



Professor Michael Dodson



Emeritus Professor Robert Tonkinson



Mr Eric Bedford



Ms Terri Janke

The Council

Professor Michael Dodson, AM (Chairperson) is a member of the Yawuru peoples, the traditional owners of land and waters in the remote area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia and 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. He is currently the Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University, the Special Rapporteur for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and 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, a Doctorate of Letters (HC) from the University of Technology Sydney and a Doctorate of Laws (HC) from the University of New South Wales.

Emeritus Professor Robert Tonkinson held the Chair of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia from 1984 until his retirement in 2003, and is currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow there, as well as Editor of *Anthropological Forum*, the international journal of anthropology and sociology. He is well known internationally in his field of social anthropology for his contributions to the Aboriginal Australian

and Melanesian anthropological literature. He has worked with Aboriginal people since 1962 and has published extensively, especially on Western Desert society and culture. His closest links are with the Martu people in the eastern Pilbara, with whom he has been involved for forty years. A Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia since 1988, he holds Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Western Australia and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia.

Mr Eric Bedford has strong family and cultural links throughout the Fitzroy Valley in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. He currently holds the position of Koori Outreach Worker for the Peninsula Integrated Health Service in Victoria. He was previously the Manager, Community Development Employment Projects, Marra Worra Worra in Fitzroy Crossing, the Chairman of the Malarabah Regional Council, an ATSIC Commissioner and 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 Terri Janke is an Indigenous arts lawyer, writer and consultant. Her law firm, Terri Janke and Company, is a Sydney based



Professor John Maynard



Mr Dana Ober



Dr Mark Wenitong



Mr Michael Williams

specialist Indigenous law firm representing Indigenous artists, writers, filmmakers and Indigenous businesses across many fields, in copyright and intellectual property issues. Her publications include *Our culture: our future — report on Australian Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights*, the first of its kind to outline a comprehensive framework for protecting Indigenous cultural heritage and *Minding Culture: Case Studies on Intellectual Property and Traditional Cultural Expressions*, written for the World Intellectual Property Organisation. She is also a published fiction author. Her novel *Butterfly Song* was published in 2005. She was born in Cairns, Queensland and has family connections with the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula (Meriam, Wuthathi & Yadaighana). She holds a Bachelor of Arts/Law from the University of New South Wales. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Law at the Australian National University, focussing on future options for protecting Indigenous cultural and intellectual property.

Professor John Maynard is Chair of Aboriginal Studies and Head of the Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. His traditional roots lie with the Worimi people of Port Stephens, New South Wales. He has held several important fellowships including the Aboriginal History Stanner Fellowship for 1996 at the Australian National University and the New South Wales Premier's Indigenous History

Fellowship for 2003–04. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association from 2000 to 2002 and has worked with and within many urban, rural and remote Aboriginal communities. He sits on the New South Wales History Council and the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council. He is the author of five books, including *Fight for Liberty and Freedom: The origins of Australian Aboriginal activism* and *Aboriginal Stars of the Turf*. He holds a Diploma of Aboriginal Studies from the University of Newcastle, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Australia and a PhD from the University of Newcastle.

Mr Dana Ober is from Saibai Island in the western Torres Strait. He is a linguist and has an expert knowledge of Torres Strait Islander culture and history. He is currently the chief executive officer of Saibai Council. He was previously a lecturer at the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. He speaks three languages fluently: Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Yumplatok and English. His main areas of interest are the development and maintenance of Australian Indigenous languages and human rights, particularly Indigenous rights. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in linguistics and sub-major in anthropology, from the Australian National University. He is currently undertaking studies toward a

Master of Applied Linguistics degree at Charles Darwin University.

Dr. Mark Wenitong is President of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Service, Cairns, the 2006 winner of the Reconciliation Australia and BHP Billiton Indigenous Governance Awards and a member of a number of national Indigenous health committees including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council, the Australian Medical Association Taskforce on Indigenous Health, and the National Health and Medical Research Council Health Advisory Committee. He is Chair of the Andrology Australia National Reference Group on Indigenous Male Health. He has a particular interest in Indigenous men's health. He is the authors of numerous publications, including *Strengthening cardiac rehabilitation and secondary prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; The role of the general practitioner in an Aboriginal Control Community Health Service; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Health, Well being, and Leadership*. He holds a Bachelors of Medicine degree from the University of Newcastle.

Mr Michael Williams is the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at the University of Queensland. He is a member of the Goorang Goorang Aboriginal community from south-east Queensland. He has been involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs for more than thirty years. For the greater part of his career, he has worked in the tertiary education sector, lecturing in mainstream history and maintaining a close involvement with programs that provide support for Indigenous Australian students. His academic interests include Indigenous language use, cross-cultural communication and the field of Indigenous knowledge. He has served

on the Board of Directors of the Special Broadcasting Service and on numerous other government, academic and community boards concerned with Indigenous and non-Indigenous issues. He holds an MPhil (Qual) from Griffith University.

Council meetings, 2007–08

Table 7 sets out the Council meetings held during 2007–08 and the number of meetings attended by each councillor. Information about the term of each Council member is provided in [Chapter 4](#).

Table 7: Attendance at Council meetings, 2007–08

Name	Meetings eligible to attend	Meetings attended
Professor M Dodson, AM	4	4
Emeritus Professor R Tonkinson	4	4
Mr E Bedford	3	3
Ms T Janke	3	3
Dr R Marika*	2	1
Professor J Maynard	4	4
Mr D Ober	4	3
Dr M Wenitong	3	3
Mr M Williams	4	4

* Deceased, 11 May 2008

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* (the Act):

- 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.

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
7. to promote and market the products, services and capacity of AIATSIS.

Corporate goals 2, 5 and 7 are implemented by all program areas of AIATSIS. Goal 1 is specific to the Research Program, goal 3 to the Library and Audiovisual programs, goal 4 relates primarily to the dissemination program (Aboriginal Studies Press), and goal 6 to Corporate Services.

Social Justice and Equity

AIATSIS is committed to social justice and equity. It has constituted committees and has a policy to maximise the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Institute's membership, governance, staff and functions. Provision is made in the Institute's Act for the Council to have a majority (five out of nine) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members. Since 2002 there have been eight Council members in this category. At 30 June 2007, 39 of the Institute's 118 staff were Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders.

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

The AIATSIS collections are open to all for reference and research. Some material is restricted because it is culturally sensitive or because donors or stakeholders have requested that access be limited. These restrictions are largely driven by considerations of social justice and equity.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The Institute's Disability Strategy ensures that all programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities.

AIATSIS continued to improve access for both staff and visitors with disabilities. All new AIATSIS facilities and major refurbishment projects addressed requirements under the relevant building codes.

AIATSIS is committed to staff with disabilities and will ensure recruitment processes encourage people with disabilities to apply for AIATSIS positions; that workplace strategies support the employment of people with disabilities, and that staff training and

development programs include relevant information about the needs of people with disabilities, as members of the community, as residents and as staff.

AIATSIS will also incorporate the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* into its policies and guidelines attached.

AIATSIS has conducted a self audit using the Performance Reporting template as recommended in CAC Orders 2008. AIATSIS consults and liaises with staff, staff representatives along with external agencies including Comcare, APS and DEEWR. All relevant performance requirements have been met.