

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
2-3 June 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

TOPIC: AIATSIS Audiovisual Material

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No. BI-2

Were steps taken to ensure that the material that was digitised and made publicly available online was culturally suitable for this purpose?

ANSWER

No material has yet been supplied by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) to the Australian Film Commission for inclusion on the Australianscreen Online website.

The management of the entire AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive Collection is governed by the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989*, specifically

Section 41 Certain information not to be disclosed

- (1) Where information or other matter has been deposited with the Institute under conditions of restricted access, the Institute or the Council shall not disclose that information or other matter except in accordance with those conditions.
- (2) The Institute or the Council shall not disclose information or other matter held by it (including information or other matter covered by subsection (1)) if that disclosure would be inconsistent with the views or sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders.

and by the *AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive Collections Management Policy Manual*.

Sections 8.5 and 8.6 of this policy manual outline the requirement for a client to gain informed consent from the relevant Indigenous individuals and/or communities before any material is cleared for publication or broadcast of any kind.

Details of this policy can be found here:

http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/audiovisual_archives/audiovisual_archives_collection_management_policy_manual/access_policy

AIATSIS has adopted this approach so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can control the ways in which their cultural heritage, held in the AIATSIS Collections is used, as well as the ways in which they themselves are depicted.

No material will be supplied to the Australian Film Commission or the National Film and Sound Archive, which will administer AustralianScreen Online in future or indeed to any client, until AIATSIS receives evidence that this process has been satisfactorily completed.