



AIATSIS

ANNUAL REPORT

2009–10



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES



Julianna Matyet looking at images from the AIATSIS photographic collection, Barunga Festival, 2010. Photography by Alana Harris.

AIATSIS AT A GLANCE

- the world's leading research, collecting and publishing institution in the field of Australian Indigenous studies
- a network comprising a Council and committees, members, staff and other stakeholders in urban, regional and remote areas throughout Australia, and abroad
- a community working in partnership with Indigenous Australians to carry out tasks that acknowledge, affirm and raise awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures and histories, in all their richness and diversity
- a team with a vision of worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present
- a staff of 128 people, headed by the Principal, engaged in a range of endeavours of interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, scholars and the Australian and international public
- a research team conducting high-quality research and administering research grants for significant projects approved by Council
- a prestigious publisher, Aboriginal Studies Press, producing and promoting an array of books, CDs, DVDs, reports and the Institute's journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*
- a Library and Audiovisual Archive managing the world's most extensive collections of printed, audio and visual materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and societies
- an accessible source of abundant information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, retrievable by Internet, mail, telephone or email, or by arranging to visit AIATSIS on Acton Peninsula in Canberra.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report continues the direction taken in the last five years' reports in reflecting outputs as they relate to our goals across the organisation, rather than by an individual program area. The corporate goals are listed on page ix, and the main program areas that implement them are identified.

The Chairperson's and Principal's contributions together provide a snapshot of the Institute's achievements and challenges during the year under review.

Some of the appendixes found in previous annual reports can now be accessed on the AIATSIS website, www.aiatsis.gov.au. We would welcome your feedback on this year's annual report. Please contact:

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This report is also accessible from the Institute's website at www.aiatsis.gov.au/corporate/info.html.

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The Institute logo is taken from a Gu:na:ni (Kunjen) shield from the Mitchell River region, Gulf of Carpentaria. The shield was purchased by Ursula McConnel in the early 1930s on behalf of the Australian National Research Council and is now part of the AIATSIS collection.



Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation,
Industry, Science and Research

The Hon. Kim Carr
Minister
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I am pleased to submit the annual report on the operations of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for 2009–10.

Councillors are responsible, under Section 9 of the above Act, for the preparation of this report. The report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dodson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Professor Michael Dodson, AM
Chairperson of Council
September 2010





Margaret Katherine, Dalabon elder from Barunga, admiring the goanna artwork in the AIATSIS client access area. Photography by Alana Harris.

CONTENTS

AIATSIS at a glance	iii	Figures and tables	
About this report	iv	Figure 1: Outcome and output structure	x
Letter of transmittal	v	Figure 2: Organisational and governance structure	xi
2009–10 Highlights	viii	Figure 3: Comparison of authors	25
Overview		Figure 4: Total AVA client requests	36
Functions	ix	Figure 5: Comparison of AVA client requests	36
Corporate goals	ix	Figure 6: Value of materials returned to Indigenous clients	44
Outcome and output structure	x	Figure 7: Audio preservation workflow	62
Organisational and governance structure	xi	Figure 8: Staff identifying as Indigenous	72
Chairperson’s message	xiv	Table 1: Requests for native title research and access services	35
Principal’s report	xvi	Table 2: Requests for Library services	37
Council members	xix	Table 3: Demand for Family History Unit services	39
Chapter 1: Research	1	Table 4: Elected and appointed Council members and terms	66
Chapter 2: Dissemination of information	19	Table 5: Attendance at Council meetings	67
Chapter 3: Collection development and management	51	Table 6: Audit and Risk Committee members and attendance	70
Chapter 4: Corporate governance	65	Table 7: Staffing levels and numbers	71
Financial statements	80	Table 8: Salary ranges under Agency Agreement	74
Appendixes			
1. Publications and presentations	117		
2. Research grants approved	123		
3. Donations to the Library	126		
4. Finding aids	129		
5. Contracts and consultancies	137		
Abbreviations and acronyms	138		
Compliance index	139		
Index	141		

HIGHLIGHTS

2009–10

- The Institute's Australian Indigenous Languages Collection is inscribed in Australia's *Memory of the World Register*, which is part of UNESCO's Memory of the World Program.
- The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts will provide more than \$1m. over three years to enable the Institute to establish a language unit.
- The AIATSIS Council approved 27 research grants, valued at \$618,141. A total of 101 applications were received for the 2010 grant round (78 in 2009).
- The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research has provided \$500,000 to continue the Indigenous Visiting Research Fellowship program in 2010–11.
- The AIATSIS website was redeveloped with innovations including webcasting of the AIATSIS Research Seminar Series and the AIATSIS Conference.
- Aboriginal Studies Press is now positioned to distribute a range of its e-publications internationally through several retailers, in PDF and ePub formats.
- A total of 98 collections were offered for deposit or donation including 24,294 photographic images, 2,363 audio recordings and 1,786 moving image items dating from the early 1900s to the present day.
- The Institute's policies and procedures were consolidated into a single document, Principal's Instructions, and will be available to staff on 1 July 2010.
- Development of the new 2010–11 to 2012–13 Corporate Plan following identification of the new working environment, major impacts on the organisation, and related strategic planning by Council and staff.

OVERVIEW

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Institute are set out in Part 3, Section 5, of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (the Act):

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

CORPORATE GOALS

To carry out its functions as defined in the Act, the Institute has adopted the following goals:

1. to provide leadership and excellence in promoting, facilitating and undertaking high-quality research in Australian Indigenous studies
2. to maximise the role of Australian Indigenous peoples in the activities and services of the Institute
3. to develop, maintain and preserve well-documented archives and collections, and to maximise access to these, particularly by Indigenous peoples, in keeping with appropriate cultural and ethical practices
4. to create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures
5. to develop and maintain strategic alliances that add value to our activities
6. to manage efficiently and effectively in a transparent, accountable and supportive manner
7. to promote and market the products, services and capacity of AIATSIS.

Corporate goals 2, 5 and 7 are implemented by all program areas of AIATSIS. Goal 1 is specific to the Research Program, goal 3 is specific to the Collection Development and Management Program, goal 4 relates primarily to the Dissemination of Information program (Aboriginal Studies

Press), and goal 6 relates to Corporate Services.

OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE

There was no change to the Institute's outcome and output structure during 2009-10 (see Figure 1).

Outcome		
Promotion of knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present		
Outputs		
Research	Dissemination of information	Collection development and management

Figure 1: Outcome and output structure

ORGANISATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

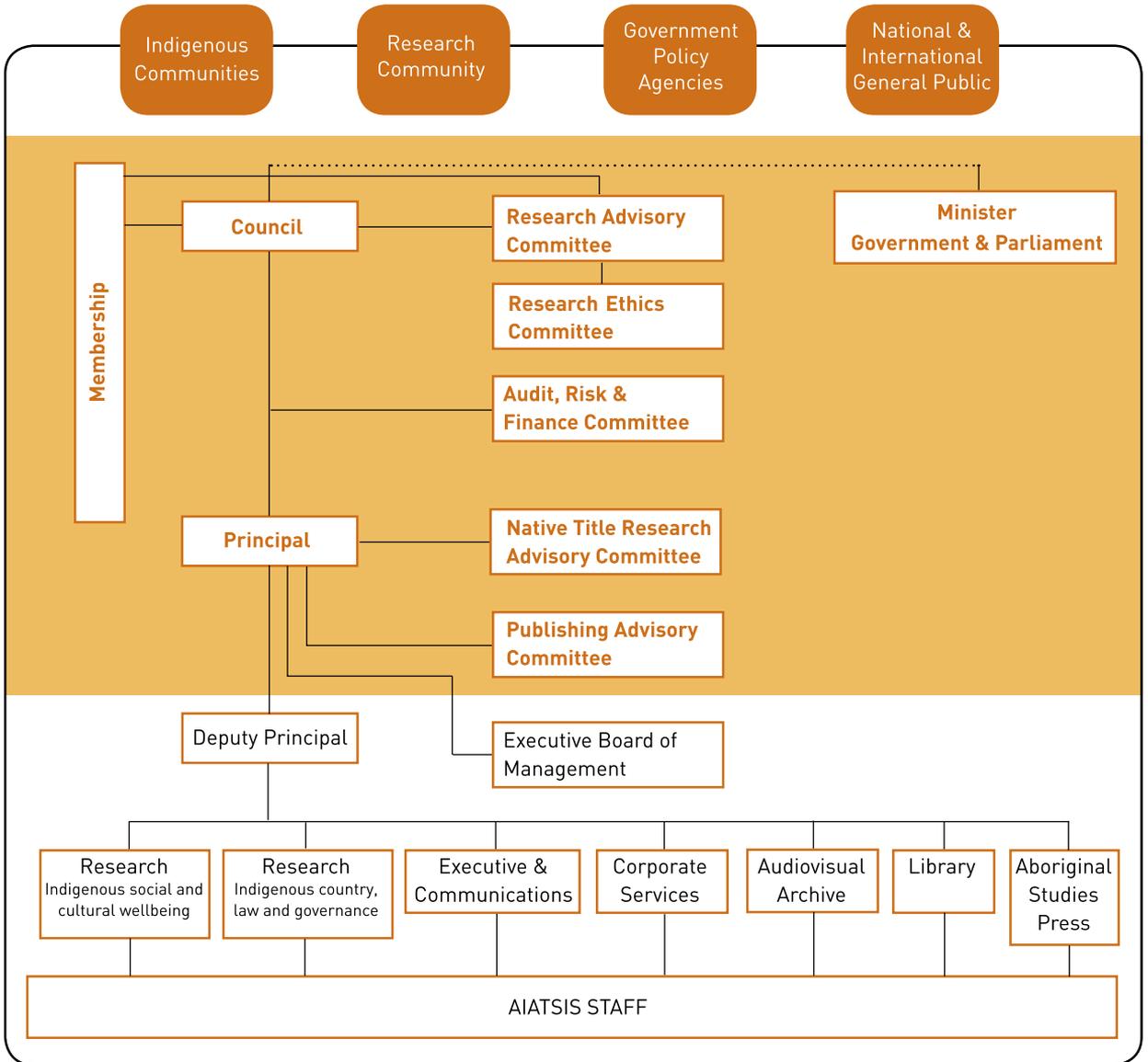


Figure 2: AIATSIS organisational and governance structure

The **Executive** ensures the smooth transition of **Council** directives through to the business plans of the AIATSIS programs. The Council-appointed Principal is responsible for the Institute's performance and advises the Council on all operational matters. The Principal is assisted by the Deputy Principal. These senior executive staff are responsible for ensuring that all Council policy and budget directives are implemented. They are also responsible for maintaining high-level relationships with the Institute's stakeholders and for the performances of program directors. Executive staff assist the Council and its committee meetings, liaise with the AIATSIS members, develop the organisation's media profile, and facilitate senior AIATSIS staff meetings, including those of the Executive Board of Management.

The **Research Program** undertakes multi-disciplinary research, usually collaboratively, in diverse areas of Australian Indigenous studies. It also contributes to policy formulation in priority areas. In addition, the Research Program supports Australian Indigenous studies, teaching and trainee researchers, and publishes widely in print and on the AIATSIS website. It holds seminars, workshops and conferences and has established a comprehensive set of ethical research protocols. The Native Title Research Unit addresses specific needs arising from the recognition of native title. The Research Program administers the Institute's research grants program and supports the Institute in providing training, facilities and support for Indigenous trainee researchers and visiting and honorary scholars.

Corporate Services supports other programs by providing financial, personnel, information technology, registry and building management services, as well as secretariat services to a number of the Institute's committees. It is also responsible for ensuring that the Institute complies with legislation relating to matters such as finance, human resources, occupational health and safety, and building. The Institute is also required to follow good practices in risk management and business planning.

The **Library** contains one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials on Australian Indigenous studies in the world. Through the AIATSIS website, remote users can access the Library's catalogue, online collections and electronic documents. The Library also provides document delivery, interlibrary loans and reference services. The Family History Unit assists Indigenous Australians with family history research.

The **Audiovisual Archive** holds almost one million items comprising photographic images, works of art, artefacts, audio, film and video in many different formats. The role of the archive is to ensure the safety and longevity of the materials, and to constantly migrate the information onto the latest technologies so that the material remains accessible for future generations of Australians.

Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) publishes up to eight new titles annually in the area of Indigenous studies. Academic books include history, anthropology, archaeology, land rights and native title, health, education, languages and art,

while general books include biography, autobiography and community stories. ASP publishes in print, sometimes with CD-ROMs. During 2009–10 it laid the foundations to move into electronic publishing. ASP is the publisher of the best-selling *Aboriginal Australia*

map and, with the Research Program, publishes the journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. Aboriginal Studies Press runs a small bookshop within AIATSIS and uses national and international trade distributors to disseminate its publications widely.



Professor Mick Dodson

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Without our memory, how do we know who we are?

As the custodian of the nation's Indigenous cultural memory it is our role to save, protect and share this store of information.

One of our greatest hurdles in doing this is time. Many of our songs, languages and cultural knowledge are stored on finite and fragile formats such as VHS video, audio cassette and audio reel-to-reel tape. Over time these formats deteriorate chemically and the equipment used to play them becomes obsolete.

The problem is not ours alone. UNESCO has identified the fragility of analogue magnetic media as a major risk to the world's heritage. During the year the Institute's Australian Indigenous Languages Collection was inscribed in Australia's *Memory of the World Register*, which is part of UNESCO's Memory of the World Program to ensure the collection's survival into the future.

Transferring the information from tapes onto a digital format is acknowledged as the best way forward. AIATSIS plans to digitise its priceless collections by 2025 – this is the biggest challenge currently facing the Institute.

In 2005 the Australian Government recognised this challenge and provided extra funding to purchase the specialised equipment needed to transfer the material and to employ specialist staff. However, this one-off funding runs out at the end of June 2011, well short of our 2025 target.

It has taken considerable time for the Institute to develop specialist expertise, establish the required hardware and software systems, and streamline our processes. We thank the Australian Government for helping build our capacity to protect this significant cultural asset for future generations.

We don't want to lose this capacity. To meet our preservation goal we will need to maintain this level of funding and we will be approaching the government to continue its support in future budgets.

As a relatively small organisation, juggling priorities with existing resources is always a challenge. We continue to explore opportunities for external funding with some degree of success. During the year some 55 per cent of our total research funding came from external sources — an increase of 9 per cent on last year.

However, looking ahead, the implications of Terry Moran's review of the Australian

Public Service could potentially impact significantly on the Institute. In particular the recommendations to align wages across the Australian Public Service could impact strongly on small agencies such as AIATSIS where wages paid to staff currently lag behind the larger departments. If the Institute were required to find the funds to achieve such wage parity in the medium term our finances would be under extreme pressure.

Similarly there is the potential for significant funding impacts from other government policies such as the new maternity leave provisions, and an emissions trading scheme, should it be introduced in Australia.

To help ease this pressure, the Institute is currently working with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) to explore possible efficiencies by using centralised corporate services functions across the portfolio.

The past year has been a time of consolidation and building for the Institute in terms of governance, policy and structure. It has also been a year of achievements.

Our publishing arm, Aboriginal Studies Press, continued to produce high quality books, which included the release in March 2010 of Joanne Watson's historic study *Palm Island*. Our online collections expanded providing greater access to the Institute's rich resources for researchers, educators and the community.

We continued to improve our outreach by introducing webcasts of our successful Seminar Series and the AIATSIS Conference.

I am optimistic about the future of AIATSIS. We have a magnificent collection, dedicated and hardworking staff and an important role to play in the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Our new Corporate Plan for 2010-13, charts the strategic direction for the organisation in the years ahead and I invite you to read it at <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/corporate/info.html>.

I am particularly excited about strengthening the Institute's relationship with its Acton Peninsula neighbour, the National Museum of Australia. Our two organisations have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly pursue opportunities to develop programs for the public on the Acton site. We have much in common and much to benefit by joining forces to promote our collections to the public.

I am proud to say that the strength of achievements over the past year, which you will find in these pages, shows that Institute continues its vibrant and progressive trajectory.

This is the result of the efforts of many. I thank the Minister, the Hon. Kim Carr, for his ongoing support and engagement in the work of the Institute. I also acknowledge the contributions and support of fellow Council members and Principal Russ Taylor, in striving to continually improve the organisation's governance.

I join the Council in thanking staff for their commitment and hard work and congratulate them on a year well done.



Professor Mick Dodson, AM
Chairperson



Mr Russell Taylor

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Completing my first full year as Principal has been an opportunity to take a fresh look at the Institute's operational environment and to strategically review key elements of our activities. It was also an opportunity to refresh our vision and renew our strategic thinking and planning.

Looking inwards, our focus has been on strengthening governance and organisational processes primarily in areas such as policy coverage, internal communications and structure. In this context we have paid particular attention to our governance model by reviewing all governance and management related committees and associated processes. This has already proved beneficial and in particular the influences of our revised Audit Risk Committee and our Executive Board of Management have strengthened our risk and financial management capabilities and contributed to our continuous improvement as an organisation.

Looking outwards, some major relationships with other collecting and research organisations have been strengthened during the year with the signing of Memorandums

of Understanding with the National Museum of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive and the University of Technology, Sydney. The mutual benefits of such consolidated relationships are considerable and make all the participants much stronger and more effective as a result. We look forward to working more closely with our colleagues.

AIATSIS has also strengthened its contribution to government policy-making bodies by increasing its presence on, and input into, key government committees such as the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Committee, the Heads of Collecting Institutions forum, and the steering committee of AusAID's Leadership, Elites and Coalitions Research Project. It is also working with the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in areas of mutual interest

AIATSIS continues to affirm its role as a premier research institution with its research excellence being acknowledged from diverse quarters. Congratulations to senior research fellow Dr Patrick Sullivan for receiving the Emerald Literati Network Award for Excellence for his paper on accountability in

Australian Aboriginal affairs policy. Likewise accolades are due to our audio visual researchers and specialists who were able to provide material from the collection for the SBS television series *Who do you think you are?* enabling singer Christine Anu to hear for the first time since childhood, the voice of her grandfather singing.

Some of our research work is not possible without external funding. This is the case for our Native Title Research Unit, which has received a \$2.05 million grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to continue work involving native title matters, for a further three years. Our prolific team of researchers, both fellows and other staff members, contribute significantly to Indigenous education, debate, policy development and nation building. I am very proud of their achievements and of government support for our Indigenous research program.

One of AIATSIS's great strengths is its expertise in supporting communities by identifying and returning cultural materials. Access to our audiovisual archives is increasing and this is being reflected through visits during the year from Dalabon women, Tiwi elders, women from Hermannsburg, Pitjantjatjarra women elders and a Torres Strait Islander dance group. Digitisation is the key to making the Institute's extensive records available to communities such as these with time running out for transferring materials from formats which are reaching the ends of their lives. This is a significant and urgent priority for AIATSIS and we continue to seek government and other sector support for these activities.

The Institute remains engaged in public debate whether through its submission to the Australian Government's national cultural policy, its policy on repatriation of Indigenous remains, its support of the Native Title Conference in June, or through its seminar series on Indigenous wellbeing, or its involvement in national consultation processes related to the concept of the National Indigenous Knowledge Centre project. AIATSIS was also delighted to host this year's Wentworth Lecture given by eminent former High Court Justice, the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG on First Australians, Law and the High Court. Our publishing arm, Aboriginal Studies Press, provides other opportunities for public debate through its steady release of publications which during the year included the topical *Palm Island* – a history of the island pre-contact to the present day.

As Principal I had much pleasure in representing AIATSIS at the World Intellectual Property Organization's intergovernmental committee on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore in Geneva, Switzerland in May. At the meeting I outlined the Institute's activities and in particular promoted our *Guidelines for ethical research in Indigenous studies*. I was also proud to represent AIATSIS at DFAT's inaugural reconciliation seminar where I briefed the international diplomatic corps on the issues surrounding repatriation of Indigenous remains.

As Principal I can reflect on a year of considerable achievement across all our programs. As an agency that is modest in size and resources, I believe we are punching well above our weight.

I encourage you to look at the individual reports in this publication, after which I'm sure you'll agree with this observation.

To reach this point has involved an impressive team effort and thanks are due to many. My sincere appreciation to our Minister, the Hon. Kim Carr, for his continuing support and interest in the Institute. My gratitude also to our Chairperson, Mick Dodson, and members of our Council for their

guidance and energy. And finally to each of the Institute's staff, and to my senior management team, thank you for your hard work and congratulations on a strong and successful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RTaylor', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Mr Russell Taylor
Principal

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Professor Michael Dodson, AM (Chairperson) is a member of the Yawuru peoples, the Traditional Owners of land and waters in the remote area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia. He is a prominent advocate on issues affecting Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as other Indigenous peoples around the world. He was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. Professor Dodson is currently the Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University, the Special Rapporteur for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and a Director of Dodson, Bauman & Associates Pty Ltd, legal and anthropological consultants.

He holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University, a Doctorate of Letters (HC) from the University of Technology Sydney and a Doctorate of Laws (HC) from the University of New South Wales. He was named the 2009 Australian of the Year by the National Australia Day Council and has been appointed as the next chair of

Australian studies at Harvard University in the United States.

Professor John Maynard (Deputy Chairperson) is Chair of Aboriginal Studies and Head of the Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. His traditional roots lie with the Worimi people of Port Stephens, New South Wales. He has held several important fellowships, including the Aboriginal History Stanner Fellowship for 1996 at the Australian National University and the New South Wales Premier's Indigenous History Fellowship for 2003–04. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association from 2000 to 2002 and has worked with and within many urban, rural and remote Aboriginal communities. Professor Maynard sits on the New South Wales History Council and the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council. He is the author of five books, including *Fight for liberty and freedom: the origins of Australian Aboriginal activism and Aboriginal stars of the turf*. He holds a Diploma of Aboriginal Studies from the University of Newcastle, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Australia and a PhD from the University of Newcastle.



Professor Michael
Dodson



Professor John
Maynard

Mr Eric Bedford has strong family and cultural links throughout the Fitzroy Valley in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. He currently holds the position of Koori Outreach Worker for the Peninsula Integrated Health Service in Victoria. He was previously the Manager, Community Development Employment Projects, Marra Worra Worra in Fitzroy Crossing, the Chairman of the Malarabah Regional Council, an ATSI Commissioner and the Executive Director of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre. He has been active in developing concepts and models for regional autonomy for Aboriginal people to enable communities to exercise their right to self-determination, and in promoting economic development projects in the Fitzroy Valley.

Dr Payi-Linda Ford is a senior lecturer with Charles Darwin University's School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Northern Territory. She is a Delyak elder of the Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu peoples and Traditional Aboriginal Owner from Kurrindju (Finniss River) in the Northern Territory. Dr Ford speaks several Aboriginal languages including Mak Mak Marranunggu,

Marithiel, Wagait/Daly River Creole and Aboriginal English. She has been actively involved in Indigenous community organisation businesses. Dr Ford is acknowledged for her deep understanding of and contribution to promoting cross-cultural diversity as well as awareness of, and respect for, Indigenous knowledge systems and the benefit they hold for all Australians. Dr Ford has been engaged in advisory roles to government and non-governmental organisations. For the past twenty-four years she has been involved in teaching and learning, delivering mainstream education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians from early childhood through to higher education. Dr Ford holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (Education), Masters in Education (Language and Literacy), Graduate Diploma in Special Education, and Diploma of Teaching (Primary) from Deakin University, Victoria.

Ms Terri Janke is an Indigenous arts lawyer, writer and consultant. Her law firm, Terri Janke and Company, is a Sydney-based Indigenous law firm that specialises in copyright and intellectual property issues and represents



Mr Eric Bedford



Dr Payi-Linda Ford



Ms Terri Janke

Indigenous artists, writers, filmmakers as well as a range of Indigenous businesses. Her publications include *Our culture: our future—report on Australian Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights*, the first report of its kind to outline a comprehensive framework for protecting Indigenous cultural heritage; and *Minding culture: case studies on intellectual property and traditional cultural expressions*, written for the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Ms Janke is also a published fiction author. Her novel *Butterfly song* was published in 2005. She was born in Cairns, Queensland, and has family connections with the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula (Meriam, Wuthathi and Yadaighana). She holds a Bachelor of Arts/Law from the University of New South Wales and is currently undertaking a PhD in Law at the Australian National University, which focuses on future options for protecting Indigenous cultural and intellectual property.

Mr Dana Ober is from Saibai Island in the western Torres Strait. He is a linguist and has an expert knowledge of Torres Strait Islander culture and history. He

is currently the chief executive officer of Saibai Council and was previously a lecturer at the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Mr Ober 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. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in linguistics and sub-major in anthropology, from the Australian National University. He is currently undertaking studies towards a Master of Applied Linguistics degree at Charles Darwin University.

Emeritus Professor Robert Tonkinson

held the Chair of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia from 1984 until his retirement in 2003, and is currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow there, as well as editor of *Anthropological Forum*, the international journal of anthropology and sociology. He is well-known internationally in his field of social anthropology for his contributions to the Aboriginal Australian and Melanesian anthropological



Mr Dana Ober



Emeritus Professor
Robert Tonkinson

literature. Professor Tonkinson has worked with Aboriginal people since 1962 and has published extensively, especially on Western Desert society and culture. His closest links are with the Martu people in the eastern Pilbara, with whom he has been involved for forty years. A Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia since 1988, he holds Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Western Australia and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia.

Dr Mark Wenitong is President of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Service, Cairns. In 2006 he won the Reconciliation Australia and BHP Billiton Indigenous Governance Awards. Dr Wenitong is a member of several national Indigenous health committees including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council, the Australian Medical Association Taskforce on Indigenous Health, and the National Health and Medical Research Council Health Advisory Committee. He has a particular interest in Indigenous men's health and is Chair of the Andrology Australia National Reference Group on Indigenous Male Health. Dr Wenitong is the author of numerous publications, including

Strengthening cardiac rehabilitation and secondary prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, The role of the general practitioner in an Aboriginal control community health service, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male health, wellbeing, and leadership. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine degree from the University of Newcastle.

Mr Michael Williams is the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at the University of Queensland. He is a member of the Goorang Goorang Aboriginal community from south-east Queensland and has been involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs for more than thirty years. For the greater part of his career, he has worked in the tertiary education sector, lecturing in mainstream history and maintaining a close involvement with programs that provide support for Indigenous Australian students. His academic interests include Indigenous language use, cross-cultural communication and the field of Indigenous knowledge. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Special Broadcasting Service and on numerous other government, academic and community boards concerned with Indigenous and non-Indigenous issues. Mr Williams holds a Master of Philosophy (Qual) degree from Griffith University.



Dr Mark Wenitong



Mr Michael Williams