Compliance / Enforcement

Leadership

FUNDING

GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS MODELS

PARTNERSHIP

NETWORKS — sector driven v/s govt driven

relationships between indigenous local governance interact with partners

MODELS AND MECHANISMS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDING (LIKE ...)

PBC Issues

Indigenous Fishing Rights N.S.W

RESEARCH AGREEMENTS — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INDIGENOUS DRIVEN PROCESSES

COMMON ALLIANCES

UNIFIED INDIGENOUS BODY?

are the pros and cons?

Can government run indigenous ...?

# Provide the foundation for research excellence in Australian Indigenous studies

During 2013–14, AIATSIS has celebrated, reflected on and scrutinised its research functions and its role in the Australian Indigenous research and higher education landscape. It has reviewed its priorities and tested them with stakeholders directly and against feedback received through the review of AIATSIS. The new agenda will be settled and implemented in 2014–15 as part of AIATSIS' response to the review.

## Goal 3 performance measurement

| Key performance indicator: significant positive contribution to Indigenous research, policy and practice | |
| --- | --- |
| Number of community and academic researchers accessing our collections | See 'access to our collection' measure at Goal 1. |
| Rate of external take-up of ethical guidelines and collection protocols | AIATSIS' Research Ethics Committee assessed 12 ethics clearance applications – six internal to AIATSIS and six for external clients. AIATSIS ran three ethical practice workshops with 90 participants in total. 54 downloads of the GERAIS guidelines, up from 17 in 2012–13. |
| Performance against measures of research quality and impact | AIATSIS is participating in a project with other research agencies to develop a framework for measuring research quality and impact. |
| Peer-reviewed publications | 29 peer-reviewed publications by AIATSIS staff in 2013–14, up from 15 in 2012–13 – an increase of almost 100%. |
| Submissions on law and policy | AIATSIS made seven submissions in 2013–14 (down from 12 in 2012–13). |
| Family history service outputs | 83 requests for complex research assistance, up from 42 in 2012–13 (100% increase). |

## Research ethics

### Promoting and supporting the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies

Following updates to the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (GERAIS) in 2012–13, the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee (REC) (see Appendix B for membership) focused in 2013–14 on raising awareness of these guidelines, providing support for their use and demonstrating their application.

All universities and relevant research institutions Australia-wide were notified of updates to GERAIS and encouraged to adopt them.

The REC held three ethics workshops during 2013–14 as the start of an ongoing and expanding program of learning and development offerings. The workshops provided an overview of GERAIS and documentation required for ethics review, including how to unpack some of the common ethics problems in health, law and humanities research from the perspectives of Indigenous communities, researchers and ethics committees. Participants came from a variety of backgrounds: academics, community researchers, government service providers and health workers. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants about the workshops.

The REC conducts ethics reviews of AIATSIS' research and in 2012–13 started a six-month trial of offering ethics reviews on a fee-for-service basis to other institutions and researchers. On completion of the trial, AIATSIS decided to continue offering this service and, during 2013–14, the REC reviewed six internal and six external applications.

## Evaluation of NHMRC guidelines

In partnership with the Lowitja Institute, AIATSIS was contracted by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to conduct an evaluation to inform revision of two NHMRC guidelines relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research. This included contributing to a literature review on changes in the ethical landscape of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research in Australia as well as health research relating to Indigenous peoples internationally, and participation in community consultations. The final report was submitted to the NHMRC in October 2013.

# Encouraging and supporting Indigenous researchers

## Stanner Award

The Stanner Award, named in honour of Emeritus Professor WEH Stanner, is offered biennially for the best academic manuscript written by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander author*. It is designed to encourage and reward excellent scholarship by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and academics. Dr Bronwyn Carlson was the winner in 2013 for her thesis on Aboriginal identity. She was presented with the award by AIATSIS Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson on 31 July 2013. Aboriginal Studies Press is working with Dr Carlson towards adapting her thesis into a manuscript for publication.

*Conditions of the award were changed in 2011.

Below: (L to R) The AIATSIS Principal, Russell Taylor; the AIATSIS Chairperson, Mick Dodson; Patricia Stanner; Dr Bronwyn Carlson; and the Chancellor of the University of Canberra, Dr Tom Calma. *Photo credit – John Paul Janke*

## National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network

AIATSIS is a partner in the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN), a multidisciplinary, hub-and-spoke network of Indigenous researchers at various stages of their careers from more than 20 collaborating institutions. Through this network, AIATSIS provides leadership in the Yuraki – History, Politics and Culture node and in researcher capacity building.

AIATSIS hosted the first NIRAKN research capacity-building forum in July 2013. The week-long intensive program focused on building capacity among early career Indigenous researchers and addressed issues such as ethical research, winning grants, quantitative research methods, career development and writing and publishing.

## AIATSIS Indigenous researcher development

AIATSIS is supporting two scholars to undertake doctoral research and five scholars to undertake master's degrees by coursework through its Indigenous Visiting Research Fellowship and Step-Up Indigenous career development programs.

PhD candidate Mr Stewart Sutherland was the winner of the prestigious Lowitja Institute Student of the Year Award. This award has now been won twice by AIATSIS scholars; Dr Ray Lovett was the inaugural winner two years ago.

# Research – education, history and cultural transmission

## Serving Our Country: a history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia

AIATSIS is one of eight partners in the Serving Our Country project, a history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia that began in early 2014. The project is funded by the Australian Research Council Linkage program and led by the Australian National University.

## Read With Me Erambie/Cowra and other Wiradjuri community projects

AIATSIS continued its close collaboration with Erambie through the major project Read With Me. More than 600 people attended the Read With Me workshops at Erambie Mission, delivered in collaboration with the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, the Cowra Parents and Citizens school group, the Kalare Culture Group, the University of Canberra and Museums and Galleries NSW. This far exceeded the original target of 480.

To provide other communities with Read With Me materials, AIATISIS and the University of Canberra are making a video. It will be posted on YouTube when completed.

## Research – languages, arts and cultural expression

AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages projects described elsewhere in this report include:

- AIATSIS' work on the Australian Curriculum: Languages – Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages (Goal 1)
- Ngaiyuriija Ngunawal Language Group research partnership (Goal 2)
- an exchange with linguists in Brazil's FUNAI (the Brazilian National Indian Foundation) (Goal 2).

### National Indigenous Languages Survey 2

Results from the National Indigenous Languages Survey 2 (NILS2) show a continuing trend of language loss across the country with an estimate of 120 Indigenous languages still spoken today, which is down from the 2005 estimate of 145. The survey report was funded by the Ministry of Arts in the Attorney-General's Department, authored by AIATSIS researchers and released on 5 February 2014.

The results paint a complex picture of the state of health of Indigenous languages. Languages such as Wiradjuri, from central western New South Wales, are being revived and taught to children in local schools. The results also show a growing recognition of the value of Aboriginal languages as elements of identity and self-esteem.

The report is used by governments, non-government organisations and communities to identify priorities and allocate resources.

## Research – health and wellbeing

Development of AIATSIS' proposed national longitudinal research study of the cultural determinants of health and wellbeing, 'Mayi Kuwayu', was a significant focus of activity in the health and wellbeing research area.

When implemented, this will be the first national, large-scale longitudinal cohort study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals. The data resulting from this project is in short supply and high demand. AIATSIS' expertise, position of trust and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities make it the key enabler. There is international interest in the project.

## Research – land and water

### Scoping project: Emerging issues in Indigenous land and sea management across Australia

AIATSIS initiated a project to identify knowledge gaps and research needs within the broad sphere of Indigenous land and sea/water management and where AIATSIS is best placed to contribute to the research and knowledge generation. As well as a literature review, a workshop was held with more than 60 participants including Indigenous land managers, registered native title bodies corporate, native title representative bodies and service providers, state and federal government departments and researchers from Australian states and territories.

Needs identified include:

- documenting and sharing practice and policy development of Indigenous land and sea management

- promoting national and regional connections between Indigenous land and sea management leaders and practitioners

- identifying research priorities to support the development of Indigenous land and sea management.

## Research – native title and traditional ownership

For 20 years the Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) has played a pivotal role in coordinating information and developing capacity on native title. The unit:

- functions as a national clearing house

- provides tools and resources for education and development informed by national practice

- provides opportunities for native title representative bodies (NTRBs), native title service providers (NTSPs) and native title claimants and holders to coordinate and discuss issues

- conducts research and analysis on priority issues

- promotes understanding of Indigenous perspectives on desired and effective native title outcomes.

The unit's work to promote understanding of native title and support the sector with information, resources and opportunities for dialogue is largely discussed under Goals 1 and 2.

## Native title in the post-determination environment

AIATSIS has worked to support the transition of individual native title organisations and the sector more widely in the post-determination environment. AIATSIS was asked to make a submission to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Review of Native Title Organisations, which was delivered in 2013. AIATSIS also engaged in discussions about how it could assist in the development of the Government's response to the review findings and has helped to communicate the findings to native title organisations.

## Corporate design and economic activity

In late December 2013 an agreement was finalised between AIATSIS, Yamatji Land and Sea Council and the Nyangumarta Prescribed Body Corporate to undertake a research project on the resources required to establish and maintain an effective native title representative body. Issues papers will be published later in 2014.

## Toolkit/handbook for prescribed bodies corporate

AIATSIS' NTRU and the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) are working together to develop a comprehensive information resource for the directors, staff and management of the 21 prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs) in the north Queensland region.

AIATSIS and NQLC discussed the concept for a PBC toolkit over the 2013–14 year and in June 2014 formalised the partnership through an agreement that will see a team of AIATSIS and NQLC staff develop the content during the first half of 2015.

# Western Australian prescribed bodies corporate workshop, November 2013

The Native Title Research Unit organised the first statewide meeting of Western Australian PBCs, held on 20–22 November 2013 in Perth, Western Australia.

The workshop was attended by representatives from 15 of the 28 PBCs in Western Australia at that time (there are now 30) and some representatives of native title claim groups, NTRBs, NTSPs, the National Native Title Council and Indigenous Business Australia.

The workshop followed a series of regional workshops convened by AIATSIS in partnership with NTRBs/NTSPs in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. It was held over two-and-a-half days and provided PBCs with the opportunity to discuss shared challenges, concerns and achievements and how to work together collaboratively.



Above: Representatives of PBCs at the WA workshop.
*Photo credit – Pamela McGrath*

The PBCs engaged in dialogue with a range of government representatives (Commonwealth and state) to identify opportunities to improve government engagement with native title holders in program planning and implementation.

The workshop received positive feedback from participants, with an overall survey rating for relevance and usefulness of 4.5 out of 5. AIATSIS has continued to discuss the formation of a network between PBCs in Western Australia, with follow-up discussions held at the National Native Title Conference in June 2014 (see Goal 2).

This project will complement other support AIATSIS provides to PBCs, including information and training outlined against this and previous goals and research collaborations. AIATSIS will aim to adapt the toolkit for other audiences, with the potential for a national PBC toolkit in future years.

## Land and water management

AIATSIS worked with the Wiluna community and Martu native title holders during 2013–14 to document their aspirations for managing country and what has helped or hindered them in achieving these goals. The project is part of a research partnership with Central Desert Native Title Services to develop and document practical approaches to negotiating land management, incorporating holistic community aspirations to look after country and contribute to wellbeing.

## Cultural heritage management

Another project in 2013–14 was designed to identify how state and Commonwealth Indigenous cultural heritage management regimes interact with native title rights and policy across a range of jurisdictions. It also investigated how native title holders undertake the practical management of heritage under these regimes.

The project focus was PBCs heritage management strategies, information management for cultural heritage, and gaining an understanding of the actual number of heritage surveys being undertaken around the country under the future act provision of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). It led to delivery of the AIATSIS Seminar Series 'Culture in Crisis?' (see Goals 1 and 2).

# Research – Indigenous governance

## Mapping Indigenous Governance Research and Resources Survey

The Mapping Indigenous Governance Research and Resources Survey was undertaken to develop a national overview of Indigenous governance research and related resources that may be innovative in approach, provide robust evidence and useful insights, and have practical application across a range of sectors.

The survey results will feed into a forum at the end of July 2014, a joint initiative of AIATSIS and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute.

## Facilitators' community of practice

At the 2014 Native Title Conference, AIATSIS hosted a workshop with 35 participants to discuss the question 'How can we work better together so that decisions are meaningful and agreements stick?'.

The workshop emerged from a community of practice formed out of the 2013 Native Title Conference in Alice Springs and previous research into alternative third-party facilitated decision-making and consensus-building processes.

## Supporting family history research

AIATSIS continued to provide family history research support and capacity-building services to Link-Up services, as contracted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. AIATSIS has negotiated a national partnership with the network of Link-Up services, which provide family history and family reconnection services to members of the Stolen Generations, as well as individual partnerships with each Link-Up service (except in Queensland).

Link-Up services made 83 requests to AIATSIS for complex family history research assistance, nearly a 100% increase on 2012-13.

Nationally accredited training to Statement of Attainment level was delivered three times in 2013–14 to a total of 19 new Link-Up caseworkers. A Certificate IV qualification, Stolen Generation Family Research and Case Management, was substantially developed during the year, which will replace the current Statement of Attainment once accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority.

New induction kits were provided to Link-Up services. Recordings of the present training program are being provided online to Link-Up services as caseworker training tools. A short webinar on searching Mura® (the AIATSIS Collection catalogue) was also developed and delivered through the Link-Up training program and made available online.

Fact sheets from the family history kit, which provide information and guidance for people wanting to trace their Indigenous family history, were updated.

See Goal 2 for partnerships AIATSIS has negotiated with other national cultural institutions to support Link-Up services.

## AIATSIS research capability

Appendix D lists AIATSIS researchers' memberships and other offices.

Below: Participants in the Indigenous family history research course at the Canberra Institute of Technology's Yurauna Centre.
*Photo credit – AIATSIS Link-Up Research Resource Unit*