





Goal 2

Focus
outward
and engage
collaboratively

This goal is about how AIATSIS works and relates closely to our activities under all AIATSIS goals. Reporting against this goal is focused on the structures and methods AIATSIS has established to support its outward focus and collaboration.

Goal 2 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: improved confidence in our external engagement

Measure	Results
Stakeholder engagement with AIATSIS events and forums	<p>3000 people attended the Lorrkkon ceremony to launch AIATSIS' 50th anniversary.</p> <p>500 delegates attended the National Indigenous Studies Conference and rated their experience (on average) 4.3 out of 5.</p> <p>600 delegates attended the National Native Title Conference and rated their experience (on average) 4.25 out of 5.</p>
Increase in funding base	In addition to our annual appropriation AIATSIS attracted an additional \$5.9 million, bringing total funding to \$19.2 million (up from \$17.5 million in 2012–13).
Membership	<p>49 new members were appointed to AIATSIS, 50% more than in 2012–13. Of the new members, 23 (47%) are Indigenous.</p> <p>Total membership stands at 609, of which 172 (28%) are Indigenous.</p>

At the National Indigenous Studies Conference: (below left) Professor Martin Nakata delivers a keynote address; (middle) over 500 delegates attended; (right) Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Politics at the University of San Francisco, Professor James Taylor, delivers a keynote address. *Photo credits – John Paul Janke*



National conferences

In 2013–14, AIATSIS convened two national conferences to bring together stakeholders with an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to provide a forum for collaborative engagement. The conference content, along with cultural programs that showcased the host and other communities, contributed to Goal 1 and provided part of the foundation for research excellence under Goal 3.

National Indigenous Studies Conference – 50 Years On: Breaking Barriers in Indigenous Research and Thinking

AIATSIS held its biennial Indigenous Studies Conference from 26–28 March 2014. It brought together almost 500 delegates with multidisciplinary expertise from across the Indigenous studies sector, including researchers, policymakers, community members, academics, representative organisations, consultants, traditional owners and service providers.

The conference had 123 presentations given by 227 presenters. Presentations covered diverse topics such as education, health, cultural heritage, arts, policy, tourism, economics, language, anthropology, archives, information technology, history, native title, musicology and ethics, all focused around the current state and future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and research.

In their feedback, attendees rated the conference content, presenters, venue and professional development value at 4.3 out of 5 (on average).

Top right: The Institute's Dr Lisa Strelein and Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Pro-Vice Chancellor Maori at the University of Waikato. *Photo credit – John Paul Janke*



The National Indigenous Studies conference keynote speakers provided thought-provoking discussions on the positioning of Indigenous studies in academia. Aileen Moreton-Robinson started with a provocative look at Indigenous research thinking, examining the analytic and discursive relations between race and culture as contested territory in knowledge production. Linda Tuhiwai Smith then provided an international perspective and discussed her own experiences of being an Indigenous researcher in the university system in New Zealand. Martin Nakata continued the engagement, focusing particularly on supporting scholarship and how we are bringing students into our discussions, educating both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. James Lance Taylor, the final keynote speaker, brought an even broader international perspective to the thinking from across the three days and considered how Indigenous studies and Black studies, particularly the dialogue in America, could be expanded by the thinking here in Australia.



At the National Native Title Conference: (top) Eddie Mabo's grandson Ezra, introduces Dr Wen-Chi Kung to present the 2014 Mabo Lecture.

Photo credit – Bryce Gray

(middle) Wajad Ngaarlu from Orara High School performed traditional and contemporary dances on the opening morning of the conference.

Photo credit – John Paul Janke

(bottom) AIATSIS Director of Research, Dr Lisa Strelein; the AIATSIS Principal, Russell Taylor, and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion.

Photo credit – Brigitte Russell

National Native Title Conference

The National Native Title Conference was co-convened by AIATSIS and NTSCORP Limited (Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) and hosted by the Gumbaynggirr people, the traditional owners of the Coffs Harbour region, on 2–4 June 2014.

The conference attracted 600 delegates, including 300 Indigenous people. There were 120 speakers, who gave 77 presentations. With the support of our sponsors, AIATSIS was able to fund 40 Indigenous people to attend the conference as speakers, chairs and delegates and managed to provide another 22 free registrations to Indigenous attendees. Feedback on the conference, rated on average at 4.25 out of 5 by participants, included:

I felt this conference was world class. The facilities, access to facilities and all of the amazing staff. The NTSCORP staff and AIATSIS staff, you are world class!! You all acknowledge or responded and actioned every request of the conference delegates. You all acknowledged and responded to all delegates. You guys ROCK!

The Annual NTC is a highlight each year.

First time at a conference like this, so beautiful – to all be together.



National Prescribed Bodies Corporate Meeting

AIATSIS hosted the National Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Meeting on Sunday, 1 June, before the National Native Title Conference. The meeting was held for PBC boards, directors and members to have a space to discuss native title business in a closed session. Fifty participants represented PBCs from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.



Above: Participants of the National Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Meeting held as part of the National Native Title Conference. *Photo credit – Andrew Turner*

Research networks and partnerships

AIATSIS entered three new research network agreements this year.

Lowitja Institute Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

AIATSIS signed up to continue its partnership with the Lowitja Institute Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRCATSIH) through 2014–19. This will ensure we continue to have access to funding opportunities, collaborative research opportunities and greater promotion of our research outputs through this national initiative. AIATSIS is also represented on the Lowitja Institute board.

Projects undertaken within this partnership in 2013–14 include a review of the National Health and Medical Research Council ethics guidelines and preparation of a history of the CRCATSIH and its predecessors. More details are provided under Goal 3.

Cancer Council NSW Strategic Research Partnership

AIATSIS has joined the Cancer Council NSW Strategic Research Partnership alongside the Menzies Institute of Health Research, the University of Western Australia, Griffith University and James Cook University. This partnership facilitates research into the role of Indigenous cancer survivors in improving cancer awareness and outcomes for Indigenous cancer patients.

ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

AIATSIS has become a partner in the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language alongside the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland and the University of Western Sydney. This new partnership involves 10 international institutions and two non-university organisations. The centre considers research questions relating to the evolution of languages, language variability, language heritage, the acquisition and processing of language and implications for information and technology.

Continuing participation in other research networks

Network	Partners	AIATSIS' role
National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) ARC Strategic Research Initiative	Queensland University of Technology (lead) with nine universities and four other organisations	Collaborating organisation AIATSIS (Dr Jakelin Troy) leads the Yuraki – History, Politics and Culture node Two chief investigators on AIATSIS staff
Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) – the National eResearch Collaborative Tools and Resources (NeCTAR)	Deakin University with 12 other organisations	Project partner AIATSIS is contributing data from the collection catalogue Mura® and the AUSTLANG languages database
Cooperative Research Network Indigenous Research Capacity	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) (lead), Monash University, Charles Darwin University, Australian National University	Project partner Supervision of one BIITE PhD student by AIATSIS staff member Two AIATSIS staff on higher degree by research review panel
Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation	Ninti One (lead) with 50 organisations including six universities	Participant

Collaborative research projects with universities

Project	Partners	Progress
Changes to Country, Changes to Culture (National Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility)	Griffith University (lead), Notre Dame University, University of Canberra	AIATSIS had three investigators on this project, which was completed during 2013–14
ARC Linkage – Poverty in the Midst of Plenty (agreements, treaties and negotiated settlements)	University of Melbourne (lead), Australian National University (ANU), Griffith University	One AIATSIS investigator In progress
ARC Discovery Indigenous – Justice Reinvestment	ANU (lead)	One AIATSIS chief investigator In progress

Project	Partners	Progress
ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Grant – Austlit BlackWords	University of Queensland (lead) with eight universities nationwide	Completed December 2013 See Goal 1
ARC Linkage – Serving Our Country	ANU (lead), University of Newcastle, Australian Catholic University and four other organisations	One AIATSIS chief investigator In progress
ARC Linkage – Return, Reconcile, Renew	ANU (lead), University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, Flinders University and seven other organisations	One AIATSIS chief investigator In progress
ARC Linkage – Integrating Measures of Indigenous Land Management Effectiveness	Charles Darwin University, University of Queensland	One AIATSIS chief investigator In progress

Other university partnerships

AIATSIS continued to work with the ANU under its existing ANU High-level Partnership, which includes staff affiliations and joint ARC projects. AIATSIS also entered negotiations with the University of Sydney to establish a partnership under a memorandum of understanding. The partnership would include AIATSIS' participation in founding the National Centre for Cultural Competence, which is part of our strategy to be a leader in understanding and promoting cultural proficiency.

Partnership agreements were made with ANU and the University of Canberra to support Step-Up, AIATSIS' Indigenous accelerated career development program.

A special community partnership

AIATSIS and the Ngaiyurijja Ngunawal Language Group have signed a cooperative research agreement to revitalise the Ngunawal language of south-east NSW and the ACT, including the country where AIATSIS is located in Canberra.

The Ngaiyurijja Ngunawal Language Group comprises three Ngunawal family groups – Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation and Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The group is working with AIATSIS to develop a language program for primary school children and aims to eventually support a fully functional language that could also be part of the ACT school curriculum.

Important information about the Ngunawal language is being added to the AIATSIS Collection as part of the research project.

AIATSIS' research projects with many other communities are detailed under Goal 3.

Right top: Community elder Ruth Bell presents historical photographs of Ngunawal family members dating back to the late 1800s to the AIATSIS Library Collections Manager, Barry Cundy. *Photo credit – John Paul Janke*



Above: The Ngaiyurijja Ngunawal Language Group. Back row: (L to R) Glen Freeman, Tammy Muscat, Josh Channell, Tyronne Bell, Rebecca King, Tegan Denny. Front row: (L to R) Karen Denny, Jada Ireland Bell, Jai Ireland Bell, Cooper Sutton. *Photo credit – Andrew Turner*



Media partnerships

AIATSIS established two new media partnerships in 2013–14.

1. National Indigenous Radio Service Limited (NIRS), which broadcast live from the Indigenous Studies Conference 2014 and National Native Title Conference 2014. NIRS distributed content to more than 160 Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services units, Indigenous radio stations and community broadcasters around the country. For each of the conferences, NIRS broadcast 32 interviews with conference delegates and eight news stories on the hour over a two-day period.
2. AIATSIS signed a memorandum of understanding with 666 ABC Canberra (ranked third in the Canberra radio market with a 15.6% share) to raise awareness of AIATSIS during its 50th anniversary year. The partnership resulted in several high-quality broadcast stories and live interviews. There was also a competition to win a behind-the-scenes tour of AIATSIS, promotion of NAIDOC Week 2014, and a live broadcast from the AIATSIS 'NAIDOC on the Peninsula' event.

Above right: Australian filmmaker Kevin Lucas, Yolngu ceremonial elder Djakapurra Munyarryun, Binninj ceremonial elder Ronald Lamilami and the AIATSIS Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson, talk to Alex Sloan of 666 ABC Canberra about the Lorrkkon ceremony.

Above left: Professor James Taylor being interviewed by Bumma Bipperra Media's Trevor Tim, as part of the National Indigenous Radio Service's coverage of the Indigenous Studies Conference.

Photo credits – John Paul Janke

AIATSIS maintained its existing relationships and regular coverage with the Indigenous media sector – *National Indigenous Times*, *Koori Mail* and National Indigenous Television.

Partnerships with other Commonwealth agencies

National Museum of Australia

AIATSIS maintains a high-level memorandum of understanding with the National Museum of Australia (NMA). A particular focus during 2013–14 was preparation for the 'Warlpiri Drawings' exhibition, due to open at the museum on 14 August 2014.

AIATSIS holds the original Warlpiri crayon drawings, which were collected by anthropologist Mervyn Meggitt as part of his fieldwork at Hooker Creek (now Lajamanu) in the early 1950s.



Above: Mervyn Meggitt (centre, rear) with Freddy Jangala (second from left) and unidentified men in Hooker Creek, NT, 1953. The photograph by Joan Meggitt is part of the Mervyn Meggitt Collection held at AIATSIS.

An agreement was made between AIATSIS and NMA to lend more than 100 works for the exhibition. AIATSIS staff members were involved in the development and preparation of the exhibition alongside consultant curator Dr Melinda Hinkson and NMA staff.

Aboriginal Studies Press concurrently published Dr Hinkson's book *Remembering the future: Warlpiri life through the prism of drawing*, and AIATSIS developed a complementary exhibition of Mervyn Meggitt's photographs from the field to be displayed in the AIATSIS foyer.

AIATSIS is also working with the NMA and the British Museum in the development of the 'Encounters' exhibition, which will bring important objects from the British Museum back to Australia for the first time to be combined with work by contemporary Indigenous communities and artists.

Royal Australian Mint

AIATSIS collaborated with the Royal Australian Mint to produce two commemorative coins (circulating and non-circulating) that celebrate AIATSIS' 50th anniversary. This successful partnership may lead to the production of more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-themed coins, contributing to the promotion of Australia's Indigenous peoples, heritage and culture.

Australian Parliament House

AIATSIS collaborated with Australian Parliament House (APH) to mount an exhibition of photographs from *After 200 Years*, a 1988 bicentenary project that documented contemporary life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The exhibition was displayed at APH from 24 May to 13 July 2014, and was complemented with a striking window display of the commemorative coin, a colourful display in the APH bookshop of Aboriginal Studies Press publications and the sale of postcards linked to the exhibition. This has formed the basis for discussion about an ongoing partnership.

Below: The AIATSIS Access and Client Services Manager, Alana Harris, holds the *After 200 Years Revisited* commemorative booklet produced in conjunction with the Parliament House photographic exhibition. Photo credit – Rory Benn-Clibborn



National cultural institutions – access to records for Link-Up services

Under its service agreement with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, AIATSIS provides support to the network of Link-Up services, which provide family history and family reconnection services to members of the Stolen Generations.

To increase Link-Up's ease of access to historical and administrative records held by national institutions other than AIATSIS, we have also established memorandums of understanding with the other key cultural agencies in the ACT – the National Archives of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the ACT Heritage Library, the National Library of Australia, the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at ANU and the ACT Territory Records Office.

Publicly Funded Research Agencies Research Impact Group

AIATSIS participates in the Publicly Funded Research Agencies Research Impact Group, which was established to develop a common understanding of approaches, terminology and reporting of research impact among publicly funded research agencies.

Working with our members and volunteers

During 2013–14 AIATSIS developed and launched a volunteer program. The program, initially focused on opportunities to support the AIATSIS Collection, will allow people with a wide range of general or specialist skills

to contribute to AIATSIS' goals. Promotion of the program has started and initial feedback about implementation, take-up, volunteer experience and outcomes will be available in 2014–15.

The volunteer program is one way that AIATSIS' members will be able to engage more directly with its work. AIATSIS reviewed membership and canvassed ways of engaging more deeply with members and potential members. Options arising from this review will be considered and changes implemented in 2014–15.

AIATSIS also continued its research internship program, with five interns through the year.

International engagement

Health and wellbeing – US, UK and Canada

During February and March 2014, AIATSIS Research Fellow Dr Ray Lovett visited the United States, United Kingdom and Canada at the invitation of various university departments to talk about his research project 'Culturally mediated clinical interviews for risky alcohol use'. This project assessed the impact of a cultural mediation approach to screening instruments for alcohol and mental health problems with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to help establish best practice. Cultural mediation promotes a holistic approach to primary care for Indigenous Australians.

Dr Lovett gave eight invited presentations, including the prestigious Richard Doll seminar series at Oxford University, the Fourth International Society, Health and

Wellbeing Conference in Vancouver, the Harvard School of Public Health and the Harvard University Native American Program. As well as disseminating his findings, Dr Lovett formed links to support work on a proposed longitudinal study of Indigenous health and wellbeing.

Other international engagement in 2013–14 included:

- promotion of AIATSIS publications at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, in May 2014, making connections with publishers for possible rights sales
- attendance at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada National Event in Vancouver from 16 to 24 September 2013 with the National Stolen Generations Alliance delegation, to investigate the truth and reconciliation approach as experienced in Canada for lessons and opportunities to support reconciliation in Australia
- involvement in the Indigenous Governance Program on the traditional lands of the Wsanec and Lekwungen

peoples in Canada, hosted by the University of Victoria, British Columbia, to investigate ideas on cultural resurgence and restoration and their potential for translation into Australian native title contexts

- engagement on Indigenous languages through the:
 - » Stabilising Indigenous Languages Symposium at the University of Hawai'i, Hilo in January 2014
 - » joint conference of the Applied Linguistics Association of New Zealand and the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia in Wellington in November 2013
 - » International Conference on Language – Enhancing Language Ability and Language Education in Suzhou City in June 2014
- participation in the Arafura Timor Sea Experts Forum, a non-government forum involving Indonesia, Timor Leste, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to ensure integrated management and use of the living coastal and marine resources of the Arafura and Timor seas.

Below: Visiting Brazilian linguists are introduced to bush tucker by David Newry on the road to Kununurra.



Below: Visiting Brazilian linguist Bruna Franchetto visits the broadcast studio at PAW Media, Yuendumu.



Brazil – reciprocal exchange on supporting Indigenous languages

AIATSIS collaborated with FUNAI, the Brazilian National Indian Foundation, on an exchange to share knowledge and practice on supporting Indigenous languages. The collaboration was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Public Sector Linkages Program.

In February 2014, three linguists from Brazil (Bruna Franchetto, Rafael Nonato and Livia Camarges) visited Australia and spent time at AIATSIS in Canberra. With AIATSIS support, they investigated Wiradjuri language development and teaching in Parkes; the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages in Melbourne; Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri language development and teaching in Adelaide; and Barngarla language development and teaching in Whyalla. They also visited Kununurra, Alice Springs, Yuendumu and the Torres Strait Islands.

Right: The three visiting Brazilian linguists (centre) visit Molly Springs in Miriwoong country with Mirima staff and language workers as well as community elders.

AIATSIS linguists Dr Jakelin Troy and Dr Doug Marmion visited Brazil for a similar two-week program with FUNAI. Activities included visiting the Institute of Non-Tangible Heritage, which is carrying out the National Inventory of Indigenous Languages, attending the Amazonicas conference in Belém and a trip to Rio de Janeiro, where they visited the Federal University and the Museu Do Indio.

The exchange resulted in knowledge transfer and the establishment of networks with linguists and organisations based in Brazil and across the Americas.

