

# ANCESTORS TEACHING US ANEW

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Acknowledgements to Larrakia Traditional Owners and Northern  
Land Council and AIATSIS

# Return, Reconcile, Renew

- Return, reconcile, renew: understanding the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future
- Australian Research Council Linkage Project (LP130100131)
- 3 year project, 2014-2017

# Return, Reconcile, Renew

## Project Summary

The repatriation of ancestral remains is an extraordinary Indigenous achievement and inter-cultural development of the past 40 years. This international project will provide critical new knowledge to understand repatriation, its history and effects and will provide scholarly and public outcomes that empower community-based research and practice.

# Return, Reconcile, Renew

- Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre
- Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Inc
  
- Australian National University
- The University of Melbourne
- Flinders University of South Australia
- University of Tasmania
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- National Museum of Australia
- Ministry of the Arts
- University of Otago
- Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
- Association on American Indian Affairs

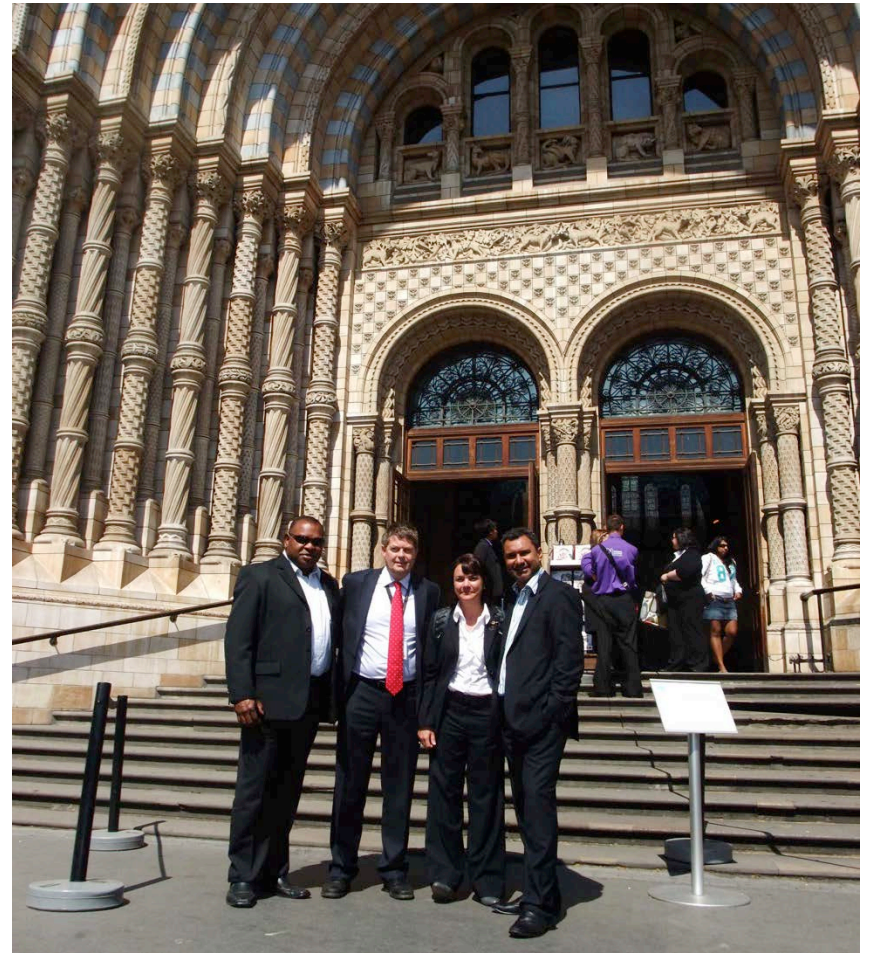
# The Torres Strait's View

- TSI repatriation - organisation
- Community consultation
- Making the claim



# Natural History Museum, London

- BM - 250 year
- Funded: Dept Culture Media & Sport
- Governed by a Board of Trustees
- Independent



# National Keeping Place

- In 2013 with the support of the Ministry for the Arts, the ACIR undertook an extensive public consultation process. The public consultation included whether a national resting place should be established and, if supported, what form it should take and where it should be located.
- The National Resting Place is an ongoing discussion between the ACIR and the Government, and it is an important piece that will inform future policy development in the area.
- The National Resting Place Consultation Report is available at <http://arts.gov.au/indigenous/repatriation>.

# Indigenous Repatriation Program

- It is the policy of the Australian Government to support the repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains from overseas institutions and private holders; and both ancestral remains and secret sacred objects from major Australian museums so that they can be returned to their communities of origin.
- The Policy and supporting Indigenous Repatriation Program is administered by the Ministry for the Arts. The Ministry is a division of the Australian Government's Department of Communications and the Arts, working to Senator The Hon Mitch Fifield.



# Indigenous Repatriation Program

## Program Funding

- *Domestic Program*

- Funding is provided to seven major state and territory museums and the National Museum of Australia to facilitate repatriation activities.
- To date, over 1400 ancestral remains and over 1400 secret sacred objects have been returned to communities from within Australian collections.

- *International Program*

- The Ministry for the Arts works directly with communities, collecting institutions, private holders and governments regarding returns.
- To date, more than 1300 ancestral remains have returned home to Australia from overseas. Focus countries are the United States and Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

# Indigenous Repatriation Program

## Advisory Committee on Indigenous Repatriation

- The Advisory Committee for Indigenous Repatriation was established in 2012 as part of the Indigenous Repatriation Policy.
- The ACIR plays an important role in assisting with the delivery of the Australian Government's program on Indigenous repatriation.
- The all-Indigenous advisory committee is appointed by the Minister for the Arts to advise on policy and program issues related to Indigenous repatriation from Australian and overseas collections.

# Indigenous Repatriation Program

## Program Achievements

- International Program
- Domestic Program
- French-Australian Joint Statement on Repatriation
- National Resting Place Report

# Indigenous Repatriation Program

## Current Repatriations

- The ACIR is currently assisting with the facilitation of a number of active repatriations. This includes a large return from the Smithsonian Museum, USA and a number of returns from Institutions in the United Kingdom.

# Main outcomes of project

## **Program 1: Repatriation: History, Effects and Opportunities.**

### **Telling your story – community repatriation histories.**

The history of repatriation and community stories of repatriation.

In collaboration with community members, local histories will be developed from the interviews and made available in a number of text and audio-visual formats on the website and in the community histories publication.

## **Program 2: Worldwide Collections.**

### **Who are our ancestors in collections and where did they come from?**

This program uses archival research to understanding the location, contents and history of overseas collections especially outside of Britain. Who are the people in collections and where did they come from. Answering questions about who collected remains, why they collected them, how have they been used in the past. Detailed documentation on ancestors that are to be returned to country, in order for communities to make informed decisions about their ancestors.

## **Program 3: Development of Information Management and Access Protocols.**

Online Heritage Resource Manager (OHRM) at the Melbourne' s eScholarship Research Centre (ESRC)

# Return, Reconcile, Renew

## Online Archive

