

Supporting Native Title Anthropology into the Future

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

2014-15 Findings

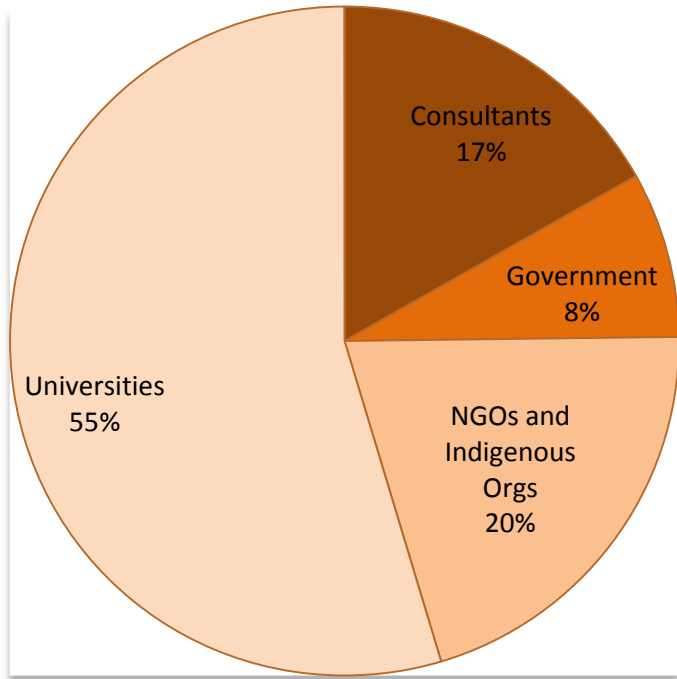
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
= **3% of Australian population (approx. 686,800 people)**
- Identification with clan, tribe or language group?
= **62% (approx. 426,000 people)**
- Recognition of homelands or traditional country?
= **74% (approx. 508,000 people)**
- Attendance at a native title meeting in past 12 months?
= **7% (approx. 48,000 people)**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

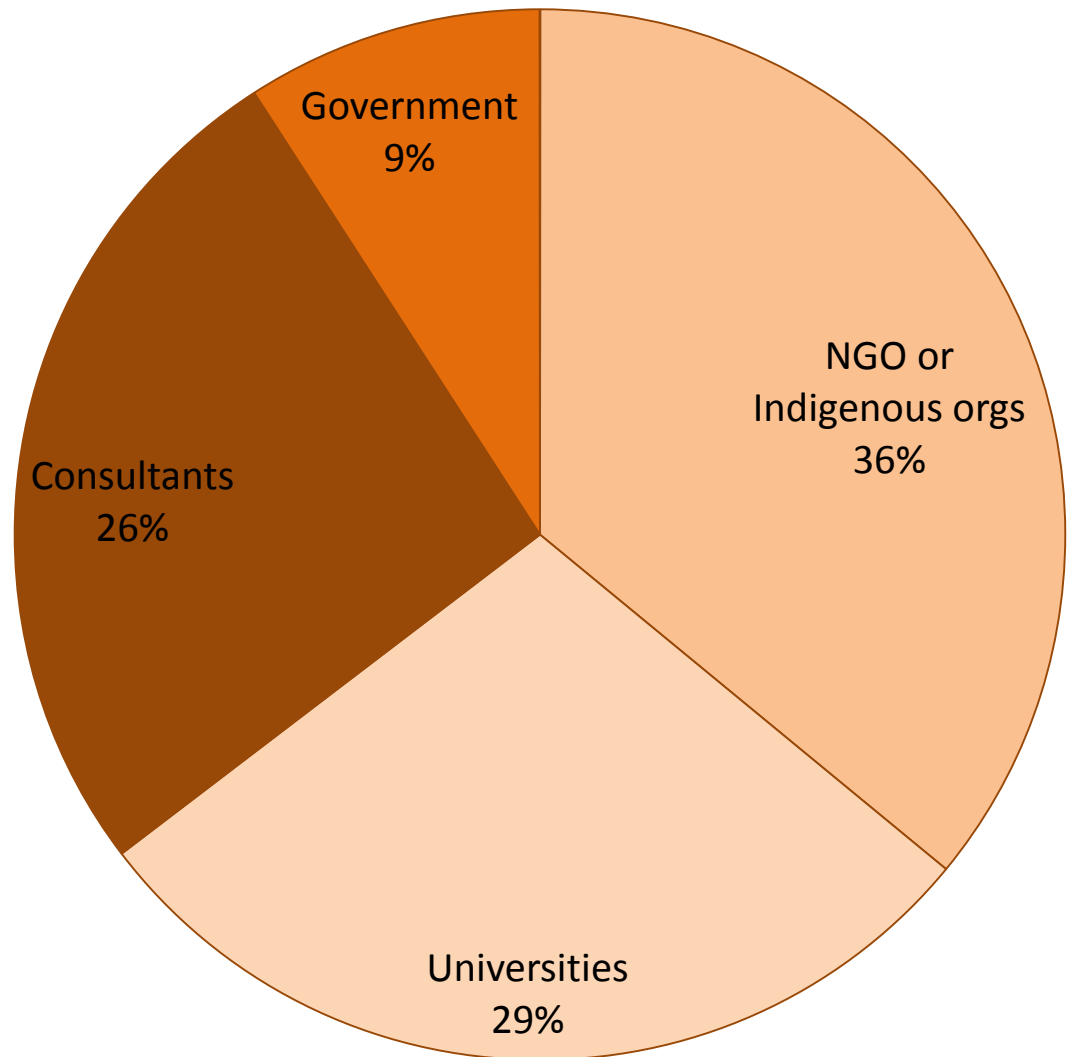
Characteristics of native title anthropologists

- There are at least 142 anthropologists with expertise in native title or land rights.
- 135 of these native title specialists are currently employed.
- Native title anthropologists are older and more often men than the average Australian anthropologist.
- There are very few Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander anthropologists, and even fewer who specialise in native title.
- Native title specialists are more often employed outside of universities, and their employment is often precarious.
- Anthropologists working in Indigenous organisations and NGOs get paid less than colleagues working in other areas.

Who employs anthropologists in Australia?



Who employs native title anthropologists?



Qualifications:

- Anthropologists working outside universities are less well qualified than anthropologists based in universities.
- Mid-career native title anthropologists less-well qualified than more senior colleagues.

Gender inequity:

- Female anthropologists working in native title get paid less than their male counterparts, they have less job security, and are less successful in progressing through the ranks to hold senior positions

Career stage:

- 30% late-career/semi-retired
- 34% mid career
- 20% early career

“[There is a] lack of acknowledgement of those engaged in [native title anthropology and misunderstanding of the work itself.”

“Anthropology and anthropologists are not particularly highly valued ...but are rather seen as necessary and troublesome evils.”

“Most of [my] time is taken up by consultation meetings; and taking multiple phone calls in relation to royalty payments.”

“Those who are working for land councils get burnt out and either leave or end up mainly working as project officers rather than as proper anthropologists.”

