

## OVERVIEW

### HIGHLIGHTS 2011–12

- Ministerial sign-off on a new three-year agreement for AIATSIS native title research and capacity building.
- AIATSIS launched the new AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research.
- AIATSIS research led to tax reform.
- Researchers built international links.
- Native Title Research Unit led dialogue on joint management of conservation parks and reserves.
- Aboriginal Studies Press developed its first mobile phone app.
- Aboriginal Studies Press title shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History.
- The 2011 Stanner Award winner was published by Aboriginal Studies Press.
- Aboriginal Studies Press established an inaugural Indigenous Lecture Series in partnership with Manning Clark House in Canberra, with six authors scheduled to speak in 2012.
- An online exhibition, *Remembering Mission Days*, was launched making available a large set of magazines of particular interest for family history research.
- An online tutorial, *Connecting to Country*, was made available online to assist other libraries and archives with the appropriate use of Indigenous place names when describing their collections.
- The Audiovisual Archive and Library developed integrated AIATSIS collection development and management policy and strategies.
- The Audiovisual Archive developed and implemented a new structure to achieve best outcomes.
- Significant changes were made to desktop computer software applications including upgrading to MS Office 2010 for all users in AIATSIS.
- Implemented mobile computing facilities incorporating iPads and laptop computers to key users with secure remote access to the AIATSIS network.
- Upgraded AIATSIS server fleet with latest hardware and incorporated them in a virtual server environment.
- Upgraded office infrastructure facilities including deployment of Multi-Function Devices (MFD) units with latest office automation facilities.

## 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 129 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, film, videos, 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.

## 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
- 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 encourage other people or bodies to conduct such research
- assist in training people, particularly Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, as research workers in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- establish and maintain 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
- undertake other functions as are conferred on the Institute by this Act
- 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 create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures.

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 manage efficiently and effectively in a transparent, accountable and supportive manner.

Corporate goals 2 and 4 are implemented by all program areas of AIATSIS. Goal 1 is specific to the Research Program, goal 3 is specific to the Library and Audiovisual Archive programs.

### OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE

The outcome and output structure was changed during 2010–11 (see Figure 1).

### ORGANISATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Institute’s organisational and governance structure is shown in Figure 2.

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. The

Executive and Communications Unit 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 multidisciplinary 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 provides training, facilities and support for Indigenous researchers as well as 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, 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

OUTCOME			
Further understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present through undertaking and publishing research and providing access to print and audiovisual collections			
OUTPUTS			
Research	Dissemination of research and information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, knowledge and cultures	Cultural collection development and management	Corporate governance, management and accountability

Figure 1: Outcome and output structure

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 provides services to Link-Up staff that 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 Australian 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. It also publishes digitally in eBook format for suitable new titles and previously out-of-print backlist titles. ASP is the publisher of the best-selling *Aboriginal Australia* map and, with the Research Program, publishes the journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. ASP runs a small bookshop within AIATSIS and uses national and international trade distributors to widely disseminate its publications.

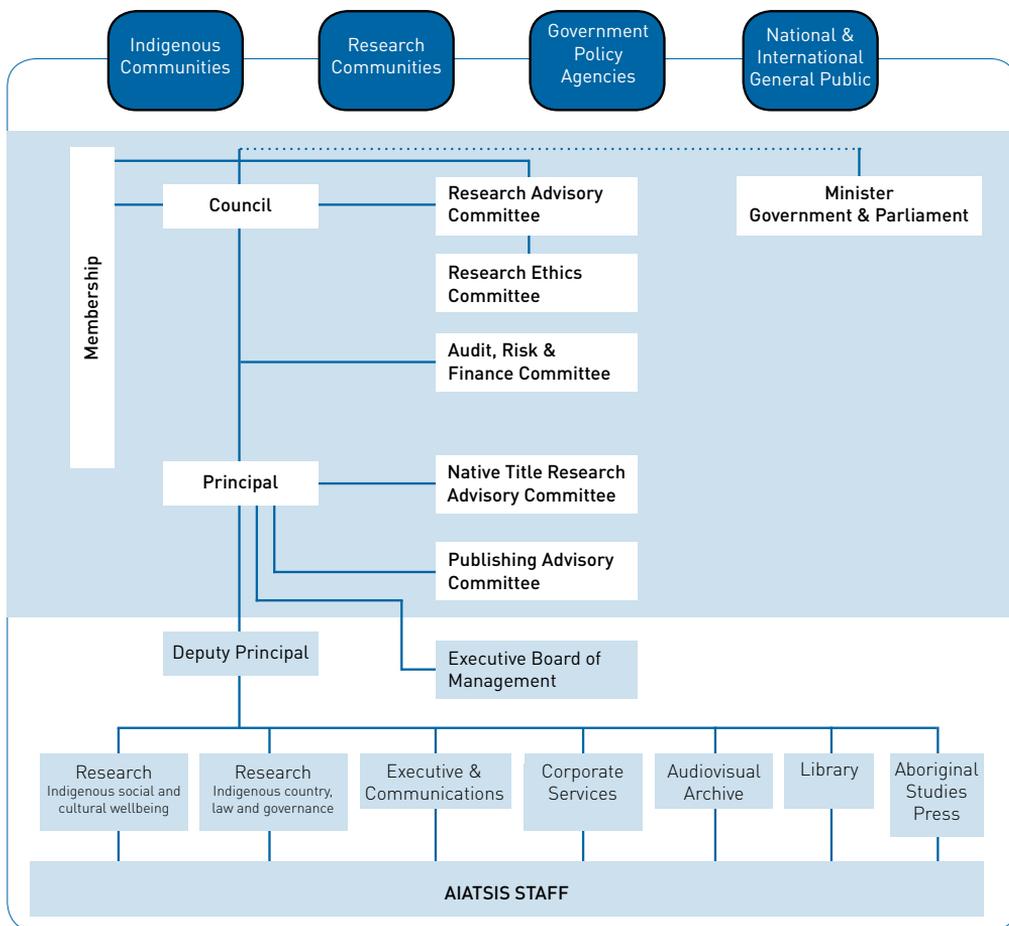


Figure 2: Organisational and governance structure



Professor Michael  
Dodson, AM



Professor John  
Maynard



Emeritus Professor  
Robert Tonkinson

## OUR COUNCIL

**Professor Michael Dodson, AM.** B Juris, LLB, LL.D(HC) Lit D (HC) (Chairperson) 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. He is a Professor of law at the ANU College of Law. He is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Professor Dodson is also currently a Director of Dodson, Bauman & Associates Pty Ltd – Consultants. He is formerly the Director of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales, Kensington.

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.

Professor Dodson is a member of the Publications Committee for the University of New South Wales' *Indigenous Law Reporter*, a member of the Lingiari Foundation and a member of the Australian National Archives Advisory Council. In August 2011, he took up his six month appointment as the Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard, Massachusetts, USA. He has been a prominent and long-standing advocate on land rights and other issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Professor John Maynard** (Deputy Chairperson) is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales. He is currently

an Australian Research Council Australian Research Fellow (Indigenous). He was formerly Professor of Indigenous Studies and Director of the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. Professor Maynard was awarded the Aboriginal History (ANU) Stanner Fellowship (1996), and was the New South Wales Premier's Indigenous History Fellow (2003), the Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow (2004), the University of Newcastle Researcher of the Year (2008) and the ANU's Allan Martin History Lecturer (2010). He gained his PhD in 2003, examining the rise of early Aboriginal political activism.

Professor Maynard was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association, the New South Wales History Council and the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council and has worked with and within many Aboriginal communities, urban, rural and remote. He is the author of four books, including *Aboriginal Stars of the Turf*, *Fight for Liberty and Freedom* and *The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe*.

Born and raised in Perth, **Emeritus Professor Robert 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 2003). He obtained his Doctorate in anthropology at the University of British Columbia (1972), and taught at the University of Oregon (1968–80) and the ANU (1980–84) before returning to Western Australia.

From the 1960s, Professor Tonkinson conducted research with Desert Martu people and in Vanuatu. He has been published extensively. In addition to four co-edited volumes, and a



Dr Mark Wenitong



Adjunct Professor  
Sandy Toussaint

monograph on his Vanuatu research, he has had two books published, *The Jigalong Mob* (1974) and *The Mardu Aborigines* (1978/91). He has also published several edited volumes, and numerous articles on various aspects of Melanesian and Australian Aboriginal cultures. He has been active in land claim research on behalf of the Martu, who gained title to the bulk of their traditional homelands in 2002.

**Dr Mark Wenitong** is Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Tropical Public Health at James Cook University, and is from the Kabi Kabi tribal group of South Queensland. He is the Senior Medical Advisor to Apunipima Cape York Health Council, and is the Aboriginal Public Health Medical Officer for the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Canberra.

He was the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Services in Cairns for the previous nine years, and he has also worked as the medical advisor 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.

Dr Wenitong chairs the Andrology Australia (Monash), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Reference group.

He is a member of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council. He is also a member of the National Lead Clinicians Group (part of the national health reforms) as well as a member of the national Independent E-Health Advisory group, and a ministerial appointee on the NHMRC Preventative Health Committee.

Dr Wenitong has been heavily involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce issues and sits on the Council of Australian Governments' Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council. He is involved in several National Health and Medical Research Council funded research projects.

He has worked in prison health, refugee health in East Timor, as well as studying and working in Indigenous health internationally. He was a member of the Northern Territory Emergency Response review expert advisory group in 2008.

Dr Wenitong received the 2011 Australian Medical Association's President's Award for Excellence in Healthcare, and the 2010 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council Hall of Fame award.

**Adjunct Professor Sandy Toussaint** is an anthropologist who has worked with Aboriginal people since the early 1980s. She has undertaken both applied and academic research with a range of Indigenous groups but especially with Walmajarri, Juwaliny-Walmajarri, Gooniyandi and Wangkajunga families in the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia, and with Noongar groups in the state's south. Professor Toussaint worked for inquiries such as the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Aboriginal Land Inquiry, and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. She has also worked for organizations such as the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and Marra Worra Worra.

She lectured in anthropology for eighteen years at the University of Western Australia, and has written and reviewed many socio-



Dr Payi-Linda Ford



Dana Ober

cultural, environmental and health reports, and published widely in journals such as *Aboriginal History*, *Anthropology Today*, *the Australian Journal of Social Issues*, *Oceania*, *Social Analysis*, *Practicing Anthropology*, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, *Anthropological Forum*, *Meanjin*, and the *Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker*. Her books include *Phyllis Kaberry and me: anthropology, history and Aboriginal Australia*; *Crossing boundaries: cultural, legal, historical and practice issues in native title* (editor); *A jury of whose peers? The cultural politics of juries in Australia* (co-edited with Kate Auty); *Applied anthropology in Australasia* (co-edited with Jim Taylor); and *Kimberley Stories* (editor).

Professor Toussaint is the Australian trustee of the Phyllis Kaberry Collection (lodged at AIATSIS), co-trustee of the Catherine Berndt Estate, and a member of the Berndt Foundation Advisory Board. Coordinator of the 2012 Jimmy Pike's Artlines Exhibition, Professor Toussaint is on the editorial board of the journal *Collaborative Anthropologies*, and dedicated to the value of collaborative work with Indigenous communities and organisations.

**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 owner from Kurrindju (Finniss River) in the Northern Territory. Dr Ford speaks several Aboriginal languages. These include Mak Mak Marranunggu, Marithiel, Wagait/Daly River Creole and Aboriginal English. She has been actively involved in Indigenous community organisation businesses.

She is acknowledged for her deep understanding 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 worked in advisory roles to government and non-government 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. She 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.

**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 is currently working at Tagai State College on Thursday Island. He was previously a lecturer at the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. 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. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in linguistics and sub-major in anthropology, from the ANU.



Robynne Quiggin



June Oscar

**Ms Robynne Quiggin** is a Wiradjuri lawyer based in Sydney. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales and a Graduate Diploma in Practical Legal Training from The College of Law in Sydney.

Ms Quiggin has worked as a solicitor, senior policy officer and lecturer on a range of Indigenous law issues, including: Indigenous intellectual and cultural property; use of biological resources; heritage; native title; human rights; consumer issues; media; criminal justice; and other social justice issues. She has participated in several United Nations Indigenous, human rights and biodiversity forums, and is a member of the editorial boards of the *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, *Balayi* and the *Journal of Indigenous Social Policy*.

Ms Quiggin ran a legal practice and consultancy in Sydney for seven years. During that time she wrote the Indigenous Women's Business Toolkit, developed the National Indigenous Intellectual Property Toolkit, published articles and chapters in a number of books and journals.

She is currently managing the Australian Securities & Investments Commission's Indigenous outreach program, which assists Indigenous consumers with financial service issues, and liaises with financial service industries to improve services for Indigenous consumers.

**Ms June Oscar** is from the Bunuba language group of the central Kimberley region of North Western Australia. She has a Bachelor of Business from Notre Dame University.

Ms Oscar is a strong advocate and activist for the recognition, rights, preservation and promotion of Indigenous Australian languages. She is Chair of the Kimberly Language Resource Centre, an Aboriginal community organisation directed by senior speakers of the 28 surviving languages of the Kimberley region, and a former co-chair of the Kimberley Interpreting Service. In addition, she is a member of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, comprising senior men and women who are the custodians and teachers of Aboriginal law, ceremonies, dance and songs.

She has previously held the position of Deputy Director of the Kimberley Land Council, the first woman to Chair the Marra Worra Worra Resource Agency (Fitzroy Crossing) and has represented the Kimberley Aboriginal community on a number of advisory positions and interests to the state and federal governments.

Ms Oscar is the Kimberley member of the Indigenous Women's Congress (a state wide board of Indigenous women established to provide advice to the Minister for Women's Interests), a member of the school council at Fitzroy Valley District High School and is involved in the Marulu Project focusing on research into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. She is also a committee member on the Girl's Academy – Fitzroy Valley and the Fitzroy Futures Forum and the local community radio station Wangkiyupurnanupurru and member of the Western Australian Pastoral Lands Board. She is presently the CEO of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre.