah (ACT Aboriginal Health Service)	ACT
Charles Sturt Univeristy	Wagga Wagga, NSW
National Museum of Australia Visitor Hosts	Canberra, ACT
Librarians from Sophiahemmet University College Library	Stockholm, Sweden
Council of Australian State Libraries National Working Group on Electronic Multicultural Library Services	Australia
University of Technology Sydney	Sydney, NSW
ACT Department of Aged and Housing	Canberra, ACT
ACT Teacher/Librarians	Canberra, ACT
Deniliquin TAFE	Deniliquin, NSW
Geraldton Elders Group	Geraldton, WA

(cont. next page)

Group name	Home base
Lismore TAFE College	Lismore, NSW
Macquarie University, Warawara Department of Indigenous Studies	Sydney, NSW
National Museum of Australia staff	Canberra, ACT
W.A. Family Information Records Bureau	Perth, WA
Newcastle TAFE	Newcastle, NSW
University of Newcastle	Newcastle, NSW
Uralla School	New England, NSW
Wagga TAFE	Wagga, NSW
Yuarana Centre, ACT TAFE	Canberra, ACT

Index to government reporting requirements