AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2014–2015

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AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2014–2015

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is made against the AIATSIS 2014–15 Portfolio Budget Statement's Outcomes and Planned Performance, and the AIATSIS Statement of Strategic Intent 2013–2016.

We would welcome your feedback on this year's annual report. Please contact:

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Participants in the Indigenous governance development forum held at AIATSIS on 29–30 July 2014.

Danielle and Kasia Bangmorro: Kimberley, WA, 1995. Photographer: Jeff Doring.

Melinda Hinkson launching her book *Remembering the future* at the National Museum of Australia.

Delgates from the Managing Information in Native Title (MINT) workshop held at AIATSIS in March 2015.

Blake Djammarr Djordila, Maningrida, NT, 2008 by Belinda Mason.

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Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Minister for Education and Training
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2602

Dear Minister

AIATSIS Annual Report 2014-15

I am pleased to present to you on behalf of the AIATSIS Council, the annual report of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for the year ended 30 June 2015.

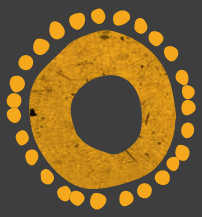
The report is forwarded in accordance with Section 46 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act and provides a report of operations, including a financial report and audited financial statements.

Yours sincerely

Professor Michael Dodson, AM
Chairperson

7 October 2015

Contents

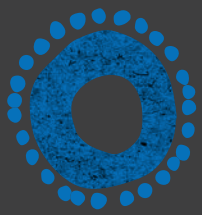


AIATSIS

Chairperson's message 6

Principal's report 8

Highlights 10



About AIATSIS

Our vision 14

What we are 15

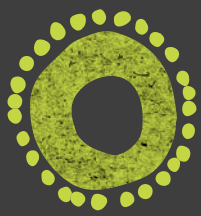
Our legislation and functions 15

Our outcome, strategy and program 15

Minister 15

Our Council 16

Our organisational structure 23



Our performance

Goal 1 Promote Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their heritage and culture 27

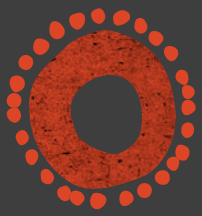
Goal 2 Focus outward and engage collaboratively 41

Goal 3 Provide the foundation for research excellence in Australian Indigenous studies 53

Goal 4 Ensure our collections are safe, accessible, valued and growing 71

Goal 5 Celebrate and build on 50 years of leadership and excellence in Indigenous studies 81

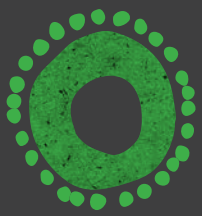
Goal 6 Foster an effective organisation where people want to work 85



Financial statements

Auditor-General's report **94**

Financial statements **96**



Appendixes

Appendix A
Council operations **140**

Appendix B
Governance committees **141**

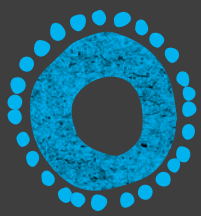
Appendix C
Research outputs **144**

Appendix D
AIATSIS researcher memberships and offices **149**

Abbreviations and acronyms **152**

Compliance index **153**

Index **154**



Figures and tables

Our organisational structure **23**

Goal 1 performance measurement **28**

Goal 2 performance measurement **41**

Goal 3 performance measurement **54**

Goal 4 performance measurement **72**

Goal 5 performance measurement **81**

Goal 6 performance measurement **85**

Chairperson's message

At a National Press Club address in November I told those present and those watching the broadcast or stream at home that, long after each of us in the room had passed on, what we leave our children and their children — in fact, what we leave as our contribution to the Australian nation — will be measured by the legacy we build, or fail to build, now.

The address marked the closing of AIATSIS' 50th anniversary celebrations, acknowledging the legacy of those who built AIATSIS into what it is today. But it also marked the beginning of a new era — the planning stages and foundation setting for the next 50 years.

So where are we today, 50 years on? According to the experts, we now hold the most extensive and best contextualised collection of Indigenous Australia in the world. An independent evaluation by Significance International, completed in 2014, notes that AIATSIS is 'a site of pilgrimage'. But the same report noted that threats to the collection that make AIATSIS such an important site increase each day that these items are not captured digitally for safekeeping and future use.

On this advice we made tough decisions about AIATSIS priorities during the year. The Council agreed to direct funding to the preservation of the collection at the expense of other important functions. This ensures we have the best chance of keeping ahead of the deterioration. However, it has meant that we have made a transition to funding all of our research activity through external sources, such as grants and contracts, and paring corporate support back to levels that can only be sustained for the short term.

The escalated effort we have made to preserve our collection was given a boost in late April, when the Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Christopher Pyne, made the welcome announcement that AIATSIS' funding would increase by $5 million for the next financial year. Of course, our challenge now is to secure ongoing investment in all of our critical functions. I am also very pleased that, before the end of 2014–15, we had secured funding for our research and community support role in native title and family history for a further three years.

While we continue to work closely with the Minister and the Government to determine AIATSIS' future priorities and resources, I announced at the National Press Club our intention to establish a not-for-profit foundation to secure other investment over the long term. I am very pleased that in May 2015 the AIATSIS Foundation was launched by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove. The AIATSIS Foundation, under the leadership of filmmaker and AIATSIS Council member Rachel Perkins as inaugural President, will develop partnerships and raise funds to support and extend AIATSIS' work in securing and sharing Australia's Indigenous culture and heritage.

The challenge of securing our nation's Indigenous culture and heritage is a huge task that cannot be met by AIATSIS alone. However, at the National Press Club I also announced that we are prepared to lead the response. Across the country, the ancient and sacred knowledge of Australia's first peoples is being lost, as audio and film tapes become brittle and turn to dust, documents are damaged by flood and fire, formats become obsolete and the hardware and knowledge to play them disappear. Much language, law, ceremony and knowledge about the environment is held only in the memories of elders who are ageing and passing away. To prevent the loss of yet more of this ancient, unique and precious knowledge, AIATSIS will lead the preparation of a comprehensive and urgent plan to identify, gather, preserve and share it — *Before it's too late*.

We finish 2014–15 with the wheels in motion and the course set for the beginning of the next half century. On behalf of AIATSIS I welcome new Council members Donisha Duff, Professor Cindy Shannon, Jodie Sizer, Rachel Perkins and Geoffrey Winters. My new colleagues bring with them energy and passion for our heritage and culture. At the same time I farewell and acknowledge the work of departing Council members Dana Ober, Neva Collings, June Oscar, Mark Wenitong and Robynne Quiggin, and I thank them for their tireless work over recent years. I also thank AIATSIS' executive and staff for another year of professional commitment and dedication to our work. We are a small organisation that continues to make a big mark on the national and international stage.

Finally, I thank all of those who have contributed to the legacy we have created over the last 50 years, particularly those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who privilege us with the position as custodians of their heritage, stories and knowledge. We at AIATSIS take very seriously the role we fulfil for the nation, keeping safe our unique history for future generations, and we look forward with renewed vigour to building the legacy of the next 50 years.

Professor Michael Dodson, AM
Chairperson

Principal's report

This has been a challenging year. However, we emerge from it with another long list of achievements realised and new directions for the future. The first half of 2014–15 saw the close of our 50th anniversary year — a year of celebrations enriched by new partnerships.

Before I focus on some of the highlights of the year, I want to thank the former and current staff of AIATSIS for their professionalism, patience and understanding during a turbulent year. We have made significant structural change in order to implement the decision to prioritise collection preservation, reduce corporate functions and fund our research program externally. This strategic realignment of AIATSIS functions was a decision born of necessity and was not made lightly. I appreciate the goodwill and constructive spirit with which our employees have embraced these changes.

The restructure has initiated a rebuilding phase for our research program. AIATSIS research built the collections to what they are today and has played a central role in enriching our nation's understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Our commitment to undertaking research that Indigenous communities need to help strengthen our people has not wavered, and we have reorganised our research program along new strategic priorities determined in collaboration with our stakeholders.

The signing of a memorandum of understanding between AIATSIS and the University of Sydney in October marked the beginning of an exciting new partnership. We created an alliance that will support our respective roles in increasing cultural competence in research and promoting the use of appropriate research methodologies when engaging with Indigenous communities.

On the local front, our language revitalisation project with the Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group culminated in a successful pilot language program in an ACT school — truly a rewarding engagement with community.

In June the Native Title Research Unit secured funding for the next three years. The unit continues to be a beacon for individuals and communities involved in the native title sector, leading by example through the quality of research output and ethical, community-led approach to their work. The 2015 Native Title Conference held on Kuku Yalanji country in Port Douglas, Queensland — the largest ever, with over 750 delegates — was universally declared a success.

Our publishing arm, Aboriginal Studies Press, continues to lead its sector in the ethical publication of outstanding works on Indigenous peoples, cultures and histories. Five new works were released during the year. Their lived experience as an award-winning publisher led to the production of the *Guidelines for the ethical publishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and research from those communities*, which set an international benchmark in the publishing field.

Our Collections area once again delivered outstanding results, easily exceeding our digitisation targets for audio and pictorial material. The Access Unit continues to provide an invaluable service to communities from around the country, facilitating connection to these items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples searching for family, culture or connection to country.

Our reputation as the place to deposit invaluable items pertaining to the history and culture of Indigenous Australia reached the shores of the United Kingdom, resulting in the deposit of what we believe is the oldest original photograph in AIATSIS' 660,000 strong photographic collection. The stamp-sized tintype photograph is also the first of its kind held by AIATSIS.

Another local deposit of note during the year was the Stafford papers, which chronicle the life and achievements of a Gamilaroi and Darug man, Alfred 'Alf' George Stafford. Alf was driver to 11 Australian prime ministers and was a friend and confidant of Sir Robert 'Ming' Menzies. The collection drew the attention of former prime minister the Honourable John Howard, OM AC, who filmed a segment of an upcoming Menzies documentary in our Stanner Room in June.

Our excellent relationship with the National Museum of Australia has continued. We started the year with our collaboration on an exhibition of Warlpiri drawings. We are assisting with and looking forward to the 'Encounters' exhibition of Australian Indigenous items from the collection of the British Museum, which will be held later in 2015. In April I travelled to London as a member of the National Museum of Australia Indigenous Reference Group for the launch of the sister exhibition, 'Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation'. While I was there, I took the opportunity to share AIATSIS' custodial philosophy and best practice with senior curatorial staff at a symposium held at the British Museum.

AIATSIS' commitment to enriching both Australia's and the world's understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures was the driver behind the revamp of our website, giving all Australians the chance to learn about our rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Our working relationship with the Department of Education and Training has continued to grow and strengthen during the year, and we appreciate their commitment and support.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson AM, and the Council and I thank them for their continued guidance and foresight. I would like to acknowledge our Deputy Principal, Michelle Patterson, for her vision and drive. I thank the members of the Executive Board of Management for all their advice and support. I also thank our members, committees and the many communities we work closely with for their continued support. Along with our employees, you have helped to make this another successful year in AIATSIS' history.

It would take many pages for me to list all of the outstanding achievements of our small but committed team. I encourage you to read on and share with us some of the triumphs of 2014–15.

Mr Russell Taylor, AM
Principal

Highlights

- A new website with social media connectivity, providing clear and well-founded information for the general public as well as access to AIATSIS' collections and research findings.
- The biggest National Native Title Conference yet, progressing the thinking and discussion about land and economic development.
- A revitalisation of the Ngunawal language, with classroom teaching of language with the Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group, in collaboration with AIATSIS, in the ACT.
- The close of AIATSIS' 50th anniversary celebrations with the Chairman's address to the National Press Club on 12 November 2014.
- The launch of the AIATSIS Foundation on 14 May 2015 by the Governor-General, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove.
- Publication of five new titles in print and ebook formats by Aboriginal Studies Press.
- New partnerships with the University of Sydney and Georgetown University (United States) in the new National Centre for Cultural Competence.
- New strategic research priorities and a restructured research program.
- Progress in digital preservation across all media and formats, and particularly for fragile motion picture and video materials.

About AIATSIS

Our vision

What we are

Our legislation and functions

Our outcome, strategy and program

Minister

Our Council

Our organisational structure

Our vision

A world in which all Indigenous peoples' knowledge and cultures are recognised, valued and respected.

About AIATSIS

What we are

AIATSIS is an independent statutory authority created by the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (the Act). AIATSIS is governed by its own Council, which has a majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councillors. AIATSIS is based in Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory.

Our legislation and functions

Under its establishing Act, AIATSIS' functions are to:

- undertake and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- publish the results of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to assist in the publication of the results of such studies
- conduct research in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to encourage other persons or bodies to conduct such research
- assist in training persons, particularly Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders, as research workers in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- establish, maintain and provide appropriate access to a cultural resource collection consisting of materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- encourage understanding, in the general community, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies
- carry out such other functions as are conferred on AIATSIS by the Act
- do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

Our outcome, strategy and program

AIATSIS' outcome, as stated in our Portfolio Budget Statement 2014–15, is to further understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present, through undertaking and publishing research and providing access to print and audiovisual collections. This outcome is delivered through a single program — AIATSIS Research and Collections.

AIATSIS has a Statement of Strategic Intent for the period 2013–16 that outlines our goals and strategies to achieve them. AIATSIS' six goals are:

1. Promote Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their heritage and culture.
2. Focus outward and engage collaboratively.
3. Provide the foundation for research excellence in Australian Indigenous studies.
4. Ensure our collections are safe, accessible, valued and growing.
5. Celebrate and build on 50 years of leadership and excellence in Indigenous studies.
6. Foster an effective organisation where people want to work.

In 2015–16 the Statement of Strategic Intent will be replaced by a new four-year Corporate Plan, as required under the planning and reporting framework set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Minister

The Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Christopher Pyne, had portfolio responsibility for AIATSIS throughout 2014–15.

Our Council

Under its legislation, AIATSIS is governed by a nine-member Council. Four councillors are elected by AIATSIS' members; and five councillors, who must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, are appointed by the Minister. In 2014–15 the members of the AIATSIS Council were as follows.

Professor Michael (Mick) Dodson, AM (Chairperson)

Professor Michael (Mick) Dodson, AM is a member of the Yawuru peoples — the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters in the Broome area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia. He is currently Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). He is a professor of law at the ANU College of Law.

Professor Dodson is a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. He was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, and he served as Commissioner from April 1993 to January 1998. He was Australian of the Year in 2009.

Emeritus Professor Robert (Bob) Tonkinson (Deputy Chairperson)

Emeritus Professor Robert (Bob) Tonkinson took his honours and masters degrees in social anthropology at the University of Western Australia, where he later held the Chair in Anthropology (from 1984 until his retirement in 2004).

He obtained his doctorate in anthropology at the University of British Columbia (1972) and taught at the University of Oregon (between 1968 and 1980) and the ANU (1980 to 1984) before returning to Western Australia. From the 1960s, he conducted research with Western Desert Martu people and on the islands of Ambrym and Efate in Vanuatu. Professor Tonkinson was active in land claim research on behalf of the Martu, who gained title to the bulk of their traditional homelands in 2002.

Professor John Maynard

Professor John Maynard is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales. He is currently a Director of the Wollotuka Institute and Chair of Aboriginal History at the University of Newcastle. In 2003 he obtained his doctorate, which examined the rise of early Aboriginal political activism.

Professor Maynard was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association, the History Council of New South Wales and the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council. He has worked with and within many Aboriginal communities — urban, rural and remote. He is the author of eight books, including *Aboriginal stars of the turf*, *Fight for liberty and freedom* and *The Aboriginal soccer tribe*.

Mr Kado Muir

Mr Kado Muir is an anthropologist/archaeologist with many years experience working in Aboriginal heritage, traditional ecological knowledge and native title research. He has formerly been a member of the AIATSIS Research Advisory Committee and has a long association with AIATSIS.

Mr Muir is currently Chair of the Ngalia Foundation, which manages a number of community-based research projects, including the Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Project, the Goldfields Indigenous Heritage Program and traditional ecological knowledge projects through the Walkatjurra Rangers.

Mr Muir operates a number of businesses, including an Aboriginal tour business and a heritage research and community development consultancy business. He is a long-time activist and is currently engaged in campaigns to stop uranium mining and promote alternative community-based enterprises. He brings to AIATSIS a strong community-based Indigenous research perspective and is interested in private sector funding for public collections and research.

Ms Rachel Perkins

Ms Rachel Perkins' Aboriginal heritage has informed her entire filmmaking career. She founded Australia's premier Indigenous production company, Blackfella Films, in 1992 and has contributed extensively to the development of Indigenous filmmakers and, more broadly, the Australian film and television industry.

Ms Perkins has directed three feature films: *Radiance*, *One night the moon* and the musical *Bran nue dae*, which screened at the Sundance, Berlin and Toronto film festivals.

In 2012, Ms Perkins directed the telemovie *Mabo* for ABC Television. She also directed three episodes and a telemovie of the landmark television drama series *Redfern now*, for which she received the Australian Directors Guild Award for Best Direction in a TV Drama Series in consecutive years. The series was also awarded the TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Television Drama Series. Rachel also wrote, directed and co-produced the seven-hour documentary series *First Australians*. In 2014 she produced the documentary *Black Panther woman*.

Ms Donisha Duff

Ms Donisha Duff is of Torres Strait Islander descent from Moa and Badu Islands and Aboriginal descent from the Yadhaigana and Wuthathi people (Cape York).

Ms Duff was awarded a Roberta Sykes Fellowship to Harvard University in the United States and she is currently a board trustee of the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation. She is a board member of the Stars Foundation, which empowers the educational development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women. She is also an appointee of the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry Indigenous Working Group.

Ms Duff completed a Master of Business Administration (ANU) and was National NAIDOC Scholar of the Year 2014.

Professor Cindy Shannon

Professor Cindy Shannon is a descendant of the Ngugi people from Moreton Bay. She is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education) at The University of Queensland and is also the Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.

Professor Shannon was previously the Director of the Centre for Indigenous Health at The University of Queensland and oversaw the creation of Australia's first degree-level program that specifically targeted Aboriginal health workers. She has contributed to Indigenous health policy development and implementation nationally and undertaken a number of independent primary health care service reviews.

Currently a Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences, Professor Shannon is also a member of the Health and Hospital Fund Advisory Board, Chair of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation and a member of the Greater Brisbane Metro South Medicare Local Board.

Ms Jodie Sizer

Ms Jodie Sizer is a Djap Wurrung/Gunditjmara woman and part of the Framlingham community of south-west Victoria. Ms Sizer was previously the Principal Consultant and Director of Ingenuity Australia — a consulting group that provides leadership, development and project management skills to Indigenous communities.

Ms Sizer was named as Victorian Aboriginal Young Achiever in 2000, when she was working as an auditor at a 'big four' accounting firm, and has maintained a prominent role in the Indigenous space and across broader society.

Ms Sizer has also worked in Indigenous organisations and Government. She was an ATSIC Regional Councillor and a finalist in the Telstra Business Woman of the Year award. She is listed in *Who's who of Australian women*, was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2003 and was listed as one of the 2012 Westpac *Australian Financial Review* 100 Women of Influence.

Mr Geoffrey Winters

Mr Geoffrey Winters is a descendant of the Gamilaroi nation from Walgett in north-west New South Wales. In 2014–15 he was an associate in Sydney at international law firm Clyde & Co LLP.

He was previously judicial associate to the Honourable Justice Basten of the New South Wales Court of Appeal and to the Honourable Justice Wright of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Mr Winters obtained Honours in Political Economy and Laws at The University of Sydney. He was President of the Australian Law Students' Association in 2011 and 2012.

Ms June Oscar AO
(Council member from 1 July 2014 until 6 December 2014)

Ms June Oscar is a Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing in the Central Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Ms Oscar was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2013 in recognition of her contribution to improving the lives of people in the Fitzroy Valley. She has a Bachelor of Business from Notre Dame University. She is presently the Chief Executive Officer of Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre. She was inaugural Chair of the Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate and was chair of that organisation from December 2012 to May 2015. She also serves on the Fitzroy Valley Futures Forum Governing Committee.

She is an Ambassador for Children and Young People in Western Australia, co-founded the Marulu FASD Prevention Strategy, focusing on foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), and is a chief investigator in the Lililwan Project — a research project on the prevalence of FASD in the Fitzroy Valley. Ms Oscar is also a local Government councillor in the Shire of Derby – West Kimberley.

Associate Professor Mark Wenitong
(Council member from 1 July 2014 until 6 December 2014)

Professor Mark Wenitong is from the Kabi Kabi tribal group of South Queensland.

Professor Wenitong is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences at James Cook University. He is the Senior Medical Adviser to Apunipima Cape York Health Council. He was previously the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Services Ltd in Cairns and was also the medical adviser for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Canberra.

He is founder and a past president of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association. He was the acting Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), as well as the NACCHO Public Health Medical Officer, in 2013. Dr Wenitong was one of the chief research investigators who received the 2013 MJA, MDA National Prize for Excellence in Medical Research. He was the recipient of the 2011 Australian Medical Association's President's Award for Excellence in Healthcare.

Ms Robynne Quiggin
(Council member from 1 July 2014 until 6 December 2014)

Ms Robynne Quiggin is descended from the Wiradjuri people of central western New South Wales, with family in the New South Wales towns of Euabalong, Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin.

Ms Quiggin is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute in Sydney.

Ms Quiggin has practised as a solicitor since 2000, specialising in legal and cultural issues for Indigenous Australians, including consumer and intellectual property law. Most recently, Ms Quiggin was senior manager of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Indigenous Outreach Program, which assists Indigenous consumers to resolve issues with providers of financial services, including banking, credit, insurance and superannuation, and raises awareness with industry about cultural and regulatory issues for Indigenous Australians.

Ms Quiggin has also worked in policy and as a senior researcher and lecturer at the University of Technology, Sydney; Macquarie University; and the University of Notre Dame.

Ms Quiggin currently serves on the board of Bangarra Dance Theatre and as a trustee of the Australian Museum. Her previous board service includes the Arts Law Centre of Australia and the Gadigal Information Service (incorporating Koori Radio).

Mr Dana Ober
(Council member (acting) from 1 October 2014 to 6 December 2014)

Mr Dana Ober is from Saibai Island in the western Torres Strait.

Mr Ober holds a Bachelor of Arts, with a major in linguistics and sub-major in anthropology, from the ANU. He is a linguist and has an expert knowledge of Torres Strait Islander culture and history.

He was previously a lecturer at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and the Chief Executive Officer of Saibai Island Council. He speaks three languages fluently: Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Yumplatok and English.

His main areas of interest are the development and maintenance of Australian Indigenous languages; and human rights, particularly Indigenous rights.

Ms Neva Collings
(Council member (acting) from 1 October 2014 to 6 December 2014)

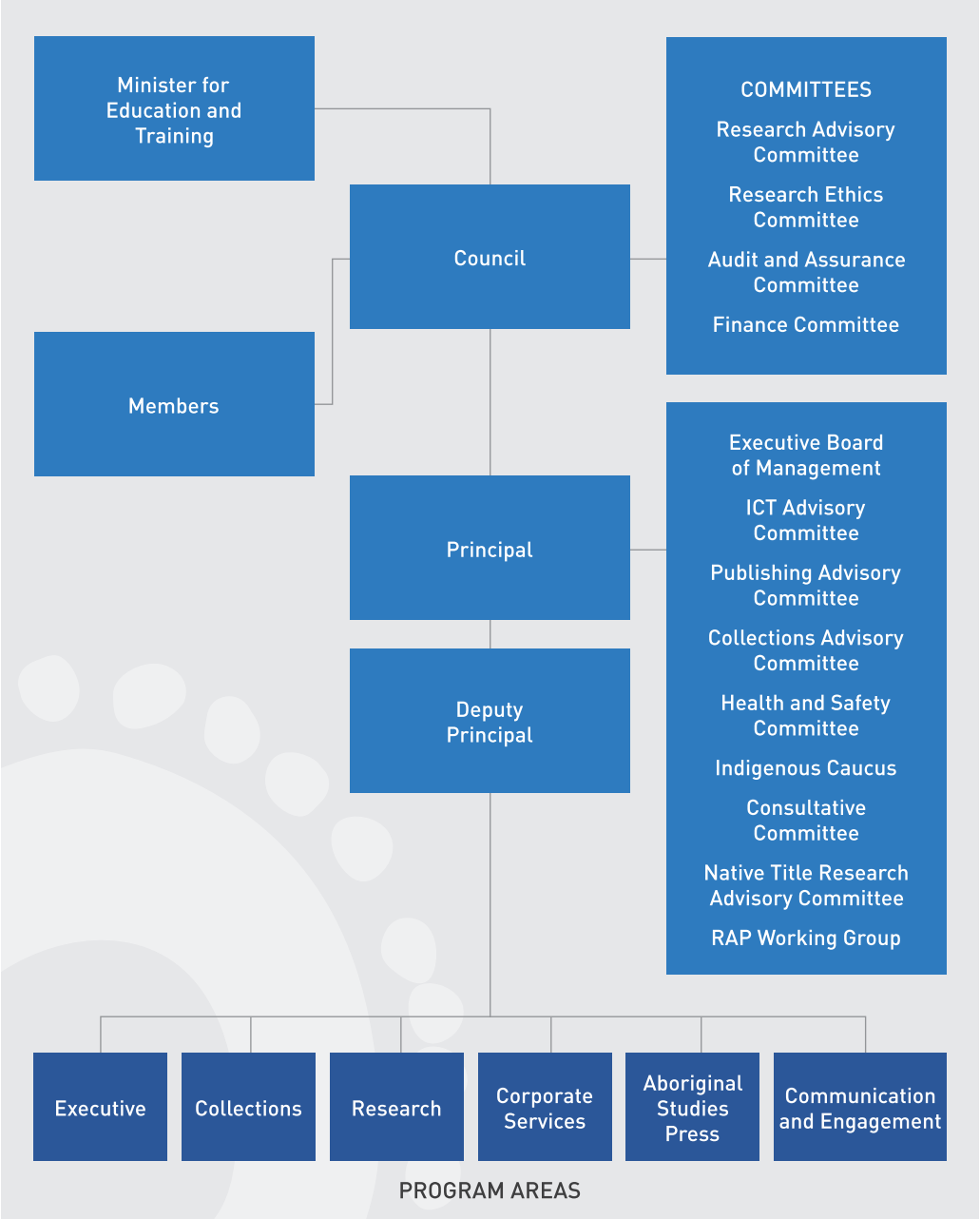
Ms Neva Collings grew up in a fishing village on the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales.

Ms Collings is a lawyer who has worked in international, national and local Indigenous issues. She specialises in resource management and environmental issues for Indigenous peoples. She is currently a sole practitioner in New South Wales. She was admitted to practice in 2008 with the Environmental Defenders Office and is now principal of Orange Door Legal.

Neva has expertise in the fields of environmental law and policy, resource development, water management and planning, community protocols, Indigenous social justice and human rights.

She has worked as a policy officer with the Australian Human Rights Commission Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and as a legal officer for Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation in the Northern Territory. She was a member of the New South Wales Attorney General's Department Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforce, solicitor with the New South Wales Environmental Defenders Office and coordinator of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Our organisational structure



Our performance

Goal 1
Promote Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their heritage and culture

Goal 2
Focus outward and engage collaboratively

Goal 3
Provide the foundation for research excellence in Australian Indigenous studies

Goal 4
Ensure our collections are safe, accessible, valued and growing

Goal 5
Celebrate and build on 50 years of leadership and excellence in Indigenous studies

Goal 6
Foster an effective organisation where people want to work

Goal 1

Promote Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their heritage and culture

AIATSIS' promotion of the rich history, heritage and living culture of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rests on a foundation of more than 50 years of research to build knowledge and understanding; and an incomparable collection of cultural materials.

In 2014–15 AIATSIS made significant improvements in our online platforms to share knowledge and resources with the nation and the world. We rebuilt our website and implemented an online strategy that has seen engagement through social media soar. Our online activities complemented our publications (which are available in hard-copy and e-publication formats) and physical and online access to our collections.

Clair Jackson — Ugarapul people, Jagara nation, c. 2008–2013. Photographer: Belinda Mason.

Goal 1 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: increased level of regard for AIATSIS across all stakeholder groups	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes
Access to AIATSIS publications and information	A more intuitive website, providing ready access to information, was created under the Web Acceleration Project. Nearly 10,000 webpages were migrated to the new website and 30 new topic pages were created. A new style for online exhibitions was designed and implemented to complement the new website. Six online exhibitions were published in the new style — two were redesigned, three were rewritten and one was entirely new. Forty-eight media releases and alerts were distributed in the period, including 24 website-only news stories. Media outlets published or broadcast 194 media items — an increase from 130 in 2013–14. AIATSIS online shop sales increased from $19,442 in 2013–14 to $52,360 in 2014–15, noting that the shop operated for only eight months in 2013–14.
Sales of publications	Revenues from Aboriginal Studies Press publications were expected to be 20% lower in 2014–15 given that two large Government purchases of *The little red yellow black book* were made in 2013–14. However, the revenue decline was less than expected — it was only 16% below 2013–14 revenues. Revenue from sale of publications includes revenue from sales of new and backlist books in print and ebook format, as well as usage fees through third-party aggregators and the Copyright Agency Limited.
Website usage	The new AIATSIS website, launched in March 2015, replaced two previous sites (aiatsis.gov.au and 50years.aiatsis.gov.au). It was not possible to reliably compare website usage figures in 2013–14 with usage figures for 2014–15 because in 2013–14 usage was split between the two replaced sites. In 2014–15 there were 1,113,952 page views and 374,666 sessions across both websites.
Social media activity	Total social media following at 30 June 2015 was 29,094 across Facebook and Twitter platforms. This represents 125% growth in social media following since 30 June 2014.

Key performance indicator: increased level of regard for AIATSIS across all stakeholder groups	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes
Access to AIATSIS collections	In 2014–15: • there were 1100 visitors to AIATSIS collections (visitors included reading room and access clients; and research group visitors) • feedback from collections visitors showed an average rating of 4.54 across all areas (compared with 4.7 in 2013–14), using a scale of 1–5 to rate their overall experience in using the collection • there were 4057 reference requests (an increase of 2% on the 2013–14 figure) and 291 access unit requests (a decrease of 25%, as there were no community access visits) • 97% of reference enquiries were answered within the standard of 25 working days (compared with 100% in 2013–14) • there were 2140 native title access transactions (an increase of 27% on the 2013–14 figure). For the Mura® (the AIATSIS Collection online catalogue), in 2014–15: • 113,899 records were accessible (an increase of 2%) • there were 34,808 hits on Mura® (a decrease of 51%) • downtime was 3.9% (an increase of 45% due to upgrades).
Value of materials returned to Indigenous communities	In 2014–15, 2163 items, valued at $16,443*, were copied and returned to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. This is 20% of the value of material returned in 2013–14, when there were two community visits.
Visits to AIATSIS	40 VIP and general interest groups toured AIATSIS. 293 people in 33 tour groups visited AIATSIS collections (down 38%).
Engagements with education sectors	One set of curriculum-linked teachers' notes was developed and made available free of charge online (compared with three in 2013–14).
Presentations and publications by staff	51 publications (compared with 45 in 2013–14). 29 of these were peer-reviewed (compared with 15 in 2013–14). 107 presentations at conferences and seminars (compared with 74 in 2013–14).

** 'Value' represents fees (at market rates) that are collected or waived. It is not an indicator of the cost to AIATSIS of maintaining, copying and dispatching material or of the historical or cultural value of the material to Australia or Indigenous communities.*

Communications, media and online capability

A new AIATSIS website

AIATSIS' online communication platform is central to our promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, heritage and culture.

In 2014–15, building on the success of the 50th anniversary website (50years.aiatsis.gov.au) created in 2013–14, AIATSIS developed a new AIATSIS website to provide a gateway to authoritative and well-founded information about Australian Indigenous cultures and AIATSIS' own collections, research findings and resources.

To inform the design of the new website, AIATSIS sought input from and engaged with our stakeholders — for example, by holding focus group workshops and online surveys to find out what our diverse audiences, including Indigenous audiences, expect when searching for online information. The findings of the engagement activities informed the architecture, functionality and design of the new site.

In particular, stakeholder engagement led to the creation of a new 'Explore' section of our website, which covers a range of topics relevant to a general audience and connects users to further information.

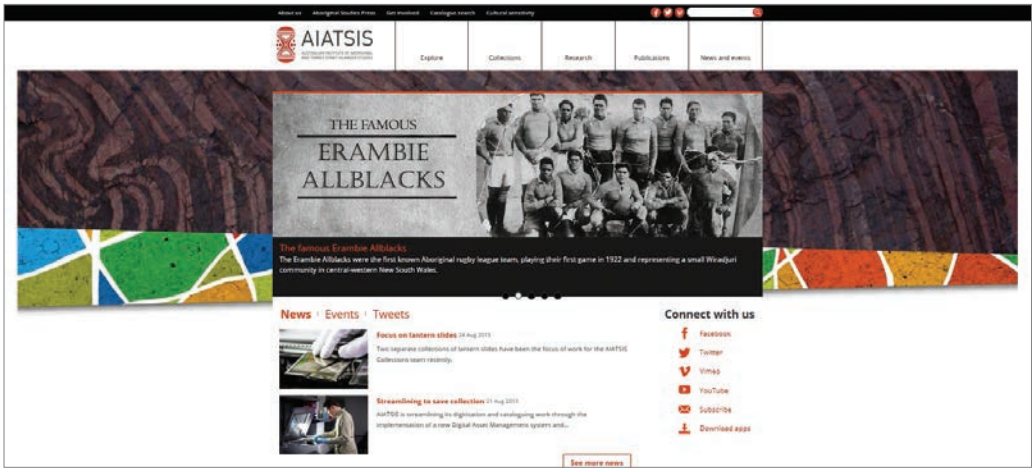
The project was accelerated to bring the new site into operation as quickly as possible. The website was completed in a third of the time that was originally estimated given the scale of the project.

Our social media community

Our new social media strategy has proved very successful. In 2014–15 the size of AIATSIS' social media community across all accounts increased by 125 per cent measured by the number of users who 'liked' us on Facebook or followed us on Twitter. This vastly exceeded our goal of 40 per cent growth for 2014–15.

Social media activity spiked around major events such as:

- the Chairperson's address to the National Press Club on 12 November 2014 (191 Twitter posts by 163 users and an audience reach of 1,165,457)
- the National Native Title Conference 2015, outlined in the feature article on the next page.



The new AIATSIS website, launched in March, positions AIATSIS as an authoritative source of information about Australian Indigenous cultures and AIATSIS' own collections, research findings and resources.

Social media and the National Native Title Conference 2015

The 2015 National Native Title Conference, held in Port Douglas in Queensland, gave us the opportunity to ramp up our social media engagement and take a new approach to encouraging social media use to promote Indigenous issues.

Nearly 700 conference participants, mainly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates, were actively encouraged to get online and share their experiences of the conference as it took place. To engage participants, a social media cheat sheet flyer was distributed and signage highlighting the conference hashtag #NativeTitle15 was prominently displayed. Twitter and Facebook mentions of the hashtag were projected onto 'tweet walls' in the common spaces of the conference venue so that delegates could watch social media activity live.

Conference participants contributed enthusiastically, sharing conference proceedings and expanding the reach of the conference to a global audience. The strategy resulted in 2262 posts using the #NativeTitle15 hashtag and a total audience reach of 4,208,641, including unique reach of 1,196,577 (unique accounts).

The hashtag was used by an impressive array of influencers, including ABC News 24, the Australian Human Rights Commission, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, IndigenousX, renowned Indigenous author Anita Heiss, Reconciliation Australia and Recognise.

Through our social media the discussions of native title issues — the main focus of the conference — reached well beyond the conference.

Image: Conference delegates and staff gather around a tweet wall at the 2015 National Native Title Conference to watch live social media coverage of the event.

Produced by the Communications team, 'The Referendum Australia Had to Have' was a new online exhibition launched in May. The exhibition asks what compelled the nation to make constitutional change in 1967 and features moving imagery and narrative.

In 2014–15 a popular 'social share' functionality was added to our new website, which resulted in a 33 per cent increase in social media traffic. Also, our social media profile was expanded to include official LinkedIn, Google+ and YouTube accounts.

AIATSIS publishes regular eNewsletters that contain article synopses and web links to the full articles, which are on our website. As well as alerting readers to news and events related to AIATSIS, they also share the research projects and findings of our members and other stories on topics such as culture, rights and people's history. Contributions to the eNewsletters are made by AIATSIS members and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and expert subject matter contributors.

Subscriptions to our eNewsletters increased by 200 per cent in 2014–15. The eNewsletters were originally to be issued quarterly, but they have proved so popular that they were released monthly throughout 2014–15.

Online exhibitions

AIATSIS online exhibitions provide curated information on collection items that document important events or cultural experiences for Indigenous Australians.

In 2014–15 we developed a fresh and engaging new format for our online exhibitions. We produced six exhibitions that used the new design:

- one completely new exhibition — 'The Referendum Australia Had to Have'
- three refreshed exhibitions with updated content — 'The 1965 Freedom Rides'; 'A M Fernando Notebooks'; and 'Remembering the Mission Days'
- two exhibitions updated with the new design and layout.

Audience response surpassed expectations — for example, 400 people shared, 'liked' or commented on the promotional Facebook posts for the exhibition 'The Referendum Australia Had to Have'. The exhibition was viewed 700 times in the brief period between its launch on 27 May 2015 and 30 June 2015.

Media engagement

During 2014–15, AIATSIS continued to work collaboratively with media to generate coverage for our activities.

Activities of particular interest to the media were:

- the AIATSIS Chairperson's National Press Club address in November 2014
- the 2015 National Native Title Conference
- stories about the donation of the Stafford papers (see the feature article in Goal 2)
- the work of AIATSIS linguists with the Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group to produce a pilot Ngunawal language program for preschool children (see the feature article on the next page).

AIATSIS engagement with Indigenous media during the year was strong — the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS), the *Koori Mail*, National Indigenous Television (NITV) and CAAMA Radio all presented stories relating to AIATSIS that reached audiences right across the nation.

Tiga Bayles of the National Indigenous Radio Service interviews the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, at the 2015 National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas.

CAAMA Radio, based in Alice Springs, produced two 10-minute interviews on AIATSIS activities. These interviews were broadcast to an audience of 400,000 across the country, including through remote transmitters and satellite services. 4MW Radio in the Torres Strait broadcast regular interviews with AIATSIS staff on activities relevant to the Torres Strait.

See Goal 2 for more information about AIATSIS' partnerships with 666 ABC Canberra and NIRS.

Tiga Bayles of the National Indigenous Radio Service interviews the AIATSIS Principal, Russell Taylor, at the 2015 National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas.

Ngunawal language revitalisation reaches ACT school children

In 2014–15, children at Fraser Primary School in the ACT became the first students to take part in an innovative pilot Ngunawal language program for ACT and New South Wales preschools.

Ngunawal is an Indigenous language of the Australian Capital Territory and south-east New South Wales region.

The pilot program was the outcome of a 2014 meeting of the Ngunawal Language Group — a collective of Ngunawal community members and linguists from AIATSIS working together to revive the Ngunawal language.

The name of the collective, the Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group, incorporates the Ngunawal words for 'father' and 'mother' along with the name of the language.

Mrs Rebecca King, a member of the group, is leading the language classes with the children.

'I am excited to be able to teach our Ngunawal language on country in our schools and make my Elders and community proud,' said Mrs King.

'I hope the children are able to gain a greater understanding of local Aboriginal culture and customs and the importance of learning to speak the local Aboriginal language. It has always been a dream of mine to be able to share and educate children about our language and culture. I believe it is important to teach children of all ages not only the language but also about the people.'

AIATSIS Research Fellow Dr Doug Marmion said, 'It's great to see the work embraced so enthusiastically by the school and more importantly the students.

'Throughout much of the twentieth century the use of Indigenous languages was discouraged, with English imposed to replace them rather than supporting Indigenous people in adding English to their linguistic repertoire.'

Fraser Primary School teacher Caroline Stolfa has enjoyed working closely with AIATSIS and the Ngunawal community group to devise a program that can be implemented in the preschool.

'The whole community have been really excited about the project. We've had lots of parents coming in and asking us how they can help support the children. They've wanted the words put on the blog. There's been so much enthusiasm around the Ngunawal project. The children are keen to participate; they love learning the language. It's just been a very exciting project,' said Ms Stolfa.

Image: (L–R) AIATSIS linguist Doug Marmion, Ngunawal language teacher Rebecca King and Ngunawal activist Tyronne Bell.

Events and visitors

In 2014–15 AIATSIS ran a diverse program of events, including:

- NAIDOC on the Peninsula in Canberra (6 July 2014)
- Warlpiri and Hermannsburg community art market stalls at AIATSIS (6 August and 28 November 2014)
- the National Press Club address by the Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson (12 November 2014)
- the launch of the AIATSIS Foundation by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, at Government House (14 May 2015)
- the 2015 National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas, Queensland (16–18 June 2015).

In 2014–15 AIATSIS hosted visits by:

- international delegations from Germany (led by President of the German Bundestag H E Professor Dr Norbert Lammert), the Pacific Islands (as part of the Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue) and Taiwan (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office)
- a Torres Strait Islander group through the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation
- staff from Commonwealth departments, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Employment and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and the Indigenous staff network from Indigenous Business Australia
- winners of the NAIDOC Week competition run by 666 ABC Canberra
- study groups from the Australian National University and the University of Canberra.

Visitors peruse hundreds of Warlpiri art works at the Warlpiri Market Day held at AIATSIS.

Gabrielle and Max Ciacia study the watercolour techniques of Gloria Pannka during the masterclass held as part of the Hermannsburg School Watercolour Artists market day. For Max the masterclass evoked fond memories of his interaction with Hermannsburg artists in the 1980s: 'We were taken by the artists' interpretation of their land through a western medium such as watercolour… We were taken, quite emotionally and spiritually, by the stories they told of their land such as the West MacDonnell ranges, Mt Sonder and Mt Zeal.'

In October 2014, AIATSIS hosted a delegation from the German Bundestag (Parliament), which included the President of the Bundestag, Professor Dr Norbert Lammert. The delegates were very interested in AIATSIS' work, and remarked on the involvement of German missions in Australian Aboriginal history and the contributions some of these made to records of Australian languages now held in AIATSIS' collections. From left to right are: Mr Ludger Dinkler (AIATSIS), Dr Lisa Strelein (AIATSIS), Dr Frithjof Schmidt (Member of Parliament), Mr Volkmar Klein (Member of Parliament), Professor Dr Norbert Lammert, Ms Jacqui Malins (AIATSIS), Dr Christoph Müller (German Ambassador to Australia), Dr Lorenz Müller (Chief of Cabinet, German Bundestag) and Ms Sybille Koch (Head of Protocol, German Bundestag).

Director of Community and Public Relations, John Paul Janke, showing members of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Graduate Program some highlights from AIATSIS' rare book and manuscript collection.

Access to our Collection

Conference attendees search AIATSIS' pictorial archive through the mobile access booth at the 2015 National Native Title Conference, Port Douglas.

The AIATSIS Collection holds more than 6.5 million feet of film, 660,000 photographs, 130,000 items of print research and rare books, 13,200 manuscripts, 40,000 hours of recorded sound, 4000 video titles and 1000 works of art and material culture.

AIATSIS offers clients access to the Collection and information services through the AIATSIS Canberra offices. Remote clients can access content, including the Mura® catalogue, online exhibitions, fact sheets and bibliographies, through the AIATSIS website. Clients can also use telephone, mail, fax and email to access information about our Collection.

In 2014–15 AIATSIS received 4057 enquiries about print or published materials and 291 requests for audiovisual material. More than 1100 individuals, including reading room and access clients and research groups, visited the Collection.

In 2014–15 downtime for the Mura® catalogue increased due to disruptions in preparation for the launch of a new catalogue interface (see Goal 4). There was a significant reduction in hits on Mura® because of disruptions to access and referral pathways when the new AIATSIS website was launched. The location and visibility of Mura® on the new website is still being optimised.

AIATSIS also offers a specialist research service to help clients with access to the Collection for native title matters. In 2014–15 this service received 134 unique requests, including 2140 transactions — a 27 per cent increase on 2013–14.

(L–R) Jasmine Patrick from the Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) being shown Warlpiri drawings from the AIATSIS collection by Senior Collections Officer Rita Metzenrath. Some of the drawings were by Jasmine's relatives and depict important cultural sites.

Community access visits and the Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities program

Access to the AIATSIS Collection for Indigenous clients is enhanced through the Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC) program. ROMTIC provides for up to 20 items per client per year to be returned free of charge.

During 2014–15, 2163 items, valued at $16,443, were copied and returned to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. This was a reduction of 80 per cent from 2013–14.

AIATSIS usually facilitates the return of materials to Indigenous communities through visits to communities. These visits provide people with an opportunity to become familiar with material held in the AIATSIS Collection and they usually result in many requests for copies of material.

In 2014–15 AIATSIS was unable to undertake community access visits because of financial constraints, but we are exploring options to improve community access in the future.

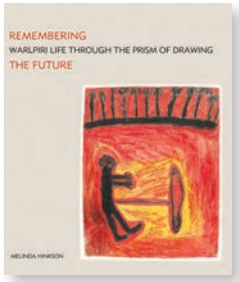
Publications

AIATSIS' Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) publishes and promotes academic and general trade works, monographs and the journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*.

In 2014–15 ASP's focus was on digital marketing. ASP continued to develop its online commercial presence through the AIATSIS online shop, which commenced operation in November 2013. As the shop was not open for a full year, sales figures cannot be directly compared. However, increases in sales ($19,442 in 2013–14 and $52,360 in 2014–15) reflect significant growth. Overall publication sales revenue this year was $363,939 — four per cent higher than expected.

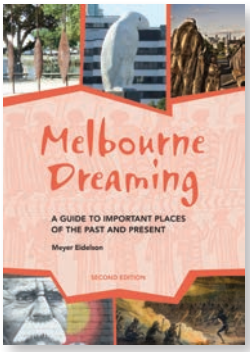
ASP worked with ebook distributors to increase the number and type of special offers to ebook sellers. ASP also commissioned advice on its ebook distribution with a view to streamlining processes and increasing reach. This advice will be considered within a review of ASP's business model in 2015–16.

ASP published five new titles in 2014–15 — one by an Indigenous author and four by non-Indigenous authors. All titles were made available in both electronic and print formats.



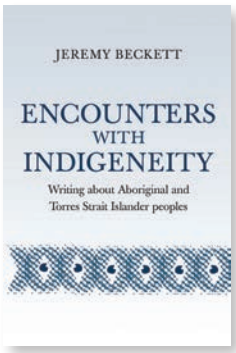
Remembering the future: Warlpiri life through the prism of drawing, by Melinda Hinkson, was published in August 2014. The AIATSIS Collection holds the original crayon drawings that formed the basis of this publication.

The drawings were also featured in an exhibition produced by the National Museum of Australia (NMA). A combined launch of both the book and the exhibition was held at the NMA and was attended by representatives from the Yuendumu community (see Goal 2 for more information about AIATSIS' partnership with the NMA).



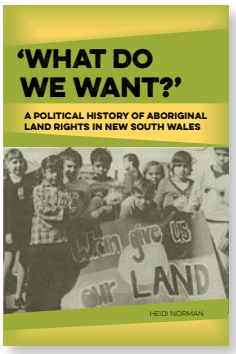
A revised edition of the popular *Melbourne dreaming* book, by Meyer Eidelson, was released in September 2014. The book is an authoritative guide and alternative social history told through precincts of significance to Melbourne's Aboriginal people. The book received strong media interest, with reviews in a range of online and print publications and interviews with the author on local and national radio.

The development of a Melbourne Dreaming mobile app is in its final stages of production. The app will allow users to take self-guided tours of some of the sites featured in the book and includes narration written and spoken by Indigenous staff of AIATSIS.



Encounters with indigeneity, a collection of papers by renowned anthropologist Jeremy Beckett, was published in November 2014. This volume draws together some of Beckett's best writing from the 1970s to the present.

Fighting hard, by Richard Broome, tells the history of the Aborigines Advancement League — the oldest Aboriginal organisation in Australia. The book will be launched at the League in July 2015. To promote the book, the author has presented at a number of events and will be speaking at the History Teachers' Association of Australia National History Conference in September.



Heidi Norman's book *'What do we want?': a political history of Aboriginal land rights in New South Wales* was released in May 2015.

There has been strong media interest in the book, particularly on the part of regional and national radio — for example, Heidi Norman was interviewed on Radio National's popular program *Late Night Live*. She has also participated in a number of events promoting the work, including at Gleebooks bookshop in Sydney, the Sydney Writers' Festival and the History Council of New South Wales.

Australian Aboriginal Studies journal

In 2014–15 two issues of *Australian Aboriginal Studies* were published. The issues featured multidisciplinary articles across a range of subjects.

ASP also commenced a review of the journal to investigate opportunities to improve print and online production processes and to increase its profile and reach. The review will be completed in 2015–16.

AIATSIS Research Publications

AIATSIS publishes books and papers by its own researchers and others working in Indigenous studies through its AIATSIS Research Publications imprint. In 2014–15 the following papers were published in print and online:

Hughston, V & Jowett, T 2014, *In the native title 'hot tub': expert conferences and concurrent expert evidence in native title*, Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title, vol. 6, no. 1.

Ritter, D 2014, *Black and green revisited: understanding the relationship between Indigenous and environmental political formations*, Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title, vol. 6, no. 2.

Buchanan, G 2015, *Gender and generation in native title: director demographics and the future of prescribed bodies corporate*, Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title, vol. 6, no. 3.

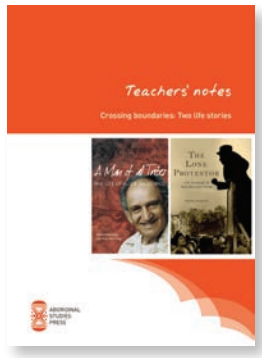
McWilliam, A & Neale, J 2015, *Reflections on a native title anthropology field school*, AIATSIS Research Discussion Papers, no. 36.

Presentations and publications by AIATSIS staff

See Appendix C for the full list of presentations and publications by AIATSIS staff in 2014–15.

Education — school curriculum

ASP again commissioned an educational writer to create themed teachers' notes that are scaffolded to the national curriculum and made available as a free resource from the website.



In 2014–15 one set of themed notes, focusing on two ASP titles — *The lone protestor* and *A man of all tribes* — was developed for Stage 5 English: Crossing Boundaries.

ASP has begun work on mapping ASP titles and AIATSIS resources to the national curriculum and is working with Education Australia to make resources available to teachers through the Scootle online resource portal.

Goal 2

Focus outward and engage collaboratively

Goal 2, 'Focus outward and engage collaboratively', guides the way that AIATSIS works with others to achieve our goals. This goal relates to all of our work, so our reporting against the goal is focused on the structures and methods that AIATSIS has established to support partnership and collaboration and to understand and respond to the needs of our stakeholders.

Goal 2 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: improved confidence in our external engagement	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes
Stakeholder engagement with AIATSIS events and forums	A record number of more than 750 delegates attended the National Native Title Conference 2015 in Port Douglas, Queensland. 4000 people attended the NAIDOC on the Peninsula event in Canberra on 6 July 2014. The Warlpiri and Ngurratjuta art market days and associated activities attracted more than 500 attendees.
Increase in funding base	AIATSIS attracted $6.0 million in addition to its appropriation, through grants, contracts, sales and sponsorship, bringing total funding to $19.3 million (compared with $19.2 million in 2013–14).
Membership	33 new members were appointed to AIATSIS (compared with 49 in 2013–14). Of the new members, 14 (42%) are Indigenous. Total membership stands at 633, of which 186 (29%) are Indigenous (compared with 28% in 2013–14).

National Native Title Conference 2015 — Leadership, Legacy and Opportunity

The National Native Title Conference 2015, held in Port Douglas, Queensland, from 16 to 18 June, was co-convened by AIATSIS and the Cape York Land Council and hosted by the Kuku Yalanji people on their traditional lands.

More than 750 delegates attended over the three days. More than half of these delegates were Indigenous people.

More than 150 speakers presented on a range of issues based on the conference theme 'Leadership, Legacy and Opportunity'. Over 70 presentations to the conference used paper, panel, keynote, workshops and Indigenous talking circle formats.

Six media outlets were present at the conference. The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) broadcast live conference events over three days, interviewing over 30 delegates, and over 120 community radio stations streamed the broadcasts to their communities.

Before the official program began, AIATSIS hosted the National Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Meeting. The meeting attracted 90 delegates, representing 46 PBCs and three traditional owner organisations. It offered PBCs a space to network and discuss concerns in a closed session.

The conference hosted a Youth Forum sponsored by the Indigenous Land Corporation. The forum, held at the Mossman Gorge Voyages Centre, attracted 30 Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates aged between 18 and 30 to engage in discussion with other young people about the native title sector, leadership and how to contribute to the future wellbeing of communities.

The conference attracted sponsorship support of around $210,000. This support enabled AIATSIS to sponsor over 80 Indigenous people to attend as speakers, facilitators and delegates.

Women's Indigenous talking circle.

(L–R) Conference staff Shiane Lovell, Kirsty Broderick, Shilo Villaflor and Jaylee Martin.

(L–R) Gail Mabo and Rachel Perkins at one of the smoking ceremonies that opened each day's proceedings.

Participants in the National Native Title Conference's inaugural Youth Forum gather for a cultural tour at Mossman Gorge.

Noel Pearson delivering his keynote address at the National Native Title Conference 2015.

AIATSIS researcher Rob Williams speaking at the National Native Title Conference Youth Forum held at Mossman Gorge.

Research networks and partnerships

AIATSIS works with universities and other research organisations through research networks and centres and as a partner in collaborative research projects. AIATSIS also provides research consultancy services to respond to the research needs of other organisations where these needs align with AIATSIS' own priorities and expertise. Details of AIATSIS' partnerships for research during 2014–15 follow.

AIATSIS worked with stakeholders in 2014–15 to decide new strategic research priorities. For more detail about this process, see Goal 3.

New partnership — National Centre for Cultural Competence

AIATSIS joined the University of Sydney and Georgetown University (United States) as a partner in the National Centre for Cultural Competence. The centre will allow Australians to better understand, strengthen and share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, contexts and knowledge.

Under a five-year agreement signed on 27 October 2014, the partnership will support activities to increase cultural competence in research, promote the use of appropriate research methodologies when engaging with Indigenous communities and facilitate higher-degree research and the exchange of faculty and research scholars. A joint senior research appointment has been made under this partnership.

(L–R) The AIATSIS Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson, and the University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding for AIATSIS to become a partner with the National Centre for Cultural Competence.

Continuing partnerships in networks and centres

Network	Partners	AIATSIS' role
National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN), Australian Research Council (ARC) Strategic Research Initiative	Queensland University of Technology (lead), with nine universities and four other organisations	Collaborating organisation AIATSIS (Dr Jakelin Troy) led the Yuraki — History, Politics and Culture node during the period Two of AIATSIS' researchers are chief investigators for the initiative
Cooperative Research Network Indigenous Research Capacity	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) (lead), Monash University, Charles Darwin University, Australian National University	Project partner One BIITE PhD student is supervised by an AIATSIS staff member Two AIATSIS staff are on the network's review panel for higher degrees by research
Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation	Ninti One (lead), with 50 organisations including six universities	Participant
Lowitja Institute Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRCATSIH)	National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, Edith Cowan University, Flinders University, James Cook University, Menzies School of Health Research, Queensland Institute of Medical Technology (Berghofer), The University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales	Essential participant The AIATSIS Principal is on the CRCATSIH board One new consultancy contract was executed in 2014–15 to undertake a history project for the CRCATSIH
ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language	Australian National University, The University of Melbourne, The University of Queensland, Western Sydney University, 10 international institutions and two non-university organisations	Two AIATSIS researchers work on the project — one as a chief investigator and the other as an affiliate

New collaborative research projects (commenced in 2014–15)

Project	Partners	AIATSIS' role
ARC Discovery — The NSW Aborigines Welfare Protection Board, 1883–1969: A History	University of Newcastle, The University of Sydney, University of New England	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator and one research assistant
ARC Discovery — Hearing Histories of the Pilbara	The University of Melbourne, Washington State University and one other organisation	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator
NHMRC Early Career Fellowship — The Longitudinal Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Wellbeing (Mayi Kuwayu)	Australian National University	AIATSIS provided one chief investigator. That researcher is now based at and employed by the ANU
Violence against Women — Literature Review	Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator
Mapping Livelihoods of Indigenous Customary Fishing	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Rural Solutions South Australia	AIATSIS provides two chief investigators

Continuing collaborative research projects

Project	Partners	Progress
ARC Linkage — Poverty in the Midst of Plenty (agreements, treaties and negotiated settlements)	The University of Melbourne (lead), Australian National University (ANU), Griffith University	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator In progress
ARC Discovery Indigenous — Justice Reinvestment	ANU (lead)	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator In progress
ARC Linkage — Serving Our Country	ANU (lead), University of Newcastle, Australian Catholic University and four other organisations	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator In progress

Project	Partners	Progress
ARC Linkage — Return, Reconcile, Renew	ANU (lead), The University of Queensland, The University of Melbourne, Flinders University and seven other organisations	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator (visitor) In progress
ARC Linkage — Integrating Measures of Indigenous Land Management Effectiveness	Charles Darwin University, The University of Queensland	AIATSIS provides one chief investigator In progress
ARC Linkage — Deepening Histories of Place	Australian National University, The University of Sydney and four other organisations	AIATSIS provides one research associate

Research consultancies

Project	Clients
Cultural Capability eLearning Programme	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Social Services
Prescribed Body Corporate Governance Toolkit Project	North Queensland Land Council
Aboriginal Smoking and Health Survey Review	Cancer Institute NSW (NSW Government)

Publicly Funded Research Agencies Research Impact Group

AIATSIS continues to participate in the Publicly Funded Research Agencies Impact Group, established in 2012 to develop a common understanding of approaches, terminology and reporting of research impact among publicly funded research agencies.

National cultural institutions supporting family history research

Link-Up organisations provide services to Indigenous people who were the victims of past government child removal policies and practices. One of these services is assistance with tracing family histories.

AIATSIS maintains agreements with cultural institutions to provide Link-Up clients with increased access to those institutions' collections.

Agreements are in place with:

- National Archives of Australia
- Australian National University's Noel Butlin Archives
- National Library of Australia
- Australian War Memorial
- ACT Libraries
- Territory Records
- National Museum of Australia (NMA).

666 ABC Canberra's Louise Maher and the lucky competition winners listen to the AIATSIS Director of Community and Public Relations, John Paul Janke, give the history of an Eddie Mabo self-portrait housed at the Institute.

Partnerships to support promotion of Indigenous culture and knowledge

Media partnerships

In 2014 AIATSIS partnered with 666 ABC Canberra local radio for our 50th anniversary celebrations, culminating in a live broadcast from the NAIDOC on the Peninsula event in Canberra, ACT, on Sunday, 6 July 2014 to open NAIDOC week.

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, AIATSIS and 666 ABC Canberra also ran a competition that gave listeners a chance to win a tour of AIATSIS. That tour led to a remarkable donation to the AIATSIS Collection — the Stafford papers (see the feature article on the next page).

AIATSIS' collaboration with 666 ABC Canberra has continued in 2015. The station frequently covers AIATSIS activity and hosts a regular program on Friday afternoons with the AIATSIS Director of Community and Public Relations.

In 2015 AIATSIS again partnered with NIRS for coverage of the National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas, Queensland. This partnership is invaluable, as it gives a wide variety of stakeholders at the conference — from community members and traditional owners to ministers and politicians — a national platform to express their views on the state of native title in Australia.

AIATSIS staff enjoy the hospitality of ABC Canberra staff, who provided a reciprocal tour of their studios and newsroom as a result of an MOU between the two organisations.

Alf Stafford and Sir Robert 'Ming' Menzies — the untold story

In 2014 a competition promoting NAIDOC Week led to a significant donation to the AIATSIS Collection — the papers of Alfred 'Alf' George Stafford, a Gamilaroi and Darug man from New South Wales.

The AIATSIS and ABC Radio 666 competition gave listeners a chance to win a tour of AIATSIS. Michelle Flynn, Alf's granddaughter, won the competition. After her tour, Michelle was inspired to donate some of Alf's personal items to the AIATSIS Collection. And what an extraordinary story his papers told.

For four decades from 1937, Alf was the personal driver to 11 Australian prime ministers, including Sir Robert 'Ming' Menzies, to whom Alf was a close friend and confidant.

Alf's papers include personally signed letters and photographs from former prime ministers of Australia and political figures; material relating to Alf's MBE; and information about his military service and sporting achievements. The collection also includes genealogical and family history research painstakingly collected by Michelle.

'I was fascinated by the family tree and it started from there. Grandpa always told me we had Aboriginal background, but I never really believed him. We've got Gamilaroi on one side and Darug on the other. I've had a lot of fun with the journey,' Michelle said.

'I'm very proud of my grandfather and happy that his story will be preserved and honoured here. I always thought it was a great story, now it can be shared with the rest of Australia' Michelle said.

Alfred 'Alf' George Stafford MBE(c).

Image: Michelle Flynn, former prime minister John Howard, Diana Griffiths, daughter of former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, Heather Henderson and David Stafford discuss the Stafford papers during the filming of an upcoming ABC documentary about Sir Robert Menzies.

Publishing partnerships

In 2014–15 Aboriginal Studies Press began partnerships to promote their publications through the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, IndigenousX social media channels and the Australian Library and Information Association.

National Museum of Australia

AIATSIS maintains a high-level memorandum of understanding with the NMA. One outcome of this partnership was the 'Warlpiri Drawings' exhibition, which opened 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. AIATSIS loaned more than 100 works to the NMA for the exhibition. In addition, 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, which were displayed in the AIATSIS foyer.

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

Melinda Hinkson launches her book Remembering the future *at a combined AIATSIS / National Museum of Australia event to mark the opening of the 'Warlpiri Drawings' exhibition.*

Australian Parliament House

Building on a partnership established in 2013–14, AIATSIS collaborated with the Department of Parliamentary Services again in 2015 to prepare the exhibition 'We All Stand on Sacred Ground'. The exhibition of photographs from the AIATSIS Collection and artworks from Parliament House, curated to celebrate NAIDOC Week, opens in July 2015. The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) has sponsored the exhibition to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Indigenous Land Corporation

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, the ILC sponsored:

- the National Native Title Conference Youth Forum at the Mossman Gorge Voyages Centre. The forum was the first in a series to be sponsored by the ILC. It attracted 30 Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates aged between 18 and 30 to discuss issues about the native title sector, leadership and how to contribute towards the future wellbeing of communities
- repatriation of images to the Anangu community to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the handback of Uluru to the traditional owners.

Working with our members and volunteers

AIATSIS' volunteer program, which was to be implemented in 2014–15, has been deferred. However, it will be reinvigorated in 2015–16 with additional funding.

AIATSIS has more than 600 members, who have a demonstrated interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. Engagement with our members has ramped up through the creation of a members' eNewsletter. This newsletter is more specialised than the general subscriber eNewsletter and includes information about members' research, publications and projects as well as AIATSIS' programs and activities. The eNewsletter is attracting many submissions from members.

International engagement

Partnerships

During 2014–15 AIATSIS initiated discussions with the Harvard University Native American Program in the United States, the National Museum of the American Indian in the United States and Te Papa in New Zealand on establishing working partnerships to further knowledge sharing and enhance comparative international research.

Visiting scholar

In February 2015 AIATSIS hosted an International Visiting Scholar, Professor Taiaiake Alfred. Professor Alfred is from Kahnawá:ke in the Mohawk Nation and is a Professor of Indigenous Governance and Political Science at the University of Victoria.

Professor Taiaiake Alfred, a Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) scholar, speaking on Indigenous cultural resurgence at AIATSIS, February 2015.

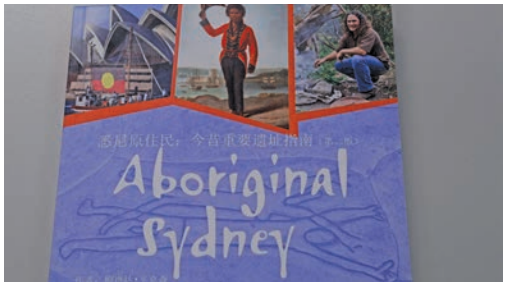
At an AIATSIS symposium on 11 February 2015, Professor Alfred gave a presentation entitled 'Cultural strength: restoring the place of Indigenous knowledge in practice and policy', which dealt with pathways to preserve, renew and restore Indigenous knowledge systems. The presentation included an associated panel discussion. AIATSIS also facilitated other speaking and teaching engagements for Professor Alfred in Australia.

Discussions with Professor Alfred have led to a research partnership with the University of Victoria, Canada; the University of Auckland and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi in New Zealand; and The University of Melbourne. The research partnership aims to connect issues of land justice and access to cultural practice with individual and community wellbeing.

AIATSIS participation in international fora

Dr Lisa Strelein, AIATSIS Executive Director of Research, was invited and sponsored by the Council of Indigenous Peoples and National Taipei University of Education to give a keynote address at the 2014 International Austronesian Conference, 'Good governance and Indigenous development: its applications and prospects in Taipei, Taiwan'. The conference was attended by ministers, diplomats and other delegates from across the Pacific, South-East Asia, Australia and North America.

Dr Strelein delivered a keynote address to the 2014 International Austronesian Conference, which focused on good governance and Indigenous development, sponsored by the Council of Indigenous Peoples, Republic of China (Taiwan), December 2014. Seen here with dancers dressed in traditional Seediq attire, Dr Strelein attended cultural events and a cultural tour of the indigenous provinces in association with the conference.



The Chinese version of Aboriginal Sydney produced by Aboriginal Studies Press.

Dr Rod Kennett, Research Director of AIATSIS' Native Title Research Unit and Centre for Land and Water Research, delivered a keynote address at the International Seminar on Participatory Monitoring for the Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources, which took place in Manaus, Brazil. Dr Kennett attended as a guest of the Federal Government of Brazil. He spoke about the work of Australian Indigenous rangers — a well-known example of participatory monitoring and management where local communities take the lead in monitoring and managing natural resources on their own lands. Local communities usually achieve this by combining local or traditional knowledge with contemporary tools, often in partnership with external agencies.

Ms Rhonda Black, Director of Aboriginal Studies Press, attended the China–Australia Publishing Forum and participated in roundtable discussions with representatives from the Australian Studies Centres in China. Participants were keen to see more scholarly teaching materials made available to Chinese educators and the translation of Aboriginal literature into Mandarin. During the visit, Aboriginal Studies Press secured translation rights for five titles, which will be published and promoted into the studies centres. Negotiations for a Chinese edition of the highly successful *Little red yellow black book* are continuing.

Goal 3

Provide the foundation for research excellence in Australian Indigenous studies

In 2014–15 AIATSIS made the decision to secure funding for our research activity primarily through external funding sources, including grants, contracts and consultancy, in order to release resources to preserve the AIATSIS Collection.

To focus its research investment and effort on the issues of greatest priority to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to best use our unique strengths, AIATSIS conducted a major review of its strategic research priorities, in collaboration with stakeholders.

By the end of 2014–15, AIATSIS had secured over $3 million in research funding to enable it to pursue these priorities in 2015–16.

Participants in the Indigenous governance development forum held at AIATSIS on 29–30 July 2014.

Goal 3 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: significant positive contribution to Indigenous research, policy and practice	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes
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 eight ethics clearance applications — five internal to AIATSIS and three for external clients. AIATSIS ran one ethical practice workshop. There were 229 downloads of the GERAIS guidelines in 2014–15 compared with 54 in 2013–14 — an increase of 400%. Aboriginal Studies Press published new guidelines for the publishing of work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and presented them to industry professionals at a conference in Canberra in May 2015.
Performance against measures of research quality and impact	AIATSIS continues to collaborate on a project with other research agencies to develop a framework for measuring research quality and impact.
Peer-reviewed publications	AIATSIS staff produced 13 peer-reviewed publications in 2014–15 compared with 29 in 2013–14 — a decrease of almost 50%.
Submissions on law and policy	AIATSIS made two submissions in 2014–15 compared with seven in 2013–14.
Family history service outputs	There were 42 complex requests for assistance in 2014–15 compared with 83 in 2013–14 — a decrease of 50%.

Review of AIATSIS' strategic research priorities

In 2014–15 AIATSIS conducted a major review of its strategic research priorities. Consultation with stakeholders and expert advice that informed the review included:

- an EY consultancy to analyse the state of Australia's infrastructure to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages
- a report by Professor Larissa Behrendt that scoped AIATSIS' role in the higher education, training and research sector
- negotiation of a new 2015–18 funding agreement and strategic plan for native title research
- participation in the advisory committee for the Australian Law Reform Commission review of the *Native Title Act 1993*
- a workshop on knowledge gaps and research needs in Indigenous land and sea/water management. More than 60 participants attended the workshop, including Indigenous land managers; native title bodies corporate, representative bodies and service providers; state and federal governments; and researchers
- a national forum, 'Indigenous governance development: a forum to map current and future research and resource needs', jointly hosted by AIATSIS and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute
- community engagement and feedback across the range of current and recent AIATSIS research projects.

As a result of the review, AIATSIS has settled on seven new strategic research priorities:

- Securing Indigenous cultural heritage
- Cultural competence (including leadership on ethics and practice)
- Social and cultural determinants of Indigenous health
- Native title and traditional ownership
- Land and water
- Indigenous governance
- Family history.

Securing Indigenous cultural heritage

On 12 November 2014 the AIATSIS Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson, announced that AIATSIS will work with other leaders to develop a plan to identify the extent of the cultural material of unknown scale and significance, documented and undocumented, held by individuals and organisations across Australia (see Goal 5).

To meet the contemporary challenges of securing Indigenous cultural heritage, AIATSIS established a multidisciplinary research team experienced in community engagement and the best research models. Research projects that were underway in 2014–15 and that contributed to the identification of this strategic priority included:

- the Ngunawal language revitalisation project
- the 'Singing the Train' exhibition
- the Serving our Country project.

These projects are discussed in detail below. The team will continue to act as pilots for future work on this priority.

Ngunawal language revitalisation project

In 2014 a collective of Canberra Ngunawal community members, known as the Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group, and AIATSIS began a collaboration to revitalise the Ngunawal language of the ACT and south-east New South Wales.

Throughout 2014–15 Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group members worked closely with AIATSIS linguists to develop language teaching resources using Ngunawal language materials held in the AIATSIS Collection. They began by analysing the materials to determine the sound system of the language and then developed an orthography (a standardised writing system).

In May 2015 the first Ngunawal language class was held at Fraser Primary School in the ACT. Members of the Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group, including Elder Ruth Bell, attended the class. Three classes were taught each week during the second school term of 2015, with an overwhelmingly positive response from the school community (see the feature article in Goal 1).

The project team is now enhancing the teaching resources so that the program can be embedded as a regular subject in primary schools across the region.

Singing the Train

In 2014 a collaborative research, recording and exhibition production project culminated in the 'Singing the Train' exhibition, which showcases a Nyamal song about the Port Hedland to Marble Bar railway in Western Australia. The song was originally recorded by Carl-Georg von Brandenstein in 1967 using funding from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (as AIATSIS was then known).

The exhibition presents the Nyamal song in film, with a transcription of the Nyamal and a translation into English. Two other associated films tell the story of the railway and the people that built and travelled on it from the point of view of Indigenous people.

'Singing the Train' was developed collaboratively by the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, the Revolutions Transport Museum in Perth and AIATSIS.

'Singing the Train' was officially launched in November 2014 by the Western Australian Minister for Planning, Culture and the Arts, the Honourable John Day, at the Revolutions Transport Museum in Perth.

(L–R) Song custodian Basil Snook, language adviser Nora Cooke , AIATSIS Research Fellow Dr Mary Anne Jebb and the Director of Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, Julie Walker, at the opening of the 'Singing the Train' exhibition in November 2014 at the Revolutions Transport Museum in Perth.

Scholars, research support staff and Indigenous servicemen and women and their families at the 'Defending Country: Sharing Stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service' conference held in December 2014 at the ANU. Participants exchanged stories of service and developed research themes.

Serving Our Country: a History of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Defence of Australia

The Serving Our Country project aims to produce a history of the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Defence Forces. The project commenced in 2014 and will conclude in 2016.

The project is funded by the Australian Research Council Linkage program and led by the Australian National University.

AIATSIS continues to collaborate on the project by conducting interviews with Indigenous service personnel. In December 2014, AIATSIS co-convened a reunion and research event for Aboriginal women service and ex-service personnel.

Cultural competence

'Cultural competence' refers to the ability to participate ethically and effectively in personal and professional intercultural settings. It requires awareness of one's own cultural values and worldview and their implications for making respectful, reflective and reasoned choices, including the capacity to imagine and collaborate across cultural boundaries.

Cultural competence is ultimately about valuing diversity for the richness and creativity it brings to society. It is a priority that builds on AIATSIS' established leadership in research ethics and practice; and it responds to strong demand from diverse stakeholders for more guidance and advice on how to engage ethically with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

National Centre for Cultural Competence

In 2014–15 AIATSIS partnered with the National Centre for Cultural Competence at The University of Sydney to advance academic and scholarly leadership and excellence in learning, teaching and research on cultural competence (see Goal 2).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability E-Learning program for the Australian Public Service

In June 2015 AIATSIS partnered with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Social Services to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability E-Learning program for use across the Australian Public Service (APS). The program was developed so as to be consistent with and embedded in an AIATSIS cultural proficiency framework.

The Chair of AIATSIS' Research Ethics Committee, Christine Grant, at a workshop on the Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies (GERAIS).

The project aims to provide a coordinated, authoritative and consistent approach to cultural awareness learning programs across the APS. It will contribute to the APS's capacity to deliver Indigenous employment outcomes and culturally competent services.

The project will be completed in early 2016.

Promoting and supporting the *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies*

The *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies (GERAIS)* were developed to ensure that research with and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples follows a process of meaningful engagement and reciprocity between the researcher and the individuals and/or communities involved in the research.

In 2014–15 AIATSIS and its Research Ethics Committee continued to promote the use of GERAIS. There was strong growth in awareness and use of the guidelines in 2014–15. The number of downloads of the guidelines, available free of charge from the AIATSIS website, increased from 17 in 2012–13 and 54 in 2013–14 to at least 229 in 2014–15 (statistics to March 2015).

The Research Ethics Committee held one ethics workshop in 2014–15 for staff from the federal Government and the university sector. The workshop gave participants an overview of GERAIS and a series of case studies to highlight some of the common ethical problems in health, law and humanities research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture and communities.

The Research Ethics Committee continued to review AIATSIS-led research and offer ethics review to external organisations on a fee-for-service basis. In 2014–15, the committee approved five internal and three external ethics applications.

The committee's expertise has increasingly been recognised in national and international spheres. The Research Ethics Committee Chair, Ms Christine Grant, was invited to attend the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage in Valencia, Spain, to provide input to its Model Code of Ethics for Intangible Cultural Heritage. Ms Grant was also asked to join the National Health and Medical Research Council Indigenous Working Group to review its *Values and ethics* and *Keeping research on track* guidelines.

In 2014–15 the ethics page of the AIATSIS website was updated and refreshed with improved guidance and information resources.

Guidelines for the ethical publishing of work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors

In June 2015, Aboriginal Studies Press published the *Guidelines for the ethical publishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait authors and research from those communities.*

To date, there have been few rules of engagement for publishing Australia's Indigenous writers and much criticism of past practices. These guidelines include practical tips and a range of case studies to help industry professionals when they are publishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander works.

The guidelines reflect Aboriginal Studies Press's experience as an award-winning and best-practice, rather than prescriptive, publisher. They share a philosophical base with the AIATSIS *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies.*

Positive feedback from a range of industry professionals, authors, researchers and other cultural organisations confirms their value and usefulness. The guidelines have been promoted through the Australian Publishing Association, and work continues on promoting them to other industry sectors, including universities and writers' centres.

Image: AIATSIS' Aboriginal Studies Press Guidelines for the ethical publishing of work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and research from those communities.

Social and cultural determinants of Indigenous health

AIATSIS has undertaken a variety of projects related to Indigenous health in past years. However, in 2014–15, priority setting has led to a focus on the social and cultural determinants of health — in particular, addressing the gap in robust longitudinal data to support our understanding of these determinants.

'Mayi Kuwayu'

Early discussions in 2013–14 evolved into the development of a detailed proposal for a national longitudinal research study of the cultural determinants of health and wellbeing, entitled 'Mayi Kuwayu'. A pilot phase commenced in 2014–15.

Mayi Kuwayu — the name comes from the Ngiyampaa words for 'Aboriginal people' (mayi) and 'to follow' (kuwayu) — 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 in health policy and practice sectors.

The study involves a collaboration between AIATSIS, the Lowitja Institute Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

AIATSIS Research Fellow Dr Raymond Lovett commenced work on the study at AIATSIS and has now transferred to the Australian National University. He was awarded an Early Career Fellowship grant by the National Health and Medical Research Council to support his work on the project.

AIATSIS' expertise and position of trust and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities make it a key enabler of the study. The project will be AIATSIS' sole activity in Indigenous health and wellbeing in 2015–16 (apart from any fully funded consultancy projects), as it was identified as our most powerful potential contribution to this field.

There is significant international interest in the project. In December 2014 Dr Lovett was awarded a prestigious Endeavour Fellowship (a merit-based scholarship to undertake study, research and professional development), which he used at the beginning of 2015 to travel to the University of Oxford in England to work with one of the world's leading experts in the field of longitudinal health studies, Professor Dame Valerie Beral.

'Men's business': Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's sexual and reproductive health

In November 2014 AIATSIS Indigenous Research Fellow Dr Michael Adams published the findings of a groundbreaking study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's sexual and reproductive health.

His book, *Men's business: a study into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's sexual and reproductive health*, was the outcome of a research project sponsored by Andrology Australia. It revealed a silence around the sexual and reproductive health of Indigenous men.

'This research is the first of its kind, and offers an important insight into a very culturally sensitive aspect of men's business,' said Associate Professor Mark Wenitong of James Cook University and Apunipima Health Service. 'These insights will certainly help the medical sector when it comes to providing a culturally appropriate service.'

Image: AIATSIS member and senior research fellow Dr Mick Adams launching his book Men's business.

Native title and traditional ownership

For 20 years the Native Title Research Unit 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, native title service providers 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.

Under a new three-year funding agreement negotiated with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2014–15, AIATSIS will receive $1.2 million per annum for a program of work focused on:

- strengthening the sector to deal with current and future circumstances
- extending our understanding of native title law and its relationship with other legal regimes.

In addition, AIATSIS will continue to support the transition of individual native title organisations and the sector in the postdetermination environment.

'How are we dealing with difference and conflict' session delegates, National Native Title Conference 2015.

Building supportive relationships in the Torres Strait

AIATSIS' support for the native title sector is built on a foundation of long-term and respectful relationships. In 2015 Torres Strait PBC Chairs Maluwap Nona, Doug Passi and Ned David visited AIATSIS, and Maluwap Nona had this to say about their work with AIATSIS, which started with a series of regional meetings facilitated by Research Director Dr Lisa Strelein between 2007 and 2009:

'I think from the very first regional workshop we realised that there was so much benefit to work in partnership with AIATSIS, because for one AIATSIS had the, I guess the technical skills and expertise in different areas, and with us the representation, there was a trust embedded by the traditional owners on us to be responsible and to pursue their dreams and aspiration of what native title will look like in the future.

'Financially we might not have the resources, but we have continuity that other Indigenous brothers throughout the country are striving for; they're craving for that. And we now are realising that what we have in growing it, the fruits of our labour will be the beneficiaries, is our children. So let me say this. The nucleus of it was based on unity. And from a unified approach, we developed a trust between academics, which is AIATSIS, representation, and our people. Torres Strait is now an environment of user friendly. You can come up there and fish with us, you can go to our leader of the Meriam nation, and know that *gud passin* is shared with you, because it's the invisible bridge that was developed, and that is something that humanity I guess, once you develop that, the next process is to maintain it, evaluate it, and monitor it.'

Image: (L–R) Torres Strait PBC chairs Maluwap Nona and Doug Passi.

Australian Law Reform Commission review of the Native Title Act

AIATSIS is recognised as the leading proponent of legal and policy research in the native title sector.

In 2014–15 the AIATSIS Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson, and the AIATSIS Executive Director of Research, Dr Lisa Strelein, were members of the Australian Law Reform Commission Advisory Committee inquiry into the *Native Title Act 1993*. AIATSIS provided a submission to the inquiry in February 2015.

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.

The focus of the project in 2014–15 was a case study review of 15 years worth of relevant files and documents held by the Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation. The project uncovered useful insights into the corporate relationships and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the life cycle of their native title claims, from point of claim to determination through to the establishment and running of their Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate.

An important part of AIATSIS ethical research practice is the return of results from our research collaborations to the communities we work with. AIATSIS staff will return to Eighty Mile Beach in the Pilbara in July 2015 to present the final project report to members of the Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation.

PBC representatives embraced all forms of technology to record their participation in and outcomes from the National PBC meeting, Port Douglas, 2015.

Attendees at a Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation (NWAC) meeting, Bidyadanga.

Toolkit/handbook for prescribed bodies corporate

In 2014–15 AIATSIS and the North Queensland Land Council continued to work together to develop a comprehensive toolkit for the directors, staff and management of the 21 prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs) in the north Queensland region. The toolkit is designed to provide tools to support all areas of PBC operation and help PBCs achieve their aspiration to become independent, autonomous and successful.

AIATSIS staff attended a PBC workshop in Cairns in December 2014 to present the first six chapters of the handbook. In total, 18 chapters will be produced by the end of August 2015.

This project complements other support that AIATSIS provides to PBCs, including information, resources and training. AIATSIS aims to adapt the toolkit for other audiences, with the potential for a national toolkit in future years.

Native title and land and water management

Since 2012, AIATSIS has been working with the Wiluna community and Martu native title holders to document their aspirations for managing country. The project aims to develop and document practical approaches, incorporating holistic community aspirations, to negotiating land management so as to look after country and contribute to wellbeing.

The project is part of a research partnership with Central Desert Native Title Services.

In 2014–15 the project achieved many positive outcomes for the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate, the original Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara Working Group, Central Desert Native Title Services and AIATSIS.

Innovative land use planning products were developed, including an Indigenous Protected Areas plan based on country types rather than pre-existing tenures and management arrangements. This enabled ground-up planning and adaptation to ecological and cultural areas of significance, with a longer-term view of restoring the health of country.

Innovative decision-making tools were also developed and are in use by the Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara Management Team.

The traditional owners told their story of this project at the 2014 National Native Title Conference and the 2014 International Union for Conservation of Nature World Parks Congress. The effective partnership between AIATSIS, Central Desert Native Title Services and Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation has been key to the success of the project.

In July 2015 AIATSIS staff will visit Wiluna to return the results of the work.

Managing information in native title

Since the first native title claim over 20 years ago, a vast amount of information has been created and collated. The culturally and legally appropriate management, storage and use of this information is an important issue for many native title organisations and also Government organisations like the National Native Title Tribunal and the Federal Court of Australia.

To develop shared solutions for looking after this information and ensuring its accessibility for future generations, AIATSIS hosted and facilitated a workshop on 16 and 17 March 2015.

Delgates from the Managing Information in Native Title (MINT) workshop.

The workshop brought together native title organisations to find out what they want to do with their native title information, exchange success stories, identify the challenges to achieving their information management goals and look at ways organisations can work together to overcome some of those hurdles. Forty-two delegates attended the workshop, including representatives from 13 native title representative bodies / service providers, 12 PBCs / native title groups, a barrister, the Federal Court of Australia and the National Native Title Tribunal.

Feedback on the usefulness of the workshop was 100 per cent positive. Many attendees chose to stay on to access material in the AIATSIS Collection and meet with AIATSIS staff or Government representatives.

Some outcomes from the workshop were implemented immediately — these include pooling resources to ask for legal advice on shared matters and planning a session on cultural databases for the National Native Title Conference. AIATSIS will also establish and host an information management network.

A full project report will be distributed to stakeholders in 2015–16 to raise awareness of information management issues and needs.

Land and water

Mapping livelihood values of Indigenous customary fishing

Indigenous Australians continue to seek greater engagement and opportunity in fisheries and fisheries management in order to meet their cultural and socioeconomic needs. These needs include greater access to commercial fisheries as well as legislation and policy that recognises and supports the diversity of cultural values that Indigenous people hold in fish and fishing activities.

At the 2014 National Native Title Conference, a stakeholder workshop was held on priorities for land and sea management. That workshop led to the development of a proposal with community partners to research cultural, social and economic values and aspirations of Indigenous fisheries.

In June 2015 funding was secured through a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation competitive research grant. The project will commence in July 2015 and conclude in August 2017. It will support the recognition of Indigenous values in fisheries management and build capacity for collaborative fisheries research and management.

Participants from the NSW Aboriginal Fishing Rights Gathering, Bingie point, near Moruya, NSW. AIATSIS researchers are working with the community to articulate the social, cultural and economic values of Indigenous customary fishing under a project funded by the Indigenous Reference Group of the Fisheries Research Development Corporation.

Conservation management: citizen science is not enough on its own

In May 2015, AIATSIS researcher Dr Rod Kennett published an article in *Nature* — the world's most cited scientific journal and a benchmark for success in research.

The article brings attention to the fact that community-based or participatory systems of Indigenous land management existed long before 'citizen science' (that is, scientific research or monitoring by undertaken by citizens or volunteers, sometimes in partnership with professional scientists) and are essential to protecting the world's biodiversity.

The article was featured in a *Nature* editorial and its Altmetric score (online attention) is currently ranked in the top 10 per cent.

Image: Globally, the work of Indigenous land and sea managers such as the Yirralka rangers is essential to the conservation of biodiversity. Rangers often employ digital technology in the same way as citizen scientists, but unlike the volunteers engaged in citizen science, rangers use the data they collect to inform community decision making about sustainable resource use and livelihoods, and conservation management such as in Australia's Indigenous Protected Area estate.

Indigenous governance

Mapping Indigenous governance research and resources

Governance, including the structures and decision-making processes of Indigenous organisations and Government, is a key to achieving Indigenous outcomes in education, health and social and emotional wellbeing and employment.

On 29–30 July 2014, AIATSIS, in collaboration with the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI), held a national forum, 'Indigenous governance development: a forum to map current and future research and resource needs'.

The event was attended by 40 participants from across Australia who work in governance at local, regional and national levels. Participants at the forum included Indigenous governance builders, university-based researchers, trainers, consultants and representatives from:

- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre
- the Productivity Commission
- the Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- the National Native Title Council
- the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations.

Information collated from a pre-workshop survey was provided to complement a range of presentations.

The forum report will set the agenda for AIATSIS' future work on this strategic priority. It is available at aiatsis.gov.au/publications/products/building-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-governance/.

Supporting family history research

Link-Up organisations provide family history and family reunion services to members of the Stolen Generations.

In 2014–15 AIATSIS continued to provide family history research support and capacity-building services to Link-Up organisations, as contracted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. During the year, AIATSIS finalised the national partnership agreement and entered into individual partnership agreements with all of the eight Link-Up services.

Our biggest achievement over this period was the accreditation of the 10506NAT — Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research and Case Management. Course materials have been developed and two Indigenous registered training organisations have been selected to deliver the pilot of the course. This course will provide much-needed training for Link-Up caseworkers and other people working in the social and emotional wellbeing sector who provide family tracing support for members of the Stolen Generations.

In 2014–15 Link-Up services made 43 requests to AIATSIS for complex family history research assistance. AIATSIS completed 42 of these requests. There was a 50 per cent decrease in requests compared with 2013–14, but it indicates that Link-Up services are developing the capability and confidence to deal with complex cases themselves.

AIATSIS received 299 requests for assistance from individuals over the same period. We are working to secure funding so that the Family History Unit can offer research support to individuals seeking Indigenous family history while still prioritising services for Link-Up organisations.

AIATSIS' Family History Kit provides information and guidance for people wanting to trace their Indigenous family history. In 2014–15 AIATSIS updated the fact sheets in the kit.

In 2013–14 AIATSIS signed partnership agreements with Canberra-based cultural institutions that hold information of relevance to members of the Stolen Generations. These partnership agreements became fully operational during 2014–15. This year a further agreement was negotiated, bringing the total number of agreements to seven (see Goal 2).

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. The award is designed to encourage and reward excellent scholarship by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and academics. It is the only such award in the country.

While there was no award in 2014–15, Aboriginal Studies Press provided editorial support to the 2013 Stanner Award winner, Bronwyn Carlson, in preparation for publication of her manuscript in early 2016.

Submissions for the 2015 Stanner Award were received and assessed and the judges met in June 2015 to select a winner. The winner of the award will be announced in August 2015.

NIRAKN symposium on collections and historical research

The National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) is a network committed to establishing and facilitating Indigenous led research. AIATSIS is a collaborating organisation in NIRAKN and is funded by NIRAKN for work to build capacity among Indigenous academics in their discipline areas.

In November 2014, AIATSIS hosted a three-day symposium on collections and historical research for members and affiliates of the NIRAKN Yuraki — History, Politics and Culture node. Delegates included senior Indigenous academics as well as doctoral students. The program included tours of nationally significant collections (including the AIATSIS Collection) that are of interest to historians; and opportunities to showcase current work, hear from senior researchers and discuss potential collaborations.

AIATSIS research capability

Appendix D lists AIATSIS researchers' memberships and other offices.

Odette Best speaking at the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) Yuraki — History, Politics and Culture node symposium at AIATSIS in November 2014.

Goal 4

Ensure our collections are safe, accessible, valued and growing

In 2014–15 AIATSIS commissioned important reviews of its Collection. Independent experts undertook assessments of the significance of the AIATSIS collections and our collection management processes, expertise and resources. The assessments were completed in October 2014.

The significance assessment confirmed the Collection's unique value:

As an intergenerational keeping place of Indigenous Australians the AIATSIS collection is significant across all four categories — historic, artistic/aesthetic, research/scientific, and social/spiritual — and remains the most extensive and best contextualised collection of Indigenous Australia in the world. It is a site of pilgrimage.

However, the collection management assessment identified serious risks to some elements of the collection. To address these risks, AIATSIS needs to accelerate digital and physical preservation of vulnerable materials and upgrade infrastructure such as climate-controlled storage vaults.

In the 2015–16 federal budget, AIATSIS received $5.0 million for one year to strengthen our capacity to preserve, manage and share the collection.

Janganpa Jukurrpa *(Brush-tailed Possum Dreaming) by artist Janelle Napurrurla Wilson. Purchased from Warlukurlangu — Artists of Yuendumu at the Warlpiri Art Market Day held at AIATSIS 14–15 August 2014.*

Goal 4 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: AIATSIS is the repository of choice for Indigenous materials	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes (% change from 2013–14)
Unpublished material offered to the collection in 2014–15 (items registered)	Print: 91 items (–15%) Audio: 3145 items (+231%) Pictorial: 5971 items (–55%) Moving image: 2218 items (–45%) Art and artefacts: 77 items (–65%)
Material incorporated into the collection in 2014–15 (items accessioned; includes material registered in previous years)	Print: 1801 items (+26%) Audio: 538 items (+64%) Pictorial: 6679 items (–29%) Moving image: 631 items (+8914%) Art and artefacts: 12 items (–95%)
Digital preservation (items digitised)	Print scanning: 157,963 items (+115%) Image preservation masters created: 37,828 (+5%) Audio preservation masters created: 6187 (+13%) Video preservation masters created: 511 (+360%) Motion picture preservation masters created: 148 (+62%)
Discoverability — audition sheets, finding aids and catalogue entries (items created)	Document finding aids: 2 (no change) Pictorial caption lists: 128 (–41%) Audio audition sheets: 324 (+123%) Audio finding aids: 32 (+14%) Moving image finding aids: 15 (0 in previous year) Original print catalogue records: 2058 (+106%) Annotations added to catalogue: 690 (–12%)

In 2014–15 there were significant increases in the number of moving image items accessioned and digitised. The moving image collection did not accept new material in 2012–13 and operated at a low capacity while resources were allocated to other priorities. It reopened to receive items in 2013–14. While the number of moving image items offered to the collection declined relative to 2013–14, there was an increase when the collection reopened and tremendous progress has been made in 2014–15 in processing and preserving the backlog.

Digitisation has been prioritised across all media, with visible increases in throughput.

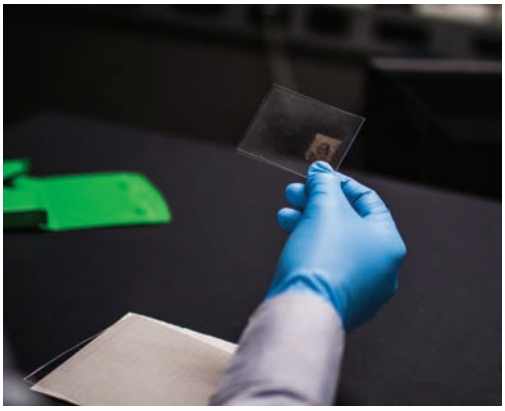
Blake Djammarr Djordila, Maningrida, NT, 2008 *by Belinda Mason. The 'Black on White' project began in 2008 when Djammarr Djordila and Belinda Mason travelled to remote communities in Arnhem Land at the first anniversary of the federal government's intervention policy to hear community reactions and ask them to participate in a visual record of their opinion. The image of Djammarr won the Australian Human Rights Photographic Award in 2008.*

Building the collection

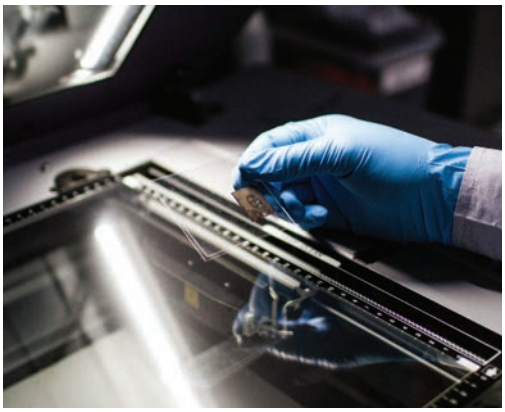
Material offered to AIATSIS in 2014–15 — highlights

The 2014–15 year saw a range of rich and fascinating material offered to the collection by generous donors:

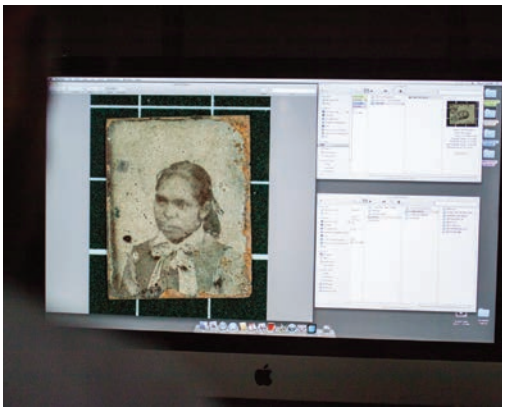
- In the 1930s, Henry Rainy Balfour, a collector and amateur anthropologist who travelled to Central Australia, Ernabella and the Kimberley, took more than 500 still images, a 16-millimetre motion picture reel and 27 lantern slides featuring hunting and gathering, rock art, landscapes, motor vehicles, camels and other flora and fauna. The motion picture reel, shot at Kunmunya in 1936, is now the oldest original moving image film held by AIATSIS. The images were donated by Caroline Hamilton.
- Photographer Belinda Mason donated a series of photographs from her project 'Black on White'. Belinda started the project in 2008 on the first anniversary of the federal Government's intervention. The project was intended to capture the viewpoints of the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land about non-Aboriginal *(balanda)* culture but was expanded across the country. The work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and includes images of Mick Gooda, Tania Major, Michael Anderson, Lorna Munro, Lyall Munro Snr, Yami Lester, Warren Mundine and Jandamarra O'Shane.
- More than 500 files of audio recordings of language and oral history from Guugu Yimidhirr country and Barrow Point were donated by American linguist/anthropologist John Haviland. The recordings were made between 1980 and 2004 and they complement another large collection of Guugu Yimidhirr country recordings that Haviland deposited with AIATSIS in the 1970s.
- AIATSIS received 700 audio cassette tapes of recordings of Aboriginal English made by Ian Malcolm under the Western Australian Aboriginal Children's English Project in the 1970s, along with project documentation, data analysis and photographs.



Postage-stamp-sized tintype photograph, donated by Mrs Libby Davis, in mylar sleeve prior to digitisation.



Tintype being laid on Creo IQ3 scanner bed by a senior photographic technician.



High resolution tintype file displayed on screen following the digitisation process.

- AIATSIS received tape recordings, photographs and notes gathered by the late Charles Osborne on the Tiwi Islands in the 1960s. The papers include a manuscript copy of Osborne's monumental *Tiwi chanted verse* in three volumes.
- The Australia Council donated a copy of the very rare catalogue of the first 'Magiciens de la Terre' exhibition, which opened in Paris in 1989. The exhibition featured a number of Australian Indigenous artists and is seen a landmark in redefining the international perception of art from cultures outside mainstream art.

In October AIATSIS purchased a copy of *Exhibition of water colours by Albert Namatjira* (1938) – a rare catalogue of Namatjira's first exhibition. This is only the second copy held in an Australian library.

Material incorporated into the AIATSIS Collection in 2014–15 — highlights

In 2014–15 many significant and exciting items were added to the AIATSIS Collection:

- AIATSIS received a large collection of original negatives from *New Dawn* magazine, which was produced monthly between 1970 and 1975 by the New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board. The negatives feature the lives and lifestyles of Indigenous people across New South Wales. The collection includes photographs published in the magazine as well as other related images and documentation. Notable subjects include Paul Coe, Evonne Goolagong, Dick Roughsey and Alexander 'Tracker' Riley.
- Mrs Libby Davis donated a tintype photograph of a young Aboriginal woman taken around the 1880s. Mrs Davis was formerly from Tasmania but is now a resident of the United Kingdom. The tintype had been in her family collection for many years, but the subject of the photograph is not known to the family and the provenance is somewhat uncertain. The image has generated a great deal of interest and research is underway to ascertain its possible Tasmanian origins.

Laurie Gawanali Ngarjno and David Mowaljarlai Banggal, Kimberley, WA, 1994, by Jeff Doring.

- Photographs by artist and filmmaker Jeff Doring relating to Ngarinyin art, law, history and culture were added to the Collection. The photographs were taken between 1992 and 1999 as part of the Pathway Project — a collaboration between Doring and four *munnumburra* (senior law experts) of the Ngarinyin people (north-west Kimberley). The elders initiated the project to document and reveal the origins of their culture and help to secure native title rights. The collection includes images of country, flora and fauna, material culture and rock art, and portraits of the elders and other community members. Many of the photographs have featured in local and international exhibitions.
- AIATSIS received 20 audio cassettes containing approximately 30 hours of recording, mainly at Wangkajunga (Kurungal) community in the West Kimberley. Audrey Bolger made the recordings between 1982 and 1986 and they concern the lifestyle and activities of women and men who had recently left their traditional lives in the desert to reside on pastoral stations.
- In 2008, 29 cassettes and microcassettes made by archaeologist Roger Cribb between 1985 and 2000 were donated to AIATSIS. They were put aside until recently because they were contaminated and could be played only once before disintegrating. This year, when they could more safely be digitised, they were found to be recordings of surveys of shell mounds and plants of Cape York; discussions about permissions to enter Aboriginal lands; oral histories; and songs, stories and identification of shells and plants in English, Wik Mungkan and Wik Ngathan. Eighteen of 29 recordings were saved.
- AIATSIS received audio recordings from the production of *From the bush* — a documentary about the Warumpi Band. The production was commissioned by SBS for the series *From spirit to spirit* — part of an international commemoration of the Year of the World's Indigenous People in 1993.

- AIATSIS received additional pieces of extensive research material by Professor Jon Altman, eminent researcher and former Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University.

Over 2014–15 a number of Government department libraries closed. AIATSIS absorbed material from the Department of Human Services Library and took delivery of the Indigenous component of the Department of the Environment library.

Discoverability of the collection

New online interface for the Mura® catalogue

A new interface for the Mura® catalogue has been implemented using SirsiDynixEnterprise. The new interface was designed to fit within the look and feel of AIATSIS' other online spaces and make searching the catalogue easier and more intuitive, allowing users to set up their own accounts and personalise their experience. It also provides links to other relevant information and news on the AIATSIS website. The new interface has been tested with AIATSIS members and will go live in early July 2015.

Improved discoverability — contribution to Trove and HuNI

In 2014–15, following a successful load of our unique records describing journal articles, the number of AIATSIS records visible on Libraries Australia and Trove increased by almost 29,000. These records are rich in metadata and include culturally appropriate terms from the AIATSIS thesaurus.

A project that enables the automatic harvesting of records from the Mura® catalogue for upload to Trove is now delivering results. The process that is used allows records that are worked on by staff each day to be edited and added overnight, which is a great advantage. As a result, 522 pictorial collection records and over 2000 audio collection records are now live on Trove and work has begun to prepare to move image collection level records.

AIATSIS continued to collaborate on the Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) database, making AIATSIS records more discoverable. The HuNI website was launched on October 2014 and included 75,200 records from the Mura® catalogue.

The new look Mura® landing page.

Olive Pink and an unidentified man standing beside a camel, Jay Creek area, NT, 1930s. Photographer unknown.

Finding aids, audition sheets and caption lists — highlights

During 2014–15, caption lists were compiled for the photographs taken by Olive Pink in the 1930s. Olive Pink was a formidable activist for Indigenous rights. As an anthropologist, artist and botanist she worked closely with the Arrernte and Warlpiri peoples in the 1930s and 1940s. Her images show camp life in reserves and ration camps in Central Australia; mission scenes at Hermannsburg; gardening and farming activities; stockmen at work; and Aboriginal artefacts.

The collection also includes images from Miss Pink's travels with Indigenous guides and assistants, including Johnny 'Thirty Mile', and a team of camels. Restricted images depicting men's ceremonies and carved stone ceremonial objects have been protected and handled appropriately.

During the year an important film, *Derby Tjampitjimpa interview no. 3*, was auditioned (that is, it was played and the content and recording quality were documented for discoverability). In this extended interview between Nicolas Peterson and Warlpiri man Derby Tjampitjimpa Ross in 1972 at Yuendumu in the Northern Territory, Derby discusses his Christianity and other beliefs and religious practices, his charitable activities and his trip to Sydney. The title suggests that there may be more interviews in this series held in the collection.

A finding aid was created for the 126 reels of audio recordings collected between 1958 and 1960 by linguist Ken Hale during fieldwork to document the languages and some songs of Indigenous peoples in communities in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia.

Audition sheets and a finding aid were created for recordings made by Tom Baxter when he led an expedition along the Canning Stock Route in Western Australia during August and September 1987. The purpose of the recordings was to document stories of pre-contact and first contact between the Aboriginal speakers and non-Indigenous settlers. The recordings were made during the first return to traditional country after migration to cattle country. Stories centre upon water locations along the route, especially the wells.

Language and Peoples Thesaurus

The Language and Peoples Thesaurus is a cataloguing tool that lists headings relating to Australian languages and language groups as well as alternative spellings and names.

AIATSIS started a project to update the thesaurus in 2013–14 and has continued to make steady progress throughout 2014–15. More than a half of the 1100 existing and potential language headings have now been examined. The project was presented at the Australian Languages Workshop, held at the Australian National University on 5 March 2015.

Colour slides, some of the 660,000 still images held in AIATSIS' collection.

Leadership on cultural collections

Future Pathways benchmarking survey

In 2013–14 AIATSIS developed and distributed its Future Pathways benchmarking survey to collecting organisations around Australia and the world (see page 72 of the AIATSIS annual report 2013–14). The aim of the survey was to collect a point-in-time snapshot of collection institutions, including size and growth of collections, progress of digitisation and technical standards.

In 2014–15 the responses to the survey were received and analysed. The response was smaller than expected. There has been a delay in analysing the data that was collected due to problems with the survey technology. The final report will be distributed to participants early in 2015–16.

A number of lessons have been learned about the process of implementing the survey. To increase response rates, future surveys will have narrower coverage (they will be more targeted and less time consuming). Also, they will be designed to better control response format.

While not all aims of the project were achieved, this was the first survey of its kind and the unique data that was collected will be valuable for AIATSIS and the other participants.

Ensuring the long-term survival of our collection

Digitisation of the collections

A larger amount of the AIATSIS collections was digitised in 2014–15 than in 2013–14 across all media, particularly those most vulnerable. There were some significant achievements this year:

- There was a 360 per cent increase in preservation of ageing ferromagnetic video tape (creation of preservation master files). This was achieved through the recruitment of an additional experienced video technician.
- There was a 13 per cent increase in preservation of ferromagnetic audio tape material.

Ferromagnetic video and audio formats have been prioritised because of their material fragility, their obsolete playback technologies and the limited availability of suitably skilled service technicians, making content loss a high risk.

Achievements in digitisation of photographic and image collections included:

- completion of the 'After 200 Years' collection — 42,792 photographic images that were taken to document life in 40 Indigenous communities across Australia for the bicentenary
- preservation work on 83 lantern slides featuring United Aborigines Mission activities in South Australia between 1924 and 1944, including images from Colebrook Home. Many of the slides were cracked or split into shards, so they required painstaking reassembly and the use of mylar sheeting to prevent damage to the slides or the scanners

- digitisation of 151 black and white prints of mission life and material culture in the Aurukun region in Queensland, taken by Reverend William Frederick (Bill) MacKenzie between 1904 and 1968. Reverend MacKenzie was superintendent of the Aurukun Presbyterian Mission from 1923 and the minister from 1925 to 1965. While Reverend MacKenzie was criticised for his harsh treatment of Aboriginal people, he was also known to mix compatible Aboriginal cultural practices with Christianity and took a keen interest in improving Aboriginal health and reducing infant mortality. The images show logging and sawmill work, portraits, ceremonial dancing, the mission dental service, the flying doctor service, Second World War soldiers, body decoration, ear pegs, nose pegs, dugout canoes and mat weaving
- digitisation of the papers of Alfred George Stafford (see Goal 2)
- digitisation of 70 black and white prints featuring images of the Cootamundra Girls Home and Kinchela Boys Home between 1950 and 1961. The images are of the homes, portraits and scenes from daily life.

Two priority manuscripts were digitised in 2014–15:

- the papers of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI) — the organisation that grew out of the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement in 1973. FCAATSI functioned as an Indigenous-controlled leadership organisation until it lost federal funding in 1978
- the papers of Barrie Dexter, who joined with WEH Stanner and HC Coombs to form the Council for Aboriginal Affairs to advise on national policy under Prime Minister Harold Hold after the 1967 referendum. Barrie Dexter also became Head of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

Several significant audio collections were digitised in 2014–15:

- 100 hours of recordings of Kimberley languages by linguist William McGregor, including elicitation of the Warrwa language. Only one speaker was reported to be left in 2004
- 19 reels and 47 cassettes that contain recordings of Aboriginal song cycles from Fitzroy Crossing, recorded between 1970 and 1972
- approximately 79 hours of recordings of oral history from the Northern Territory, Aboriginal Treaty Committee programs and interviews and recordings of a treaty workshop by Peter Read, a distinguished historian
- interviews about politics recorded by Peter Read between 1957 and 1987. Interviewees include Ossie Ingram, Lyall Munro, Faith Bandler and Chicka Dixon
- several collections deposited by anthropologist/linguist Peter Sutton, which include recordings made for land claims, including Finniss River, Murranji, Malak Malak and Northern Territory, and recordings of several languages from Cape York.

Several moving image items were digitised, including:

- *Black palm* — a 16-millimetre film made by John and Sue Erbacher in 1979 at Cooktown, Queensland. The film deals with the importance and use of the black palm tree in making implements and weapons for the Gugu Tungay people of far north Queensland
- *Richer hours* — three 16-millimetre films by Geoff Bardon documenting a sports carnival for Aboriginal children in the MacDonnell Ranges area of Central Australia in 1971

- *Floating* — three 16-millimetre films made by Michael Edols in 1973 describing the historical displacement of the Worora people and the establishment of the Mowanjum community in Western Australia
- *Skippy the bush kangaroo* — two 16-millimetre film reels containing two episodes of the famous television series produced in 1968 featuring Aboriginal actors and themes
- Quisenberry footage — two eight-millimetre films showing basket making, family scenes and dances, taken by Kay Quisenberry while undertaking fieldwork on Elcho Island between 1970 and 1972
- *We fight* — a Umatic video produced by the Black Film Unit documenting two weeks of protest during the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982.

In May and June 2015 AIATSIS contracted commercial provider DAMSmart to digitise film reels and film sound affected by vinegar syndrome. The film had been held in freezer storage to limit its deterioration. The 82 film reels were in three different formats and included rushes from Zubrycki's *Bran nue dae* documentary, footage from the Church Missionary Society, and cultural gift footage by Janice Haynes.

Part of an extensive collection of legacy video equipment acquired by the institute in 2015.

Technology and equipment investments

Digitisation equipment review

AIATSIS continued the review of its digitisation equipment, started in 2013–14, to plan and prepare for the risks and challenges it will face with its digitisation program over the coming years, including:

- loss of equipment (including spare parts) needed to keep obsolete playback machinery operating so that historical media formats can be digitised
- significant costs and accommodation challenges when investment in new equipment is required to increase capacity or keep pace with technological developments.

AIATSIS' digital storage Digital Collection Object Storage System (DCOSS) was upgraded during the year. The operating software was updated and the existing data tape library was replaced with the latest model, providing larger capacity, faster tape drives and a tape and data 'self-checking' and 'self-repairing' module. The old library was relocated and upgraded to enable it to read 'LTFS formatted data tape', the industry preferred format, so it can be used to store digitised moving image materials.

Implementing Digital Asset Management and Electronic Document and Records Management systems

In 2014–15 AIATSIS procured Digital Asset Management and Electronic Document and Records Management systems (see Goal 6 for more information). AIATSIS continued the process of specification and selection of the best system for AIATSIS' needs and also continued to prepare the collection for its implementation. As part of this activity, AIATSIS continued to merge systems and workflows of the former Library and Audiovisual Archive and clean and correct catalogue and metadata sources for more than 178,000 digital files.

Goal 5

Celebrate and build on 50 years of leadership and excellence in Indigenous studies

This financial year saw the completion of AIATSIS' 50th anniversary celebrations. Our attention turned to planning and preparing for the next 50 years.

Goal 5 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: positive external perception of AIATSIS' continued importance	
Measure	2014–15 outcome
Engagement in AIATSIS 50th anniversary events and activities	The closing event of the AIATSIS 50th anniversary celebrations was the AIATSIS Council Chairperson's National Press Club address on 12 November 2014.

The launch of the AIATSIS Foundation: (L–R) the Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Christopher Pyne MP; Professor Mick Dodson; the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd); Lady Cosgrove; Ms Michelle Patterson; Ms Rachel Perkins; and Mr Russell Taylor.

AIATSIS Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson delivering his address at the National Press Club.

Chairperson's National Press Club address

The AIATSIS Council's Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson, addressed the National Press Club in Canberra on 12 November 2014 to a full house. In his address, entitled 'Before it's too late: a call to secure Australia's Indigenous heritage', Professor Dodson spoke of the resource challenges inhibiting the preservation of the AIATSIS collections for future generations. These resource challenges are being faced against the backdrop of a race against time to find, gather and secure national Indigenous heritage, much of it undocumented and at grave risk as the last knowledge holders grow old.

Professor Dodson said, 'Long after each of us in this room have passed on, what we leave our children, and their children, in fact what we leave as our contribution to the Australian nation, will be measured by the legacy we build, or fail to build, now.'

Professor Dodson also announced two AIATSIS leadership initiatives to save this national heritage:

- AIATSIS will launch a charitable foundation with the objective of giving all Australians the opportunity to support the cultural legacy, historic grandeur and contemporary culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
- AIATSIS will lead the development of a 'Before It's Too Late Mark III' strategy — a comprehensive and urgent plan to identify, gather, keep safe and share the Indigenous heritage of the nation in collaboration with other leaders and organisations.

Through the second half of 2014–15 AIATSIS prepared for these two initiatives, which will commence in 2015–16.

AIATSIS Foundation President Rachel Perkins launching the foundation at Government House.

Launch of the AIATSIS Foundation

The AIATSIS Foundation was incorporated under ACT law in April 2015 and formally launched on 14 May 2015 by the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, and Lady Cosgrove at Government House. At the launch, the Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Christopher Pyne, announced that the inaugural AIATSIS Foundation President would be member of the AIATSIS Council and filmmaker Rachel Perkins.

The AIATSIS Foundation will raise funds and form partnerships to:

- preserve important parts of the audio and visual collection that are threatened by degradation and require urgent preservation
- improve discoverability and usability of the collection, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples but also for all Australians and the global community
- find and protect items of unique significance — videos, oral histories, historical records of people and organisations, and digital expressions of cultural life that contain the contemporary stories of Indigenous Australians.

Planning for the next 50 years

In May 2015, the AIATSIS Council, management team and select external stakeholders participated in a transformation scenario planning workshop. This workshop kicked off strategic planning processes to inform AIATSIS' vision for the future, short-term and medium-term priorities and our plan to resource these priorities through government and non-government sources (including through the AIATSIS Foundation). The strategic planning processes will continue in 2015–16.

Transformation scenario planning workshop — AIATSIS Council members and Executive Board of Management planning AIATSIS' vision for the future.

Rosary Primary School
YELLOW

Goal 6

Foster an effective organisation where people want to work

During 2014–15 AIATSIS restructured to implement the decision to redirect maximum resources to preserve the collection. As a result, there were reductions in the number of employees working in corporate services, communications and publishing, and other services. The number of employees working in research was also reduced and the business area was reorganised to align with new strategic research priorities and the decision to fund AIATSIS' research activities from external funding sources.

AIATSIS took action to support employees through these changes and equip them to respond to these challenges and opportunities. However, it was a challenging year for many.

The appointment of five new members to the AIATSIS Council in February 2015 brought new perspectives to the governance and priorities of the organisation.

Goal 6 performance measurement

Key performance indicator: improved performance against measures of staff engagement	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes
Rates of voluntary departure (% of employees who resigned, retired or volunteered for redundancy, including ongoing and non-ongoing employees)	16.6% (compared with 10.4% in 2013–14). This increase reflects the significant restructuring and uncertainty about future resources and employment.
Rate of unscheduled absence (total days of unscheduled absence divided by average full-time equivalent employees)	13.4 days per employee (compared with 11.99 days in 2013–14). This increase reflects workplace stresses as a result of high workload, significant restructuring and uncertainty about future resources and employment.

Key performance indicator: improved performance against measures of staff engagement	
Measure	2014–15 outcomes
2014 APS Employee Census results (rating out of 10 using APS employee engagement model)	Job: 7.7 (7.6 in 2013–14) Team: 7.5 (7.0 in 2013–14) Supervisor: 7.7 (7.5 in 2013–14) Agency: 6.4 (5.8 in 2013–14) As the survey is carried out in May–June, these results represent sentiment at the start of 2014–15. AIATSIS levels of engagement for this period are significantly higher than the APS for all drivers of engagement (job, team, supervisor, agency).

AIATSIS workforce snapshot

	2013–14	2014–15
Number of employees (headcount)	124^	125
Total employee expenditure	13,640,000	13,627,000
Workforce diversity		
Indigenous#	23%	19%
Women	54%	54%
People with a disability	4%	5%
Non-English-speaking background	6%	5%
Staff health and wellbeing		
Work health and safety incident reports	1	0
Number of health and safety representatives	4	4
Training and education		
Percentage of employees undertaking supported studies	7%	2%

^ Excludes the 17 participants in the Step-Up program.

 # This reflects the number of members of AIATSIS' Indigenous employee network, and shows a higher proportion of Indigenous staff than reflected in the AIATSIS Human Resources Information System.

Work culture and environment

Indigenous employment

In 2014–15 there was a significant decrease in the number and proportion of Indigenous employees at AIATSIS. This was largely due to restructuring of AIATSIS' research activities, which had a higher number of Indigenous employees than other areas of business.

While AIATSIS will work to maximise Indigenous recruitment to positions in the collections, there are known labour-force shortages and high demand for Indigenous employees with relevant skills. To rebuild and further increase Indigenous representation in the new structure, a project is planned for 2015–16 to review recruitment and workforce development strategies.

Workplace and employee health and culture

AIATSIS continued its strong record of supporting activities to cultivate a strong and healthy workplace culture, encourage healthy lifestyle choices both at and outside work, and equip employees to support their colleagues. Highlights in 2014–15 included:

- Safe Work Month in October 2014 — the program included healthy lunch and recipe exchange, a low-impact stretch class, ride-to-work day with breakfast, and 'Take ten@ten' — that is, take 10 minutes at 10 am to de-stress and work better
- Family Day — an afternoon of activities for employees and their families, including tours, children's craft activities, story reading and films and a sausage sizzle dinner
- regular healthy barbecue staff lunches, organised by the Social Club, and other social events and fundraising for causes of interest to employees.

AIATSIS was recognised by Healthier Work and the ACT Work Safety Commission for our commitment to creating a healthier workplace for employees, which included writing and implementing a 12-month health and wellbeing plan.

AIATSIS continues to be an ACTSmart business

For the third year in a row AIATSIS has been recognised by the ACT Government for its contribution to the environment. The Smart Office recognition honours employees' and agencies' commitment to reducing waste and diverting waste from landfill.

Sharine Milner from Healthier Work ACT Services presenting a certificate of recognition to AIATSIS staff (L–R) Amit Barkay, Michelle Patterson, Paul Herbertson and Juile Goode.

AIATSIS staff enjoying a healthy lunch for Safe Work Month.

Skills and career development

Step-Up: an accelerated career development program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Step-Up program helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to secure qualifications that will allow them to progress in their chosen career while gaining relevant on-the-job experience and skills. The program began in 2013–14 with funding for three years from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

There were 17 participants in Step-Up at the start of 2014–15 and 12 at the end. Three participants completed their studies and achieved undergraduate and postgraduate awards and two others chose to leave the program.

In-house learning and development program

In 2014–15 AIATSIS ran a series of employee development and learning opportunities designed to meet identified needs, such as job application workshops (to equip employees to respond to restructuring), skills development in Excel and PowerPoint and more indepth learning in the areas of change management, communications and ethics. The program utilised a mix of in-house expertise and external and guest presenters.

AIATSIS also offered development opportunities for other APS employees through secondments. The Department of Human Services, Australian Public Service Commission and Reconciliation Australia all sent employees to AIATSIS on temporary transfer. Secondees shared their expertise with AIATSIS and AIATSIS built or extended an understanding of cultural competence and proficiency that the secondees will share with their home agency. This leadership is part of AIATSIS' commitment under its Elevate RAP.

Postgraduate Step Up participant, Yorta Yorta woman and AIATSIS art and artefacts curator Alana Garwood-Houng wearing a traditional possum skin cloak.

AIATSIS Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan

AIATSIS was the first federal Government agency to achieve Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) status. In 2014–15 we continued to undertake activities identified in our RAP to lead and model reconciliation.

In late 2014 AIATSIS initiated a new program to build the management and leadership capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees. Employees are invited to nominate for a six-month term on the Executive Board of Management to gain an insight and broader understanding of organisational governance and strategy. In June 2015, nominations were invited for the second 'term' of the program.

On 6 July 2014 AIATSIS hosted the largest NAIDOC event in the ACT — NAIDOC on the Peninsula. Around 4000 Canberrans joined AIATSIS to start the week of NAIDOC celebrations. The free, family-friendly event was also a chance to celebrate AIATSIS' 50th birthday and showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to the wider community.

NAIDOC on the Peninsula celebrates its ninth year

NAIDOC on the Peninsula is a free community event organised by AIATSIS with the National Museum of Australia. The event is open to the Canberra community and surrounding regions.

In 2014, its ninth year, NAIDOC on the Peninsula was the biggest Indigenous event in the ACT and a showcase for the pride and value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures.

The event included the official opening ceremony for ACT NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Despite chilly weather, the event attracted around 4000 people. Crowds enjoyed free entertainment from local and national Indigenous performers, films and tours, kids activities and games and food stalls as well as more than 65 market stalls hosted by state and federal Government departments, non-government and community organisations and Indigenous arts and crafts outlets.

Entertainers included hip hop trio The Last Kinection, Torres Strait Islander guitar virtuoso Chris Tamwoy and celebrated Indigenous singer songwriter Troy Brady and his 10-year-old son, Dean Brady (Australia's Got Talent Grand Finalist 2013). There were also performances by local acts Hung Parliament, Johnny Huckle, Conversation, Stick N Move, The Riverbank Band and Solid Young Fellas and Sistas.

Local radio station 666 ABC Canberra broadcast live interviews with guests, who shared stories that celebrated local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, lifestyles and achievements.

Left: Torres Strait Islander guitar virtuoso Chris Tamwoy performs for crowds at the 2014 NAIDOC on the Peninsula event. Right: Dean Brady, Australia's Got Talent Grand Finalist in 2013, on stage at the 2014 NAIDOC on the Peninsula event.

Digital transition

Introduction of Digital Asset Management and Electronic Document and Records Management systems

In 2012–13 and 2013–14 AIATSIS began planning and preparation for a Digital Asset Management (DAM) system. In 2014–15 this culminated in an approach to the market and selection of a system and provider — the final step towards implementation.

The DAMs and Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM) systems are essential infrastructure that will prepare AIATSIS to manage ever-larger volumes of digitised collection materials.

AIATSIS anticipated this need and began planning to introduce the DAM system some years ago. The expert review of AIATSIS' collection management practice in 2014 confirmed the need for such a system to provide safe storage for the collection. The DAM and EDRM systems will transform all of AIATSIS' business, supporting improvements to the consistency and efficiency of content, workflows and records management throughout the agency.

To ensure that the system that is selected will meet the needs of all areas of business, including the particular requirements of the AIATSIS Collection, a comprehensive consultation and workflow analysis informed the specifications. AIATSIS received 22 initial submissions, and three providers were invited to make detailed proposals and presentations.

The product finally selected was Alfresco, by South Australian provider Parashift, which will provide AIATSIS with a comprehensive DAM system and a legislatively compliant records management system.

AIATSIS will start to implement records management modules in August 2015 and collections capabilities will be introduced progressively over the coming 12 months to minimise operational disruption.

National Archives of Australia, Digital Checkup 2.0

AIATSIS' focus on capability building in both governance and integrated technologies for digital record keeping has meant that over the last three years the organisation has progressed from 'Adequate' to 'Very Good' when measured against the National Archives of Australia Digital Checkup 2.0 framework and maturity models. AIATSIS' performance will continue to improve with the introduction of the DAM and EDRM systems described above and the associated workflow, auditing and reporting services.

Governance

Governance matters related to the AIATSIS Council and the Research Advisory Committee, both established under the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (the Act), follow. For the full AIATSIS governance and organisational structure and Council membership and biographies, see 'About AIATSIS' at the beginning of this report. The roles, responsibilities and membership of all other AIATSIS governance and advisory committees are set out in Appendix B.

AIATSIS Council

Under the Act, four councillors are elected by AIATSIS members and five councillors, who must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, are appointed by the Minister. Members are remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal determination for part-time statutory office holders.

At the start of 2014–15, two positions on the AIATSIS Council were vacant. On 1 October 2014 the Minister appointed Ms Neva Collings and Mr Dana Ober as acting Councillors. Both had served on the Council previously, up until 18 June 2014. On 6 December 2014 the remaining ministerial appointments — Ms Robynne Quiggin, Ms June Oscar AO and Associate Professor Mark Wenitong — expired. The Council was inquorate for two months and two days.

On 10 February 2015, the Minister for Education and Training appointed five new members for four-year terms: Ms Rachel Perkins, Professor Cindy Shannon, Mr Geoffrey Winters, Ms Jodie Sizer and Ms Donisha Duff. Appendix A provides details of the terms of Council members serving during 2014–15 and details of Council meetings and members' attendance.

The Council made no decisions during 2014–15 where:

g. it approved payment for goods or services, or provided a grant to an entity

h. a Council member was also a director of the other entity that provided the goods or services or received the grant

i. the value exceeded $10,000 (GST inclusive).

Research Advisory Committee

The Research Advisory Committee comprises three members of the Council appointed by the Council; eight members of the institute elected by AIATSIS members in accordance with the AIATSIS rules; and the Principal (see Appendix B). Members are remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal determination for part-time statutory office holders.

The committee's functions are to advise the Council in relation to research matters and on applications for membership of the institute. In 2014–15 the committee provided valuable input to the strategic research prioritisation project.

Newly appointed Council members join AIATSIS' senior executive for an induction session. (L–R) Jodie Sizer, Donisha Duff, AIATSIS Deputy Principal Michelle Patterson, Geoffrey Winters, Cindy Shannon and AIATSIS Principal Russell Taylor

Membership

Under the Act, AIATSIS may have members with a demonstrated interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. Members are appointed by the Council for terms of five years, which are renewable. The Research Advisory Committee provides advice to the Council on applications for membership, assessed against criteria set by the Council in the AIATSIS rules.

Thirty-three new members were appointed during 2014–15. Of these new members, 14 are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This brings total membership to 633.

Conflicts of interest

Council and committee members must disclose any financial or other interests they have that may relate to their functions both before they are appointed and whenever such an interest arises during their term of membership. Relevant disclosures of interest are made to the Chairperson at the start of each meeting and recorded in the minutes. A member must not take part in any deliberations or decisions in which they have an interest.

Under a new conflict of interest policy adopted in 2014–15, Council members and senior managers also make an annual declaration of interests to help to ensure that any potential or perceived conflicts are identified and managed.

Risk management

AIATSIS' risk management, including business continuity planning and fraud control, is monitored by the Audit and Assurance Committee. The committee reports to each meeting of the AIATSIS Council so that the Council can consider significant issues that may affect AIATSIS' operations or reputation.

AIATSIS' corporate risk management framework is based on AS/NZS ISO 31000 and has been in place since 2013. The framework processes are progressively being embedded in planning, project management and fraud control plans, and the corporate risk register is reviewed twice a year. The risk register was revised in 2014–15 to incorporate significant changes in the strategic and operational risk environment identified in a 2013–14 review.

The AIATSIS Business Continuity Plan was implemented in 2013 and is updated annually to incorporate operational changes. The plan identifies essential business activities and guides the allocation of resources and establishment of alternative arrangements to ensure effective functioning following a disaster. It incorporates information and communications technology disaster recovery and pandemic plans. A business continuity exercise was undertaken in May 2015, which highlighted areas where the plan could be improved. These improvements are being implemented.

Ethics

AIATSIS abides by and promotes the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct and complements these with its shared behaviours of respect, cooperation, effective leadership, good communication, responsibility and fairness.

AIATSIS provides leadership in ethical and culturally competent research and collection management through:

- development and dissemination of the *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies*
- the development, demonstration and continuous improvement of the AIATSIS Collection access and use policy
- the publication in 2015 of new *Guidelines for the ethical publishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and research from those communities*.

See Goal 3 for more information about AIATSIS' leadership on cultural competence and ethics.

Ministerial directions, general policies and other reviews and reports

During 2014–15:

- no new directions were issued to AIATSIS by ministers
- no general policies of the Australian Government applied to AIATSIS
- there were no judicial decisions, reviews or reports by the Auditor-General, any parliamentary committee, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner that affected AIATSIS.

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers

During the reporting period there were no liabilities to any current or former officers. No premium was paid (or agreed to be paid) against a current or former officer's liability for legal costs. AIATSIS paid premiums for Directors and Officers insurances as required under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Financial statements

Auditor-General's report

Financial statements

Australian National
Audit Office

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Education and Training

I have audited the accompanying annual financial statements of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for the year ended 30 June 2015, which comprise:

- Statement by the Accountable Authorities, Principal and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Schedule of Commitments; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the rules made under that Act. The Council is also responsible for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Accountable Authority of the entity, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and

(b) present fairly the financial position of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

Peter Kerr

Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

25 September 2015

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Statement by the Accountable Authorities, Principal and Chief Financial Officer

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 comply with subsection 42(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial reports as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.

Prof. M Dodson	G Winters	R Taylor	M Burton
Chairperson	Councillor	Principal	Chief Financial Officer
25 September 2015	25 September 2015	25 September 2015	25 September 2015

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	3A	**13,627**	13,640
Suppliers	3B	**5,169**	5,490
Grants	3C	**27**	38
Depreciation and amortisation	3D	**1,076**	1,166
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	**23**	52
Losses from asset sales	3F	**2**	16
Total expenses		**19,924**	20,402
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	**559**	708
Interest	4B	**564**	631
Grants	4C	**3,891**	3,811
Other revenue	4D	**964**	765
Total own-source revenue		**5,978**	5,915
Total own-source income		**5,978**	5,915
Net cost of services		**13,946**	14,487
Revenue from Government	4E	**13,295**	13,300
Deficit on continuing operations		**(651)**	(1,187)
Deficit attributable to the Australian Government		**(651)**	(1,187)
Total comprehensive loss attributable to the Australian Government		**(651)**	(1,187)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	2,275	1,050
Trade and other receivables	6B	415	517
Other investments	6C	15,016	16,153
Total financial assets		17,706	17,720
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7A	11,285	11,476
Property, plant and equipment	7B	12,396	12,719
Intangibles	7D	292	-
Inventories	7F	35	30
Other non-financial assets	7G	584	6
Total non-financial assets		24,592	24,231
Total assets		42,298	41,951
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8A	767	434
Other payables	8B	1,555	864
Total payables		2,322	1,298
Provisions			
Employees provisions	9A	2,004	2,105
Total provisions		2,004	2,105
Total liabilities		4,326	3,403
Net assets		37,972	38,548
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		3,613	3,538
Reserves		13,939	13,939
Retained surplus		20,420	21,071
Total equity		37,972	38,548

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity / capital		Total equity	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	$'000	**$'000**	$'000	**$'000**	$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	**21,071**	22,258	**13,939**	13,939	**3,538**	3,463	**38,548**	39,660
Adjusted opening balance	**21,071**	22,258	**13,939**	13,939	**3,538**	3,463	**38,548**	39,660
Comprehensive income								
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	**(651)**	(1,187)	**-**	-	**-**	-	**(651)**	(1,187)
Total comprehensive income	**(651)**	(1,187)	**-**	-	**-**	-	**(651)**	(1,187)
Transactions with owners								
Contributions by owners								
Equity injection	**-**	-	**-**	-	**75**	75	**75**	75
Total transactions with owners	**-**	-	**-**	-	**75**	75	**75**	75
Closing balance as at 30 June	**20,420**	21,071	**13,939**	13,939	**3,613**	3,538	**37,972**	38,548

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Receipts from Government		**13,295**	13,300
Sales of goods and rendering of services		**875**	726
Interest		**568**	674
Grants		**3,816**	3,804
Other		**920**	764
Net GST Received		**460**	328
Total cash received		**19,934**	19,596
Cash used			
Employees		**(13,214)**	(13,661)
Suppliers		**(5,832)**	(5,836)
Grants		**(27)**	(38)
Total cash used		**(19,073)**	(19,535)
Net cash from operating activities	**10**	**861**	61
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		**-**	8
Investments		**1,144**	502
Total cash received		**1,144**	510
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**(855)**	(507)
Total cash used		**(855)**	(507)
Net cash from investing activities		**289**	3
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		**75**	75
Total cash received		**75**	75
Net cash from financing activities		**75**	75
Net increase in cash held		**1,225**	139
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**1,050**	911
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**10**	**2,275**	1,050

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Schedule of Commitments
as at 30 June 2015

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments receivable		
GST recoverable on commitments	**42**	8
Total commitments receivable	**42**	8
Commitments payable		
Other commitments[1]	**468**	89
Total commitments payable	**468**	89
Net commitments by type	**426**	81
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
One year or less	**42**	8
Total commitments receivable	**42**	8
Commitments payable		
Other commitments		
One year or less	**468**	89
Total commitments payable	**468**	89
Net commitments by maturity	**426**	81

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

[1] Other commitments are mainly IT equipment, provision of services where the services have not yet been provided or invoiced.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Schedule of Contingencies

The Institute has no knowledge of any material contingencies, whether remote or otherwise.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note:1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
Note:2	Events After the Reporting Period
Note:3	Expenses
Note:4	Income
Note:5	Fair Value Measurements
Note:6	Financial Assets
Note:7	Non-Financial Assets
Note:8	Payables
Note:9	Provisions
Note:10	Cash Flow Reconciliation
Note:11	Senior Management Personnel Remunerations
Note:12	Remuneration of Councillors
Note:13	Related Party Disclosures
Note:14	Remuneration of Auditors
Note:15	Financial Instruments
Note:16	Financial Assets Reconciliation
Note:17	Reporting of Outcomes
Note:18	Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objective of AIATSIS

AIATSIS is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit corporate Commonwealth entity. The objective of AIATSIS is to promote international understanding of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through leadership and excellence in undertaking, facilitating and disseminating ethical research, through increasing access to all our resources, and through best-practice management of cultural heritage collections. AIATSIS is structured to meet one outcome:

Outcome 1: Further understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present through undertaking and publishing research, and providing access to print and audiovisual collections.

The continued existence of the Institute in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the Institute's administration and programs.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by clause section 42 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Rule (FRR) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2014; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FRR, assets and liabilities are recognised in the statement of financial position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Institute or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the contingencies note.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

For the preparation of the 2014-15 financial statements, accounting policies are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Institute has made the following judgments that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- The fair value of buildings has been determined by an independent valuer using a cost approach. The Institute's building was purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.
- The fair value of property plant and equipment has been taken to be either cost or market value as determined by an independent valuer. The actual life may be longer or shorter than estimated.
- The liability for long service leave has been estimated using present value techniques in accordance with the shorthand method as per FRR 24.1(a). This takes into account expected salary growth, attrition and future discounting using Commonwealth bond rates.
- The fair value of heritage and cultural assets has been taken to be the market value of similar heritage and cultural assets. Heritage and cultural assets are valued through an independent valuer.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

The following new standard issued prior to the signing of the Statement by the Councillors, Principal and Chief Financial Officer, was applicable to the current reporting period.

Standard	Impact
AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting	New standard requiring disclosure of budgetary information and variance explanations. Refer to disclosure in Note 18.

All other new standards, revised or amended standards or interpretations that were issued prior to the sign-off and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material effect, and are not expected to have a future material effect, on the entity's financial statements.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new, revised and amended standards were issued by the Australian Accounting Standard Board prior to the sign-off date, which are expected to have financial impact on the AIATSIS for future accounting periods.

Standard/Interpretation	Application date for the entity	Nature of impending changes in accounting policy and likely impact on initial application
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	1 January 2018	Change to requirements for recognition and measurement of financial instruments
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	1 January 2017	Change to timing of recognition of revenue

All other new standards, revised or amended standards or interpretations that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to future reporting period(s) are not expected to have a future material impact on the entity's financial statements.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:
a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
b) the Institute retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
d) it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Institute.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:
a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
b) the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Institute.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Revenue from Government

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities (appropriated to the non-corporate Commonwealth entity as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to the Institute) is recognised as Revenue from Government unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan.

Grant Revenue

Project linked grant revenue is recognised to the extent that the project has occurred. Other grant revenue is recognised to the extent that it was provided for the reporting period. Any grants received in advance for a future period are recorded as liabilities.

1.6 Gains

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

1.7 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts that are designated as equity injections for a year are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

Net assets received from or relinquished to another Government entity under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against contributed equity. The Institute was not subject to restructuring in the 2014/15 or 2013/14 years.

1.8 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefit liabilities are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Institute is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time leave is taken, including the Institute's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the Australian Government shorthand method. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The Institute recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations. For 2014-15, the Institute does not have a provision for separation and redundancy.

Superannuation

Staff of the Institute are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) or a superannuation fund of their choice.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

The Institute makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation schemes at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The Institute accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognized as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

1.9 Fair Value Measurement

The Institute deems transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at the end of the reporting period.

1.10 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

a) cash on hand; and
b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.11 Financial Assets

The Institute classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
b) held-to-maturity investments;
c) available-for-sale financial assets; and
d) receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date. Other investments comprise deposits with maturities of over 3 months that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in their fair-value.

Effective Interest Method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'receivables'. Receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at end of each reporting periods.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

1.12 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities at 'fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.13 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.14 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.15 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than $2,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The exception to this policy is for desktop and laptop computers, which are recognised as assets regardless of cost.

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2015	2014
Building	**40 to 70 years**	70 years
Major plant and equipment items	**5 to 20 years**	5 to 20 years
Minor plant and equipment items, mainly office equipment.	**1 to 10 years**	2 to 5 years
Artwork and artefacts	**99 years**	100 years
Library collection	**50 years**	50 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2015. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the Institute were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

1.16 Intangibles

Intangibles comprise purchased computer software and internally developed software. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Institute's software are 3 to 5 years.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2015.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.17 Inventories

Inventories held for sale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and condition are assigned as follows:

- finished goods and work-in-progress - cost of direct materials and labour plus attributable costs that can be capable of being allocated on a reasonable basis.

1.18 Taxation

The Institute is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses, liabilities and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

1.19 Controlled Entity

AIATSIS has formed the AIATSIS Foundation Incorporated (Foundation). This is a not-for-profit organisation with the following aims:

(a) Promote understanding, appreciation and study of the living culture, history and cultural heritage of Indigenous Australians;
(b) Support the work of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, including by raising funds for the Institute and for a capital fund for a new fittingly prominent facility for AIATSIS; and
(c) Act as trustee of the AIATSIS Foundation Trust (Trust) and such other trusts as may be established with it as trustee to promote the living culture, history and cultural heritage of Indigenous Australians.

The trust noted in(c) above is yet to be established.

The constitution of the Foundation allows AIATSIS to exert control over the Foundation and therefore meets the definition of a subsidiary in section 8 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013. AIATSIS is required to consolidate the activities of the Foundation. This has not occurred in these financial statements as the activities of the Foundation are not material.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

The Institute is not aware of any events occurring after the reporting period which materially affect the financial statements.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 3: Expenses		
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	**10,065**	10,240
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	**1,031**	850
Defined benefit plans	**769**	837
Leave and other entitlements	**1,002**	969
Separation and redundancies	**406**	223
Other employee benefits	**354**	521
Total employee benefits	**13,627**	13,640
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants	**385**	698
Contractors	**1,454**	749
Travel	**604**	976
Payroll Services	**38**	32
Building Expenses	**543**	637
Insurance	**38**	42
Professional Advice	**13**	42
Printing	**11**	24
Marketing	**85**	255
Office Expenses	**1,253**	1,209
ICT Expenses	**361**	489
Collection Expenses	**157**	149
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	**4,942**	5,302
1. All goods supplied and services rendered are in connection with external parties.		
Other supplier expenses		
Workers compensation expenses	**227**	188
Total other supplier expenses	**227**	188
Total supplier expenses	**5,169**	5,490
Note 3C: Grants		
Private sector:		
Research grants	**27**	38
Total grants	**27**	38

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 3D: Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation		
Property, plant and equipment	**715**	840
Buildings	**191**	191
Heritage and cultural assets	**136**	135
Total depreciation	**1,042**	1,166
Amortisation		
Intangibles	**34**	-
Total amortisation	**34**	-
Total depreciation and amortisation	**1,076**	1,166
Note 3E: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Write down of financial assets		
Bad and doubtful debts expense	**23**	51
Impairment of non-financial assets		
Impairment of inventory	**-**	1
Total write-down and impairment of assets	**23**	52
Note 3F: Losses from Assets Sales		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Proceeds from sale	**-**	(8)
Carrying value of assets sold	**2**	24
Total losses from asset sales	**2**	16

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 4: Own-Source Income		
Own-Source Revenue		
Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services		
Sale of goods in connection with		
External parties	**359**	429
Total sale of goods	**359**	429
Rendering of services in connection with		
External parties	**200**	279
Total rendering of services	**200**	279
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	**559**	708
Note 4B: Interest		
Deposits	**564**	631
Total interest	**564**	631
Note 4C: Grants		
From related entities	**3,650**	3,702
From external parties	**241**	109
Total grants	**3,891**	3,811
Note 4D: Other Revenue		
Conference fees	**739**	685
Other revenue	**225**	80
Total other revenue	**964**	765
Gains		
Note 4E: Revenue from Government		
Department of Education and Training and predecessor portfolio agencies		
Corporate Commonwealth entity payment item	**13,295**	13,300
Total revenue from Government	**13,295**	13,300

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 5: Fair Value Measurements

The following tables provide an analysis of assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value.
The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below.

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.
Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Note 5A: Fair Value Measurements, Valuation Techniques and Inputs Used

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period			For Levels 2 and 3 fair value measurements	
	2015	2014	**Category (Level 1, 2 or 3)**		
	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	**Valuation technique(s)**	**Inputs used**
Non-financial assets					
Building on leasehold land	11,285	11,476	Level 3	Cost Approach	Construction cost and condition i.e. remaining life
Heritage and cultural	9,956	10,059	Level 2	Market Approach	Appropriate and active markets
Other property, plant and equipment	789	793	Level 2	Market Approach	Active market data for Motor Vehicles, general and computer and IT equipment
Other property, plant and equipment	1,651	1,867	Level 3	Cost Approach	Construction cost and condition i.e. remaining life
Total non-financial assets	**23,681**	**24,195**			
Total fair value measurements of assets in the statement of financial position	23,681	24,195			

Fair value measurements
The highest and best use of all non-financial assets are the same as their current use.

Note 5B: Reconciliation for Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - reconciliation for assets

	Non-financial assets					
	Building on leasehold land		**Other property, plant and equipment**		**Total**	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	$'000	**$'000**	$'000
Opening balance	**11,476**	11,667	**1,867**	1,952	**13,343**	13,619
Purchases		-	**73**	205	**73**	205
Depreciation/amortisation	**(191)**	(191)	**(289)**	(288)	**(480)**	(479)
Disposals	**-**	-	**-**	(2)	**-**	(2)
Closing balance	**11,285**	11,476	**1,651**	1,867	**12,936**	13,343

The entity's policy for determining when transfers between levels are deemed to have occurred can be found in Note 1.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 6: Financial Assets		
Note 6A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	**2,275**	1,050
Total cash and cash equivalents	**2,275**	1,050
Note 6B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and services receivables in connection with		
External parties	**345**	361
Total goods and services receivables	**345**	361
Other receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	**131**	194
Total other receivables	**131**	194
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**476**	555
Less impairment allowance		
Other receivables	**(61)**	(38)
Total impairment allowance	**(61)**	(38)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**415**	517
Receivables are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	**415**	517
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**415**	517
Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows:		
Not overdue	**297**	275
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	**35**	111
31 to 60 days	**17**	66
61 to 90 days	**66**	3
More than 90 days	**61**	100
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**476**	555
Impairment allowance aged as follows		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	**61**	38
Total impairment allowance	**61**	38

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance
Movements in relation to 2015

	Goods and services $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2014	**38**	**38**
Increase/decrease recognised in net cost of services	**23**	**23**
Total as at 30 June 2015	**61**	**61**

Movements in relation to 2014

	Goods and services $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2013	2	2
Increase/decrease recognised in net cost of services	36	36
As at 30 June 2014	38	38

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 6C: Other Investments		
Other investments	**15,016**	16,153
Total other investments	**15,016**	16,153
Other investments expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	**15,016**	16,153
Total other investments	**15,016**	16,153

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 7: Non-Financial Assets		
Note 7A: Land and Buildings		
Building on leasehold land		
Fair Value	**11,667**	11,667
Accumulated depreciation	**(382)**	(191)
Total land and buildings	**11,285**	11,476

The Institute's land and building may not be disposed of without prior ministerial approval.

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.

No land or buildings are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 7B: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Heritage and cultural		
Artworks and artefacts - fair value	**7,315**	7,303
Library collection - fair value	**2,911**	2,891
Accumulated depreciation	**(270)**	(135)
Total heritage and cultural	**9,956**	10,059
Other property, plant and equipment		
Fair Value	**3,981**	3,495
Accumulated depreciation	**(1,541)**	(835)
Total other property, plant and equipment	**2,440**	2,660
Total property, plant and equipment	**12,396**	12,719

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

For further information, please refer note 7C.

No property, plant and equipment assets are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7C: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2014-15)

	Buildings $'000	Other property, plant & equipment $'000	Heritage and Cultural $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2014				
Gross book value	**11,667**	**3,495**	**10,194**	**25,356**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**(191)**	**(835)**	**(135)**	**(1,161)**
Net book value 1 July 2014	**11,476**	**2,660**	**10,059**	**24,195**
Additions:				
- Purchase	**-**	**497**	**32**	**529**
Depreciation	**(191)**	**(715)**	**(135)**	**(1,041)**
Other movements				
- Writeback depreciation	**-**	**9**	**-**	**9**
Disposals	**-**	**(11)**	**-**	**(11)**
Net book value 30 June 2015	**11,285**	**2,440**	**9,956**	**23,681**
Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by:				
Gross book value	**11,667**	**3,981**	**10,226**	**25,874**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**(382)**	**(1,541)**	**(270)**	**(2,193)**
Net book value 30 June 2015	**11,285**	**2,440**	**9,956**	**23,681**

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2013-14)

	Buildings $'000	Other property, plant & equipment $'000	Heritage and Cultural $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2013				
Gross book value	11,667	3,036	10,175	24,878
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-
Net book value 1 July 2012	11,667	3,036	10,175	24,878
Additions:				
- Purchase	-	487	19	506
Depreciation	(191)	(840)	(135)	(1,166)
Other movements				
- Writeback depreciation	-	5	-	5
Disposals	-	(28)	-	(28)
Net book value 30 June 2014	11,476	2,660	10,059	24,195
Net book value as of 30 June 2014 represented by:				
Gross book value	11,667	3,495	10,194	25,356
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(191)	(835)	(135)	(1,161)
Net book value 30 June 2014	11,476	2,660	10,059	24,195

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 7D: Intangibles		
Computer software		
Internally developed - in use	**312**	**-**
Purchased	**14**	**-**
Accumulated amortisation	**(34)**	**-**
Total computer software	**292**	**-**
Total intangibles	**292**	

For further information, please refer note 7E

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7E: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles for 2015

	Computer software internally developed $'000	Computer software purchased $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2014			
Gross book value	-	-	-
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	-	-	-
Net book value 1 July 2014	-	-	-
Additions:			
Purchase or internally developed	**312**	**14**	**326**
Amortisation	**(33)**	**(1)**	**(34)**
Net book value 30 June 2015	**279**	**13**	**292**
Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by:			
Gross book value	**312**	**14**	**326**
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	**(33)**	**(1)**	**(34)**
Net book value 30 June 2015	**279**	**13**	**292**

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 7F: Inventories		
Inventories held for sale		
Finished goods	**189**	212
Provisions for obsolete inventory	**(154)**	(182)
Total inventories	**35**	30

No items of inventory are recognised at fair value less cost to sell.

All inventory is expected to be sold or distributed in the next 12 months.

Note 7G: Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	**584**	6
Total other non-financial assets	**584**	6
Other non-financial assets expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	**584**	6
Total other non-financial assets	**584**	6

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 8: Payables		
Note 8A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	**767**	434
Total suppliers	**767**	434
Suppliers expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	**767**	434
Total suppliers	**767**	434
Suppliers in connection with		
External parties	**767**	434
Total suppliers	**767**	434
Settlement is usually made within 30 days.		
Note 8B: Other payables		
Wages and salaries	**863**	330
Superannuation	**321**	340
Unearned Income	**371**	194
Total other payables	**1,555**	864
Other payables expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	**1,555**	864
Total other payables	**1,555**	864
Note 9: Provisions		
Note 9A: Employee provisions		
Annual Leave	**779**	909
Long Service Leave	**1,225**	1,196
Total employee provisions	**2,004**	2,105
Employee provisions expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	**574**	654
More than 12 months	**1,430**	1,451
Total employee provisions	**2,004**	2,105

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation	**2015 $'000**	2014 $'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash flow statement	**2,275**	1,050
Statement of financial position	**2,275**	1,050
Discrepancy	**-**	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	**(13,946)**	(14,487)
Revenue from Government	**13,295**	13,300
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation/amortisation	**1,076**	1,166
Write down of impairment	**(6)**	36
Loss on disposal of assets	**2**	16
Assets		
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	**102**	(48)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	**(5)**	(1)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	**(578)**	2
Liabilities		
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	**(101)**	(64)
Increase/(decrease) in supplier payables	**332**	86
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	**690**	56
Net cash from operating activities	**861**	62

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 11: Senior Management Personnel Remuneration

	2015	2014
	$	$
Short-term employee benefits		
Salary	**1,360,819**	1,577,902
Performance bonuses	**141,806**	106,575
Motor vehicle and other allowances	**13,099**	9,864
Total short-term employee benefits	**1,515,724**	1,694,341
Post-employee benefits		
Superannuation	**232,704**	249,726
Total post-employee benefits	**232,704**	249,726
Other long-term benefits		
Annual leave	**109,663**	122,981
Long-service leave	**35,081**	39,341
Total other long-term benefits	**144,744**	162,322
Termination benefits	**23,788**	121,319
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	**1,916,960**	2,227,708

The total number of senior management personnel that are included in the above table are ten (2014: twelve).

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 12: Remuneration of Councillors

	2015 No.	2014 No.
The number of Councillors of the Institute included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:		
$0 to $29,999	**13**	10
Total number of councillors	**13**	10

Total remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Council of the Institute for 2015 is $81,948 and for 2014 is $49,855.

A description of the methods by which Councillors are appointed is included in the "Corporate Governance" section of the Annual Report.

Remuneration includes payments to Councillors for all activities including Council, Research Advisory Committee and other representative business.

There are no Executive Councillors.

Note 13: Related Party Disclosures

Members of Council
The members of the Council of the Institute during the year were:

Professor Michael Dodson AM, Chairperson
Emer. Professor Robert Tonkinson
Professor John Maynard, Deputy Chairperson
Mr Kado Muir
Professor Cindy Shannon (from February 2015)
Geoffrey Winters (from February 2015)
Rachel Perkins (from February 2015)
Donisha Duff (from February 2015)
Jodie Sizer (from February 2015)
Ms June Oscar AO (to December 2014)
Associate Professor Mark Wenitong (to December 2014)
Ms Robynne Quiggin (to December 2014)
Ms Neva Collings (from October 2014 to December 2014)

The Institute paid a Directors and Officers indemnity insurance premium of $3,514 (2013/14: $3,351) on behalf of Councillors during the year. Royalty payments totalling $917 (2013/14: $223) were made to Professor J Maynard, a Council member during the year, in relation to his book published through Aboriginal Studies Press. Royalty payments totalling $62 (2013/14: $209) were also made to Emer. Professor R Tonkinson, a Council member during the year, in relation to his book published through Aboriginal Studies Press. Other than these payments and remuneration as Councillor, no benefits were provided to Council members.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	**36**	36
	36	36

These amounts represent the fair value of services provided.

KPMG has been contracted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) to provide audit services on the ANAO's behalf. Fees for these services are included above. No other services were provided by the Auditor-General or KPMG during the reporting period.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Note 15: Financial Instruments			
Note 15A: Categories of Financial Instruments			
Financial Assets			
Loans and receivables			
Cash on hand or on deposit	6A	**2,275**	1,050
Cash on call deposit	6C	**160**	157
Fixed Term Deposit with Bank		**14,856**	15,996
Receivables for goods and services	6B	**345**	361
Total financial assets		**17,636**	17,564
Financial Liabilities			
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost			
Trade creditors	8A	**767**	434
Total financial liabilities		**767**	434
Note 15B: Net Gains or Losses on Financial Assets			
Loans and receivables			
Interest revenue	4B	**564**	631
Net gains on loans and receivables		**564**	631
Net gains on financial assets		**564**	631

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 15: Financial Instruments (continued)

Note 15C: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The net fair value of each class of the Institute's financial assets and liabilities approximate the carrying amount for both current and preceding reporting periods.

Note 15D: Credit Risk

The Institute is exposed to minimal credit risk as receivables are cash and trade receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade receivables $345,000(2014: $361,000). The Institute has assessed the risk of default on payment and has allocated $61,489 (2014: $38,373) to a provision for doubtful debts account. The Institute had policies and procedures that guided employees debt recovery techniques that were to be applied. The Institute holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not past due nor impaired 2015 $'000	Not past due or impaired 2014 $'000	**Past due or impaired 2015 $'000**	Past due or impaired 2014 $'000
Cash and cash equivalents	**17,291**	17,203	**-**	-
Receivables for goods and services	**166**	81	**179**	280
Total	**17,457**	17,284	**179**	280

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2015

	0 to 30 days $'000	**31 to 60 days $'000**	**61 to 90 days $'000**	**90+ days $'000**	**Total $'000**
Receivables for goods and services	**35**	**17**	**66**	**61**	**179**
Total	**35**	**17**	**66**	**61**	**179**

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014

	0 to 30 days $'000	31 to 60 days $'000	61 to 90 days $'000	90+ days $'000	Total $'000
Receivables for goods and services	111	66	3	100	280
Total	111	66	3	100	280

Note 15E: Liquidity risk

The Institute financial liabilities are payables. The exposure to liquidity risk is the risk that the Institute will encounter difficulties in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Institute has minimal exposure to liquidity risk due to: appropriation funding; available funding mechanisms (e.g. Advance to the Minister of Finance); and internal policies and procedures that have been put into place to ensure that there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

Note 15E: Market risk

The Institute holds basic financial instruments that do not expose it to certain market risks. The Institute is exposed to minimal 'currency risk' and it not exposed to 'other price risk'.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 16: Financial Assets Reconciliation

	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Total financial assets as per statement of financial position	**17,706**	17,720
Plus: Impairment allowance	**-**	38
Less: non-financial instrument components:		
GST receivables	**131**	194
Total non-financial instrument components	**131**	194
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note.	**17,575**	17,564

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 17: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 17A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Departmental		
Expenses	**19,924**	20,402
Own-source income	**5,978**	5,915
Net cost of outcome delivery	**13,946**	14,487

Note 17B: Major Classes of Departmental Expenses, Income, Assets and Liabilities by Outcome

AIATSIS has one outcome. Therefore these figures appear on the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 18: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances

The following tables provide a comparison between the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) budget and the final financial outcome in the 2014-15 financial statements. The Budget is not audited.
Variances are considered to be 'major' based on the following criteria:
- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10%; and
- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 2% of the relevant category (Income, Expenses and Equity totals); or
- an item below this threshold but is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance.

Where a budget has not been provided for in the PBS, for example non-cash items such as asset revaluations, foreign exchange and sale of asset adjustments, these items will be denoted by "NB". Unless the variance is considered to be 'major' no explanation has been provided.

Note 18A: Departmental Budgetary Reports

Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original[1]	Variance[2]
	2015	2015	2015
	$'000	$'000	$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	13,627	12,773	854
Suppliers	5,169	4,577	592
Grants	27	600	(573)
Depreciation and amortisation	1,076	1,230	(154)
Write-down and impairment of assets	23	NB	23
Losses from asset sales	2	NB	2
Total expenses	19,924	19,180	744
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	559	700	(141)
Interest	564	450	114
Other revenue	4,855	4,713	142
Total own-source revenue	5,978	5,863	115
Total own-source income	5,978	5,863	115
Net (cost of) / contribution by services	13,946	13,317	629
Revenue from Government	13,295	13,317	(22)
Surplus / (Deficit) on continuing operations	(651)	-	(651)
Surplus / (Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(651)	-	(651)
Total comprehensive income / (loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(651)	-	(651)

1. The Institutes original budgeted financial statement was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).
2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanation of major variances are provided at note 18B.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 18A: Departmental Budgetary Reports cont..

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original[1]	Variance[2]
	2015	2015	2015
	$'000	$'000	$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	**2,275**	**1,123**	1,152
Trade and other receivables	**415**	**468**	(53)
Other investments	**15,016**	**16,496**	(1,480)
Total financial assets	**17,706**	**18,087**	(381)
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	**11,285**	**11,790**	(505)
Property, plant and equipment	**12,396**	**12,742**	(346)
Intangibles	**292**	**-**	292
Inventories	**35**	**30**	5
Other non-financial assets	**584**	**9**	575
Total non-financial assets	**24,592**	**24,571**	21
Total assets	**42,298**	**42,658**	(360)
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	**767**	**348**	419
Other payables	**1,555**	**178**	1,377
Total payables	**2,322**	**526**	1,796
Provisions			
Employees provisions	**2,004**	**3,049**	(1,045)
Total provisions	**2,004**	**3,049**	(1,045)
Total liabilities	**4,326**	**3,575**	751
Net assets	**37,972**	**39,083**	(1,111)
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	**3,613**	**3,613**	-
Reserves	**13,939**	**13,274**	665
Retained surplus	**20,420**	**22,196**	(1,776)
Total equity	**37,972**	**39,083**	(1,111)

1. The Institutes original budgeted financial statement was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).
2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanation of major variances are provided at note 18B.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 18A: Departmental Budgetary Reports cont..

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the period ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings			Asset revaluation surplus			Contributed equity / capital			Total equity		
	Actual	Budget estimate		Actual	Budget estimate		Actual	Budget estimate		Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original[1]	Variance[2]		Original[1]	Variance[2]		Original[1]	Variance[2]		Original[1]	Variance[2]
	2015	**2015**	2015	**2015**	**2015**	2015	**2015**	**2015**	2015	**2015**	**2015**	2015
	$'000	**$'000**	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	$'000
Opening balance												
Balance carried forward from previous period	**21,071**	**22,196**	(1,125)	**13,939**	**13,274**	665	**3,538**	**3,538**	-	**38,548**	**39,008**	(460)
Adjusted opening balance	**21,071**	**22,196**	(1,125)	**13,939**	**13,274**	665	**3,538**	**3,538**	-	**38,548**	**39,008**	(460)
Comprehensive income												
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	**(651)**		(651)	**-**	**-**	-	**-**	**-**	-	**(651)**	**-**	(651)
Total comprehensive income	**(651)**	**-**	(651)	**-**	**-**	-	**-**	**-**	-	**(651)**	**-**	(651)
Transactions with owners												
Contributions by owners												
Equity injection	**-**	**-**	-	**-**	**-**	-	**75**	**75**	-	**75**	**75**	-
Total transactions with owners	**-**	**-**	-	**-**	**-**	-	**75**	**75**	-	**75**	**75**	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	**20,420**	**22,196**	(1,776)	**13,939**	**13,274**	665	**3,613**	**3,613**	-	**37,972**	**39,083**	(1,111)

1. The Institute's original budgeted financial statement was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).
2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanation of major variances are provided at note 18B.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 18A: Departmental Budgetary Reports cont..

Cash Flow Statement
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original[1]	Variance[2]
	2015	2015	2015
	$'000	$'000	$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Receipts from Government	**13,295**	**13,317**	(22)
Sales of goods and rendering of services	**875**	**700**	175
Interest	**568**	**450**	118
Other	**4,736**	**4,713**	23
Net GST Received	**460**	**NB**	460
Total cash received	**19,934**	**19,180**	754
Cash used			
Employees	**(13,214)**	**(12,673)**	(541)
Suppliers	**(5,832)**	**(4,577)**	(1,255)
Other	**(27)**	**(600)**	573
Total cash used	**(19,073)**	**(17,850)**	(1,223)
Net cash from operating activities	**861**	**1,330**	(469)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Investments	**1,144**	**-**	1,144
Total cash received	**1,144**	**-**	1,144
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(855)**	**(1,075)**	220
Investments	**-**	**(330)**	330
Total cash used	**(855)**	**(1,405)**	550
Net cash from (used by) investing activities	**289**	**(1,405)**	1,694
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity	**75**	**75**	-
Total cash received	**75**	**75**	**-**
Net cash from financing activities	**75**	**75**	-
Net increase in cash held	**1,225**	**-**	1,225
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**1,050**	**1,123**	(73)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**2,275**	**1,123**	1,152

1. The Institutes original budgeted financial statement was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).
2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanation of major variances are provided at note 18B.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 18B: Departmental Major Budget Variances for 2015

Explanations of major variances	Affected line items (and statement)
AIATSIS has made a number of operational policy decisions. These have led to budet variations. These changes are: - AIATSIS ceased awarding grants; and - depreciation and amortisation costs have reduced while decisions are made about significant asset replacements. When offset with employee and supplier expenses variances are minimal.	Grants expense, Depreciation and amortisation, Suppliers and Employee expenses, and in the Cash flow statement to Cash used for suppliers and Other.
Revenue in the budget was not accurately allocated at the line item level, including to Interest.	Sales of goods and services, Interest, other revenue and in the Cash flow statement to the same items.
The deficit arose as a result of a decision taken to make a number of positions redundant as the organisation restructured to meet changing operational requirements.	
Cash and cash equivalents was higher than budget and other investments lower as cash was being held to make salary payments on the first day of the new financial year.	Cash and cash equivalents and Other investments and in the cash flow statement, Cash received from investments and Cash used for investment.
Intangibles have been included for the first time. Major software purchases and internally developed software are now capitalised.	Intangibles
Other non-financial assets relates to prepayments that were made as part of a contractual arrangement for the purchase of electronic equipment for digitisation which occurred in the last few days of June.	Other non-financial assets
Supplier payables were higher than budget as a result of significant procurements in May and June for late work on an externally funded project, significant outstanding accounts for a conference held in mid-June and a payment due to another agency for staff secondment.	Supplier payables
Other payables is higher than projected for two reasons. The first is the 9 unpaid days for staff salary owing at 30 June was not allowed for in the budget. The second is that revenue was received in June that was unearned at 30 June and was carried over as unearned revenue.	Other payables
Employee provisions is lower than forecast due to a number of staff being made redundant and a number of non-ongoing staff whose contracts finished on 30 June not being renewed to meet changing operational requirements. These changes were not anticipated when the budget was set.	Employee provisions
Purchases of property plant and equipment were higher than budget as purchases were accelerated to meet the demands of the digitisation programme.	Cash used for purchases of property, plant and equipment

Appendixes

Appendix A
Council operations

Appendix B
Governance committees

Appendix C
Research outputs

Appendix D
AIATSIS researcher memberships and offices

Appendix A: Council operations

Table 1: AIATSIS Council appointments and attendance 2014–15

Name	Gender	Position	State	Start date	End date	Meetings eligible	Meetings attended
Elected councillors							
Professor Michael Dodson, AM	M	Chairperson Chairperson	ACT	17/05/14 26/09/11	16/05/17 16/05/14	4	4
Professor Emeritus Robert Tonkinson	M	Deputy Chairperson Member	WA	17/05/14 26/09/11	16/05/17 16/05/14	4	4
Professor John Maynard	M	Member Deputy Chairperson	NSW	17/05/14 26/09/11	16/05/17 16/05/14	4	4
Mr Kado Muir	M	Member	WA	17/05/14	16/05/17	4	3
Appointed councillors							
Ms Robynne Quiggin	F	Member	NSW	07/12/10	06/12/14	2	2
Ms June Oscar	F	Member	WA	07/12/10	06/12/14	2	1
Associate Professor Mark Wenitong	M	Member	QLD	07/12/10	06/12/14	2	1
Ms Neva Collings	F	Member (A/g)	NSW	01/10/14	06/12/14	1	1
Mr Dana Ober	M	Member (A/g)	QLD	01/10/14	02/12/14	1	1
Ms Jodie Sizer	F	Member	VIC	10/02/15	09/02/19	2	2
Professor Cindy Shannon	F	Member	QLD	10/02/15	09/02/19	2	2
Mr Geoffrey Winters	M	Member	NSW	10/02/15	09/02/19	2	2
Ms Rachel Perkins	F	Member	NT	10/02/15	09/02/19	2	2
Ms Donisha Duff	F	Member	QLD	10/02/15	09/02/19	2	1

Appendix B: Governance committees

Committees of the AIATSIS Council

Research Advisory Committee

The Research Advisory Committee is established under section 31(1) of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 1989* (the Act). It comprises three members of the Council appointed by the Council; eight members of the institute elected by the members of the institute in accordance with the institute rules; and the Principal.

Under section 32 of the Act, the committee's functions are to:

- assess applications for research grants made to the institute and to make recommendations to the Council in relation to such applications
- advise the Council in relation to research matters
- advise the Council in relation to applications for membership of the institute.

The current members are:

- Emertius Professor Robert Tonkinson (Council representative)
- Mr Kado Muir (Council representative)
- Professor Cindy Shannon (Council representative)
- Professor Len Collard (Health and Wellbeing)
- Dr Peter Radoll (Education and Socio Economic Institution)
- Associate Professor Maryrose Casey (Arts and Creative Expression)
- Dr Sally Babidge (Native Title and Traditional Ownership)
- Professor Dennis Foley (Economics, Industry and Development)
- Professor Regina Ganter (Language and Cultural Transmission)
- Dr Fiona Walsh (Land, Water and Environment)
- Professor Larissa Behrendt (Governance, Law and Justice)
- Mr Russell Taylor (Principal).

Research Ethics Committee

The Research Ethics Committee advises AIATSIS on the ethical aspects of research proposals to be carried out by its staff and grantees as well as on external collaborative research projects to be carried out with AIATSIS staff under the auspices of the institute. Members of the committee are appointed by the Council in line with categories established by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Committee appointments are made on a half rotation (that is, half of the members are appointed every 18 months for a period of three years). This rotation assists in retention of knowledge and consistency in decision making.

The current members are:

- Ms Christine Grant (Chair)
- Dr Sarah Holcombe (researcher)
- Mr Graeme Evans (layperson)
- Ms Joyce Grahams (layperson)
- Ms Vivien Holmes (lawyer) until 11 August 2014
- Lauren Butterly (lawyer) from 12 August 2014
- Mr Dave Johnston (researcher)
- Ms Melanie Gentgall (Clinical Research Associate)
- Reverend Karen Kime (minister of religion).

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee provides an evaluation forum for the institute's financial activities. Membership comprises:

- Mr Russell Taylor (Chair, AIATSIS Principal)
- Ms Robynne Quiggin (Council representative) — until 6 December 2014
- Ms Neva Collings (Council representative) — from 1 October 2014 to 6 December 2014
- Ms Jodie Sizer (Council representative) — from 27 March 2015
- Ms Michelle Patterson (Deputy Principal)
- Mr Michael Burton (Chief Finance Officer).

Audit and Assurance Committee

The Audit and Assurance Committee provides independent assurance and assistance in developing and overseeing the control, risk and compliance framework and external accountability responsibilities.

The committee comprises at least one Council member and at least three independent members. Membership in 2014–15 was:

- Ms Robynne Quiggin (Council member until 6 December 2014; Committee Chair until 11 September 2014)
- Ms Jenny Morison (independent member; Acting Chair from 11 September 2014; and Chair from 9 February 2015)
- Ms Neva Collings (Council member, 1 October 2014 – 6 December 2014)
- Mr Geoffrey Winters (Council member — from 27 March 2015)
- Ms Rachel Perkins (Council member — from 27 March 2015)
- Ms Karen Hogan FCPA, GAICD (independent member)
- Mr Neal O'Callaghan BEc, Dip Acc, GAICD (independent member)
- Mr Russell Taylor (ex-officio; AIATSIS Principal)
- Ms Michelle Patterson (ex-officio; AIATSIS Deputy Principal).

Committees advising the Principal

Executive Board of Management

The Executive Board of Management supports the Principal in the leadership and strategic management of the institute's operations. It comprises the directors of AIATSIS program areas and other members as nominated by the Principal.

Native Title Research Advisory Committee

The Native Title Research Advisory Committee was established by the Council to provide advice to the Principal on the research program of the Native Title Research Unit. The committee usually meets twice each year. It comprises two AIATSIS Council members, the Principal and Deputy Principal, four experts in the field of native title and a representative from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Committee members during 2014–15 were:

- Mr Russell Taylor (Principal, AIATSIS)
- Ms Michelle Patterson (Deputy Principal, AIATSIS)
- Professor Michael Dodson (AIATSIS Council member)
- Professor Emeritus Robert Tonkinson (AIATSIS Council member)
- Professor Cindy Shannon (AIATSIS Council member, from 27 March 2015)
- Ms Louise Anderson (Principal Registrar, Social Security Appeals Tribunal)
- Dr Kingsley Palmer (consultant anthropologist)
- Mr Robert Blowes (barrister)
- Ms Natalie Rotumah (Chief Executive Officer, NTSCORP)
- Mr Brian Wyatt (Chief Executive Officer, National Native Title Council)
- Mr Wayne Beswick (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet).

Publishing Advisory Committee

The Publishing Advisory Committee makes recommendations for publication to the AIATSIS Principal after considering peer-assessed manuscripts submitted by Aboriginal Studies Press.

Committee members provide a range of skills: academic credentials; Indigenous community and language knowledge; and writing and publishing expertise. Meetings are held as required.

Committee members during 2014–15 were:

- Mr Russell Taylor (Principal, AIATSIS), Chair
- Professor Michael Dodson (Council member)
- Professor John Maynard (Council member)
- Ms Michelle Patterson (Deputy Principal, AIATSIS)
- Ms Rhonda Black (Director, Aboriginal Studies Press)
- Dr Julie Gough (artist, writer, curator) until 12 November 2014
- Mr Steve Kinnane (researcher and writer) until 12 November 2014
- Ms Jeanie Bell (language custodian, community linguist and educator) until 12 November 2014
- Professor Tess Lea (social policy researcher) from 12 November 2014
- Professor Shino Konishi (historian, Yawuru woman from WA) from 12 November 2014.

One position was vacant from 12 November 2014.

Collections Advisory Committee

The Collections Advisory Committee provides advice to the AIATSIS Principal and Director of Collections about matters in relation to collection development, management and access. The committee will be convened in late 2015.

RAP Reference Group

The RAP Reference Group is an internal committee chaired by the AIATSIS Principal that monitors the AIATSIS Elevate RAP for 2014–16.

Indigenous caucus

The Indigenous caucus is a voluntary network for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to discuss matters of common interest, facilitate peer support and provide advice to management where appropriate.

ICT Advisory Committee

The ICT Advisory Committee is an internal committee that manages the direction and development of strategy, policy, planning and procurement for the institute's information and communications technology. It includes technical experts and representatives of all AIATSIS business areas.

Health and Safety Committee

The Health and Safety Committee is a consultative forum established in accordance with section 75 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to facilitate cooperation and consultation on work health and safety matters.

Consultative Committee

The AIATSIS Consultative Committee has responsibility for the implementation of the current Agency Agreement as well as negotiating the next one. It also develops and maintains policies and strategies relating to employment of staff at AIATSIS.

Appendix C: Research outputs

Peer-reviewed publications

Adams, M 2014, *Men's business: a study into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's sexual and reproductive health*, Magpie Goose Publishing, Torrens, ACT.

Bauman, T, Smith, D, Quiggin, R, Keller, C & Drieberg, L 2015, *Building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance: report of a survey and forum to map current and future research and practical resource needs*, AIATSIS, Canberra.

Buchanan, G 2015, *Gender and generation in native title: director demographics and the future of prescribed bodies corporate*, Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title, vol. 6, no. 3, AIATSIS Research Publications, Canberra.

Jebb, MA & McGrath, A (eds), *Long history, deep time: deepening histories of place*, ANU Press, 2015.

Kennett, R, Danielsen, F & Silvius, KM 2015, 'Citizen science is not enough on its own', *Nature*, vol. 521, no. 7551, May, p. 161.

McGrath, PF 2015, 'Three weeks with strangers: photography and the production of social identity during the 1935 Board of Anthropological Research expedition to the Warburton Ranges, Western Australia', *The Australian Journal of Anthropology, Special Issue: Dichotomous identities? Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and the intercultural in Australia*, vol. 26, no. 1, pp. 74–93.

Stacey, N, Karam, J, Jackson, M & Kennett, R 2015, 'Knowledge exchange as a tool for transboundary and coastal management of the Arafura and Timor Seas', *Ocean and Coastal Management*, vol. 114, September, pp. 151–163.

Strelein, L 2014, 'Reforming the requirements of proof: The Australian Law Reform Commission's Native Title Inquiry', *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol. 8, no. 10, pp. 6–10.

Strelein, L 2015, 'Native title in Australia: colonising and decolonising Indigenous governance', in A Mona (ed.), *Proceedings of the 2014 International Austronesian Forum: Indigenous good governance — its applications and prospects*, 1–2 December, Taipei, Taiwan.

Strelein, L 2015, 'The right to resources and the right to trade', in S Brennan, M Davis, B Edgeworth & L Terrill (eds), *Native title from* Mabo *to* Akiba*: a vehicle for change and empowerment?* The Federation Press, Sydney.

Tran, T, Strelein, LM, Weir, JK & Stacey, C 2014, 'Indigenous governance and climate change adaptation: two native title case studies from Australia', in JP Palutikof, SL Boulter, J Barnett & D Rissik (eds), *Applied studies in climate adaptation,* Wiley-Blackwell, London, pp. 307–315.

Walsh, M 2014, 'Indigenous language maintenance and revitalisation', in H Koch & R Nordlinger (eds), *Languages and linguistics of Australia: a comprehensive guide*, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin, pp. 329–362.

Other publications

Bauman, T & Keller, C 2014, *How can we work better together so that decisions are meaningful and agreements stick?*, report of the Open Space Forum, National Native Title Conference, AIATSIS, Canberra, viewed 30 June 2015, http://aiatsis.gov.au/publications/products/how-can-we-work-better-together-so-decisions-are-meaningful-and-agreements-stick.

Bauman, T, Jokic, Z, Keller, C & Wiseman, L 2015, 'Free, prior and informed consent, engagement and consultation: an emerging bibliography', AIATSIS, Canberra, viewed 30 June 2015, http://aiatsis.gov.au/publications/products/free-prior-and-informed-consent-engagement-and-consultation-emerging-bibliography.

Jebb, MA 2015, 'Pastoral paternalism in the Pilbara', in *Marlbatharndu Wanggagu: once upon a time in the West*, FORM, Perth, pp. 144–149.

Kennett, RM, Jackson, P, Bayliss, P & Adams, J in press, 'Combining traditional knowledge and science: new tools for monitoring marine turtles', *Training manual for the incorporation of traditional knowledge into the identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)*, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada.

McGrath, PF 2014, 'The shape of the future? The final report of the Deloitte review of the roles and functions of native title organisations', *AIATSIS Native Title Newsletter*, August, pp. 18–19.

McGrath, PF 2014, 'The work of rights: preliminary findings from the Nyangumarta Native Title Corporate History Project', *AIATSIS Native Title Newsletter*, December, pp. 9–11.

Walsh, M, Marmion, D & Troy, J 2014, 'Re-awakening Australian languages: economic, educational, health and social benefits to the community', in P Heinrich and N Ostler (eds), 'Indigenous languages: value to the community', *Proceedings of the Conference FEL XVIII*, Okinawa International University, Ginowan City, Okinawa, Japan, 17–20 September 2014, pp. 107–112.

Williams, R & McGrath, PF 2014, 'Native title and Indigenous cultural heritage management bibliography', AIATSIS, Canberra, viewed 30 June 2015, http://aiatsis.gov.au/publications/products/native-title-and-indigenous-cultural-heritage-management-bibliography.

Zuckermann, G & Walsh, M 2014, "Our ancestors are happy!" Revivalistics in the service of Indigenous wellbeing', in P Heinrich and N Ostler (eds), 'Indigenous languages: value to the community', *Proceedings of the Conference FEL XVIII*, Okinawa International University, Ginowan City, Okinawa, Japan, 17–20 September, pp. 113–119.

Conferences, seminars, lectures and other presentations

Bauman, T 2014, 'Co-management of protected area partnerships through native title in Australia: free, prior and informed consent and what to look for', presentation to Pacific History Association 21st Biennial Conference 2014, Taitung, Taiwan, 6 December.

Bauman, T 2014, 'Consensus building research at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies', presentation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Research Forum, as part of the National Mediation Conference 2014, Monash University, 12 September.

Bauman, T 2015, 'The missing piece of infrastructure: Indigenous dispute management, agreement making and decision-making services', Occasional Seminar, presented at AIATSIS, Canberra, 9 June (pre-recorded for presentation at the NTSV 'ADR in Indigenous Communities' Symposium, 27–28 July 2015, Melbourne).

Jebb, MA 2014, 'A massacre narrative space: the possibilities of a community controlled museum', forum presentation at 'Bearing Witness — White Responses to Aboriginal Massacre Stories', HC Coombs Fellow Presentation, ANU, December.

Jebb, MA 2014, 'Creating dialogue in history through film', paper presented at Sightlines: Filmmaking in the Academy, RMIT, Melbourne, 24 November.

Jebb, MA 2014, 'From the frontier to the sitting room: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's histories of war', paper presented at the National Australian Historical Association Conference, Brisbane, July.

Jebb, MA (panellist) 2014, Forum, 'Bearing Witness — White Responses to Aboriginal Massacre Stories, HC Coombs Fellow Presentation', ANU, December.

Marmion, D & Jebb, MA 2014, 'The "Singing the Train" project and video', presentation to the workshop Revitalising Ancestral Song Traditions in South-eastern Australia, Australian Languages Workshop, ANU, Canberra, 6 March.

Marmion, D 2015, 'Language revival in Australia: bringing back Ngunawal', paper presented to the first International Symposium on Parallels between Australian Indigenous People and People of Chinese Mongolian Nationality, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China, June.

Marmion, D 2015, 'The status of Australia's Indigenous languages', presentation to the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training (broadcast live to all Australian offices), May.

Marmion, D 2015, Presentations on Aboriginal languages to staff of the National Portrait Gallery, 18 & 19 February.

McGrath, PF 2014, 'The work of rights: the everyday sociality of native title corporate activity', paper presented to the Combined Australian Anthropological Society and Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand Annual Conference, Queenstown, New Zealand, 10–13 November.

McGrath, PF 2014, 'The work of rights: the nature of native title labour', presentation to Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, 10 October.

McGrath, PF 2014, 'The work of rights: the nature of native title labour', paper presented to the Engaging Indigenous Economy Conference: Debating Diverse Approaches, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra, 4–5 September.

Rose, M & McGrath, PF 2015, 'The work of rights — *kaja karti marnti*: the Nyangumarta people's long journey to native title and independence', paper presented to the National Native Title Conference, Port Douglas, Queensland, 16 June.

Strelein, L 2014, 'Native title in Australia: colonising and decolonising Indigenous governance', paper presented to the 2014 International Austronesian Forum, 'Indigenous Good Governance — Its Applications and Prospects', Taipei, Taiwan, 1–2 December.

Strelein L 2015, 'Strengthen, secure and restore: a cultural restoration approach to native title compensation', presentation as part of the Dangerous Ideas Panel, National Native Title Conference, Port Douglas, Queensland, 16–18 June.

Walsh, M 2014, 'Attitudes and language politics in intercultural bilingual education: Australian Indigenous wellbeing', guest lecture for the subject SPAN2604, Language Variation across the Spanish-speaking World, Australian National University, 13 May 2015.

Walsh, M 2014, 'Australian Aboriginal narrative and song: challenges of experiencing, transmitting and disseminating "traditional' information"', paper presented to Research Foundations for Understanding Books and Reading in the Digital Age: Emerging Reading, Writing, and Research Practices, an INKE-hosted Birds-of-a-Feather Gathering, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, 8 December.

Walsh, M 2014, 'Experts as "vulnerable" witnesses in Australian Aboriginal land claim and native title cases', paper presented at the Strehlow Conference, 'Where do we go from here?', Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs, 26 September.

Walsh, M 2014, 'Grappling with granularity: the challenge of the Australian Languages Framework within the Australian Curriculum – Languages', paper presented at the Top End Linguistics Circle, Darwin, 6 November.

Walsh, M 2014, 'Spencer's last stand: fieldwork in Tierra del Fuego, 1929', paper presented to SHLP4 2014, Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs, 22 September.

Walsh, M, Marmion, D & Troy, J 2014, 'Re-awakening Australian languages: economic, educational, health and social benefits to the community', paper presented at the XVIIIth Foundation for Endangered Languages Conference, Ginowan City, Okinawa, Japan, 17–20 September.

Walsh, M & Troy, J 2014, 'Framework for Australian Languages', presentation to A World of Indigenous Languages: Rights, Access, and Education symposium, AILA World Congress 2014, Brisbane, 14 August.

Walsh, M (convenor) 2014, 'One size does *not* fit all: specificities of language and culture in the Australian Curriculum', symposium as part of the International Association of Applied Linguistics 17th World Congress, University of Queensland, 11 August.

Walsh, M 2015, 'Mapping the history of engagement across the Asia Pacific region', paper presented to Competing Voices: the Status of Indigenous Languages in the French Pacific and Australia, 'Sydney Ideas' lecture series, University of Sydney, 25 May.

Walsh, M 2015, 'Words and bowerbirds: the Rio Tinto/Mitchell Library project — re-discovering Australian languages', seminar at the University of Sydney Department of Linguistics Research, 24 April.

Walsh, M & Troy, J 2015, 'First steps on the Ngunawal language revitalisation journey', paper presented to the 4th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC), 'Enriching theory, practice, & application', 26 February – 1 March, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Walsh, M & Troy, J 2015, 'First steps on the Ngunawal language revitalisation journey', paper presented to the Australian Languages Workshop, Kioloa, New South Wales, 8 March.

Walsh, M & Troy, J 2015, 'Issues in Indigenous language revitalisation in Australia', paper presented to the Indigenous Language Revitalisation and Australian–Pacific Dialogues Forum, University of Sydney, 25 May.

Walsh, M & Troy, J 2015, 'Ngunawal language revitalisation', paper presented to the Muurrbay Workshop @Wollotuka, University of Newcastle, 8–9 April.

Walsh, M (panellist) 2015, 'Appropriate behaviour in relation to ancestral song material', Australian Languages Workshop — Song, ANU, Canberra, 6 March.

Zuckermann, G & Walsh, M 2014, '"Our ancestors are happy!" Revivalistics in the service of Indigenous wellbeing', paper presented at the XVIIIth Foundation for Endangered Languages Conference, Ginowan City, Okinawa, Japan, 17–20 September.

Workshop facilitations

Bauman, T 2014, 'How can we work better together so that decisions are meaningful and agreements stick?', sponsoring and introduction of Open Space process at National Native Title Conference, Coffs Harbour, 3 June.

Bauman, T & Duff, N 2014, 'Legal context of PBC decision making', presentation and training for day 1, Participatory Processes for PBCs Decision Making workshop, the Aurora Project, Trinity College, Crawley, Perth, 18 August.

Bauman, T & Duff, N 2014, 'Participatory processes for PBCs', presentation for days 1, 2 & 3 and training, Participatory Processes for PBCs Decision Making workshop, the Aurora Project, Trinity College, Crawley, Perth, 18–20 August.

Bauman, T, Gorringe, S, Elderton, C, Kelly, T & Wishart, T 2015, 'How are we dealing with difference and conflict?', Workshop, National Native Title Conference, Port Douglas, 17 June.

McGrath, PF & Dinkler, L (facilitators) 2015, Managing Information in Native Title Workshop, AIATSIS, Canberra, 16–17 March.

McGrath, PF & Johnston, D (convenors) 2015, 'Future acts, future heritage?', conference session, National Native Title Conference, Port Douglas, Queensland, 16–18 June.

Native Title Research Unit (convenors) 2015, Managing Information in Native Title Workshop, Canberra, 16–17 March.

Media appearances

Marmion, D 2015, interview on the Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, SBS *The Feed*, 26 May.

Submissions

Bagnara, D, Strelein, L, Tran, T, Powrie, R & Jokic, Z 2014, submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Review of the Native Title Act 1993, AIATSIS, Canberra.

Tran, T, McGrath, PF, Kennett, R, Strelein, L, Stacey, C & Bagnara, D 2015, advice to the Expert Indigenous Working Group on the COAG Investigation into Indigenous Land Administration and Use on improving Indigenous land administration frameworks and processes, Native Title Research Unit, AIATSIS, Canberra, 12 June.

Reports

McGrath, PF 2015, '*Kaja karti marnti* ("the long walk") — the Nyangumarta Corporate History Project: final report to Nyangumarta Warrarn AC and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation', unpublished research report, AIATSIS, Canberra.

McGrath, PF, Dinkler, L & Andriolo, A 2015 (forthcoming), 'Managing information in native title: survey and workshop report', AIATSIS, Canberra.

Strelein LM, Duff, N & Bauman, T 2014, *Commonwealth Native Title Connection Policy Research Project: final report*, AIATSIS, Canberra.

Exhibitions

Jebb, MA (curator) 2014 'Singing the Train', permanent exhibition, Revolutions Transport Museum, Western Australia.

Jebb, MA (researcher and director) 2014, *Seeing the song*, film, Revolutions Transport Museum, Western Australia.

Jebb, MA (researcher and director) 2014, *Singing the train*, film, Revolutions Transport Museum, Western Australia.

Marmion, D (contributing researcher) 2015, 'Singing the Train', permanent exhibition, Revolutions Transport Museum, Western Australia.

Grants Awarded

Jebb, MA 2015–2018, ARC Grant Investigator 'Hearing histories of the Pilbara' (DP150100094).

Appendix D: AIATSIS researcher memberships and offices

Dr Lawrence Bamblett

- Member, Erambie Advancement Aboriginal Corporation
- Member, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
- Member, NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Member, Yalbillinga Boori Day Care Centre Aboriginal Corporation
- Member, Australian Literacy Educators' Association
- Member, History Council NSW
- Member, AIATSIS
- External affiliate with the Purai Global Indigenous and Diaspora Research Studies Centre

Toni Bauman

- Member, project reference group, CSIRO National Environmental Research Project Tropical Ecosystems Hub
- Adviser, Right People for Country Project, Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Member, AIATSIS
- Fellow, Australian Anthropological Society
- Board member, Centre for Native Title Anthropology, Australian National University (ANU)
- Advisory Board member, National Centre for Anthropology of Native Title Societies, Adelaide University, South Australia
- Member, Editorial Board, *Australian Indigenous Law Review*

Dr Christiane Keller

- Part-time Research Fellow, ANU
- Part-time Research Fellow, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU
- Fellow, Australian Anthropological Society

Dr Rod Kennett

- Member, Arafura Timor Sea Experts Forum
- Member, Steering Committee, International Participatory Monitoring and Management Partnership
- Member, Program Subcommittee for the 4th International One Health Congress and 6th Biennale Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health
- Member, Australian-American Fulbright Alumni
- University Fellow, Charles Darwin University
- Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra
- Member, Uunguu Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation
- Member, AIATSIS
- Member, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Specialist Group
- Member, Theme on Governance of Natural Resources, Equity and Rights, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
- Member, IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi)
- Member, Steering Committee, Stream 7 — Respecting Indigenous and Local Knowledge and Culture, IUCN World Parks Congress, November 2014

Grace Koch

- Professional member, Australian Society of Archivists
- Professional member, International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives
- Expert panel member, Australia's Heritage in Sound
- Member, AIATSIS

Greg Lehman

- Chair, Tasmanian Aboriginal Advisory Council, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
- Member, Indigenous Advisory Committee, National Museum of Australia
- Honorary Research Fellow, Humanities Research Centre, ANU
- Honorary Research Fellow, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
- Fellow, Social Action and Research Centre, Anglicare Tasmania
- Director, Natural Resource Management South Board

Dr Ray Lovett

- Member, ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee
- Member, Departmental Ethics Committee, Australian Government Department of Health
- Member, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy Advisory Group
- Member, Public Health Association of Australia
- Member, Australasian Epidemiological Association
- Member, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses
- Member, NHMRC Data Reference Group
- Member, International Epidemiological Society
- Professional Associate, University of Canberra
- Member, AIATSIS
- Adjunct Post-doctoral Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU
- Member, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Association ACT

Dr Doug Marmion

- Adjunct Research Professor, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.
- Member, Australian Linguistic Society
- Member, AIATSIS
- Member, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language
- Member, Foundation for Endangered Languages
- Board member, ACT Branch of the International Mother Language Movement
- Visiting Fellow, School of Language Studies, ANU
- Member, Program Representative Group for the Indigenous Research Collaborations project at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education — a collaborative research network funded through the Department of Education

Dr Pamela McGrath

- President Elect and Fellow, Australian Anthropological Society
- Member, Anthropological Society of Western Australia
- Member, AIATSIS
- Adjunct Fellow, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU

Dr Lisa Strelein

- Member, New South Wales Attorney General's Indigenous Justice Clearing House
- Editorial Adviser, *Australian Aboriginal Studies* journal
- Adjunct Professor, National Centre for Indigenous Studies and College of Law, ANU

Stewart Sutherland

- Board member, National Stolen Generations Alliance
- Member, UNESCO Memory of the World Australian Committee

Dr Jakelin Troy

- Professor, Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services), University of Sydney
- Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Canberra
- Councillor, Geographical Names Board of NSW
- Member, Language Curriculum Advisory Group, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority
- Member, Management Committee, National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network
- Member, UNESCO Memory of the World Australian Committee
- Leader, Yuraki — History, Culture and Politics node, National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network
- Member, Steering Committee, Research Unit for Indigenous Language, School of Languages and Linguistics, University of Melbourne
- Member, Reference Committee, Discover Collections: Indigenous Australians, State Library of NSW
- Member, National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data
- Member, AIATSIS
- Member, Steering Committee, Humanities Networked Infrastructure
- Member, Australian Linguistic Society
- Alumni Fellow, Power Institute Foundation for Art and Visual Culture, University of Sydney

Dr Michael Walsh

- Honorary Associate, University of Sydney
- Member, Australian Association for Lexicography (Australex)
- Member, AIATSIS
- Honorary life member, Australian Linguistic Society
- Affiliate, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language
- Member, Foundation for Endangered Languages
- Member, International Association of Forensic Linguists
- Life member, Mind Association
- Member, Technical and Scientific Subcommittee, Geographical Names Board of NSW
- Member, Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas
- Member, Executive Committee, Placenames Australia
- Volunteer, Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad
- Member, Editorial Board, *La Questione Meridionale / The Southern Question*
- Member, Language Curriculum Advisory Group, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting
- Committee member, Australasian Association for Lexicography
- Visiting Research Fellow, Linguistics, Australian National University

Dr Graeme K Ward

- Member, AIATSIS
- Visiting Fellow, AIATSIS
- Visiting Fellow, Archaeology and Prehistory, ANU
- Editorial Advisory Board member, *Australian Aboriginal Studies* journal
- Editorial Board member, *Rock Art Research*

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AIGI	Australian Indigenous Governance Institute
AM	Member of the Order of Australia
ANU	Australian National University
app	Computer application
APS	Australian Public Service
ARC	Australian Research Council
ASP	Aboriginal Studies Press (AIATSIS)
BIITE	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
CAAMA	Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association
CRCATSIH	Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
DAM	Digital Asset Management
DCOSS	Digital Collection Object Storage System
EDRM	Electronic Document and Records Management
FASD	Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder
FCAATSI	Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
GERAIS	Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies
ICT	Information and communication technologies
ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
NMA	National Museum of Australia
NIRAKN	National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network
NIRS	National Indigenous Radio Service Limited
NSW	New South Wales
NITV	National Indigenous Television
PBC	Prescribed body corporate
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
ROMTIC	Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities program (AIATSIS)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Compliance index

enabling legislation, 15

summary of objectives and functions, 15

responsible minister, 15

ministerial directions, 92

general policies of government and general policy orders, 92

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act 1987, 87

Work Health and Safety Act 2011, 87

information about directors, 16–22

organisational structure, 23

location of major activities and facilities, 15

statement on governance, 90

board committees and their responsibilities, 91, Appendix B

education and performance review processes for directors, 91

ethics, 91 and 92

risk management policies, 92

related entity transactions, 91

key activities and changes affecting the authority, 6–9

operational results, 28–29, 41, 54, 72, 81, 85–86

financial results, 97

key changes to the authority's state of affairs or principal activities, 6–9

amendments to enabling or other relevant legislation — nil during reporting period

judicial decisions and reviews by outside bodies, 92

indemnities and insurance premiums for officers, 92

annual report of operations approved, 3

financial statements prepared by directors under 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, 96–137

Auditor-General's report on financial statements, 94–95

Index

A

A man of all tribes teachers' notes, 40
abbreviations and acronyms, 152
Aboriginal Smoking and Health Survey Review, 47
Aboriginal Studies Press, 28, 38–40, 52
about AIATSIS, 14–23
acquisitions and donations, 49, 72–76
address and contact details, 2
advisory committees, 142–143
AIATSIS 50th anniversary, 81–82
AIATSIS Collection, 37–38, 71–80
  access and use, 37
  acquisitions and donations, 49, 72–76
  digital preservation, 72, 78–80
  discoverability, 76–77
  Mura catalogue, 29, 37, 76
  specialist research service, 37
AIATSIS Council, 16–23, 90–91
  appointments and meetings, 140
  governance and advisory committees, 141–144
  membership, 16–22
AIATSIS Foundation, 83
AIATSIS Research and Collections (program), 15
AIATSIS Research Publications, 40
Alfred, Professor Taiaiake, 51–52
app, Melbourne Dreaming, 39
APS Employee Census, 86
APS Values and Code of Conduct, 92
asset management system, 90
audio collection, 72–74, 75
Audit and Assurance Committee (AIATSIS), 142
audition sheets, 77
Auditor-General reports, 92
Australian Aboriginal Studies journal, 40
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989, 15
Australian Languages Workshop, 77
Australian Parliament House, 51
awards and recognition, 87

B

Black, Ms Rhonda, 52
books, 38–40, 59
  sales revenue, 28
British Museum, 50
Business Continuity Plan, 92
business strategies, 15

C

CAAMA Radio, 33
caption lists, 77
Chairperson, 16
  2014–15 message, 6–7
  address to National Press Club, 82
China–Australia Publishing Forum, 52
collaborative research projects, 46–47
Collections Advisory Committee (AIATSIS), 143
collections development and management (goal 4), 71–80
  key performance indicators, 72
  see also AIATSIS Collection
Commonwealth Ombudsman, 92
community access visits, 38
compliance index, 153
conferences, 145–147
conflicts of interest, 91–92
conservation management, 67
Consultative Committee (AIATSIS), 143
corporate governance *see* governance
Council, AIATSIS *see* AIATSIS Council
Cultural Capability E-Learning program, 47, 57–58
cultural competence, 57–59
cultural heritage management and promotion (goal 1), 27–40
  key performance indicators, 28–29
  curriculum development, 40

D

decisions review, 92
Defence Forces, Indigenous people in, 57
Department of Employment, 35
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, 35
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 35

Deputy Chairperson, 16
Digital Asset Management system (DAM), 80, 90
Digital Checkup 2.0, 90
Digital Collection Object Storage System (DCOSS), 80
digital preservation, 72, 78–80
digitisation equipment review, 80
document management system, 90
Dodson, Professor Michael (Chairperson), 16, 64
  address to National Press Club, 82
donations *see* acquisitions and donations

E

ebooks, 28, 38, 39
Education Australia, 40
Electronic Document and Records Management system (EDRMS), 80, 90
Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan, 88
email address, 2
employees, 87
  with disability, 86
  diversity, 86
  health and wellbeing, 87
  Indigenous, 87
  number, 86
  skills and career development, 88
  unscheduled absence, 85
  voluntary departures, 85
Encounters exhibition, 50
Encounters with indigeneity publication (Beckett), 39
eNewsletters, 32
engagement and collaboration (goal 2), 41–52
  key performance indicators, 41
ethical research, 54, 58–59, 64
ethical standards, 92
events, 35–36
Executive Board of Management (AIATSIS), 142
exhibitions, 56, 148
  online, 32

F

Facebook, 30
Family Day activities, 87
Family History Kit, 69
family history research, 69
Fighting hard publication (Broome), 39
Finance Committee (AIATSIS), 142
financial statements, 94–137
finding aids, 77
fishing, customary, 66
forums, 55, 68
fraud control, 92
functions, 15
Future Pathways benchmarking survey, 78

G

goals, 15
governance, 16–23, 90–92
governance committees, 141–143
grants, 148
Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies, 58–59
Guidelines for ethical publishing, 59

H

Health and Safety Committee (AIATSIS), 143
health and wellbeing, employee, 87
health determinants projects, 60
Hermannsburg community art market, 35
highlights 2014–15, 10
Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) database, 76

I

ICT Advisory Committee (AIATSIS), 143
indemnities and insurance premiums, 92
Indigenous Business Australia, 35
Indigenous caucus (AIATSIS), 143
Indigenous Defence Force personnel, 57
Indigenous employment, 87
Indigenous governance, 68
Indigenous Land Corporation, 51
Indigenous researchers, support for, 69–70
information and communications technology, 80, 90
  see also website
international delegations, 35
international engagement, 51–52

J

judicial decisions, 92

K

Kennett, Dr Rod, 52

L

land and water management, 65, 66–67
languages, 34, 77
Language and Peoples Thesaurus, 77
lectures, 145–147
legislative framework, 15
Libraries Australia, 76
Link-Up services, 48
Little red yellow black book, 28, 52
Lovett, Dr Raymond, 60

M

Mayi Kuwayu health determinants study, 60
media engagement, 33, 48
media releases, 28
Melbourne dreaming publication (Eidelson), 39
membership, 51, 91
Men's business publication (Adams), 61
men's sexual and reproductive health, 61
Minister for Education and Training, 15
ministerial directions, 92
moving image collection, 72–73
Mura online catalogue, 29, 76

N

NAIDOC on the Peninsula, 89
NAIDOC Week competition, 48
National Centre for Cultural Competence, 44, 57
national curriculum, 40
National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS), 33, 42, 48
National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network, 70
National Indigenous Television (NITV), 33
National Library of Australia, 76
National Museum of Australia, 50
National Native Title Conference 2015, 42–43
National Press Club address, 82
Native Title Act 1993 review, 55, 64
native title and traditional ownership, 42–43, 62–66
  information management, 65–66
  research publications, 40
Native Title Research Advisory Committee (AIATSIS), 142
Native Title Research Unit (AIATSIS), 62
Ngaiyuriidja Ngunawal Language Group, 34, 56
Ngunawal language project, 34, 56

O

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, 92
online shop, 28
organisational effectiveness (goal 6), 85–92
  key performance indicators, 85
  see also employees
organisational structure, 23
outcome, 15

P

parliamentary committees, 92
partnerships, 44–51
photographic collection, 72–75
prescribed bodies corporate, 42, 65, 47
presentations, 52, 145–147
Principal
  2014–15 report, 8–9
program, 15
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, 15
publications, 38–40, 59, 61, 144–145
  sales revenue, 28
Publicly Funded Research Agencies Research Impact Group, 47
Publishing Advisory Committee (AIATSIS), 143
publishing partnerships, 50
Pyne, the Honourable Christopher, 15

R

radio broadcasts, 33, 42
RAP Reference Group (AIATSIS), 143
Reconciliation Action Plan, 88
Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, 64
reporting lines to Minister, 23
reports, 148
research (goal 3), 53–70
  consultancies, 47
  ethics, 54, 58–59
  key performance indicators, 54
  networks, 44–47
  outputs, 144–148
  projects, 46–47, 55–57
  publications, 54
  review of priorities, 55
  specialist assistance, 37
Research Advisory Committee (AIATSIS), 91, 141
Research Ethics Committee (AIATSIS), 54, 58, 141
Research Publications, AIATSIS, 40
researcher memberships and offices, 149–151
responsible Minister, 15
Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities program, 38
risk management, 92

S

Safe Work Month activities, 87
school curriculum, 40
Scootle online portal, 40
seminars, 52, 145–147
Serving Our Country project, 57
Singing the Train exhibition, 56
666 ABC Canberra local radio, 48
Smart Office recognition, 87
social media, 30–32
Stafford papers, 49
stakeholder and community engagement (goal 5), 81–83
  key performance indicators, 81
Stanner Award, 69
Statement of Strategic Intent 2013–16, 15
Step-Up career development program, 88
Stolen Generations research and case management course, 69
strategic planning, 83
strategic research priorities, 55
Strelein, Dr Lisa, 52, 64
study group visits, 35
submissions, 54, 148

T

Taylor, Mr Russell (Principal), 8–9
teachers' notes, 40
telephone number, 2
The lone protestor teachers' notes, 40
The Referendum Australia Had to Have exhibition, 32
toolkit for Prescribed Bodies Corporate, 65
training and development, employee, 88
Tonkinson, Professor Robert (Deputy Chairperson), 16
Trove database, 76
Twitter, 30

U

Uluru handback anniversary celebrations, 51
universities, partnerships with, 44–47

V

visiting scholar, 51–52
visitors to AIATSIS, 29, 35–36
volunteer program, 51

W

Warlpiri community art market, 35
Warlpiri Drawings exhibition, 50
Warlpiri drawings publication (Hinkson), 38
We All Stand on Sacred Ground exhibition, 51
Web Acceleration Project, 28
website, 28, 30, 32
What do we want? publication (Norman), 39
workforce snapshot, 86
work health and safety, 87
workshops, 148
  ethics, 58
  land and water management, 55, 66
  Language and Peoples Thesaurus, 77
  managing information in native title, 65–66
  strategic planning, 83

Y

Youth Forum, 42, 51

Full page images

Page 11: Kuku Yalanji Dancers at the National Native Title Conference 2015 in Port Douglas.

Page 12: Lockhart River Dancers at the National Native Title Conference 2015 in Port Douglas.

Page 14: Danielle and Kasia Bangmorro: Kimberley, WA, 1995. Photographer: Jeff Doring.

Page 24: Wik dancer at the National Native Title Conference 2015 in Port Douglas.

Page 26: Torres Strait Islander performers at the National Native Title Conference 2015 in Port Douglas.

Page 84: Miles Hedger making an Aboriginal flag at the AIATSIS Family Day.

Page 138: Group photograph at Aboriginal Women's Conference, Sydney, NSW, 1971 from *New Dawn* magazine.

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