



**AIATSIS**

Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Submission No. 58

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Executive

Fax: 02 6261 4286

*Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present*

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVED  
11 MAY 2005  
BY: ATSI/A

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to make a submission to the Inquiry into Indigenous Employment.

Please find enclosed two volumes of a research project conducted by AIATSIS entitled *Success in Aboriginal Communities*. You will note that AIATSIS was contracted to provide this research project by the Australian Collaboration, a collaboration of eight leading national community organizations. The research project was a pilot study focusing upon two case study locations to gauge elements of success in the management of the respective Indigenous organizations, Wangka Maya Language Centre and Durri Medical Service. The objective of the research was to conduct in depth research of the organizations to discern successful work practices and, following from the case study work, to consider in a more theoretical sense how "success" might be conceived in the Indigenous context. Volume One is written in a way that will facilitate the dissemination of the results of the research among Indigenous communities. Volume Two is more theoretical and includes the extended case study discussions. AIATSIS wishes to extend this research to many more case study locations and is working with the Australian Collaboration to draw in more funds to support the development of the project into Stage Two. It is expected that the Stage Two research will continue next financial year.

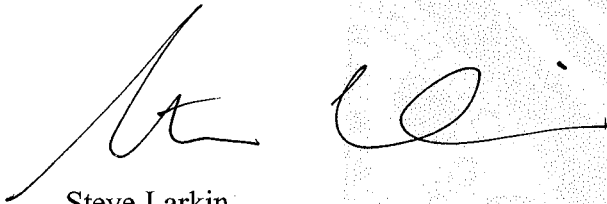
AIATSIS also wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to the role of the organization in training Indigenous research workers. The AIATSIS Act identifies a function for the organization in training research workers in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. Since its inception AIATSIS has used its research grants scheme as a primary means of achieving this end. Currently, approximately 60% of research grants are taken up by Indigenous researchers or Indigenous organizations who in turn work closely with experienced non-Indigenous researchers. AIATSIS staff play a key role in the research skills development of the grantees. This may be in the form of skills development workshops or mentoring to a senior researcher. As a feature of this effort the AIATSIS Audio Visual program has developed a workshop and accompanying book to support the training of Indigenous people in local archives and collection management. AIATSIS believes that with the expansion of the development of Indigenous Knowledge Centres across the country demand for this kind of training is likely to increase.

The ability of AIATSIS to more fully engage in training programs is currently constrained through the competing needs of other areas of the organizations operations. However AIATSIS maintains expertise in the areas of Indigenous studies, Indigenous archive management, native title, mediation and facilitation in resolving disputes and development of agreements, and Indigenous health research that could directly contribute to areas of training need that are highly relevant in the context of the contemporary Indigenous life.

Currently AIATSIS is in the process of attempting to expand its activities to train Indigenous research workers and is seeking a mixture of government and corporate sector funding to achieve this end. AIATSIS has raised the prospect of an increased training role with the Department of Education, Science and Training. In addition the organization is pursuing opportunities through its membership of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health to secure support for training Indigenous health researchers.

I trust that these materials are of assistance to the deliberations of the Committee. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 62461118.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Larkin', written over a large, faint, circular watermark or stamp.

Steve Larkin  
Principal

2 May 2005