

**Indigenous Languages Collections – Issues and Actions Paper**  
**Framework for National Indigenous Languages Collections Policy**  
**Eastern States Aboriginal Languages Group -2011**

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## **Executive summary**

### **Background**

The Eastern States Aboriginal Languages Group coordinated the National Indigenous Languages Collections Forum to address key points contained in the National Indigenous Languages Policy, these noting the role of national collecting institutions in preserving and making accessible materials relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The Forum brought together representatives of major national, state and territory collecting institutions to recommend strategies relevant to the development of a National Indigenous Language Materials Collection Policy. This would aim to ensure effective and appropriate management of language materials into the future.

### **Discussion outcomes**

Participants were asked to draft a set of issues for consideration and discussion related to four key areas – auditing and identification of resources, access to collections, Indigenous knowledge and growing collections. Each set of issues was then summarised into statements to guide future action, as follows:

- Auditing and identification of resources –

There is a need for funding of a national awareness campaign to investigate the location of materials concerning Indigenous language and knowledges, and to maximise Indigenous ownership, access to and intellectual property rights over this material. A central information database should be established for community people to locate their own materials. Partnerships should be established between Indigenous communities, libraries, universities and museums, with grants provided for Indigenous community research.

- Access to collections –

The ultimate purpose of this project is to bring both the historical and contemporary records that are kept in collection institutions to the notice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is envisaged that this will be done in a format that allows maximum access and engagement by language researchers. It is acknowledged that the matter of access can be contentious, with community members expressing concerns about how language knowledge can be protected until decisions are made about the materials and the knowledge that it contains.

- Indigenous Knowledge –

It is vital that Indigenous ownership of our knowledge and languages be fully recognised and reflected in a robust set of uniform national guidelines for the use of and access to Indigenous knowledge.

- Growing Collections –

It was widely acknowledged by the conference participants that current collection policies and library practices have not supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to effectively access services and resources. Collection agencies can undertake to grow collections with historic and contemporary resources that hold language information. It was agreed that the ever-changing models of collection impact on the range of materials held as well as how they are made accessible. It was the consensus view that work must be done to establish a national framework, based on existing infrastructures.

### **Key Recommendations**

In order to address the issues raised, a number of strategies were proposed by forum participants. These have informed the following recommendations.

That the peak National and State collection institutions:

1. develop in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities an overarching policy that states their commitment to making Indigenous language and cultural resources accessible
2. develop strategic plans of action for work to commence on providing high quality access to language and materials
3. develop and adopt a set of protocols to provide advice on the collection and management of current and future materials
4. develop procedures to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in full consultation to ensure appropriate storage and access to collections
5. develop a national strategy to locate items and improve access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to resources currently held by institutions
6. develop a set of appropriate and sensitive cataloguing standards for cultural items held in collections
7. establish a central database of materials held across all major institutions in Australia
8. develop strategies to discover, describe and undertake initial linguistic investigation of materials that are held within their collections
9. develop strategies to monitor emerging technologies and the impact that these will have on the management of cultural materials
10. allocate resources to audit, update and maintain existing collections

## **1. Auditing and identification of resources**

There are extensive quantities of archival material relating to Indigenous languages held by a wide variety of organisations throughout Australia. While State and National Libraries and Museums are chief repositories for language artefacts, a plethora of local organisations including local historical societies also hold relevant materials. Institutions, hampered by lack of time and money, have a bulk of information that is yet to be effectively catalogued. This problem is further exacerbated by original, ineffectual cataloguing systems unable to cope with an increasing backlog of material. As a result there is poor understanding of what information is held and in what location.

Of key concern is that the lack of information around current holdings could deny Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people their fundamental right to access materials containing their language knowledge. Consequently Forum participants described the need for a comprehensive audit of catalogued materials to obtain a better understanding of the range of language resources currently held by each organisation.

It was acknowledged that a first step to address this problem is to allow Indigenous citizens immediate access to the pre-existing, significant materials held by National and State institutions. Such a strategy may have a two-fold effect. Firstly, it may address a perceived mistrust by Indigenous communities of Government organisations who have in the past prevented them from accessing knowledge and materials pertaining to their own culture. Secondly, the protocols that would be established through such an endeavour may be used as a template for future classification of and access to materials.

Concurrent with making available the first raft of materials, Institutions must develop strong planning protocols to sustain this project into the future. The strength of the overall endeavour will be gauged by the authenticity of the partnerships established between the Institutions and the appropriate Indigenous organisations and individuals. These professional relationships will add invaluable to the strength of the protocols; assist in developing effective access strategies; and provide a reciprocal transfer of knowledge between institutions and communities. A significant outcome will be the development of appropriate intellectual property protocols, including those relating to the repatriation of original materials to communities.

More broadly, Institutions will also need to establish a wide network of “experts” who can provide advice on the significance of the materials that are located. To ensure that information is accessible to end-users, it was agreed that library Institutions need to develop an appropriate metalanguage that is cognisant with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing.

## **1.1 Statement**

*“There is a need for funding of a national awareness campaign to investigate the location of materials concerning Indigenous language and knowledges, and to maximise Indigenous ownership, access to and intellectual property rights over this material. A central information database should be established for community people to locate their own materials. Maximum access to and repatriation of Indigenous language and knowledge materials is imperative. Partnerships should be established between Indigenous communities, libraries, universities and museums. Grants should be provided for Indigenous community research.*

## **1.2 Strategies**

A range of strategies was suggested to address the issues identified in the discussion.

### 1.2.1 Additional funding is required to audit, update and maintain existing collections.

There has been notable underdevelopment of many of the existing collections in so far as much of potential material is yet to be identified from the vast stores held in collection institutions. The particular nature of this work, such as source discovery, linguistic identification and negotiations with language holders will require significant additional funding. Sources for this funding could include existing library budgets, grants from other agencies or from philanthropic bequests. Planning would be required to:

- Develop a national campaign to locate items and improve access to Indigenous resources that are already held.
- Engage Indigenous communities in full consultation to ensure appropriate storage and access to collections. This would involve small working parties across a range of communities.
- Consult with stakeholders to establish a set of cataloguing standards for items held in collections. This standard should be then applied to future acquisitions and to new materials as they come to light.

### 1.2.2 In establishing a central database it will be vital to construct a way to “group” materials so that these can be easily located within the collection, enhancing accessibility for users. . One possible strategy is to use ‘language’ as a tag within collections linked with commonly understood terms such as Language Group names. These would use a variety of commonly known spellings of these groups. . Consultation with community groups is essential to ensure the accurate identification of language groups linked to collection materials.

### 1.2.3 To achieve the aim of accessibility by updating library catalogues – there was strong consensus that libraries must investigate the adoption of the AIATSIS thesaurus, and to develop a more robust set of guidelines for materials that are

generated by government agencies. This work is an essential matter that must be commenced immediately and be adopted at the highest levels of state and national collection institutions.

- 1.2.4 It was acknowledged that collection institutions would need to develop and then adopt an appropriate cataloguing database that will ensure consistency of access across Australia. It was agreed that this would allow materials, which are in state (or regional) collections to be easily accessible through the adoption of terms that are readily understood by language researchers.
- 1.2.5 Immediate attention must be given to the development and adoption of a set of protocols that will provide advice on the future collection of materials to be acquired by collection agencies. These must ensure that future access by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members is guaranteed by those depositing resources with collection agencies. It was envisaged that these protocols will also aid in the development of MOUs and funding agreements with third party agencies so that access is given a high priority in future agency activity in this area.
- 1.2.6 A strategic plan of action is required for work to commence on rectifying the issue of access to language materials that lay undetected in library collections. It was agreed that this should be divided into two timeframes. The first commencing immediately and lasting for the next 1-4 years.

### **1.3 Actions**

1 – 4 years

- Institutions develop and adopt a national framework for protocols to work with: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, linguists, other state/national collection institutions, local and regional libraries/repositories
- Establish best practice delivery systems for cataloguing and access for materials
- Institutions audit the range of materials that currently reside in their existing collections and develop procedures and processes to protect materials at risk
- Each central collection agency needs to make contact with those universities and academics who have research and community consultation skills to assist in identifying materials as they become available
- Libraries to develop and apply appropriate language cataloguing to unpublished materials
- Collection institutions develop a protocol to improve feedback to cataloguers

5 -10 years.

- Institutions aim to have all of their materials identified and described in partnership with appropriate communities and researchers
- Institutions have firmly established best practice delivery methods in national, state, government agencies, regional libraries (knowledge centres) and local libraries, museums etc. This will ensure that materials are more discoverable; and more used
- Feed back information on the collections to institutions – user annotation of material
- Repatriation of materials to communities (through local libraries?) available on country.

## **2. Access to collections.**

When describing the access to collections, two differing paradigms should be considered. The first model is underpinned by freedom of access, where any item in the collection is accessible to anyone, at any time. This is in conflict with the, at times, sensitive nature of Indigenous knowledge. A second model addresses this concern by applying strict copyright caveats to materials to limit access to only a few. Problems can arise when information in the collections has been acquired without the permission of the knowledge holders. Access is therefore not a model of 'one size fits all', but a relationship between rights holders, content and users.

A protocol is required to determine how access issues can be managed. This needs to find a balance between unlimited access and limited access by only a small and privileged number of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. In addressing this fundamental issue, format, sensitivity and wider access should be considered within the broader collections policy. The protocols will need to be supported by institutional staff who appreciate the community sensitivities around the materials that are to be made available.

It is a longer-term aspiration that these new materials will provide a rich source of language knowledge for ongoing research with local language owners and teachers. To facilitate this, materials will need to be accessible to a range of people and organisations.

### **2.1 Statement:**

*The ultimate purpose of this project is to bring both the historical and contemporary records that are kept in collection institutions to the notice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is envisaged that this will be done in a format that allows maximum access and engagement by language researchers. It is acknowledged that the matter of access can be contentious, with community members expressing concerns about how language knowledge can be protected until decisions are made about the materials and the knowledge that it contains.*

### **2.2 Strategies**

- 2.2.1 It was agreed that it was essential for the major collection agencies to develop and actively adopt protocols defined by best practice community collaboration. These will define the various relationships between institutions and Indigenous communities and knowledge holders, linguists working with communities, and between collection institutions. The essential elements of these protocols will need to address the following matters:

- 2.2.2 Access regimes that can be localised for each community environment. The protocols must acknowledge that communities will be at different stages of language development. This may necessitate the some variation in the application of the protocols. It must also be made clear that these variations will mean different outcomes in respect to access and potential use.
- 2.2.3 Initial access issues need to be addressed within the level and description of the resources in the home catalogue
- 2.2.4 The protocols must facilitate effective community consultation and collaboration. This should assist collection institutions in identifying those who have a vested interest in language reclamation. This may include individuals, local/regional institutions (such as lands councils) and, language centres where appropriate.
- 2.2.5 The initial discussions need to address issues such as physical access, delivery methods and appropriate use. The various delivery methods should be demonstrated along with a discussion on the strengths of different systems, such as Trove. This may include online tutorials on how best to access materials and how they may be used
- 2.2.6 Communities need to be made aware of the implications of the decisions that are made at each stage. It is suggested that each agency will develop a reference group with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations/individuals who will provide ongoing advice and support to key activities

## **Policy**

- 2.2.7 The Protocols policy will need to be wrapped around a wider policy statement outlining the commitment of each of the institutions to work with Indigenous people, discovering and making accessible existing and future language resources.
- 2.2.8 The initial draft of this Indigenous Languages Access Policy should propose activities and tasks. In the first instance, it would be seen that this work would be a collaborative project with an appropriate Indigenous organisation having expertise in language reclamation and maintenance. The policy should also provide advice on possible delivery locations in which resources could be accessed or stored. This may include local and /or a National indigenous knowledge centre
- 2.2.9 The policy should outline a range of users, and identify which groups or individuals will be given access to specific language resources. This will involve developing a broader understanding of those who may wish to access the materials for genuine research, and mechanisms that will encourage a range of uses to engage with newly identified materials.

### **2.3 Actions**

Next 1 – 4 Years

- Work closely with senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics to develop a clear outline of issues related to the place of Indigenous knowledge and collection policies.
- Invite community in to Institutions to undertake research
- Collaborate with collection agencies to promote the materials and access to language and cultural resources
- Promote Indigenous ownership of Indigenous Knowledge
- Develop relationships with Language Centres and assist with training.

5 – 10 years.

- National Indigenous Knowledge Centre operating – coordinating, funding, leadership, policy development, protecting Intellectual property
- Out of copyright material could be made available locally

### **3. Indigenous Knowledge**

Central to the quest of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to re-discover their language heritage, is the insight that this provides into lives, relationships, beliefs and cultures – those things that define them as unique peoples. It is broadly acknowledged that the reclamation of language provides an exceptional view and unlocks deeply embedded Indigenous knowledge and ways of viewing the world that they, their ancestors and Dreaming inhabit and interact with. This very fact drives community interest in working to reclaim their near lost languages, as each word, phrase, narrative and story in the language of traditional owners brings deeply held knowledge back to those who have inherited their Country.

A significant outcome of language reclamation is in reconnecting people to the views of their ancestors and in particular to their worldviews. Consequently, the reclamation of ancestral languages has been found to have immeasurably lifted the profile of the culture, and positively impacted on the personal and public identities of those linked to it. There is also an esteem that comes from being able to speak the languages of the traditional owners of the country that has been found to improve community well being, and to strengthen community capacity and resilience.

It is acknowledged that in many cases, the intimate knowledge of the traditional people is deeply embedded in a range of materials that are now widely dispersed within the community and within the historical records that have been collected in many collection institutions. It is possible that in the first instance, locating new materials within existing collections will require a level of linguistic analysis so that it can be properly described and so that negotiations about access can be undertaken with the correct language communities.

A further matter that resonates with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is how the material will be made available so that it appropriately and responsibly represents the language and cultural knowledge contained within it. A significant challenge for institutions will be the whether current cataloguing and portals to digitised resources are the best methods for security and community access.

#### **3.1 Statement**

It is vital that Indigenous ownership of our knowledge and languages be fully recognised and reflected in a robust set of uniform national guidelines for the use of and access to Indigenous knowledge

### **3.2 Strategies. Indigenous Knowledge**

- 3.2.1 A critical outcome from the development of this broader project will be application of protocols that will assist in the discovery, access and treatment of materials that hold significant traditional knowledge. In making this material available, collection agencies will have developed sound processes that are built on community approval of materials
- 3.2.2 The development of effective protocols must ensure that due respect is paid to local community desires for the language materials to be available. Central to this is an acknowledgement that language and the knowledge it holds belongs to a particular language community. There needs to be a mechanism in place for a variety of communities to be consulted as language knowledge may now belong to a number of groups who trace their lineage from the original informants. Another concern that needs to be addressed is that of the copyright ownership of resources. All stakeholders need to know the status of materials that are located in collection institutions.
- 3.2.3 An essential outcome of the project will be the establishment of a process of resource identification. This will require the resourcing of a collaborative program between library staff, community representatives and linguists (where required) to correctly identify materials, and to have an understanding of their particular value as language resources. While initial judgements will need to be made to progress the availability of these materials, the agency protocols need to allow for changes to be made if later research shows that the materials have been incorrectly described.

#### **Actions**

1 – 4 years

- Make contact with those progressing the work of the National Indigenous Knowledge Centre to see if they would be willing to participate in the development of the overarching Collections Agencies Indigenous Languages Protocols.
- It was agreed that a number of state and national bodies, including professional organisations would be required to take this project forward. Some of these will include key Indigenous academic peak bodies, heads of key State Library agencies, peak Indigenous language bodies and where appropriate, state government agencies in education, cultural maintenance and Indigenous affairs
- Develop and seek peak agency sign-off on the overarching policies and protocols related to the management of Indigenous language collections

5 – 10 years.

- Evaluate the policy and protocols documents to ensure that they are meeting the needs of both the collections agencies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Work with New Indigenous Representative Body in developing an ongoing brief to oversight the work of key state and national collections agencies.

#### **4. Growing collections**

Of considerable concern to participants was the view that little contemporary material representing the lives, knowledge and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is being collected within many of the key collection agencies.

It was recommended that agencies must move beyond their 'traditional' views of Indigenous Australians and their 'artefacts', to a contemporary understanding of the Indigenous communities. This will reflect the communities as dynamic, knowledgeable, aspirational and having particular needs in respect to their access to materials being collected within agencies. It is seen that Indigenous reference groups will be in a position to inform agencies about the future needs of communities and will facilitate broader partnerships between Indigenous organisations and collection institutions. One of the tasks of this group will be to recommend new resources and activities that can include significant language knowledge.

In respect to the collection of language materials, agencies must collaborate with those Indigenous people working closely with language reclamation and maintenance programs to develop innovative and sustainable collection policies. These may include extensive oral histories incorporating local language, and other 'ephemeral' materials that often hold significant local knowledge and stories.

A further issue that has been highlighted is the wealth of resources held within a broader range of collection institutions. This includes university collections, which have auspiced research over a long period of time. These are rich sources of language knowledge that will need to be brought into the broader discovery project. It would be essential that these materials be recorded within their collections using the same standards that had been adopted by the major collection agencies.

Other organisations that should be invited to participate in this work would include state, regional and local language centres. Further research will need to include the highly ephemeral materials placed on websites.

The issue of collection duplication was raised and it was agreed that the national collections database and an effective access system would obviate some of this duplication, and allow institutions to develop collection specialisation. Two aspects of this specialisation would support the development of processes for specialist care of materials, and the allocation of strategic resourcing of their collections.

##### **4.1 Statement**

It was widely acknowledged by the conference participants that current collection policies and library practices have not supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to effectively access services and resources. Collection agencies can undertake to grow collections with historic and contemporary resources that hold language information. It was agreed that the ever-changing models of collection impact on the range of materials held, as well as how they are made accessible. It was the consensus view that work must be done to establish a national framework, based on existing infrastructures."

## 4.2 Strategies

4.2.1 Given the changing environment in which collection agencies exist, the national policy must facilitate informed discussion to identify the future service and delivery needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These discussions need to take into account:

- A key to the long term success of these strategies is the employment of professionally trained Indigenous library staff in significant roles
- Collection agencies must develop strategic plans that take into account future use based on the quality of access that communities will have available to them.
- Collection agencies must be auditing their current collections to identify gaps and to strategise future collection planning and development.

4.2.2 The development of the National Policy and accompanying protocols must support agency commitments to establish and maintain respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and collecting institutions.

4.3.3 Institutions will need to work closely with key Indigenous agencies to monitor emerging technologies and the impact these will have on the management of cultural material. Indigenous staff and community organisations should have a standing process to evaluate current and future technologies for their capacity to facilitate appropriate access to resources.

## 4.3 Actions

1 – 4 years

- Each agency to establish a Reference Group to inform and support the development of key activities. This group will inform agencies about current language activities within each jurisdiction and how these could be supported by collection policies.
- Collection agencies to have professionally trained Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff and advisory bodies that will be empowered to make recommendations to senior agency management.

5 – 10 years

- That key national and state collection agencies will develop policies that support the collection of born digital material. In particular, advice on standards particular to the needs of Indigenous communities needs to be embedded into agency policies.
- Establish a notional National Indigenous Education Resource that would be made available through local and regional library sources.

## List of institutions

Knowledge Centres Northern Territory Library	Support to remote libraries in the northern Territory is delivered through the Libraries and Knowledge Centres (LKC) Program. The program was developed in response to requests from Indigenous communities, who wanted assistance to preserve their cultural heritage and provide appropriate access to it. The Libraries and Knowledge Centres Program also manages library resources for remote libraries across the Territory. A key feature of the Libraries and Knowledge Centres program is the local Our Story database which provides access to cultural and historical resources about each community.
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	<p>An educational institution for the tertiary education of Indigenous people of Australia and the provision of other educational and training programs and courses, and facilities and resources for research and study, and for related purposes.</p> <p>A central task of the Institute is the provision of tertiary education and training programs which engage students in the development of appropriate responses to issues of cultural survival, maintenance, renewal and transformation, within the context of the national and international social, political and economic order.</p>
State Library of New South Wales	The State Library of New South Wales is the major reference and research library for the people of New South Wales with dual roles: the Library serves as a library of record documenting the history of New South Wales, and supports client use, particularly public libraries in NSW. In meeting people's information needs the State Library is committed to the principles of resource sharing and cooperates with other libraries in New South Wales and across Australia in inter lending and document supply
State Library of Queensland	The primary custodian of Queensland's documentary heritage. The State Library of Queensland is also a significant partner with local government to provide library services for over 340 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centers.

State Library of SA	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander library collections and services are a fundamental part of the State Library's core business. The Library holds a number of significant Indigenous anthropological archival collections; improving access to these is a focus.
CAAMA Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association.	The Aboriginal people of Central Australia own CAAMA through an association regulated under the Incorporations Act , and its objectives focus on the social, cultural and economic advancement of Aboriginal peoples. It has a clear mandate to promote Aboriginal culture, language, dance, and music while generating economic benefits in the form of training, employment and income generation. CAAMA produces media products that engender pride in Aboriginal culture, while informing and educating the wider community of the richness and diversity of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia.
AIATSIS Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is the world's premier institution for information and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present. The Institute undertakes and encourages scholarly, ethical community-based research, holds a priceless collection of films, photographs, video and audio recordings and the world's largest collections of printed and other resource materials for Indigenous Studies, and has its own publishing house. AIATSIS is a Commonwealth statutory authority within the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR ) portfolio.
Koorie Heritage Trust Oral History Unit	A not for profit organization owned and operated on behalf of the Aboriginal community of South-Eastern Australia. The purpose of the Trust is to preserve, protect and promote Aboriginal culture of South-Eastern Australia and in doing so, bridge the cultural gap between Koories and the wider community.

National Indigenous Knowledge Centre Project	The National IKC Project grew out of the 2020 Summit that was held in Canberra in April 2008. The primary aim of the project is to engage with Indigenous communities and organisations, the wider Australian community and with cultural institutions to develop ideas to strengthen and support Indigenous culture and knowledge.
VICNET State Library of Victoria	A division of the State Library of Victoria, Vicnet enables people to access the internet and information technology. It does this by delivering programs and services for the community, on behalf of clients including government, corporate, community and philanthropic organisations.
National Library of Australia ACT	<p>The functions of the Library are set out in section 6 of the National Library Act 1960. The National Library of Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintains and develops a national collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Australia and the Australian people.</li> <li>• makes library materials in the national collection available to such persons and institutions, and in such manner and subject to such conditions, as the Council determines with a view to the most advantageous use of that collection in the national interest</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
National Film and Sound Archives	The main role of the NFSA is to inspire curiosity and creativity through development, preservation and an informed understanding of Australian film, sound and emerging new media heritage, its cultural diversity and significance.
Indigenous Languages and Culture. Office for the Arts. Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	This department's statutory function is to develop and implement national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture.

Australian National University

The Australian National University has two major parts: the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) which concentrates on research and research training; and The Faculties which, like other universities, is engaged also in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. The presence of the IAS contributes to a uniquely rich academic environment for both students and staff. The University's mission is to be one of the world's great research institutions, distinguished by outstanding teaching, guiding students to the frontiers of knowledge and the best standards of scholarship.

Eastern States Aboriginal Languages Group

Australia's Eastern States Aboriginal Languages Group was established in 2008 to identify and address issues, which are common to Eastern Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language communities. The reports and recommendations from the Eastern States Aboriginal Languages Group will support the implementation of the National Indigenous Languages Policy and inform a range of government and non government agencies on effective actions to be taken to preserve languages.