

OVERVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully staged the 14th Annual National Native Title Conference at Alice Springs (Outputs 1 and 2).
- Lead participant in writing the *Australian Curriculum: Languages – Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages* (Output 1).
- Completed the second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2) (Output 1).
- Successfully bid for Australian Research Council (ARC) competitive grants for the *National Indigenous Researchers and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN)* (Output 1), and *BlackWords: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers and Storytellers* as a collaborating organisation (Output 1 and 2).
- Launched AIATSIS Research Publications, a new imprint of the Institute's publishing arm Aboriginal Studies Press, with the first two volumes published in 2012 (Output 1).
- Revised AIATSIS' *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies* establishes the benchmark for Indigenous research (Outputs 1 and 2).
- Increased visits to AIATSIS; participation in events, seminars and conferences; and community interaction and outreach, such as the Awin Udnum climate change workshops in Kowanyama, access workshops on Thursday Island, and Bargala language revival workshops held at AIATSIS (Outputs 1, 2 and 3).
- Increased access to AIATSIS collections, for example, use of the AIATSIS website increased by 10 per cent (Output 2).
- Launched innovative first iOS mobile phone app, *Aboriginal Sydney* by Aboriginal Studies Press, with the android version to come in July 2013 (Output 2).
- High-quality Aboriginal Studies Press publications were recognised by being awarded the NSW Premier's Prize for history to *Indifferent Inclusion* by Russell McGregor; as well as shortlisted for the Ernest Scott prize for history of *The Lone Protestor: AM Fernando in Australia and Europe* by Fiona Paisley, and for the WA Premier's Prize – WA history of *Kurlumarniny: We come from the desert* by Monty Hale (Minyjun) (Output 2).
- Successful exhibition of unique works from the AIATSIS art collection in partnership with the Australian National University in *Likan mirri* at the ANU Drill Hall Gallery in November 2012 (Output 3).
- Preserved valuable collection material through digitisation, with targets for audio and pictorial material in 2012–13 significantly exceeded (Output 3).
- Developed and adopted a Statement of Strategic Intent for 2013–16 (Overview, Output 4).
- Secured \$6 million in funding over three years for an Indigenous workforce development and training program for rollout from 2013–14, designed to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with career advancement opportunities by undertaking a nationally recognised qualification whilst working full-time with AIATSIS (Output 4).
- Adopted an innovative cultural proficiency strategy as a leading model for public and private organisations across Australia (Output 4).
- Improvements in environmental performance were recognised by receiving ACT Smart Office accreditation (Output 4).

AIATSIS AT A GLANCE

The Institute represents:

- The world's leading research, collecting and publishing institution in the field of Australian Indigenous studies including a:
 - research team conducting high-quality research
 - prestigious publisher, Aboriginal Studies Press, producing and promoting an array of books, CDs, film, videos, reports and the Institute's journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*
 - library and audiovisual archive managing the world's most extensive collections of printed, audio and visual materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and societies
- A network comprising a Council and committees, members, staff and other stakeholders in urban, regional and remote areas throughout Australia, and abroad.
- A staff of 136 people, headed by the Principal, working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, scholars and the Australian and international public to acknowledge, affirm and raise awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures and histories, in all their richness and diversity.
- An accessible source of abundant information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, retrievable by Internet, mail, telephone or email, or by arranging to visit AIATSIS on Acton Peninsula in Canberra.

FUNCTIONS

As detailed in the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (the Act), Part 3, Section 5, the Institute's functions are to:

- undertake and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- publish the results of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to assist in the publication of the results of such studies
- conduct research in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and encourage other people or bodies to conduct such research
- assist in training people, particularly Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, as research workers in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- establish and maintain a cultural resource collection consisting of materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- encourage understanding, in the general community, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies
- undertake other functions as are conferred on the Institute by this Act
- do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE

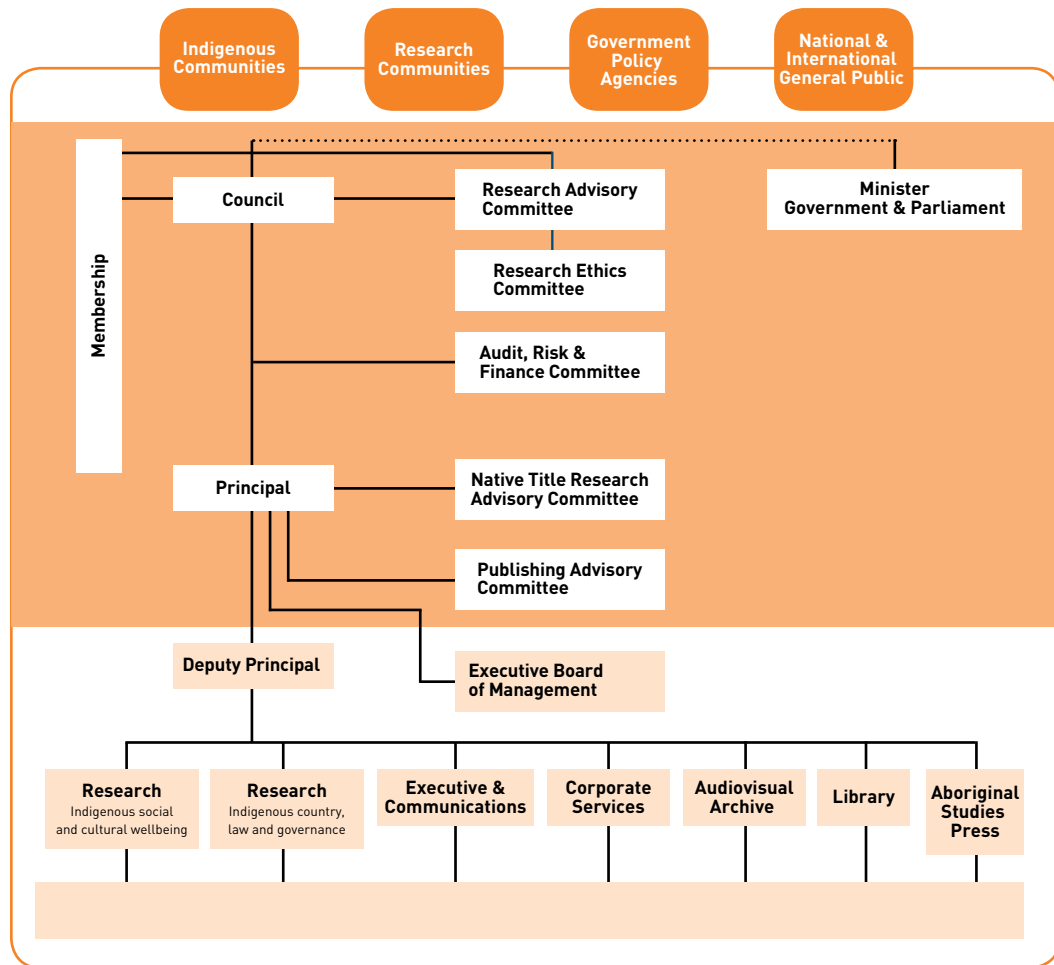
The AIATSIS outcome and output structure, as set out in the AIATSIS 2012–13 Portfolio Budget Statement's Outcomes and Planned Performance and the Corporate Plan July 2010–July 2013, is detailed in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Outcome and output structure.

OUTCOME			
<p>National and international understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through undertaking and disseminating high-quality research, and developing, maintaining and providing access to world-class print and audiovisual cultural collections.</p>			
OUTPUTS			
<p>Research: to provide leadership and excellence in promoting, facilitating and undertaking high-quality research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.</p>	<p>Dissemination of research and information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, knowledge and cultures: to create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures and to promote and market the products, services and capacity of AIATSIS.</p>	<p>Cultural collection development and management: to develop, maintain, and preserve well-documented archives and collections and to maximise access, especially by Indigenous peoples, in keeping with appropriate cultural and ethical practices.</p>	<p>Corporate governance, management and accountability: to ensure that AIATSIS is managed efficiently and effectively in a transparent, accountable and supportive manner.</p>

ORGANISATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Figure 2: Organisational and governance structure.



Towards the end of the 2012-13, changes were made to the Institute’s structure to reflect new priorities and challenges identified through the development of a new Statement of Strategic Intent and the AIATSIS business plan for 2013-14. These strategic and business planning exercises are covered in more detail under Output 4 – Corporate Governance. Key changes are the division of Executive and Communications into two separate programs, and the separation of the Director, Corporate Services and the Chief Finance Officer roles.

The **Executive** comprises the Principal and Deputy Principal, which ensures the smooth transition of **Council** directives through to the business plans of the AIATSIS programs. The Council-appointed Principal is responsible for the Institute’s performance and advises the Council on all operational matters. The Principal is assisted by the Deputy Principal. These senior executives are responsible for ensuring that all Council policy directives are implemented. They are also responsible for maintaining high-level relationships with the Institute’s stakeholders and for the performances of program directors.

The **Executive Unit** staff support the Council, liaise with AIATSIS members, and facilitate senior AIATSIS staff meetings, including those of the Executive Board of Management. It also coordinates cross-program products, strategies and projects across the organisation.

The **Communications Unit** manages media, major events, stakeholder relations, the website and digital media to inform target audiences of AIATSIS' achievements and to raise awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture.

The **Research Program** undertakes multidisciplinary research, usually collaboratively, in diverse areas of Australian Indigenous studies. The research programs are divided into two main research areas – Indigenous Social and Cultural Wellbeing, and Indigenous Country and Governance. They also contribute to policy formulation in priority areas, support Australian Indigenous studies, teaching and trainee researchers, and publish widely in print and on the AIATSIS website. They hold seminars, workshops and conferences and have established a comprehensive set of ethical research protocols. The Research Program provides training, facilities and support for Indigenous researchers and visiting and honorary scholars.

The **Library** and **Audiovisual Archive** were also merged into a single operational unit as of 1 June 2013, although they functioned separately for most of the reporting period. This merger will be embedded in structure, functions and workflow through 2013–14.

The **Library** has one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials on Australian Indigenous studies in the world. Through the AIATSIS website, remote users can access the Library's catalogue, online collections and electronic documents. The Library also provides document delivery, interlibrary loans and reference services. The Family History Unit provides services to Link-Up staff that assists Indigenous Australians with family history research.

The **Audiovisual Archive** holds almost one million items comprising photographic images, works of art, artefacts, audio, film and video in many different formats. The role of the Archive is to ensure the safety and longevity of the materials, and to constantly migrate the information onto the latest technologies so that the material remains accessible for future generations of Australians.

Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) publishes up to eight new titles annually in the area of Australian Indigenous studies. Academic books include history, anthropology, archaeology, land rights and native title, health, education, languages and art, while general books include biography, autobiography and community stories. ASP publishes in print, sometimes with CD-ROMs. ASP is the publisher of the best-selling *Aboriginal Australia* language map and, with the Research Program, publishes the journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. ASP runs a small bookshop within AIATSIS and uses national and international trade distributors to disseminate its publications widely.

Corporate Services supports the entire agency by providing human resources, information technology, registry and building management services, as well as secretariat services to a number of the Institute's committees. All functions within corporate services assist the agency to achieve its business priorities; guide and advise on the parameters within which individual employees and the agency as a whole is required to work; and provide a healthy and engaging workplace environment.

In late 2012–13, the role of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) was delineated from corporate services to enable a greater focus on the financial management and governance of the Institute. The CFO is supported by a new compliance and risk role encompassing risk management, audit, compliance and governance matters. The finance function remains responsible for financial operations, financial and budget management and reporting.



Professor Michael Dodson, AM



Professor John Maynard



Emeritus Professor Bob Tonkinson



Dr Mark Wenitong

OUR COUNCIL

Professor Michael Dodson, AM, (Chairperson) is a member of the Yawuru peoples the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters in the Broome area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia. He is currently Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). He is a professor of law at the ANU College of Law. He is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, and he served as Commissioner from April 1993 to January 1998. Professor Dodson was Australian of the Year in 2009.

Professor John Maynard (Deputy Chairperson) is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales (NSW). He is currently an Australian Research Council Australian Research Fellow (Indigenous). He was formerly Professor of Indigenous Studies and Director of the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. He obtained his doctorate in 2003, examining the rise of early Aboriginal political activism.

Professor Maynard was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association, the NSW History Council and the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council and has worked with and within many Aboriginal

communities, urban, rural and remote. He is the author of four books, including *Aboriginal Stars of the Turf, Fight for Liberty and Freedom* and *The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe*.

Born and raised in Perth, **Emeritus Professor Bob Tonkinson** took his Honours and Master's degrees in social anthropology at the University of Western Australia (UWA), where he later held the Chair in Anthropology (from 1984 until his retirement in 2003). He obtained his doctorate in anthropology at the University of British Columbia (1972), and taught at the University of Oregon (1968-80) and the ANU (1980-84) before returning to Western Australia.

From the 1960s, Professor Tonkinson conducted research with Desert Martu people and in Vanuatu. He has been active in land claim research on behalf of the Martu, who gained title to the bulk of their traditional homelands in 2002.

Dr Mark Wenitong is Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Tropical Public Health at James Cook University, and is from the Kabi Kabi tribal group of South Queensland. He is the Senior Medical Advisor to Apunipima Cape York Health Council. He was the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Services in Cairns for the previous nine years, and he has also worked as the medical advisor for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Canberra. He is founder and a past president of the Australian Indigenous



Adjunct Professor
Sandy Toussaint



Mr Dana Ober



Ms Robynne Quiggin

Doctors' Association, and was the acting CEO of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), as well as the NACCHO PHMO in 2013. Dr Wenitong received the 2011 Australian Medical Association's (AMA) President's Award for Excellence in Healthcare, and was one of the Chief Research Investigators who received the 2013 AMA award for best research publication in the *Medical Journal of Australia* in 2012.

Adjunct Professor Sandy Toussaint is an anthropologist who has worked with Aboriginal people since the early 1980s. She has undertaken both applied and academic research with a range of Indigenous groups but especially with Walmajarri, Juwaliny-Walmajarri, Gooniyandi and Wangkajunga families in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, and with Noongar groups in the state's south. Professor Toussaint worked for inquiries such as the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Aboriginal Land Inquiry, and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. She has also worked for organisations such as the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and the Marra Worra Worra Corporation. She lectured in anthropology for 18 years at UWA and has undertaken research on matters relating to land and native title claims, human/environment interactions, Indigenous health, community organisations, and material culture.

Mr Dana Ober is from Saibai Island in the western Torres Strait and holds a Bachelor

of Arts degree, with a major in linguistics and a sub-major in anthropology from the ANU. 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 and is working at Tagai State College on Thursday Island. He was previously a lecturer at the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at the Bachelor 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, especially Indigenous rights.

Ms Robynne Quiggin is a Wiradjuri lawyer based in Sydney. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and a Graduate Diploma in Practical Legal Training from The College of Law in Sydney.

Ms Quiggin has worked as a solicitor, senior policy officer and lecturer on a range of Indigenous law issues including: Indigenous intellectual and cultural property; use of biological resources; heritage; native title; human rights; consumer issues; media; criminal justice; and other social justice issues. She has participated in several United Nations Indigenous, human rights and biodiversity forums, and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, *Balayj* and the *Journal of Indigenous Social Policy*.



Ms June Oscar AO



Ms Neva Collings

She is currently managing the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's Indigenous outreach program, which assists Indigenous consumers with financial service issues, and liaises with financial service industries to improve services for Indigenous consumers.

Ms June Oscar AO is a Bunuba Woman from the Central Kimberley region. Recently Ms Oscar was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Australia. The award is a fitting national recognition of her significant personal contribution and long term commitment to improving the lives of the people in Western Australia. She has a Bachelor of Business from Notre Dame University and is presently the CEO of Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre. She is an Ambassador for Children and Young people in Western Australia. She is involved in the Marulu Strategy, where she is Chief Investigator of the Liliwan Project focusing on research into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Ms Oscar is a strong advocate and activist for the recognition, rights, preservation and promotion of Indigenous Australian languages.

A former Chair of the Kimberly Language Resource Centre, and the Kimberley Interpreting Service, she is a member of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, comprising senior men and women who are the custodians and teachers of Aboriginal law, ceremonies, dance and songs. She chairs the Governing

Committee for the Fitzroy Futures Forum, is a Director for the local community radio station, Wangkiyupurnanupurru.

Ms Neva Collings is the most recently appointed Council member. She is a Yuin lawyer from NSW who grew up in a fishing village on the Hawkesbury River. Ms Collings has worked in international, national and local Indigenous issues, and specialises in resource management and environmental issues for Indigenous peoples. She is currently a sole practitioner in NSW, admitted to practice in 2008, with the Environmental Defenders Office and now principal of Orange Door Eco. She also has expertise in the fields of environmental law and policy, resource development, water management and planning, community protocols, Indigenous social justice and human rights.

Ms Collings has worked for government and non-governmental organisations, including as a policy officer with the Australian Human Rights Commission Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and as a legal officer for Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation in the Northern Territory. She was a member of the NSW Attorney-General's Department on the Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforce, solicitor with the NSW Environmental Defenders Office, and coordinator of the Indigenous Law Centre at UNSW.

POLICY ENVIRONMENT 2012–13

Review of Indigenous Access to Higher Education

The report of the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (the Behrendt review) was released in July 2012. It highlighted AIATSIS' important and unique role in developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic and research activities and its relationships with Australian universities. It recommended a review of the Institute's functions to investigate how its role as a national research institute could be strengthened, and if changes in structure, governance and/or funding are needed to equip AIATSIS to effectively undertake its mission. The review also recommended that AIATSIS play a more formal role guiding ethical research practice and that the Government continue to support AIATSIS to digitise and thus preserve its collection for future generations.

AIATSIS has included these recommendations in its business planning, along with consideration of how it can continue contributing to the broader goals of growing and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research capacity, workforce and activity.

Our Land Our Languages report

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs tabled its report on the inquiry into language learning in Indigenous communities entitled *Our Land Our Languages* in September 2012. It recommended that the Commonwealth Government include increased resources for AIATSIS to carry out the storage and digitisation of Indigenous language materials in the 2013–14 Budget. It also recommended the Commonwealth Government consult with the Institute to determine an appropriate and sustainable funding model in order for it to recommence its research grants program in the 2013–14 Budget. In its response released in June 2013, the Government indicated these matters would also be considered through a review of AIATSIS.

AIATSIS review

The review of AIATSIS will examine the agency's strategic direction, roles and functions against its legislative objectives, and whether current circumstances and demands warrant any changes in structure, governance and/or funding to equip AIATSIS to effectively undertake its mission. It commenced at the end of June 2013.

Creative Australia policy

Creative Australia, the national cultural policy released in May 2013, includes as one of its five equally important goals to 'recognise, respect and celebrate the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to the uniqueness of Australian identity'. The protection and promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages is recognised as part of the broader action agenda to achieve this. *Creative Australia* links with the findings of *Our Land Our Languages* report and reinforces the role of language as a means of connecting culture to national life for a social and economic dividend.



In August, Audiovisual Archive staff attended the commemoration for the centenary of the opening of the Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls Home taking back parts of our pictorial archive for visitors to search through. The two-day visit proved to be very successful and was an emotional event with some people finding photos of relatives in our archives. AIATSIS loaned the organisers of the centenary commemorations audio-recording equipment so that they could record and document the oral histories of the former 'Coota Girls' and their families who attended.