

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS (AIATSIS)

TOPIC: Digital Records

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Siewart

QUESTION No.: BI-231

The Government is providing \$6.4 million over two years to continue to make digital records of the collections of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, which are of unique world significance and under threat from deterioration. Given AIATSIS has indicated that these funds are insufficient to adequately transfer written records to electronic databases, how will the Government ensure that irreplaceable Aboriginal cultural materials are not lost?

ANSWER

The Government has provided AIATSIS with \$6.4 million to continue the existing digitisation program for the next two years. In addition, the Institute has been provided with supplementary funding of approximately \$1.3 million over the ensuing four years. The Institute will focus on digitising those items that are most at risk as a priority.