



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL  
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

# Managing Information in Native Title

## Survey and Workshop Outcomes

Ludger Dinkler, AIATSIS



# Why the workshop?

- A lot of research
- A lot of material and information

# Native title information & material

- research, connection, and survey reports, field notes, meeting minutes, maps,
- genealogies, photographs, audio and film recordings, restricted material, personal histories
- court documents, linguistic material, library and archival records

the volume of native title information and material continues to increase.

**BUT**

the native title organisations who manage this increasing body of information remain chronically under-resourced.

## MANAGING INFORMATION FOR NATIVE TITLE PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

In order to help get ready for discussions at the Workshop, we have prepared the following short survey for participants to complete. Your responses will help us understand where everyone is at on their native title information journey and will help us shape the workshop content.

We will collate all the responses into a short report to be shared with participants on the first day of the workshop. Your individual responses will be kept confidential and no specific organisations or individuals will be identified in the survey report.

**Please complete the survey and return it to Ludger Dinkler (ludger.dinkler@aiatsis.gov.au) by Friday 27 February 2015.**

Many thanks!

**NAME:**

**ORGANISATION:**

**DATE SURVEY COMPLETED:**

<b>1. What type of organisation do you work for/represent?</b>	PBC/RNTBC <input type="checkbox"/>	NTRB/NTSP <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. What state or territory is your organisation located in?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> New South Wales <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Territory <input type="checkbox"/> QLD <input type="checkbox"/> QLD - Torres Strait <input type="checkbox"/> South Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Tasmania <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria <input type="checkbox"/> Western Australia <input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL			
<b>3. What year was your organisation established?</b>				
<b>4. How many employees does your organisation have?</b>				
<b>5. How many individual native title groups does your organisation assist, represent or engage with?</b>				

- information holdings are large and diverse.
- increasing number of post-determination groups leads to different information management challenges for NTRB/SPs and PBCs.
- Audio-visual materials are most at risk.
- Materials held by PBCs are at greatest perceived risk of loss or damage.

# The MINT workshop

- was held on 16-17 March 2015 at AIATSIS
- was attended by 38 delegates from 27 native title organisations
- saw representatives from most states and territories (apart from Tasmania or ACT) and from the Federal Court and NNTT

# Workshop objective

Share experiences and work together to develop solutions to common challenges of appropriate **management, storage, and use** of information and material created in the context of native title.



# Key areas of need identified

- **Systems, infrastructure, and technology**
- **Human resources and training**
- **Funding and resourcing**
- **Legal advice**
- **Protocols and policies for the return of materials**

# Systems, infrastructure, and technology

- administrative infrastructure
- storage space
- information management systems
- digitisation
- policies and procedures
- safe platforms to share existing knowledge
- access to information management support

# Human resources and training

- dedicated information management staff
- increased staff retention
- valuing volunteers
- (online) information management training

# Funding and resourcing

- more funding
- information and expertise on how to find and access grant funding
- prioritise information management

# Legal advice

- instructions often only sought retrospectively
- Legal privacy demands and access demands based on cultural obligations/Lore difficult to reconcile
- insufficient legal support for information management issues

# Protocols and policies for the return of materials

- lack of time, staff and resources to identify and prepare material for return
- lack of PBC infrastructure and staff to look after returned material
- lack of available information and guidelines on best practice for return of material

# Priority Solutions

## Strengthening the role of PBCs:

- more influence in policy and decision making
- accommodate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law in copyright provision of contracts
- co-locate information management infrastructure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.
- create guidelines to assist PBCs with their post-determination transition

## Priority Solutions

### Pooling resources and sharing knowledge and infrastructure

- jointly commission legal advice on common issues
- share information and knowledge management specialists and systems between organisations



## Priority Solutions

### Establishing centralised platforms and functions

- Collaborate to increase targeted lobbying for resources, potentially through a new information management peak body
- Create a safe clearing house and/or website to exchange policy templates and protocols
- Establish forums for sharing experiences and information on information management matters

## Priority Solutions

### Jointly developing training and resources

- develop improved NTRB/SP management of risks associated with cultural materials, and provide appropriate advice to PBCs about those risks.
- train staff and board members in document and digital asset management.

# The next steps

- Establish an information management network, hosted at AIATSIS
- Establish a website for information management resources, hosted at AIATSIS
- Establish an online clearing house for example protocols, policies and legal advice on information management issues

## The next steps

- Distribute the MINT report to participants and stakeholders
- Scope a peak body of native title organisations interested in native title information management
- Network with other non-native title organisations involved in information management

## The next steps

- Work at both a local and regional scale
- Develop shared information management standards

and most importantly...

- Continue the conversation

# THE END

## THANK YOU