

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Agency: AIATSIS

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000823

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

AIATSIS - Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies - evaluation reports

Question

With reference to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies please provide:

- (a) Copies of any evaluation reports or program analysis prepared by external advisers in the last five years;
- (b) Copies of any evaluation reports or program analysis prepared within the department in the last five years.

Answer

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has provided the following response.

Please see attached reports.

- a) External advisers
 - One AIATSIS, 2014, by Moreton Consulting
 - AIATSIS Collection Significance Assessment, 2014, by Significance International
- b) Departmental Reviews
 - AIATSIS Independent Review, 2013, by ACIL Allen Review

The Significance International Collection Management Report (2014) identified extreme to catastrophic risks across parts of the collection and recommended a substantial increase in total staffing to provide for an adequate standard of ongoing management of the collection, alongside investment in storage space and equipment to mitigate these risks.

On 29 April 2015, the Minister for Education announced that \$5.0 million in funding was being provided to AIATSIS in 2015–16 to strengthen the capacity of AIATSIS to manage and preserve its collection. This augmented the \$3.3 million that had been provided for the digitisation program in 2014–15.

The \$5.0 million funding has been used to address the highest priority needs in the management of the AIATSIS collection, including urgent preservation work on parts of the collection. Funding has been expended on engaging skilled employees to undertake conservation and curatorial functions as well as preservation infrastructure.