

REPORT ON OUTPUTS

OUTPUT 1 — RESEARCH

HIGHLIGHTS

- Creation of the AIATSIS Languages Unit.
- AIATSIS established the Land and Water Research Centre and a housing and homelessness task force.
- The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research provided an additional \$500,000 to continue the Indigenous Visiting Research Fellowship program in 2010–11.
- The Institute's policy to seek research funding from external sources continues to be successful, providing 58 per cent of total research expenditure, an increase of 3 per cent on the previous year.
- The AIATSIS Council awarded 23 research grants, valued at \$564,571.
- Dr Jakelin Troy was appointed to the newly-created position of Research Director — Indigenous social and cultural wellbeing.

RESEARCH DELIVERABLES

Deliverable Output 1	Result
Developing a strategic research plan and delivering quality research outcomes.	<p>The current strategic research plan is in place to 30 June 2012.</p> <p>An annual research business plan was developed.</p> <p>All AIATSIS research staff have individual research plans in place.</p>
Initiating and maintaining alliances that position AIATSIS as the central hub for collaborative research of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies.	AIATSIS established the Land and Water Research Centre and a housing and homelessness task force.
Identifying, promoting and conducting research in areas of relevance and priority to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.	AIATSIS research staff initiated approximately 30 new research projects.
Maintaining independence and intellectual freedom in research and promulgating the highest ethical standards for research.	See Appendix 1: Publications and presentations.
Encouraging debate of research questions among peers and in the public arena.	AIATSIS research staff gave approximately 30 conference and seminar presentations on their research. See Appendix 1.
Demonstrate leadership in ethical research practice through the development and review of our guidelines and associated research protocols.	Updated guidelines published June 2011.
Supporting community-based research projects and partnerships.	New community research projects initiated and existing relationships maintained.
Promoting evidence-based research on policy development including the COAG Closing the Gap priorities, the National Research Priorities and National Innovation Priorities.	Staff gave direct advice, public submissions and evidence to agencies and parliamentary inquiries.

:

Deliverable Output 1	Result
Maintaining AIATSIS research consultancy activity.	Increased consultancy and conference revenue to \$3.019m.
Supporting and training Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.	Five new Indigenous fellowships awarded for 2010–11. \$500,000 received for 2010–11 awards.
Supporting the broader research sector through supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students.	Research staff supervised 12 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students. 10 research staff were enrolled in HDRs at 30 June 2011. 2 research staff completed HDRs. 2 AIATSIS research staff are enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degrees. AIATSIS employs two Indigenous cadets.
Participating in the Australian Research Council and competitive grants scheme.	Four applications were submitted to the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) category one grants as at 30 June 2011. Three HERDC category one grants were awarded to AIATSIS staff. Staff are active on two HERDC category one grants. Staff completed two HERDC category one grants. AIATSIS is a member of two active Cooperative Research Centres. Thirteen AIATSIS research staff hold measures of esteem (AIATSIS membership).

OVERVIEW

AIATSIS was created to increase national and international understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures and societies. One of the ways it does this is by being a national multidisciplinary research institution specialising in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies.

Research is undertaken by research fellows as well as staff project officers, research officers, research and administrative assistants. The Institute has numerous research programs and services, as well as partnerships with other research institutions, government agencies and Indigenous regional alliances, communities, organisations and individuals.

Its six areas of research fall under two themes:

Indigenous social and cultural wellbeing

- language, arts and cultural expression
- education, history and cultural transmission
- health and wellbeing.

Indigenous country and governance

- native title and traditional ownership
- land and water
- governance, public policy and development.

Research papers and presentations stemming from this research during 2010–11 are listed in Appendix 1.

BUDGET

As with other programs, funding provided by government for research has remained virtually unchanged for some years. Work to develop

external revenue sources to fund increasing research needs continues to be successful, with 2010–11 being the fourth consecutive year of record income (see Figures 3 and 4).

The result has been an increasing proportion of expenditure being sourced externally.

Including revenue carried over from previous years, this allowed expenditure to increase by 9 per cent, to \$5,019,597. Of this amount, around 66 per cent was spent on salaries; 12 per cent on grants; 14 per cent on public programs; and the balance on other operational costs.

INDIGENOUS VISITING RESEARCHERS FUND

In June 2010, DIISR provided \$500,000 to continue the Indigenous Visiting Researchers Fund (IVRF) in 2010–11. This program allows fellows to undertake research in their fields of interest and, where appropriate, work with relevant government departments to discuss policy and practice. Applications are open to candidates in any field of Indigenous studies or policy. Applications for the 2010 round of IVRF closed on 23 July 2010. Eleven applications were received, and five appointments were made for periods of between six and twelve months.

In June 2011, DIISR provided a further \$350,000 to continue the fund in 2011–12. Applications for this round closed on 17 June 2011. Ten applications were received, and seven appointments were made for periods of between five and twelve months.

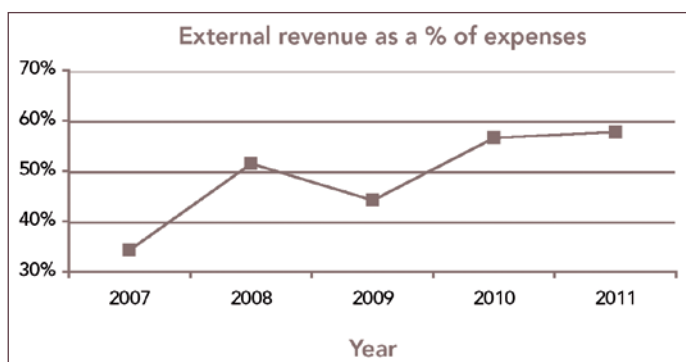


Figure 3: External revenue, 2007–11

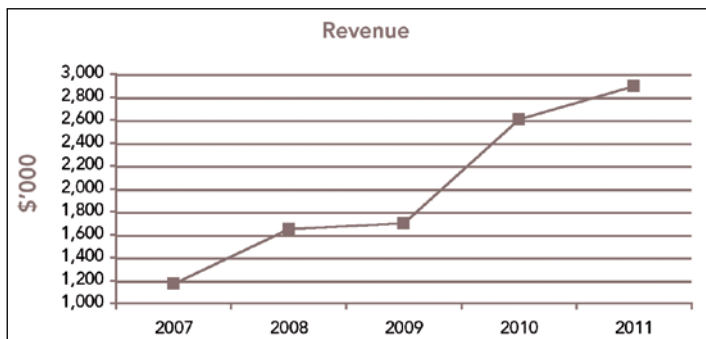


Figure 4: Revenue, 2007–11

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

In 2010, Dr Jakelin Troy was appointed to the newly created position of Research Director — Indigenous social and cultural wellbeing. Dr Troy is a Ngarigu woman whose country is the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales. Dr Troy's academic research is diverse, but has a focus on languages and linguistics, anthropology and visual arts. She is particularly interested in Australian languages of New South Wales and 'contact languages'. Since 2001 Dr Troy has been developing curriculum for Australian schools with a focus on Australian language programs.

INDIGENOUS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WELLBEING

Language arts and cultural expression

A new three-year funding agreement with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program has allowed the Institute to expand its language research and create the AIATSIS Languages Unit (ALU). The Unit will be the national coordinator linking Indigenous language organisations, educational and research institutions and government agencies (see box, p. 22). Its new staff will also run the second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2) and community language workshops, and will work to improve communications and dissemination of information about Indigenous languages.

The ALU is working with Professor Robert Fitzgerald and his ICT team from the University of Canberra's InSPIRE Centre to develop a

web presence for the Unit and an ICT-based collaborative centre for Australian languages.

Dr Doug Marmion started as a language program research fellow in September 2010, to co-manage NILS2 and to organise a series of community workshops to meet the demand for help in setting up and/or running language programs. Doug also manages the ALU work program. In April, he assisted the Wirlomin Noongar group (Albany, Western Australia) with a workshop, initiated by award-winning Indigenous author, Professor Kim Scott. The workshop looked at the production and most effective use of language materials, and possible future avenues for gaining funding, support and training for their language work.

Doug promoted the importance of research into mother tongue education in the debate on bilingual education in the Northern Territory. He worked through various forums, including the Friends of Bilingual Education group, and submitted a letter to the Australian Education Union's newsletter *The Educator* on this topic.

In September 2010, **Dr Kazuko Obata** was appointed as the ALU's Language Access Research Fellow. Kazuko's primary roles are to co-manage NILS2 and to improve access to information on and about Indigenous languages. She has been working with the InSPIRE Centre at the University of Canberra to develop a web portal, which is expected to become a go-to site on Australian Indigenous languages. She is responsible for the main language databases, including OZBIB and AUSTLANG. Kazuko has begun work on an extended version of the OZBIB database, a linguistic bibliography of

Aboriginal Australia and the Torres Strait Islands. When completed OZBIB will not just include academic publications and theses, but all types of resources on Australian languages.

Research Assistant, **Melissa Crowther**, and Kazuko have also resumed updating the AUSTLANG database. To assist planning for NILS2, Melissa gathered information about surveys conducted on Indigenous languages in other parts of the world. Research Assistant, **Felicita Carr**, will assist Doug and Kazuko with NILS2 and will also assist Kazuko to develop content for the web portal.

In March 2011, Indigenous linguist **Rhonda Smith**, a Wiradjuri woman, was appointed as communication and administration officer. In May, Rhonda and **Dr Jakelin Troy** attended the first meeting of Indigenous linguists held in Brisbane, where AIATSIS agreed to take a leading role in setting up communication links between Indigenous linguists. Rhonda has been leading discussions with other Indigenous linguists about its format. She has also set up an email list, the Australian Languages list, to aid communication between linguists.

The ALU now owns two email lists that are significant to the Australian languages community:

- Australian Languages list, to discuss any topic relevant to the Australian languages community such as approaches to program development, event announcements and policy issues
- Australian Linguistics list, to discuss linguistic topics relating to Australian languages, or topics relevant to linguists who are studying Australian languages.

Rhonda is also researching her own language. This not only increases the amount of research on Wiradjuri but also assists an Indigenous linguist to further develop her research skills.

Sarah Cutfield has worked on finalising her PhD thesis, which focuses on the semantics and use of demonstratives in Dalabon, a severely endangered language of south-western Arnhem Land. Sarah also worked with research assistant **Salome Harris** on the Dalabon online corpus. Following a 2009 review of

the Dalabon materials held in the AIATSIS collections undertaken by Sarah and Dalabon speakers Margaret Katherine, Lily Bennett and Queenie Brennan, work during the year focused on documenting and describing the language, and returning language materials to the community. Draft transcriptions of available archived materials were completed. In time all Dalabon materials from the AIATSIS archive will be uploaded to the Dalabon corpus in the Endangered Language archive at the Max Planck Institute in the Netherlands. Sarah also worked on a Dalabon ethnobiology project with speakers of the language and with ethnobiologist Glenn Wightman. Considerable information was recorded on a fieldtrip in June 2011 and is expected to lead to a manuscript for publication, posters for local schools and new content for a Dalabon mobile phone dictionary.

From late November 2010 to early January 2011, ALU hosted summer scholar, David Osgarby, an undergraduate student from the University of Queensland. Mr Osgarby researched noun incorporation in Dalabon and gave a presentation at the Australian National University (ANU). Hosting summer scholars at AIATSIS is a part of the ANU summer scholarship program. This was the second year AIATSIS participated in this program.

Kazuko and research assistants **Jutta Bessold**, **Anne Thompson** and Rhonda, completed the restructuring of the Aboriginal Studies Electronic Data Archive (ASEDA). More than 7000 computer files were reformatted for archiving. As a result, AIATSIS has kept and catalogued about 500 of the 700 original ASEDA materials. They can be found in MURA® under the collection name, Australian Indigenous Languages Electronic Collection. About 200 of these can be downloaded from MURA®.

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow **Alisa Duff** worked towards a Master's thesis, 'The politics of dancing: valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural dance'. She also assisted in the opening of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander galleries at the National Gallery of Australia. This involved developing a public program of artists' talks, workshops and

performances for the opening, and engaging twenty-five Indigenous Australian artists featured in the premier 'hang', to attend the opening in Canberra.

Education, history and cultural transmission

Dr Jakelin Troy with **Associate Professor Angela Scarino** of the University of South Australia, co-authored the *Shape of the curriculum: languages* for the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Jakelin worked with ACARA on developing the curriculum and in particular the *Framework for Australian languages*. Her involvement in developing the national curriculum has helped to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are equal with all other languages of Australia taught in Australian schools.

Dr Lawrence Bamblett completed his research project, 'I will not waste my soul for this: engaging communities with mainstream schooling'. Drawing on interviews with women from Erambie Mission (Cowra, New South Wales), his project explored the reasons behind the generational disengagement from mainstream education, and why people chose to carry on instead with Wiradjuri ways. This work provides teachers with a clearer understanding of the history and nature of the relationship between communities and schooling. Lawrence presented his findings at the Australia New Zealand History of Education Society's (ANZHES) Conference in December 2010, and submitted an article for possible publication in the conference proceedings and the ANZHES journal.

Lawrence with community organisations from Erambie, including Yalbillinga Boori MACS and the Erambie Aboriginal Advancement Corporation, submitted an application for funding from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to conduct the Deadly ReadAthon, a program that uses an action research approach to developing literacy among school students. This submission won a \$35,000 grant through DEEWR's Parenting and Community Engagement grants program (see box, p. 23).

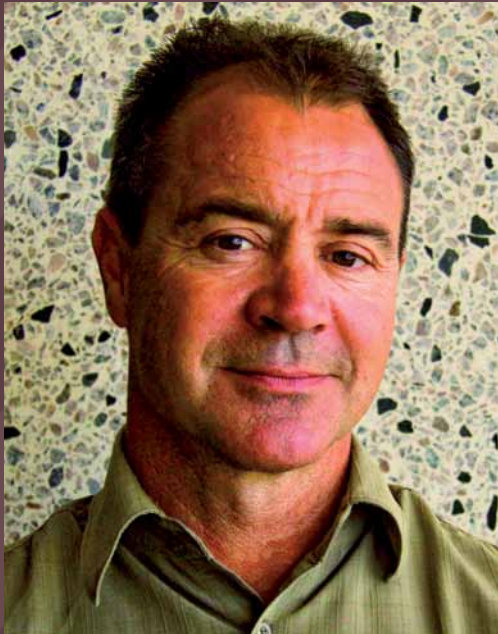
He is also engaging with DEEWR on an ongoing basis to work towards a funding submission to support the return of community-based homework centres.

In March 2011, **Dr Jeanine Leane** was awarded a doctorate for analysing twentieth-century images and representations of Aboriginal Australians by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal authors. Jeanine's work, *Purple threads*, won the prestigious David Unaipon Literary Award in 2010 for the best unpublished manuscript by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander author. Queensland University Press will publish this work in 2011. Her work *Dark secrets after dreaming (AD) 1887–1961* won the 2010 Scanlon Prize for Indigenous Poetry.

With Jakelin and Lawrence, Jeanine continued discussions with New Zealand's University of Waikato on a possible research partnership to look at adapting the Te Kotahitanga Maori education program to suit Australian schools. Lawrence and Jeanine also provided feedback on national curriculum English and history documents.

Dr Geoffrey Gray worked on his primary research project, 'Ruptures and entanglements', which examines the problematised 'native' in the colonial imagination. His book, *Abrogating responsibility: Vestey's, anthropology and the future of Aboriginal people*, examining cattle stations, Aboriginal workers, exploitation, rations and hunger, is to be published at the end of 2011. Also accepted for publication was *Scholars at war: Australian social scientists, 1939–45* to which Geoffrey contributed several chapters as well as editing its text. It is being published by ANU E Press as part of the biography series for the National Centre for Biography's Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Geoffrey also researched the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, the Cold War, academic freedom, and the case of anthropologist FGG Rose. His findings will be part of a volume arising from the symposium which marked the 50th anniversary of the 1961 conference on Aboriginal studies. The symposium played an important role in establishing the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, now AIATSIS.



Award-winning author Kim Scott initiated the first workshop developed by the new AIATSIS Languages Unit. Photograph courtesy Pan Macmillan Australia.

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN LANGUAGE

Revitalising a fading language takes knowledge, determination and a wide variety of skills, with help often needed from a range of quarters.

To tackle this challenge on a national scale, AIATSIS has established a new languages unit to link the nation's efforts in this area. It has done this with the help of a three-year funding agreement from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program.

The new AIATSIS Languages Unit is now busy developing workshops to improve links between Indigenous language organisations, and educational and research institutions across Australia. It is also promoting the use of archived language material, supporting language revitalisation programs, developing resources for language centres, and is initiating activities to promote Indigenous languages throughout the community.

The Unit held its first workshop in Albany to help the Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Group with their work to revitalise

their language. Award-winning Noongar author, Associate Professor Kim Scott of Curtin University, Western Australia, initiated the workshop.

With help from a 2004 AIATSIS Research Grant and assistance from the University of Western Australia, the group has been bringing together information and stories collected by Gerhardt Laves, an American linguist who spent 1929–31 in Australia. He was possibly the first professional linguist to visit Australia and his papers are now held at AIATSIS.

The Wirlomin Noongar group are using his work to produce storybooks and a variety of other language materials for the Noongar language of south west Western Australia.

During the workshop they collaborated with a graphic illustrator on the design of the materials, learned about language programs set up by other groups around Australia (and the world), and considered what approaches may work for them in the future.



Lucy Murray read close to 400 books during two school semesters of the Deadly ReadAthon. Photograph by Lawrence Bamblett.

DEADLY READATHON

Where would 4143 books be read by around 127 students in just 18 weeks?

The answer is the schools of Cowra, NSW, during the first stage of its Deadly ReadAthon in 2010.

The readathon was introduced to improve literacy in the town's Indigenous community. Students, parents and teachers worked together to increase the amount of time young Aboriginal children spent reading. AIATSIS research fellow, Lawrence Bamblett, is involved in the project.

Feedback from the first stage of the project has been positive with benefits including increased literacy for many participants and their growing confidence in class. As one public school principal commented:

The students from our school who were involved in this project participated with great enthusiasm and the majority of them made great strides in their reading ages. The teachers of the children spoke to me about the motivation that the readathon gave to the children, how excited they were to bring in their log books and how

proud they were when they received their prizes. Many of the children took part in the readathon with limited support from home and were able to achieve great results. It goes to show that with the right motivation that all students can make progress. [The program] has been a real asset to the students of Cowra.

— John Smith, Principal,
Mulyan Public School

The project is funded through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Parenting and Community Engagement program. Partners include Yalbillinga Boori MACS, Cowra Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, Cowra schools and Erambie Advancement Aboriginal Corporation.

The second stage of the program will specifically target primary and high school students who are most in need of help. The program will also be developed into a literacy syllabus for the Indigenous community's early childcare centre/pre-school.

At its June 2010 meeting, Council endorsed a proposal for AIATSIS to engage more actively on issues relating to repatriation of Indigenous Australian ancestral remains. This included developing a revised AIATSIS policy, engaging in research and advice to government, and developing resources for community use. As part of this endeavour, **Alison Storey** was engaged in March 2011 to undertake initial research on holdings of ancestral remains in French-speaking countries. The project, managed by **Dr Cressida Fforde**, aims to produce a searchable digital archive of resources to facilitate research by communities about their cultural heritage housed internationally. Cressida wrote AIATSIS' comments to the International Repatriation Advisory Committee's Discussion Paper on the International Repatriation Program, now under the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow **Greg Lehman** took up his position in February 2011, and is undertaking research in conjunction with his PhD candidature at the University of Tasmania's School of Art. Greg is investigating visual representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and relationships with European thought. Tasmania provides a significant case study due to its isolation, experience of genocide and a rich suite of accompanying mythologies that have served to construct ideas of difference and consequence in this setting. Greg's work considers representations ranging from conceptions of landscape, rock art, colonial illustration, and contemporary art; with a focus on foundational imagery including portraiture and paintings.

In May 2011, Greg was appointed as a member of the National Museum of Australia's newly formed Indigenous Advisory Council. He is also a member of the AIATSIS Research Publications Committee.

Health and wellbeing

Over the past year, **Dr Jill Guthrie** researched 'From Broome to Berrima: building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health reform'. This work was funded through a National Health and Medical Research

Council (NHMRC) grant, administered by the University of New South Wales. She also completed research surveillance for H1N1 Influenza 09 and the impact of control measures in prisoner populations. Together with Dr Lawrence Bamblett, Jill submitted an NHMRC Partnership application for a community-based project to investigate ways to develop a justice re-investment program in a New South Wales town. This was the first NHMRC application to be submitted by AIATSIS.

In December 2010, Jill visited the juvenile justice diversionary initiative at Nowanup Farm (Albany, WA), and helped to draft a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Inquiry into Juvenile Justice.

With co-researchers from AIATSIS, the Australian Institute of Criminology, ACT Health and the ACT's Justice Health Services, Jill and Dr Phyll Rose Dance received a prize for a poster displayed at the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs conference in Canberra in December 2010 (see box, p. 31).

During the year, Jill also supervised a number of Indigenous postgraduate students at the ANU.

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow **Ray Lovett** continued to work on his PhD thesis into appropriate methods for screening for high-risk alcohol use. Ray conducted an electronic survey with 150 participants and is currently analysing the results.

During 2011, **Lindy Moffatt** worked as an Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow for three months, during which time she wrote the winning essay in the Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition run by the *Medical Journal of Australia*. Her entry, 'Mental illness or spiritual illness: what should we call it?' explores the hypothesis that the suffering of trauma and pain within Indigenous communities is passed down through generations, and contributes to mental illness. The essay was published in the May edition of the journal.

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow **Samia Goudie** worked on a PhD thesis on the impact of Indigenous people's sense of wellness when they experience storytelling via new media. She continued to work on a digital storytelling project for an annual camp held by the Bama elders of Hopevale in Cape York. In 2011, she was invited to France to make a presentation about her work to the University of Rouen's second international summer campus on Indigenous peoples.

AIATSIS was awarded a consultancy contract for a petrol sniffing strategy monitoring and evaluation plan. The work was sub-contracted to Gillian Shaw and David Marcus, and was completed in May 2011. AIATSIS was also contracted by Human Capital Alliance to assist with an Aboriginal early childhood oral health project with Jill and **Samantha Faulkner** undertaking this work.

INDIGENOUS COUNTRY AND GOVERNANCE

Native title and traditional ownership

The Institute's activities in this research area are conducted primarily through the Native Title Research Unit (NTRU). The Unit is funded mainly through an agreement with the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). In July 2010, the Unit started the second year of its current three-year funding agreement with the department to provide research relating to identified priority areas, a range of native title resources, information and access services, publications, workshops, and the annual native title conference. Below is a summary of the Unit's current research activities.

Broader land settlements

This research focused on current approaches to settling native title claims through broader land settlements. In September, the Director of Research — Indigenous Country and Governance, **Dr Lisa Strelein**, participated in a broader land settlement policy workshop in Melbourne organised by the National

Native Title Council and FaHCSIA. Broader land settlements are being implemented and considered by several jurisdictions in an attempt to speed up the resolution of native title claims and to address Indigenous land justice issues beyond the framework of the Native Title Act. One of the main challenges is establishing new processes for assessing native title claimants' connections to country. Native Title Research Fellow **Toni Bauman** worked with the Victorian Department of Justice, Native Title Services Victoria and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, to develop a more streamlined approach to processing 'connection' arising from the Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework. The first in a series of three workshops with these and other stakeholders, including representatives of the Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group, was held in May 2011.

Toni researched the current and potential roles of anthropologists in contributing to broader land settlements and new connection processes. Together with Dr Gaynor Macdonald from the University of Sydney, Toni co-convened a workshop for native title anthropologists in July 2010, *Turning the tide: anthropology for native title in south east Australia* (see box p. 33). The workshop attracted forty participants. The NTRU will publish papers in the next reporting period. Toni also co-convened with Gaynor, sessions on native title anthropology at the annual Australian Anthropological Society Conference in September.

AIATSIS Chairman **Professor Mick Dodson** and Toni addressed the Law on Customary Lands, Territories and Resource Rights Conference in Malaysia in January 2011. Professor Dodson spoke about the Yawuru native title agreement in Western Australia and exclusive possession. Toni spoke about free, prior and informed consent in native title agreement-making (see box p. 29).

Prescribed and registered native title bodies corporate

Through additional funding provided by FaHCSIA, the NTRU has been able to employ a project officer, **Tran Tran**, to support registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs, commonly known as PBCs). Tran worked with representatives of the PBC working group, the first meeting of which was held in Cairns in March.

Tran developed a PBC website to provide access to resources and information relevant to native title holders and to raise the profile of PBCs. She is also working collaboratively with native title holders and native title representative bodies (NTRBs) to convene regional/state/territory workshops involving native title holders and state/territory government representatives.

Tran and NTRU Research Fellow

Dr Jessica Weir gave a presentation on PBCs, governance and fee for service issues to an Aurora NTRB field officer workshop. Jessica supervised Aurora intern Leah Ginnivan in preparing a paper on PBC funding, which was published in the *Native Title Newsletter*.

NTRU research fellows continued to work directly with PBCs, providing advice and assistance on request. Dr Lisa Strelein co-facilitated the North Queensland Land Council Governance workshop for native title corporations in July and gave a presentation on fees for service. Toni completed a five-week Visiting Research Fellowship at Notre Dame University, Broome, July to August 2010, during which she met various native title stakeholders. This resulted in an invitation for Toni and Lisa to co-facilitate a governance workshop involving the Bardi Jawi PBC and community councils in the Kimberley in May 2011. Jessica published on PBC governance issues in the Kimberley, including relationships with community councils, in her May 2011 discussion paper on the Karajarri experience with managing native title. Establishing functional relationships between their native title corporations and other Indigenous organisations is a challenge faced by many native title holders across Australia, and this research

explores how these relationships might be negotiated for mutual benefit.

The NTRU published a timeline of Torres Strait regional governance authored by Torres Strait PBCs. This has been distributed to several organisations in the Torres Strait including the Torres Strait Regional Authority and Tagai State College for use as an education resource. The timeline is also available on the AIATSIS website.

Native title policy

The NTRU contributes to policy debates, reform and reviews relevant to native title. The Unit prepared submissions to Australian Government inquiries and/or consultation processes relating to:

- maximising outcomes from native title benefits
- Indigenous economic development
- Schedule 4 of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2010
- the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming) Initiative Bill 2010.

Dr Lisa Strelein has also been invited to participate in high level policy discussions around native title taxation issues and carbon farming. She gave evidence to the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the carbon farming bill. The NTRU is a member of the Attorney-General's native title consultative forum and in April gave a presentation on the Unit's research and resources relating to native title agreement-making.

Economic development

Dr Lisa Strelein is a chief investigator with the Agreements Treaties and Negotiated Settlements (ATNS) project at the University of Melbourne. The ATNS team made a number of submissions on tax policy during the reporting period. During a two-week research trip to Canada, she was involved in a number of meetings to discuss research and experiences relating to First Nation economic development and gave presentations on native title taxation issues. Lisa also addressed

NTRB chief financial officers on PBC fees for service.

Mediation and negotiation

Toni Bauman continued to work with native title stakeholders to improve decision-making and dispute management processes. She provided advice to the Victorian Government's 'Right people for country' project on a proposed pilot program to establish a land mediation panel and training for associated Indigenous facilitators and mediators. Toni gave a presentation on Indigenous decision-making and dispute management processes to an Aurora NTRB field officer workshop and addressed the Pacific-Asia Partnerships in Resource Development in PNG symposium on negotiating cultural difference. Together with Dr David Martin and Jodi Neale, Toni published a discussion paper, 'Challenges for Australian native title anthropology', examining the roles anthropologists might play in decision-making, dispute management and native title agreement-making more generally.

Toni also responded to a request from the Central Land Council for assistance to design and build a native title dispute management system, and to develop staff skills and expertise in facilitation and conflict resolution.

Native title jurisprudence

Dr Lisa Strelein continued to review and analyse developments in native title jurisprudence. The NTRU published native title case summaries in monthly editions of *What's New* and a detailed analysis of the concept of society in an issues paper by Marcelle Burns, '*Sampi on behalf of the Bardi and Jawi people v Western Australia*'. The Native Title Conference 2011 included sessions on emerging issues in native title law and recent jurisprudence.

Land tenure

The NTRU published an issues paper co-authored by NTRU Research Assistant **Claire Stacey** and NTRU Research Fellow **Joe Fardin** examining housing and land tenure issues. Claire also compiled an academic and grey literature review of issues related to

community development on native title lands, such as planning, economic development, and communal land tenures. She is also co-ordinating the Institute's new housing and homelessness taskforce (see p. 32).

Onus of proof

AIATSIS has led debate on the reform of the requirements of proof for native title over the last five years, in particular through public discussion at the native title conference and subsequent published papers. A critical volume on this issue, edited by Dr Lisa Strelein, Professor Marcia Langton and Professor Maureen Tehan is to be published in the coming financial year.

The Attorney-General's Department engaged the NTRU to research the establishment of an Australian Government approach to assessing evidence when entering into a consent determination. This includes examining current legal frameworks emerging from recent Federal Court jurisprudence and best practice emerging from alternative settlement processes.

Knowledge management: agreement precedents

The NTRU's knowledge management: agreements precedents project has progressed to the post-pilot phase following the successful implementation of the NTRB legal precedents database by the NTRU's Research Fellow **Joe Fardin**. The database contains agreements on mineral production, exploration and infrastructure relating to native title land in three Australian jurisdictions. It also contains a number of precedents sometimes used as attachments to agreements, including access procedures, various deeds of covenant, heritage protection procedures and environmental procedures. All precedents are sanitised so that they do not include references to specific payments or other sums of money, persons or places. The database contains 109 precedents, with almost 2000 separately searchable data entries.

Feedback from the project's working group unanimously expressed a desire to see the resource expand. As a result six new NTRBs were recruited to the project's second phase, being implemented by NTRU Research Fellow **Catherine McLeish**. Catherine conducted five in-house visits to acquire new precedents to include in the database. She also worked on addressing recommendations from the participating NTRBs to expand the database to include court and tribunal precedents, as well as precedents for establishing corporations and trusts. Catherine convened a panel discussion on implementing native title agreements at the Native Title Conference 2011.

Native title collections management

Native Title Research and Access Officer **Grace Koch** worked directly with NTRBs to help them manage their native title collections. During the Native Title Conference 2011 she convened a meeting of NTRB representatives to discuss recent developments in collection management in their organisations, and identify what NTRBs need to improve the care and handling of documents generated by the native title process. Grace worked with the Federal Court of Australia, to discuss lodging some of its native title holdings with AIATSIS and the future of native title materials held by the Federal Court more broadly. Grace also provided advice to the Kimberley Land Council regarding a plan for long-term collection management.

Grace has been examining issues of access to collections of materials resulting from various types of research projects. She published an article in *Australian Aboriginal Studies* on ethics, research and collections, with particular emphasis on collections held at AIATSIS and at NTRBs. She also co-authored an article for the *Native Title Newsletter* with Toni Bauman. This article looked at cultural archives and the importance of Indigenous community members being able to access their contents. Native title agreements should make provision for such access. Further work was done in collaboration with the Library's **Cathryn Zdanowicz** to catalogue NTRU publications and make them available online through MURA®.

Native title, land and water

The NTRU's research in land and water is focused on water, climate change, ecology, and joint management.

Water

Dr Jessica Weir has published a book chapter on water planning and dispossession in a book about the Murray-Darling Basin Plan by ANU E Press. Jessica also published a journal article on cultural flows in the *Australian Humanities Review*, and was invited to give guest lectures and seminars on water at the ANU; the University of Western Sydney; the Nature and Society Forum; and the Two Fires Festival. Dr Lisa Strelein and Jessica have been invited by the First Peoples' Water Engagement Council to be on the steering committee for an Aboriginal Water Forum to be held in 2012.

Climate change

Dr Jessica Weir, Tran Tran, **Dr Kara Youngentob** and Dr Lisa Strelein were successful in applying for \$440,000 in funding under the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program. The grant is for case study research into climate change adaptation on native title lands, with funding for an early career researcher and part of Jessica's time, from 1 July 2011 to 30 December 2012.

Ecology

Dr Jessica Weir and Claire Stacey were successful in applying for \$187,000 in funding from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation on weeds management on native title lands. This project considers the implications of the changing nature of land ownership for Australia's weed management, and involves research into the legal framework, literature review, workshop and research report. Jessica also convened a session at the native title conference on country and development.



Orang Asal participants and some international speakers at the conference on Law on Customary Lands, Territories and Resource Rights: Bridging the Implementation Gap Conference. Photograph by Colin Nicholas (COAC).

MUCH IN COMMON (LAW)

On 25–26 January 2011, Toni Bauman presented at a conference in the Faculty of Law at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, together with three other Australians working in native title; Mick Dodson, Frank McKeown and Greg McIntyre. The conference, 'The Law on Customary Lands, Territories and Resource Rights: Bridging the Implementation Gap', was organised by the Centre For Malaysian Indigenous Studies and the Centre for Legal Pluralism and Indigenous Law at the University of Malaya, in conjunction with the European Forest Institute, the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Asia Support Program, the International Work Group for indigenous Peoples and the Malaysian Bar Council.

There have been a number of landmark decisions handed by the Malaysian courts which have taken note of precedents from other common law jurisdictions, including Australia. At the same time, indigenous Malaysians are struggling to achieve recognition in land development and negotiate on equal terms with large corporations involved in logging, industrial tree plantations and mega hydro electricity generation projects. They, as the conference flier describes, 'pay the heaviest price through relocation, displacement, dispossession and encroachments on their livelihood'. There is grave concern for their cultural and economic survival.

Toni spoke on the topic of free, prior and informed consent in native title agreement-making. On returning from the conference, she commented that, 'Most noteworthy in comparing Australia and Malaysia is that there is no "native title industry" in Malaysia'. Most cases are prepared by lawyers on a pro bono basis. Anthropologists have been rarely used, if at all — though what might be described as the anthropological role performed by Dr Colin Nicholas, who has a background in development studies, political sociology and resource economics, was championed on many occasions during the conference. Taking up this theme, Dr Frank McKeown noted that anthropologists were ubiquitous in the native title process in Australia, particularly in the role of expert in litigation, and that anthropological expertise is sought in every stage of the process. Toni said, 'Conference participants acknowledged that there is a need for the involvement of more anthropologists in claims in Malaysia, since the burden of proof is very similar in demonstrating prior and continuous occupation according to indigenous law and custom'.

A publication from the conference will be forthcoming and further details of the conference are available from toni.bauman@aiatsis.gov.au.

Joint management of parks and protected areas

Toni Bauman convened a workshop on joint management at the Native Title Conference and co-authored, with Dr Chris Haynes from the University of Western Australia, a discussion paper providing a national comparative analysis on joint and cooperative management outcomes from native title. The paper will be published during the next reporting period.

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow **Valerie Cooms** has been working with the Quandamooka Lands Council Aboriginal Corporation (QLCAC) on developing a cultural heritage management plan for Southern Moreton Bay Islands and establishing a registered native title body corporate. Valerie represented QLCAC in negotiations for the proposed joint management arrangements for North Stradbroke Island National Park. She conducted cultural awareness training for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services staff who were earmarked to work in the park following settlement of the Quandamooka people's native title application. Valerie also gave a presentation on this negotiation process at the Native Title Conference 2011.

Land and Water

In 2010, AIATSIS established a Land and Water Research Centre to coordinate the Institute's research in land and water across the Research Program, and extend it through partnerships with funding bodies. The Centre's establishment is being led by Dr Jessica Weir, with support from research officer Dr Kara Youngentob, and will be formally launched in 2011.

Jessica, **Claire Stacey** and Kara completed a literature review of the Benefits of Caring for Country research as part of an ongoing consultancy for the Department of Sustainability, Water, Environment, Population and Communities. Jessica has met with Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre and the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, for the AIATSIS Council research project into the governance of cultural flows.

A research brief and visioning report has been received from Yarkuwa as part of the collaboration.

The Northern Australia Ministerial Forum announced a key role for AIATSIS and the North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance in providing research support to a newly established Indigenous Sustainable Development Forum.

Cultural heritage and tourism

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow **Dave Johnston** completed his fellowship in June 2011. Dave worked with several Aboriginal communities in Queensland for his Indigenous cultural tourism project pilot on cultural tourism initiatives.

Dave advised the Kalkadoon people leading up to the prosecution of Xstrata–Mt Isa Mines for damaging a Kalkadoon site in 2008, and worked with the Queensland Government prior to the prosecution of Xstrata. He continued editing a book by Australia's Indigenous archaeologists, *Australia our sacred place: perspectives of Indigenous archaeologists*, which will be a reference for student and professional archaeologists. Dave and his colleagues launched the Australian Indigenous Archaeologists Association, at the annual Australian Archaeologists Association Conference in November 2010.

Dr Graeme Ward continued his work at Wadeye in the Northern Territory recording and assessing Indigenous cultural heritage values of places that are, or are proposed as, sites for cultural heritage tourism. He continued to edit a book about Wadeye land and culture. His article, 'Preservation of rock imagery', was republished online in *Year Book Australia*. Graeme also edited and contributed to a collection of papers from the 2004 International Rock Art Research conference held in Agra, India, for publication in a special edition of *Rock Art Research*. He also completed his paper, 'The role of AIATSIS in research and protection of Australian rock art', for a forthcoming edition of that publication. Graeme also edited John Clegg's 'Towards a philosophy of rock art study: what, why and how?' which was published in *Aura Newsletter*.



Displaying books bought with the voucher prize are from left, librarian at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, Susan Lavery, and AIATSIS researchers Phyll Dance and Jill Guthrie.

THE 2010 INMATE HEALTH SURVEY: RETURNING THE FAVOUR

When 135 detainees in a Canberra correctional facility voluntarily filled out a health survey, their helpfulness was to be rewarded in a roundabout way.

Earlier, the researchers conducting the survey had been winners of a poster competition where the prize was a generous book voucher.

Their winning poster was displayed at a conference of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Its content was based on data from the 2010 ACT Inmate Health Survey carried out at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

The poster was created by researchers Jill Guthrie, Phyll Dance and Ray Lovett from AIATSIS, Matthew Willis (Australian Institute of Criminology), Janet Li (Epidemiology Branch, ACT Health) and Michael Levy (Director, Justice Health Services, ACT Health). Together they decided to give the voucher prize to the AMC's library to buy books which could be used by detainees in acknowledgement of their valuable contributions to the research.

The 2010 ACT Inmate Health Survey showed that almost three quarters of respondents were under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs at the time of their offence. A similar proportion said that their current incarceration was related to their use of alcohol and/or other drugs.

The survey findings reveal that more attention needs to be given to community-based drug and alcohol programs. It also indicates that correctional facilities provide a unique opportunity to improve the health of a group who suffer poor health and may have minimal contact with health services in the community.

And the book voucher? Given the high proportion of Indigenous detainees at the centre, the AMC's librarian, Susan Lavery, selected a range of Indigenous books for the library.

To view the winning poster go to www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/people/documents/GuthrieAPSADPoster2010.pdf.

Governance, public policy and development

AIATSIS research staff entered into a partnership with the Congress of Australia's First Peoples to develop their policy platform. The consultancy involved a survey of members, a facilitated day-long workshop at the congress meeting in June 2011 and a report on possible models for engaging members in developing policy platforms. AIATSIS engaged a team of eleven Indigenous facilitators to work with the delegates and an external consultant, David Marcus, was appointed as policy analyst for the project.

Dr Patrick Sullivan submitted the final text of his book on Indigenous policy to Aboriginal Studies Press for publication. The book, *Belonging together: dealing with the politics of disenchantment in Australian Indigenous policy*, describes current Indigenous affairs policy in Australia, concentrating on the period since the end of ATSIC in 2004. It looks at the trajectory of current policy, advancing a new consolidated approach to Indigenous policy which moves beyond the debate over self-determination and assimilation. He is also conducting a FaHCSIA-funded research consultancy for Ngaanyatjarra Council on employment strategies for the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. This project deals with the difficult employment circumstances in this remote area where many residents have been transferred from Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) to Centrelink Newstart allowance. The project addresses the dilemma that CDEP can no longer support the regional community organisations and provide community services, while Newstart has not been successful in transitioning clients to mainstream training and employment. Patrick is also working with the Nyamba Buru Yawuru land management corporation on a cultural mapping and heritage protection research project. A cultural heritage management plan is required under the Yawuru Indigenous Land Use Agreement before much of the remaining undeveloped Broome land can be declared a coastal reserve.

Patrick was invited to join the inaugural editorial board of the international *Journal of Organisational Ethnography*.

Valerie Cooms continued work on her PhD thesis, 'An examination of the objectives and implementation of both state and the Australian Governments' Indigenous policies in Queensland from 1965 to 1975'.

Housing and homelessness research

AIATSIS has consolidated its research effort around housing and homelessness issues by establishing a taskforce of interested researchers who meet regularly to discuss potential research partnerships and funding arrangements, with the objective of addressing identified research gaps and progressing current research in this area. The group combines research expertise in state and national housing policy, Indigenous land tenure and social housing, commercial development, and homelessness and the criminal justice system. AIATSIS entered into a research consultancy with the University of Western Sydney's project on community land trusts and Indigenous housing options. This research was funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. Dr Patrick Sullivan contributed to a joint application for the Australian Research Council (ARC) to fund a project on appropriate design, delivery, tenure and management of Aboriginal housing in urban, rural and remote settings.

GRANTS

GRANTS BY AIATSIS

The 2011 grant round opened on 11 October 2010 and closed on 10 January 2011. Some 79 applications totalling \$2.480m were received, compared with 101 applications totalling \$3.217m in 2010. This number of applications is consistent with the long-term trend.

In May, Council awarded 23 grants totalling \$564,571. A list of approved grants is provided in Appendix 2.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

In 2009, AIATSIS became eligible to apply for funding under all ARC administered funding



Participants at the Turning the Tide Workshop at Sydney University's Darlington Centre.
Photograph by Matthew O'Rourke.

TURNING THE TIDE WORKSHOP

Held on 1–2 July 2010, the Turning the Tide workshop was an important first, in that it was designed specifically for anthropologists working in native title contexts in south east Australia. The workshop was co-ordinated by Dr Gaynor Macdonald of the University of Sydney and Toni Bauman of AIATSIS. Anthropologists from universities, government arenas, native title representative bodies, and independent consultants met in Sydney to discuss issues specific to anthropology, with the aim of raising awareness of issues, sharing concerns, and developing strategic anthropological approaches to native title in south-east Australia. One outcome was the development of a collegial network for ongoing support.

The title of this workshop recalled the *Yorta Yorta* native title decision where it was determined that 'the tide had washed away' any remnants of native title. There have been many people committed to turning this tide of misconception ever since by pushing forward the boundaries in the discipline of anthropology.

The program included several papers and two panel discussions involving: Lee Sackett, Simon Blackshield, Ian Parry and Vance Hughston providing legal and anthropological perspectives on connection reports; and Marcia Langton, Paul Memmott, John Morton and Annie Keely discussing continuity, change, transformation and society. Key issues emerging over the two days of the workshop included: modeling cultural change; the significance of country; minimum threshold connection requirements; native title representative bodies, intellectual property and contracts; rights and interests; and genealogies, descent and apical ancestors. These topics were the focus of small group discussions.

The papers and proceedings of the Turning the Tide workshop will be published by the Native Title Research Unit as an edited volume, 'Unsettling Anthropology the demands of native title on worn concepts and changing lives', in August 2011.

schemes, with the exception of the Centres of Excellence.

In June 2011, three AIATSIS fellows applied for Discovery Indigenous grants, and an application was also made under the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award. The outcome of these applications will be known in 2011–12. AIATSIS is also a partner in the AustLit ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant that is led by the University of Queensland.

AIATSIS participates in two Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) – the CRC for Remote Economic Participation (which follows on from the Desert Knowledge CRC) and the CRC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (which replaced the Aboriginal Health CRC). The Institute also participated in proposed CRCs on agreements, treaties and negotiated settlements, education and information and communication technology, and heritage futures.

The ARC presented three workshops at AIATSIS to advise on grant schemes and the application process. Staff at the ANU and the University of Canberra offered to assist with reviewing applications before submission.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The quality, independence and ethics of AIATSIS research activities and research grants are monitored by the statutory Research Advisory Committee, the Native Title Research Advisory Committee and the Research Ethics Committee. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play a major role as members of these and other committees (see also Publishing Advisory Committee, p. 44).

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Research Advisory Committee assesses applications made to the Institute for research grants, and makes recommendations to the Council on research matters and applications for membership of the Institute. The committee is made up of three Council members appointed by the Council and eight members of the

Institute, elected by its members in accordance with its rules. The Principal is ex-officio chair.

Elected members' appointments expired on 31 May 2010. Research staff updated AIATSIS members' records for the election, which was held in September 2010.

During 2010–11, the eight elected members of the committee and their areas of expertise were:

- Kim Akerman — archaeology
- Dr Mary Laughren — linguistics
- Kado Muir — social anthropology
- Dr Bronwyn Fredericks — health and biological sciences
- Professor Anna Haebich — history
- Dr Maggie Walter — public policy, politics and law
- Djon Mundine — arts.

The education and cultural transmission position was vacant at 30 June, following the resignation of Dr Jakelin Troy to take up the position of Director of Research at AIATSIS.

At its June 2010 meeting, Council agreed to extend elected Council members' terms to three years.

Council representatives on the committee were Dickie Bedford, Dana Ober and Michael Williams. A councillor's appointment usually expires at the same time as their Council membership.

The committee met twice in 2010–11. At the committee's April 2011 meeting, Professor Wendy Brady attended as the education expert; Dr Simon Leonard stood in for Professor Haebich; and Dr Stuart Bradfield for Dr Walter.

NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Native Title Research Advisory Committee provides advice to the Principal on the NTRU's research program. The Council appoints committee members for two-year terms. The committee met twice in 2010–11.

Members of the Native Title Research Advisory Committee at 30 June 2011 were:

- Professor Michael Dodson (council member)
- Dr Kingsley Palmer — consultant anthropologist (expert in the field of native title)
- Dr Gaye Sculthorpe — member, National Native Title Tribunal (expert in the field of native title)
- Robert Blowes — barrister (expert in the field of native title)
- Kevin Smith — CEO, Queensland South Native Title Services (expert in the field of native title)
- Greg Roche — Indigenous Programs Branch (FaHCSIA representative)
- Russell Taylor — Principal, AIATSIS (ex-officio member)
- Dr Luke Taylor — Deputy Principal, AIATSIS (ex-officio member).

Long-serving Council member Michael Williams is no longer on the committee. A new Council appointee will be sought at the August 2011 meeting of the AIATSIS Council.

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Research Ethics Committee deals with ethical aspects of Institute-related research, whether community-based research proposed by the Institute's staff and by grantees, or external collaborative research projects put forward by AIATSIS staff under the auspices of the Institute. The Council appoints committee members in line with categories established by the NHMRC. The committee met three times during the year.

Committee members in 2010–11 were:

- Christine Grant — Chair
- Pastor Bunja Smith — minister of religion, or Aboriginal elder or equivalent
- Graeme Evans — layperson
- Joyce Graham — layperson
- Vivienne Holmes — lawyer
- Dave Johnston — person with knowledge of, and current experience in, areas of research regularly considered by the committee
- Mark McMillan — person with knowledge of, and current experience in, areas of research regularly considered by the committee
- Dr James Ross — person with knowledge of, and current experience in, the care, counselling or treatment of people.

All members' appointments expired on 31 August 2010, and all were reappointed for a further three-year term. Pastor Smith retired after the February 2011 meeting. In accordance with the committee's charter, Mark McMillan left the committee after the May 2011 meeting.

During the year, the Institute's ethics guidelines were reviewed against contemporary standards. The revised *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies* was published in June 2011.

Charters for the Research Advisory Committee, Research Publications Committee and Research Publications Advisory Committee were completed. The Charter for the Research Ethics Committee was updated and published on the AIATSIS website.