

# Getting It Right

**A Journalist's Guide to  
Working with Indigenous  
Communities during the  
Sydney 2000 Olympics**



Produced by the NSW Department  
of Aboriginal Affairs and the  
Sydney Organising Committee  
for the Olympic Games

# Foreword

THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES will provide an opportunity to showcase to the world the rich and diverse cultures of Australia's Indigenous peoples.

Prior to and during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, and for some time following the Games, there will be an influx of Australian and international journalists, television crews, photographers, radio and television commentators wanting to visit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and report on Indigenous Australian cultures, lifestyles and issues.

This attention will place great demands on some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. SOCOG recognises the need to ensure that media contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is conducted with appropriate consultation and with respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols.

This publication is intended to inform visiting and local media, both accredited and non-accredited, of relevant issues, appropriate contacts, and culturally sensitive practices for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

SOCOG encourages all media groups and individuals to use this Guide as the first step to successful working relationships between media and Indigenous peoples of Australia.

**Sandy Hollway**

Chief Executive Officer  
Sydney Organising Committee  
for the Olympic Games



## From the beginning of the Dreaming

Aboriginal Australia is not one political entity but up to 300 nation-states, speaking an estimated 250 Aboriginal languages

**1770**

Captain Cook claims eastern Australia as terra nullius – 'land belonging to no one' – in spite of his instructions not to take possession of territory without the consent of the inhabitants

**1788**

Colonisation by First Fleet

**1789**

Smallpox epidemic wipes out at least half of Sydney Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people had no resistance to European diseases, and even the common cold could be fatal

**1790**

Resistance begins, first by Pemulwuy (from 1790 to 1802), then in Hawkesbury River area. Martial law is declared time and again, but on occasion settlers are told to protect their property; official records speak of a 'campaign of terror' to crush resistance

**1837**

In London, a Parliamentary Select Committee affirms the 'plain and sacred right' of Indigenous peoples to land

**1838**

Myall Creek massacre – 28 Aboriginal old men, women and children butchered; 11 stockmen were brought to trial; initially acquitted, then 7 were retried and hung for murder

**1876**

Death of Truganini – immediately said to be the 'last Tasmanian Aborigine', as by this time Aboriginal people are thought to be dying out

**1879**

Torres Strait Islands are annexed by Queensland

**1883**

NSW Aborigines Protection Board (APB) – takes over reserves for Aboriginal people and sets up reserve schools, usually taught by manager's wife (untrained) with inferior curriculum

**1888**

Centennial celebrations – Aboriginal people boycott the celebrations. Motto of the Bulletin magazine is 'Australia for the White Man'

**1901**

Commonwealth of Australia formed – Aboriginal people excluded from the census and the lawmaking powers of the Commonwealth parliament

White Australia Policy bars 'coloured' immigrants – and denies Aboriginal existence. Aboriginal people excluded from the vote, pensions, employment in post offices, enlistment in Armed Forces, maternity allowance

**1909**

NSW Aborigines Protection Act gives APB the power to remove Aboriginal children from their families

**1937**

First Native Welfare Conference – policy of Assimilation is adopted to make Aboriginal people the same as White Australians

**1938**

Day of Mourning held by Australian Aborigines League (est. 1932) and Aborigines Progressive Association (1937), first major protest by Aboriginal people; manifesto 'Aborigines Claim Citizen Rights' and Abo Call newspaper published

**1940**

The Aborigines Protection Board is abolished, replaced by the Aborigines Welfare Board

## The importance of history

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was the most comprehensive investigation ever of Aboriginal experience in Australia. The Commission's report in 1991 stressed the general community ignorance of Aboriginal history and the fact that this history should be taught in all schools:

*That Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their land without benefit of treaty, agreement or compensation is generally known. But I think little known is the extent of brutality and bloodshed that was involved in enforcing on the ground what was pronounced by the law...*

*Aboriginal people were swept up into reserves where they were supervised as to every detail of their lives and there was a deliberate policy of destroying their spiritual and cultural beliefs... The extent of control seems incredible today...*

*... the deliberate and systematic disempowerment of Aboriginal people starting with dispossession from their land and proceeding to almost every aspect of their life... Decisions were made about them and for them and imposed on them... With loss of independence goes a loss of self-esteem...*

*The damage to Aboriginal society was devastating. In some places it totally destroyed population. In others, dependency, despair, alcohol, total loss of heart wrought decimation of culture...*

*Every turn in the policy of government and the practice of the non-Aboriginal community was postulated on the inferiority of the Aboriginal people; the original expropriation of their land was based on the idea that the land was not occupied and the people uncivilised; the protection policy was based on the view that Aboriginal people could not achieve a place in the non-Aboriginal society and that they must be protected against themselves while the race died out; the assimilationist policy assumed that their culture and way of life is without value and that we confer a favour on them by assimilating them into our ways; even to the point of taking their children and removing them from family.*

(Elliott Johnston, Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody National Report, 1991)

### 1949

Australian Citizenship Act gives Aboriginal people the vote in Commonwealth elections if they are enrolled for State elections or have served in the Armed Forces. Finally in 1962 all Aboriginal people were granted the vote

Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI) – begins 10 year campaign by both black and white people to end discrimination in the constitution

### 1958

Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines – later changed to Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and

### 1965

Freedom Rides – Sydney University students' bus tour of NSW country towns to expose grass roots discrimination against Aboriginal people





## 1966

Arbitration Commission rules equal pay for Aboriginal workers in the pastoral industry. Gurindji workers walk off Wave Hill cattle station, then claim their Dreaming Place Wattie Creek

## 1967

91% of Australian voters vote YES in Referendum to count Aboriginal people in the census and give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal people

## 1969

NSW Aborigines Welfare Board abolished; Aborigines Advisory Council set up

## 1970–71

Aboriginal Legal Service and Medical Service set up in Redfern, followed by Aboriginal pre-school, Black Theatre, Aboriginal Housing Company

## 1972

Aboriginal Tent Embassy set up outside Parliament House Canberra, adopted Aboriginal flag

Whitlam Labor Government elected – abolished White Australia Policy, set up Department of Aboriginal Affairs; new Aboriginal policy of self determination

## 1975

Racial Discrimination Act passed

## 1976

The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act is passed by Federal Parliament

## 1980

Link-Up NSW established to re-unite families of the Stolen Generations

## 1983

NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act recognises dispossession and dislocation of NSW Aboriginal people, sets up local-regional-State land council network with 15-year land tax funding (to 1998) as compensation and for Aboriginal people to establish an economic base

## 1987

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody established in response to the high rate of Aboriginal deaths in prisons and police lockups

## 1988

Bicentennial celebrations and protest; tens of thousands of people march through the streets on Australia Day (26 January); massive increase in awareness of Aboriginal history and issues

## 1989

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), elected body to replace Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) bureaucracy

## 1991

Report of Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody released – 339 recommendations to change Australian systems at every point of contact with Aboriginal people. Final recommendation is a formal process of reconciliation between Indigenous and other Australians. Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation established by Act of Parliament

## 1992

Mabo Case – High Court rejects terra nullius as ‘wrong in fact and in law’, and recognises native title as part of the common law

## 1993

Native Title Act sets up National Native Title Tribunal to determine native title rights

## 1995

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families

## 1996

Election of Howard Coalition government in Canberra – seen as opposed to Aboriginal rights

Wik Case – High Court rules that native title and pastoral leases can co-exist, but that in all cases of conflict of rights the rights of the lessee will prevail

Pauline Hanson and One Nation Party campaign against Aboriginal ‘special treatment’

Commonwealth Parliament statement of commitment to Reconciliation

## 1997

*Bringing them Home* report on the Stolen Generations released – discredited by Commonwealth Government; Australian Reconciliation Convention, Melbourne

## 1998

Native Title Amendment Act – widely seen as reducing Indigenous native title rights

First national Sorry Day – over 1 million signatures in thousands of Sorry Books

## 1999

Commonwealth Parliament Statement of Regret to Aboriginal people

## 2000

May 27-28 Corroboree 2000 – handover of Document for Reconciliation at Sydney Opera House; 500,000 people join People’s Walk for Reconciliation across Sydney Harbour Bridge

Sydney 2000 Olympics



# Introduction



One of the thousands of participants at *Survival Day 2000*

**MANY ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER** communities are keen to talk to journalists, to tell their stories and express their viewpoints on different issues. This booklet has been produced to provide you with an insight into the complexities of reporting on and interacting with Indigenous communities.

This booklet does not attempt to explain current public debate in Indigenous affairs. However, we urge you to become familiar with the context and complexity of these issues, and many of the contacts listed here are important sources of information. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) is a good starting point, [www.atsic.gov.au](http://www.atsic.gov.au) and the NSW Department of

Aboriginal Affairs has produced a range of fact sheets [www.daa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au).

Some media organisations have developed guidelines in an effort to educate journalists and prevent media racism.

*In producing programs about Indigenous peoples, it is necessary to involve them and take their advice into account. Producers will take care that their advice comes from an appropriate source.*

**ABC Editorial policies**

*....an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander view of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander issues is preferable to a non-Aboriginal or non-Torres Strait Islander view.*

**SBS Codes of Practice**

*In reporting or portraying events or situations concerning Indigenous peoples, you should be conscious of your own preconceptions, and be aware of the cultural norms and experiences of these peoples.*

**Federation of Commercial Television Stations**

To understand the need for protocols about media coverage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and issues, it is important to be aware of the history of media representation of Indigenous people in Australia. For more than 200 years this has been mostly negative, with an over-use of stereotypes when it comes to representing Indigenous people.

There have always been journalists who have contributed to exposing injustice against Indigenous people. In recent years there have been huge improvements in coverage of Indigenous people and issues and many journalists are now committed to presenting the truth about Indigenous Australia.

However, insensitivity, ignorance and distortion of facts over the years have created suspicion and this is a major hurdle when dealing with Indigenous people and communities. It is critical that media respect local cultural protocol.

# Introducing Indigenous Australia

THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT GROUPS of Indigenous peoples of Australia, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, ethnically and culturally distinct and with different histories since European colonisation.

No one knows how many Aboriginal people lived in Australia before colonisation, but it is now believed that there could have been from 750,000 to 1 million. Aboriginal Australia was not one country, but up to 300 Aboriginal nation-states, speaking about 250 languages and many more dialects.

With the arrival of the First Fleet in January 1788, Britain took formal possession of Australia. The basis in (European) international law for the progressive take-over of the continent was the doctrine of 'terra nullius' – land belonging to no-one. This meant that Aboriginal lands were crown lands in the eyes of the (British) law.

This idea that Australia belonged to no-one was not because the British did not see Aboriginal people living here, but because Aboriginal peoples did not seem to cultivate land or build permanent dwellings, as Europeans did. Terra nullius meant that the land had no sovereign owner, and it was on this basis that Britain took possession of Australia without a treaty. It is also the basis for the still prevailing belief that colonisation was peaceful 'settlement'.





In fact, Australia was inhabited by sovereign peoples for whom the land had great cultural, spiritual and economic significance. The 'settlement' of the British was not peaceful and was, in fact, invasion all over the country. As the colonies spread across the continent, traditional lands were taken over for grazing and agriculture. Aboriginal peoples became trespassers on their own lands. All over Australia there was Aboriginal resistance, but this was written out of history, and until recently most Australians knew nothing about it.

The century of colonisation was marked by massacre, displacement and disease. In Sydney, more than half of the Aboriginal population died of smallpox in the first two years. Aboriginal people had no immunity to European diseases and even the common cold could be fatal.

The Torres Strait was annexed by Queensland in 1879. Torres Strait Islanders were not dispersed from their homelands like Aboriginal people, but were effectively denied full citizenship rights until 1967.

When the colonies federated as the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901, Aboriginal people were written out of the constitution – they were not to be counted in the census and the federal parliament did not have power to make laws for them. The White Australia Policy defined Australia as exclusively White, and this policy was not abolished until 1972. Aboriginal people were excluded from the vote, public service, the armed forces and pensions.

## Indigenous People Today

Indigenous people represent about 2 per cent of the total Australian population. Even now, many non-Indigenous people have never met an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander. Aboriginality is often misunderstood and stereotypes are widespread.

Aboriginality stems from a connection to country and is as much to do with upbringing, culture and life experience as it is to do with descent or colour of skin. Many people think that 'real' Aboriginal people live in remote areas and have dark coloured skin. This is a stereotype. Defining Aboriginality by degrees of descent – and the use of terms such as 'half caste' and 'full blood' – are offensive and irrelevant.

An Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identifies as such, and is accepted as such by the community where he/she lives or works.

Over half of all Indigenous people live in New South Wales and Queensland. The western suburbs of Sydney have the highest concentration of Indigenous people in Australia. Many people think most Indigenous people live in northern or central Australia, because in those areas, Indigenous people represent a higher proportion of the local population.



*Barkindji Dancers*

## Socioeconomic Indicators

- ✱ Indigenous adults are less likely than non-Indigenous adults to have a post-school educational qualification (11 % versus 31 %)
- ✱ The median weekly income for Indigenous people is \$189 for males and for \$190 for females. This compares to \$415 for non-Indigenous males and \$224 for non-Indigenous females.
- ✱ Indigenous people are much less likely than other Australians to own their home. Only 31 % of Indigenous households live in homes that are owned or being purchased by their occupants, compared with 71 % of other Australian households.
- ✱ Indigenous people have a life expectancy 20 years lower than the rest of the Australian population.
- ✱ At the 1996 census almost a third of all households living in improvised dwellings in Australia were Indigenous households.
- ✱ The unemployment rate for Indigenous people is around 40 per cent nationally, but in some areas it is as high as 100 per cent. This compares to an unemployment rate of 8 per cent for the rest of Australia.
- ✱ Approximately one quarter of all Indigenous employment is 'work-for-the-dole', under the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme, administered by ATSIC, which is often the only source of employment in a community.
- ✱ In 1996 almost 7% of Indigenous people in Australia lived in dwellings with 10 or more residents – more than 50 times greater than the proportion of other Australians living in such conditions.
- ✱ Indigenous people are more likely than non-Indigenous people to be victims of violence and to suffer intentional injuries (those inflicted on purpose by another person) resulting in hospitalisation.

ABS, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* (Cat No. 4704.0) 1999

For example, in the Northern Territory, about one in every four people is Indigenous but in NSW, only one in every 50 people is Indigenous.

At the most recent Census (1996) there were 386,049 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Australia, and this population is growing rapidly. The growth rate of the Indigenous population is 2.3 per cent, nearly double that of the total Australian growth rate. The Indigenous population is projected to rise to 470,000 by 2006.

The Indigenous population has a young age structure. At the last Census, the median age of the Indigenous population was 20 years, compared to 34 years for the total Australian population.

This means that the influence of Indigenous people will grow more and more. It also has enormous implications for the delivery of services by all levels of government, in health, education, housing, employment – all the services that citizens expect governments to provide. With a higher birth rate there will be more pressure to provide these services, especially in remote areas where a higher proportion of the population is Indigenous.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the most disadvantaged of any group in Australia. On all the major indicators, such as health, housing, education, employment and contact with the justice system, Indigenous people are significantly worse off than other Australians.

## Aboriginal Expo 2000

During the Olympic Games, an Aboriginal Expo will provide visitors with information on Aboriginal history, arts, culture and contemporary issues. Located within the Games precinct on Olympic Boulevard, the 700 square metre pavilion will attract around 9,000 visitors a day.

Aboriginal Expo 2000 is being operated by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council. For more information, contact Aboriginal Expo 2000 executive director Jenny Munro on **(02) 9267 2985**

The reasons for this disadvantage stem from the nature of colonisation and successive government policies. Of particular consequence has been the loss of land – the economic, spiritual and cultural basis of Indigenous society. Most Aboriginal people were moved onto reserves and missions, with every aspect of their lives regulated by government until the 1970s. Most Aboriginal people became dependent on, but not participant in, the dominant economy.

In spite of the serious disadvantage faced by Indigenous peoples and communities, there have been significant steps towards gaining recognition and addressing past wrongs.

In 1967, 91 per cent of the Australian population voted YES in a Referendum which amended the Australian Constitution to allow Indigenous people to be counted in the national Census, and gave the federal government power to make laws on their behalf.

In 1992 the High Court of Australia recognised for the first time that Australia was not 'terra nullius' at the time of European colonisation. This decision, known as the Mabo decision, recognised that Indigenous people had continuing rights and interests in their land and waters in accordance with their traditional law and custom.

Two landmark investigations, the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families have been important to understanding the ways that past government practice continues to impact on Aboriginal communities.

A formal process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has been in place for the past decade. In 1998, well over a million Australians signed 'Sorry Books', a way of apologising on an individual and community level for the hurt and damage caused by government practices committed in our name.

In May 2000, more than 300,000 people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the People's Walk for Reconciliation, demonstrating their support for this process.

For more information, visit the websites of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission [www.atsic.gov.au](http://www.atsic.gov.au), or the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs [www.daa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au)



# Working with Indigenous Communities

**IT IS IMPORTANT** for journalists and program makers to respect the cultural norms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

While Aboriginal peoples have commonalities in culture and experiences, they should not be viewed as all having the same goals and opinions. Lifestyles, cultures, traditions and politics vary from community to community, and from generation to generation, and Aboriginal communities across Australia have different histories. Although this pluralism of circumstances, values and interests may complicate the compiling of stories, ignoring diversity leads to irresponsible reporting.

## Things To Bear In Mind

**Respect:** Be conscious of Indigenous peoples' wishes about their land, for example not filming sacred sites, and have respect for the people, culture, land and property. When you are in an Aboriginal community, let the Aboriginal people set the pace. In many areas there are customary ways of treating certain matters, such as spiritual knowledge or sacred sites. Always check for and respect such traditions.

**Priorities:** Be aware that you may not be the first priority in the lives of Aboriginal people. Don't go into a community or somebody's home thinking you're doing them a favour by writing a story. You may not be!

**Time factors:** On the whole, Aboriginal people are very keen to talk to journalists, especially international media. But you may need to have a more relaxed approach – even with deadlines to contend with. The time factor almost always causes delays and generally makes life difficult for journalists who have news and current affairs deadlines. If you are working on longer pieces such as documentaries, be particularly ready for this.

Don't expect thoughtful answers straight away. It's only fair to give people a chance to formulate their answers, following discussion with the community or other people. Indigenous people have strong family and kinship ties and they tend to travel frequently to visit family or carry out responsibilities, such as what's known as 'business', which may be an important ceremony in some communities. A community may have to virtually close down when a funeral is being held.

The following terms are used by Aboriginal people to describe regional identity:

**Koori:** Most of NSW and Victoria (usually spelt Koorie in Victoria)

**Goori:** North coast of NSW and some of south-east Queensland

**Murri:** Queensland, northwest NSW

**Palawa:** Tasmania

**Yolngu:** Arnhem Land and north eastern Northern Territory

**Nunga:** South Australia

**Nyoongar:** South west of Western Australia

**Wongi:** Western Australia goldfields region (inland)

**Yamatji:** Northern coastline of Western Australia

**Anangu:** Central Australia

**Always seek advice from the relevant community before using regional or nation names.**



The Hon Col Markham, MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal elder Aunty May Davis

**Aboriginal view:** Often journalists speak to non-Aboriginal sources about Aboriginal stories and fail to get an Aboriginal point of view. An Aboriginal view of Aboriginal issues is always preferable to a non-Aboriginal view, but be aware that there are usually a variety of views.

**Spokespeople:** There are spokespeople on various issues at a national, state and community level and often the same individuals have performed this role for many years. One obvious problem with the reporting of Indigenous issues within Australian media is that journalists tend to flock to the same people for comment each time an Indigenous issue becomes news. It is very important that journalists seek the views of people on local levels, and to remember that comment on an issue to do with a particular area must come from a person local to that area.

**Differences of opinions:** Aboriginal politics are complicated and understanding them requires some time. As with any diverse group within the wider community, there are differences of opinion within Aboriginal groups and reporting them fairly is not always straightforward. You may need to seek opinions, views and comment from several sources before even attempting to prepare an item for broadcast.

# Cultural Differences

AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FOLLOWING concepts will be useful in your dealings with Indigenous communities.

## Inter-relatedness

Aboriginal philosophy – the Dreaming – is based on the inter-relatedness of all people and all things. This means that people are related to their environment and that all Aboriginal people are related to each other in some way. All relationships are important, and any situation will be resolved by calculating the relative importance of the relationships involved.

This also means that issues now are seen as inter-related rather than the ‘little boxes’ separate categories of modern western thought – for example, education will depend on the health of the students, which may be related to housing and employment, which may depend on education.

## Belonging to Country

Being related to the country of their Dreaming, each Aboriginal people’s view of their relationship with land is not so much ownership as belonging – not so much we own the land as the land owns us; and holding the land in trust. This involves being responsible for country – and is quite opposed to the ‘get-rich-quick’ exploitation of much development in modern times.

## The Extended Family

Aboriginal families are extended as opposed to the nuclear family of modern western society. This means for example that brothers and sisters of parents are regarded as in the same relationship as parents and that cousins are much closer than in western society. This is why the taking away of Aboriginal children was so



devastating – as one Aboriginal mother says again and again in the Bringing them Home video, “We’re family people. We’re family people.”

## Respect for Age

A major cultural difference from modern western society is the respect in which older people are held in Aboriginal world-view. Traditionally, selected older people were the Elders who knew and administered the Law. Older people are respected for their knowledge and experience, and some are recognised as Elders.

## Uncle and Aunty

Both are used as a term of respect for older people, even where they are not related by blood, and for older members of the extended family. Uncle and Aunty are also used as terms of respect to refer to recognised Elders.

## Sacred/secret and ‘open’

Some stories and some ceremonies are open to all. Others are disclosed only to people who have the right to know; there is men’s and women’s business. Many Dreaming stories have levels of meaning which are ‘open’ and can be accessed by all, and other levels of meaning which are known only to men or women or those who have the required level of knowledge. In Dreaming stories (which are the basis of the Law) and in traditional society there were severe penalties for unauthorised access to or disclosure of knowledge.

## Naming and depicting deceased people

In many Aboriginal communities there is a prohibition on naming of people who are deceased, which may last for months or even years, until all the relevant ceremonies have been concluded. Where this occurs different names are used to refer to the people who have passed away.

Generally, faces of people who have died should not be shown in a way that their communities will view them. Always check with the local community before broadcasting names or images of deceased people and they will inform you of the appropriate practice.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park filming and photography guidelines state that the traditional owners (the Anangu) are particularly concerned about the depiction and naming of deceased persons. It is for this reason that they are reluctant to be photographed for commercial purposes as they have little or no control over the use of such images after someone has died.

The reason for this is that:

“under the Law, the names of deceased people are no longer spoken until a considerable time after their death. It is one of the many ways we show respect for and honour our dead. If people or things have names that are the same as or similar to the names of deceased people, our language allows words to be used in their place....”

“For the same reason, photographic and film images of people are similarly restricted. The sight of such images are very distressing to the deceased person’s kin, as they transgress the Law against such images.”

“It is important, therefore, for writers, journalists and image makers to deal with names and images of Anangu people with care and sensitivity. The unchecked use of ‘stock footage’, in particular, has led to much sadness for our people over the years.”

## Verbal Communication

Aboriginal English may be difficult to understand – listen closely and speak in a manner that can be easily understood. Use subtitles in your film if necessary. In cases where English is a second (or third or fourth) language, it is advisable sometimes to allow your interviewee to speak in his or her language and use an interpreter.

Do not mimic Aboriginal speech patterns. Don't assume that you are doing Aboriginal people a favour by attempting to talk Aboriginal English with them. Be aware that all language issues are extremely sensitive as so many Aboriginal languages have been lost and many of those that survive are endangered.

Be sensitive to the use of non-verbal communication cues which are a natural part of Aboriginal communication patterns: The use of silence does not mean Aboriginal people do not understand. They may be listening, remaining non-committal or waiting for community support. During discussions, Aboriginal people may delay expressing a firm opinion even though they may hold one. Instead, they may listen to others before offering their own view.

For further information about interpreting services, contact the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages on (07) 3807 8933.

## Making Contact

SEEKING AND GAINING PERMISSION from the appropriate individuals or groups is by far the most important aspect of dealing with or approaching Indigenous people for information or broadcast material. It is not enough for a journalist to have a sympathetic attitude.

Images or written text, produced with the best of intentions, may still be damaging to the people portrayed because the perceptions of those who view or read this material can be quite different from what was expected, and reporters need to consider this.

Dealing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities should always be through appropriate channels. There will always be individuals who want to talk to the media but they may not be people with a view endorsed by their particular organisation or community. So be careful of falling in with an individual who claims to represent the community view, or the views of traditional owners of land.

The local Aboriginal Land Council or ATSIC Regional office should be the first point of contact for media enquiries.

Ngunnawal Elder Matilda House performs a smoking ceremony at the Yarn Up conference in Canberra, 2000



## Visitor's Permits for Aboriginal Land

In the Northern Territory and in some parts of South Australia and Western Australia, a visitor to certain Aboriginal communities must obtain a Visitor's Permit from a local Land Council or other representative body recognised under the Native Title Act. There are particular permits for media.

The permit system is designed to help protect the privacy of Aboriginal communities, preserve Aboriginal culture, safeguard the natural environment and promote visitor safety.

Aboriginal land is just as much private property as land owned by white people. It is not Crown land, nor public land. In the Northern Territory, for example, unless you are traveling exclusively on public roads, everyone visiting, working or traveling through Aboriginal land must obtain a permit giving them permission to do so.

The role of the Land Council or representative body is to act on the instructions of, and provide assistance to, traditional owners. Land Councils ask that you respect the privacy of people living in the communities as you are travelling through. Alcohol is banned in some communities and these rules must be obeyed. Please also be aware of local views on such matters as dress, as skimpy attire can offend in some regions.

Once and if approval to enter Aboriginal land is given, media visitors should check in at the community or council office on arrival and seek details of specific arrangements made for them. Aboriginal Elders or councillors may wish their community advisers to be present during interviews.

## Regional Contacts

There is no 'one stop shop' for information and advice on visiting Aboriginal communities, and each state and territory has different representative structures.

Some, such as NSW and Tasmania, have peak Land Councils that will be able to provide you with assistance. Others, such as Queensland and Western Australia, have several Land Councils and other representative bodies.

If in doubt, contact the ATSIC office in each region and ask for advice.

### New South Wales

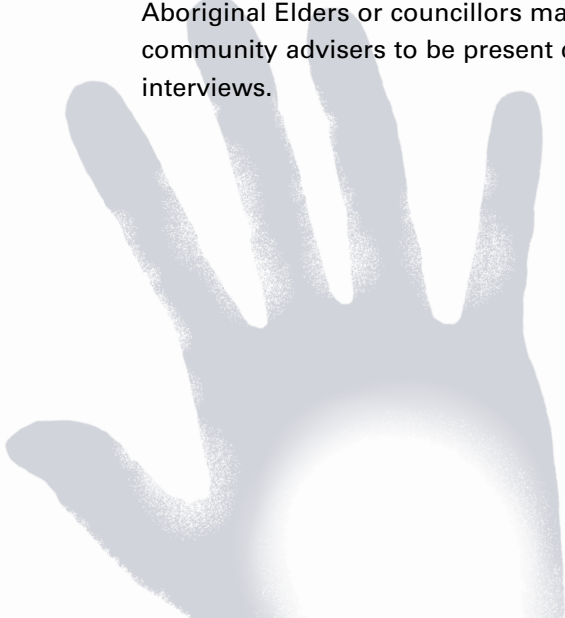
The NSW Aboriginal Land Council is the peak Land Council in NSW and will be able to give you advice and contacts on visiting communities across NSW. Phone them on [\(02\) 9689 4444](tel:(02)96894444).

In Sydney, there are five local Aboriginal Land Councils: Metropolitan, Deerubbin, Gandangara, Tharawal and La Perouse. These should be your first point of contact for Sydney stories. Please see contacts section.

Western Sydney has the highest concentration of Aboriginal people in the whole of Australia. For those interested in the history, culture and contemporary issues of western Sydney, contact Deerubbin local Aboriginal Land Council on [\(02\) 9832 2457](tel:(02)98322457), Frank Vincent at Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service on [\(02\) 9832 1356](tel:(02)98321356) or Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation on [\(02\) 9671 3991](tel:(02)96713991).

If you are doing stories about **Aboriginal involvement in the Olympic or Paralympic Games** contact Gary Ella, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Relations Program Manager at SOCOG on [\(02\) 9297 3033](tel:(02)92973033).

The Metropolitan Land Council has published an **Aboriginal History of the Homebush Bay Olympic Site**. For further information contact them on [\(02\) 9267 2985](tel:(02)92672985).



For other media information and for liaison work and help with organising interviews in Sydney, contact Dani Redmond at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on (02) 9290 8724, ATSIC State office on (02) 9256 6100 or Grant Saunders at Gadigal Information Services on (02) 9564 5090.

## Redfern

For generations Redfern was the first stop and meeting place for Aboriginal people coming to Sydney from all over NSW and across the country – close to Central railway station, when most people traveled by train, and one of the very few places Aboriginal people could afford to live.

In the early 1970s Redfern was the place where the Aboriginal Medical Service and Legal Service, the first Aboriginal pre-school, the Black Theatre and the Aboriginal Housing Company formed. These were forerunners of other such organisations across the country.

In 1973 the Commonwealth government purchased and granted to the Aboriginal Housing Company several streets of houses near Redfern station. Known as 'The Block', these houses have been the focus of dissension in recent years over plans to redevelop the area, as real estate values in the area have risen.

If you are doing stories on The Block, please show respect to the local residents. Many have complained of feeling like animals on display in a zoo. It is recommended that you approach interviewees without a camera crew at first, ask permission to film or photograph, and if granted, go back the next day.

There are several people living on The Block who don't mind being interviewed, and to find them, contact the **Aboriginal Housing Company** on (02) 9319 4779.

## Northern Territory

The Northern Land Council (Top End of Northern Territory) and Central Land Council (southern half) each have Media and Information Officers who can provide up to date information and advice on protocol for media, filmmakers and photographers.

Northern Land Council (08) 8920 5178

Central Land Council (08) 8951 6217

## Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Images of Uluru in Central Australia are protected by the Commonwealth National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1975) and permission must be given by the managers to film or photograph within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park for commercial purposes. The Board of Management of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park has developed policies on commercial filming and photography in the Park. These detailed guidelines are available from the Senior Ranger for Interpretations.

All film crews and still photographers are required to formally apply for a permit to carry out commercial work in the Park. A lead time of between 28 and 56 days is required for processing permit applications. Only news, newspaper and radio reporting and filming relating to the 'news of the day', as determined by the Park Manager, does not require a permit. Reporters, journalists and film crews (ie. all people associated with news of the day) are still required to undergo a briefing, however, and comply with filming guidelines.

Applications for filming and photography at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park: contact Australian Nature Conservation Agency (08) 8956 2116.



## Pitjantjatjara Lands

If you are wanting to visit Aboriginal communities in the Pitjantjatjara lands in South Australia/Central Australia, you need to first call Anangu Pitjantjatjara Council in Umuwa.

The council will send out a permit application form which you will need to fill in. You will have to list every person who's coming with you, including the pilot if you are coming by small plane. You need to say the purpose of your visit, the places you want to visit and the dates.

Your application will be sent out to the community you wish to visit. The community must then decide. If you are given permission a permit will be issued along with the rules of the community. A permit can take from two hours to two months to be processed but generally it takes about two weeks.

Anangu Pitjantjatjara (08) 8950 1511

## Western Desert

Permits are needed to visit Aboriginal communities on reserve land between the town of Kalgoorlie and the Northern Territory/Western Australia border, including Warburton. Contact the Ngaanyatjarra Council in Alice Springs.

Ngaanyatjarra Council (08) 8950 1711

## Indigenous Tourism

There are many areas of significance that people can now visit. These include Mutawintji and Lake Mungo in NSW as well as more well known places such as Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park and Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory. Tourists are also able to take advantage of tours run by Indigenous tourism operators around the country.

**Aboriginal Tourism Australia** is an organisation formed by more than 90 Indigenous tourism operators in all sectors of the tourism industry. Its objectives include representing and protecting the interests of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders within the tourism industry and promoting and developing training.

For further information contact Les Ahoy at the Australian Tourist Commission on (02) 9361 1290 or [www.atc.net.au](http://www.atc.net.au), or phone Aboriginal Tourism Australia on (03) 9620 4533

*Ride for Respect*





# References and Further Reading

- \* Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Australia Now – A Statistical Profile* (2000)
- \* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. *As a Matter of Fact* (second ed. 1999)
- \* Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991)
- \* Lester Bostock. *The Greater Perspective, A Guideline for the Production of Film and Television on Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders* (1997). Special Broadcasting Service
- \* Nigel Parbury. *Survival: A History of Aboriginal Life in New South Wales* (1988). NSW Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
- \* Diana Plater *Signposts: A guide to reporting Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Ethnic Affairs* (1992) University of Technology, Sydney
- \* Central Land Council website [www.clc.org.au](http://www.clc.org.au)
- \* Australian Broadcasting Corporation website [www.abc.net.au/message](http://www.abc.net.au/message)
- \* Office of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. *Rebutting the Myths – Some facts about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs* (1997)  
This booklet is available by calling (02) 6277 7620

Thanks also to the following for their assistance:

Rhoda Roberts, SOCOG; Chip Morgan, of Dalton-Morgan and Associates;  
Esther Blank, German TV and Radio correspondent; Denis Maher,  
Deakin University



## Contacts

The following list is not comprehensive. It is meant to provide a quick overview of useful contacts in Indigenous affairs both nationally and in New South Wales particularly.

Further contacts on most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues can be obtained through ATSIC Regional offices, Land Councils or state Departments of Aboriginal Affairs.

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# National Organisations

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

ATSIC is Australia's national policy making and service delivery agency for Indigenous people. It was created to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a greater say in the running of their own affairs.

ATSIC regional offices are the best point of contact for local issues. You can obtain phone numbers of regional offices by contacting either the Central Office or relevant State office.

[www.atsic.gov.au](http://www.atsic.gov.au)

### ATSIC Central Office (Canberra)

Phone: (02) 6121 4000 Fax: (02) 6285 3742

### NSW State Office

Phone: (02) 9256 6100 Fax: (02) 9252 0374

### Victoria State Office

Phone: (03) 9285 7222 Fax: (03) 9285 7259

### Queensland State Office

Phone: (07) 3234 4222 Fax: (07) 3221 4359

### South Australia State Office

Phone: (08) 8237 6300 Fax: (08) 8641 0684

### Western Australia State Office

Phone: (08) 9220 3211 Fax: (08) 9221 3954

### Northern Territory State Office

Phone: (08) 8944 5566 Fax: (08) 8944 5666

### Tasmania State Office

Phone: (03) 6224 4933 Fax: (03) 6224 4939

## Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

AIATSIS is an independent Commonwealth Government statutory authority devoted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. It is Australia's premier institution for information about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Dr Mick Dodson, Chairperson

GPO Box 553

Canberra, ACT 2601

Australia

Phone: (02) 6246 1111 Fax: (02) 6249 7310

[www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)

## Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

Dr. Bill Jonas – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

GPO Box 5218

Sydney, NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9284 9600 Fax: (02) 9284 9611

[www.hreoc.gov.au](http://www.hreoc.gov.au)

## National Indigenous Media Association of Australia

The National Indigenous Media Association of Australia (NIMAA) is the peak body representing Indigenous media throughout Australia. NIMAA's Secretariat is based in Brisbane, however during the Olympics they will have an office in Sydney and a team of journalists covering the Games.

### NIMAA Secretariat Office

Suite 20, 36 Agnes Street (PO Box 109)

Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006

Phone: (07) 3252 1588 Fax: (07) 3252 7566

[www.nimaa.org.au](http://www.nimaa.org.au)

Joanne Brown – National Indigenous Media Olympic Project

Phone: (02) 9806 0643



*Corroboree 2000*  
Sydney Harbour Bridge walk, May 2000

### **Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care**

Ground Floor, 48 High Street  
Northcote, VIC 3070  
Phone: (03) 9482 9380 Fax: (03) 9482 9157

### **National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat**

PO Box 1227B  
Brisbane, QLD 4002  
Phone: (07) 3211 3522 Fax: (07) 3211 3234

### **National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation**

PO Box 168  
Deakin West, ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6282 7513 Fax: (02) 6282 7516

### **The National Native Title Tribunal**

The Tribunal is a Commonwealth Government body that facilitates the making of agreements among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, governments, industry and others whose rights or interests may co-exist with native title rights and interests.

Phone: (08) 9268 7272 Fax: (08) 9268 7299  
[www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

# Ministers and State Departments of Aboriginal Affairs

## **Federal**

### **Senator the Hon. John Herron**

Federal Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
Suite M1 44 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Phone: (02) 6277 7620 Fax: (02) 6273 4142

### **Office Of Indigenous Affairs**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet  
3-5 National Circuit  
Barton, ACT 2600  
Phone: (02) 6271 5020 Fax: (02) 6271 5022

### **The Hon. Phillip Ruddock MP**

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Reconciliation  
Suite MF 40 Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600  
Phone: (02) 6277 7860 Fax: (02) 6273 4144

### **Daryl Melham MP**

Shadow Minister Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
R2 108 Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600  
Phone: (02) 6277 2054 Fax: (02) 6277 4476

## **New South Wales**

### **The Hon. Andrew Refshauge MP**

NSW Deputy Premier  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
PO Box 3451  
Sydney, NSW 1043  
Phone: (02) 9228 4499 Fax: (02) 9957 2145

### **NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs**

Dani Redmond – Olympics Media Liaison  
Level 5, 83 Clarence Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9290 8724 Mob: 0418 180 281  
[www.daa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au)



## Victoria

### **The Hon. Keith Hamilton MP**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
17th Floor, 8 Nicholson St  
East Melbourne, VIC 3000  
Phone: (03) 9637 8980 Fax: (03) 9637 8930

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria  
Level 7, 589 Collins Street  
Melbourne, VIC 3000  
Phone: (03) 9616 2911 Fax: (03) 9616 2956

## Queensland

### **The Hon. Judy Spence MLA**

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Policy  
PO Box 106  
Brisbane, Albert St, QLD 4002  
Phone: (07) 3227 8820 Fax: (07) 3221 9964

### **Aboriginal and Islanders Division**

Enterprise House  
46 Charlotte Street  
Brisbane, QLD 4000  
Phone: (07) 3224 2511 Fax: (07) 3224 2070

## South Australia

### **The Hon. Dorothy Kotz MP**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
GPO Box 2269  
Adelaide, SA 5001  
Phone: (08) 8226 5855 Fax: (08) 8226 5859

### **State Aboriginal Affairs**

1st Floor, Centerpoint Building  
Adelaide, SA 5000  
Phone: (08) 8226 8900 Fax: (08) 8226 8999

## Western Australia

### **The Hon. Kim Hames MLA**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
12th Floor, 216 St Georges Terrace  
Perth, WA 6000  
Phone: (08) 9424 7450 Fax: (08) 9322 5685

## WA Aboriginal Affairs Department

1st Floor Capita Centre  
197 St Georges Terrace  
Perth, WA 6850  
Phone: (08) 9235 8000 Fax: (08) 9235 8088

## Northern Territory

### **The Hon. Loraine Brahm MLA**

Minister for Aboriginal Development  
GPO Box 3146  
Darwin, NT 0801  
Phone: (08) 8999 6065

### **Office of Aboriginal Development**

Level 1, Darwin Central Office Suites  
21 Knuckey St  
Darwin, NT 0800  
Phone: (08) 8924 4225 Fax: (08) 8924 4223

## Tasmania

### **Mr Jim Bacon**

Premier  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Office of the Premier  
Level 11, 15 Murray St  
Hobart, TAS 7000  
Phone: (03) 6233 3464

Aboriginal Affairs Tasmania  
3rd Floor, Public Building  
Franklin Square  
Hobart, TAS 7000  
Phone: (03) 6233 3671 Fax: (03) 6233 4506



# Arts and Culture

## **National Museum of Australia**

GPO Box 1901  
Canberra, ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6242 2122 Fax: (02) 6242 2123

## **Yiribana Art Gallery**

Art Gallery of New South Wales  
Hetti Perkins – Curator  
Art Gallery Road  
The Domain, Sydney, NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9225 1779 Fax: (02) 9221 6226

## **National Aboriginal Cultural Centre**

PO Box 833  
QVB Post Office  
Sydney, NSW 1230  
Phone: (02) 9283 7477 Fax: (02) 9283 7488

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board**

Australia Council for the Arts  
PO Box 788  
Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012  
Phone: (02) 9950 9000  
[www.ozco.gov.au](http://www.ozco.gov.au)

## **Australian Museum**

Indigenous Programs  
6 College St  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9320 6266 Fax: (02) 9320 6072

## **Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative**

191 Parramatta Rd  
Annandale, NSW 2038  
Phone: (02) 9560 2541 Fax: (02) 9560 2566

## **The Black Book**

(Directory of Indigenous people in the media  
and arts industries)  
Rachel Perkins  
Phone: (02) 9365 1652 Fax: (02) 9365 5158

## **Indigenous Cultural Centre**

Millennium Parkland  
Homebush Bay  
PO Box 2654  
Sydney, NSW 1043  
Phone: (02) 9389 1457 Fax: (02) 9389 1457

## **Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency Aboriginal Corporation Inc**

Shop 4, Tarunda Shopping Centre  
Fitzroy Crossing, WA 6765  
Phone: (08) 9191 5272 Fax: (08) 9191 5279

## **Desart**

(Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art  
Centres, representing 30-plus centres)  
PO Box 9219  
Alice Springs, NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8953 4736 Fax: (08) 8953 4517  
[www.desart.com.au](http://www.desart.com.au)

*Survival Day 2000 Concert*



# Education

## New South Wales

### NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

Charles Davison – President  
37 Cavendish Street  
Stanmore, NSW 2048  
Phone: (02) 9550 5666 Fax: (02) 9550 3361

## Victoria

### Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.

Geraldine Atkinson – President  
PO Box 1483  
Collingwood, VIC 3066  
Phone: (03) 9416 3833 Fax: (03) 9416 3255

## Queensland

### Ministerial Advisory Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

Bob Munn – Chairperson  
PO Box 33  
Brisbane, QLD 4002  
Phone: (07) 3237 0807 Fax: (07) 3237 0289

## South Australia

### South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Advisory Committee

GPO Box 3140  
Adelaide, SA 5001  
Phone: (08) 8226 8929 Fax: (08) 8226 8999

## Western Australia

### Aboriginal Education and Training Council

PO Box 7533  
Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850  
Phone/Fax: (08) 9279 2196

## Northern Territory

### Indigenous Education Council

Isaac Brown – Interim Chairperson  
PO Box 4821  
Darwin, NT 0801  
Phone: (08) 8999 6860 Fax: (08) 8999 6868

## ACT

### Indigenous Education Training Council

Dr Chris Bourke – Chairperson  
Phone: (02) 6205 9432 Fax: (02) 6205 9191

## Tasmania

### Tasmanian Aboriginal Education Association

Rachel Quillerat – President  
71 Letitia St  
North Hobart, TAS 7002  
Phone: (03) 6233 7797 Fax: (03) 6231 2867

# Health

### Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council

PO Box 1565  
Surry Hills, NSW 2012  
Phone: (02) 9698 1839 Fax: (02) 9690 1559

### Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care  
Phone: (02) 6289 1555

### National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

PO Box 168  
Deakin West, ACT 2601.  
Phone: (02) 6282 7513 Fax: (02) 6282 7516

### Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service

36 Turner Street  
Redfern, NSW  
Phone: (02) 9319 5823 Fax: (02) 9319 3345

### Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service

Frank Vincent  
Phone: (02) 9832 1356

### Apunipima Cape York Health Council

PO Box 2797  
Cairns, QLD 4870  
Phone: (07) 40517450 Fax: (07) 40517940

# Heritage and Natural Resources

## **NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

Paul Houston – Aboriginal Sites Registrar  
Carol Kendall – Womens Heritage Officer  
PO Box 1967  
Hurstville, NSW 2220  
Phone: (02) 9585 6444 Fax: (02) 9233 4880  
[www.npws.nsw.gov.au](http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au)

## **NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs**

Lindon Coombes – Manager, Heritage and  
Natural Resources Branch  
Level 5, 83 Clarence St  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9290 8700 Fax: (02) 9262 2690  
[www.daa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au)

## Housing

Housing is primarily the responsibility of state and local governments. For more information, contact the relevant government department or local council for the area you are interested in (check the phone directory).

## **Aboriginal Housing Office (NSW)**

Level 3, 2–10 Wentworth St  
Parramatta, NSW 2150  
Phone: (02) 9635 3444 Fax: (02) 9635 7695

## **Redfern Aboriginal Housing Company**

Mick Mundine or Peter Valilis  
Phone: (02) 9319 4779  
[www.ahc.org.au](http://www.ahc.org.au)

## Land Rights and Native Title

There are hundreds of Land Councils and Representative Bodies under the Native Title Act across the country.

To enquire about specific organisations in each State or Territory, the contacts listed may be able to provide further information, otherwise contact the ATSIC State office.

## **Indigenous Land Corporation**

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) was established to assist Indigenous peoples in Australia to acquire land and to manage Indigenous-held land.

Phone: 1800 818 490  
[www.ilc.gov.au](http://www.ilc.gov.au)

## **National**

The National Native Title Tribunal can give you information on Land Councils and other representative bodies around Australia.

## **National Native Title Tribunal Sydney Registry**

Level 25, 25 Bligh St  
Sydney, NSW 2001  
Phone: (02) 9291 6124 Fax: (02) 9233 5613  
[www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

## **NSW**

## **NSW Aboriginal Land Council**

Rod Towney, Chairman  
9th Floor, 33 Argyle Street  
Parramatta, NSW 2150  
Phone: (02) 9689 4444 Fax: (02) 9687 1234  
[www.alc.org.au](http://www.alc.org.au)





[Centre right] Aunty Ali Golding and [right] Rasme Berolah with friends at the launch of The Draft Declaration for Reconciliation at the Sydney Opera House

## Victoria

### Mirimbiak Nations Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 11  
North Melbourne, VIC 3051  
Phone: (03) 9326 3900 Fax: (03) 9326 4075

## Queensland

### Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 71  
Burketown, QLD 4830  
Phone: (07) 4745 5132 Fax: (07) 4745 5204

### Cape York Land Council

PO Box 2496  
Cairns, QLD 4870  
Phone: (07) 4051 9077 Fax: (07) 4051 0097

### Central Queensland Land Council

PO Box 108  
Mackay, QLD 4740  
Phone: (07) 4951 1899 Fax: (07) 4951 3629

### Torres Strait Regional Authority

Corner Hastings & Victoria Parade  
Thursday Island, QLD 4875  
Phone: (07) 4069 1247 Fax: (07) 4069 1879  
[www.tsra.gov.au](http://www.tsra.gov.au)

## South Australia

### Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

Level 4, 345 King St  
Adelaide, SA 5000  
Phone: (08) 8212 1244 Fax: (08) 8211 7424

## Western Australia

### Goldfields Land Council

PO Box 10006  
Kalgoorlie, WA 6430  
Phone: (08) 9091 1661 Fax: (08) 9091 1662

### Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 377  
Derby, WA 6430  
Phone: (08) 9193 1118 Fax: (08) 9193 1163

### Yamatji Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 2119  
Geraldton, WA 6530  
Phone: (08) 9964 5645 Fax: (08) 9964 5646

## Northern Territory

### Northern Land Council

9 Rowlings Street  
Casuarina  
Darwin, NT 0810  
Phone: (08) 8920 5178 Fax: (08) 8945 2633  
[www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

### Central Land Council

Co-ordinator Media Operations and Public Relations:  
PO Box 3321  
Alice Springs, NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8951 6217 Fax: (08) 8953 4344  
[www.clc.org.au](http://www.clc.org.au)

### Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 644  
Alice Springs, NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8950 1711 Fax: (08) 8952 3013

## Tasmania

### Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania

PO Box 1086  
Launceston, TAS 7250  
Tasmania 7250  
Phone: (03) 6331 2833 Fax: (03) 6331 2834

For more information on remote area land councils, please see pages 13–15 of this publication, or call the ATSIC State office.



# Language Organisations

## National

### Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

#### Islander Languages (FATSIL)

PO Box 1429

Beenleigh, QLD 4207.

Phone: (07) 3807 8933 Fax: (07) 3807 8922

## New South Wales

contact FATSIL

## Victoria

### Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages

Phone: (03) 9663 9294 & (03) 9663 9296

Fax: (03) 9663 9291

## Queensland

contact FATSIL

## Torres Strait Islands

### Magani Malu Kes – Torres Strait Islander Language Consultative Committee

Phone: (07) 4771 5740 Fax: (07) 4772 6909

## South Australia

### Yaitya Warra Wodli Language Centre Inc.

Phone: (08) 8269 3601 Fax: (08) 8269 6307

## Western Australia

contact FATSIL

## Northern Territory

### Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics

Batchelor College

Phone: (08) 8939 7260 Fax: (08) 8939 7331

### Institute for Aboriginal Development

Phone: (08) 8951 1311 Fax: (08) 8963 1884

## Tasmania

### Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Phone: (03) 6234 8311 Fax: (03) 6231 1348

# Law and Justice

### NSW Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council

Executive Officer, Marcia Ella-Duncan

L16, Goodsell Building

8–12 Chifley Square

Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9228 8106 Fax: (02) 9228 8109

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/ajac](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/ajac)

### Aboriginal Co-ordination Unit

NSW Police Service

Level 12 Police Headquarters

Avery Building 14–24 College St

Darlinghurst, NSW 2010

Phone: (02) 9339 5576 Fax: (02) 9339 5905

### Aboriginal Legal Service

1st Floor, 619 Elizabeth Street

Redfern, NSW 2016

Phone: (02) 9318 2122 Fax: (02) 9319 2630

### Department of Juvenile Justice

Suzanne McIlwraith – Aboriginal Coordinator

Level 5, Roden Cutler House

24 Campbell Street

Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9289 3333 Fax: (02) 9289 3331

### Youth Justice Advisory Committee

Patric Power – Chair

c/o Youth Justice Conferencing Directorate

Level 5, 24 Campbell Street

Haymarket, NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9209 3330 Fax: (02) 9299 3351

# Media

## National

### National Indigenous Media Association of Australia

Suite 20, 36 Agnes Street  
Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006  
Phone: (07) 3252 1588 Fax: (07) 3252 7566  
[www.nimaa.org.au](http://www.nimaa.org.au)

### National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) Olympic Broadcast

Ian Watson (Co-ordinator)  
Phone: (07) 3892 0100

### The Koori Mail

Todd Condie – Editor  
Suite 1, 73 Magellan St  
Lismore, NSW 2480  
Phone: (02) 6622 2666 Fax: (02) 6622 2600

### TAPE (The Aboriginal Program Exchange)

PO Box 27  
Fitzroy, VIC 3065  
Phone: (03) 9419 9608 Fax: (03) 9416 3352

### Radio Aboriginal

#### SBS Radio

14 Herbert St  
Artarmon, NSW 2064  
Phone: (02) 9430 2868 Fax: (02) 9438 1114  
[www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au)

### ABC RADIO

#### AWAYE (Indigenous art and culture on Radio National)

Phone: (02) 9333 1330 Fax: (02) 9333 1306  
[www.abc.net.au/message/awaye](http://www.abc.net.au/message/awaye)

### ABCTV

#### Indigenous Programs Unit

Tony Joyce Building  
221 Pacific Highway  
Gore Hill, NSW 2065  
Phone: (02) 9550 3346 Fax: (02) 9950 3311

### SBS Indigenous Current Affairs Magazine (ICAM)

Locked Bag 028  
Crows Nest, NSW 2065  
Phone: (02) 9430 3908 Fax: (02) 9438 1590

## New South Wales

### Gadigal Information Services

Gadigal Information Services was incorporated in 1993 to service the needs of the Indigenous community in the Sydney metropolitan area through the media and arts arenas. Apart from the radio service, Gadigal focuses on creating a forum for Indigenous music and literature.

Level 2, 26 Lilydale Rd  
Marrickville, NSW 2204  
Phone: (02) 9564 5090  
[www.gadigal.org.au](http://www.gadigal.org.au)

## Queensland

### 4AAA, Brisbane

Phone: (07) 3892 5752 Fax: (07) 3892 1438

### Brisbane Indigenous Media Association

PO Box 6239  
Fairfield Gardens, QLD 4103  
Phone: (07) 3892 0100 Fax: (07) 3892 0101

### FAIRA Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 8402  
Woolloongabba, QLD 4102  
Phone: (07) 3391 4677 Fax: (07) 3391 4551

### Torres Strait Islander Media Association

PO Box 385  
Thursday Island, QLD 4875  
Phone: (07) 4069 1326 Fax: (07) 4069 1193

## Western Australia

### Goolari Media Enterprises

PO Box 2708  
Broome, WA 6725  
Phone: (08) 9192 1325 Fax: (08) 9193 6407

### Western Australian Aboriginal Media Association

PO Box 8138  
East Perth, WA 6004  
Phone: (08) 9325 1622 Fax: (08) 9221 5206

### Aboriginal Newspaper

502-506 Charles St  
North Perth, WA 6006  
Fax: (08) 9201 2777

## Northern Territory

### Land Rights News

c/o NT Land Councils  
PO Box 3321  
Alice Springs, NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8951 6215 Fax: (08) 8953 4344

### Warlpiri Media Association

Yuendumu  
via Alice Springs, NT 0872  
Phone: (08) 8956 4024 Fax: (08) 8956 4024

### Central Australia Aboriginal Media Association

The CAAMA Group has a radio broadcasting network, 8 KIN FM, and its own recording label and music studio. The association holds majority shares in the television station, Imparja, believed to be the only commercial broadcast license controlled by an Indigenous group anywhere in the world.

Owen Cole – Chief Executive Officer  
101 Todd Street (PO Box 2608)  
Alice Springs, NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8952 9208 Fax: (08) 8952 9218

### IMPARJA TV (Channel IMP 9)

14 Leichhardt Tce (PO Box 52)  
Alice Springs, NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8950 1481 Fax: (08) 8952 7702

# Reconciliation

### Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation

3-5 National Circuit  
Barton, NSW 2600  
Phone: (02) 6271 5120 Fax: (02) 6271 51 68  
[www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au)

### Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation

PO Box 1176, Rozelle, NSW 2039  
Phone: (02) 9555 6138 Fax: (02) 9555 6991  
[www.antar.org.au](http://www.antar.org.au)

## State Reconciliation Committees:

### NSW SRC

Joanne Selfe and Rick Farley (Co-chairs)  
Phone: (02) 9290 8719 Fax: (02) 9262 4715

### Victoria SRC

Michael Gorton and Russell Kennedy, Co-chairs  
Phone: (03) 9609 1555 Fax: (03) 9609 1600

### Queensland SRC

Bob Anderson – Co-chair  
Phone: (07) 3224 2521 Fax: (07) 3224 7329

### Sharon Parkes – Co-chair

Phone: (07) 3224 8551 Fax: (07) 3224 7329

### South Australia SRC

Professor Denis Ralph – Chair  
Phone: (08) 8201 7697 Fax: (08) 8201 7690



*Corroboree 2000  
Sydney Harbour Bridge  
walk, May 2000*

#### **Western Australia SRC**

Ian Viner – Co-chair

Phone: (08) 9220 0484 Fax: (08) 9325 2041

#### **ACT SRC**

Gratten Wilson

Phone: (02) 645 33345 Fax: (02) 645 33240

#### **Northern Territory SRC**

Dawn Lawrie – Chair (Top End)

Phone: (08) 8985 2933 Fax: (08) 8981 3285

Dave Reiley – Co-chair (Centre)

Phone: (08) 8959 5336 Fax: (08) 8959 5293

Donna AhChee – Co-chair (Centre)

Phone: (08) 8953 2727 Fax: (08) 8953 4435

#### **Tasmania SRC**

Mike Gray – Co-chair

Phone: (03) 6331 7955 Fax: (03) 6334 2935

## **Sport**

#### **National Aboriginal Sport Corporation**

David Liddiard – Coordinator

Suite 901A, MLC Centre Martin Place

Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9221 8655

#### **Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG)**

Gary Ella – Aboriginal Program Manager

GPO Box 2000, Sydney, NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9297 2000 Fax: (02) 9297 2876

[www.olympics.com](http://www.olympics.com)

#### **Olympic Co-ordination Authority**

Manager Aboriginal Strategy

6 Herb Elliott Avenue

Homebush Bay, NSW 2127

Phone: (02) 9714 7110 Fax: (02) 9714 7818

#### **Stadium Australia**

Indigenous Liaison Officer

Level 3, Members' Stand

Edwin Flack Avenue

Homebush Bay, NSW 2127

Phone: (02) 8765 3300 Fax: (02) 8765 3333

## **Stolen Generations**

#### **Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission**

Dr. Bill Jonas – Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Social Justice Commissioner

GPO Box 5218, Sydney, NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9284 9600 Fax: (02) 9284 9611

#### **Link-Up Aboriginal Corporation**

Barry Duroux – Director

PO Box 93

Lawson, NSW 2783

Phone: (02) 4759 1911 Fax: (02) 4759 2607

#### **Journey of Healing**

Audrey Kinnear – Co-chair, National Sorry Day Committee

Phone: (02) 6282 3455

Rev. John Brown – Co-chair, National Sorry Day Committee

Phone: (02) 6259 7435

## **Sydney organisations**

#### **Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council**

PO Box 1103

Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012

Phone: (02) 9267 2985 Fax: (02) 9267 6895

#### **Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council**

PO Box 1038

Liverpool Business Centre

or 2/103 Moore St

Liverpool, NSW 2170

Phone: (02) 9602 5280 Fax: (02) 9602 2741  
(02) 9602 1708

#### **Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council**

271 Beames Ave

Mt Druitt, NSW 2770

Phone: (02) 9832 2457

#### **Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council**

220 West Parade  
Couridjah, NSW 2571  
(PO Box 20, Buxton, NSW, 2571)  
Phone: (02) 4681 0059 Fax: (02) 4683 1375

#### **La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council**

Yarra Bay House, Elaroo Ave  
La Perouse, NSW 2036  
Phone: (02) 9311 4282 Fax: (02) 9661 7423

#### **La Perouse Community Development Aboriginal Corporation**

Yarra Bay House, Elaroo Ave  
La Perouse, NSW 2036  
Phone: (02) 9311 2999 Fax: (02) 9311 3440

#### **Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation**

PO Box 441  
Blacktown, NSW 2148  
Phone: (02) 9671 3991 Fax: (02) 9671 3991

#### **Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service**

Frank Vincent  
Phone: (02) 9832 1356

#### **Western Sydney Aboriginal Corporation**

3/11 Eddie Rd  
Minchinbury, NSW 2770  
Phone: (02) 9832 3326 Fax: (02) 9832 4903

#### **Redfern Aboriginal Corporation**

PO Box 794  
Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012  
Phone: (02) 9318 1496 Fax: (02) 9310 4380  
(02) 9690 2743

#### **Gadigal Information Services**

Level 2, 26 Lilydale Rd  
Marrickville, NSW 2204  
Phone: (02) 9564 5090  
[www.gadigal.org.au](http://www.gadigal.org.au)

#### **Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service**

36 Turner Street (PO Box 1174)  
Redfern, NSW  
Phone: (02) 9319 5823 Fax: (02) 9319 3345

#### **Redfern Aboriginal Housing Company**

Mick Mundine or Peter Valilis  
Phone: (02) 9319 4779

## Tourism

#### **Australian Tourist Commission**

Les Ahoy – Aboriginal Tourism Product Manager  
Level 4, 80 William St  
Woolloomooloo, NSW 2011  
Phone: (02) 9361 1290 Fax: (02) 9361 5106  
[www.atc.net.au](http://www.atc.net.au)

#### **Aboriginal Tourism Australia**

Phone: (03) 9620 4533 Fax: (03) 9620 4544

#### **Sydney Aboriginal Discoveries**

PO Box Q507  
QVB Post Office  
Sydney, NSW 1230  
Phone: (02) 9368 7684 Fax: (02) 9368 7685  
Mobile: 0418 413 741 or 015 654 116  
[www.easy.com.au/stone/abtours](http://www.easy.com.au/stone/abtours)

#### **Northern Territory Tourist Commission**

Phone: 1800 621 336

#### **Central Australian Tourism Association**

Phone: (08) 8952 5199.

## Youth

#### **Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA)**

Level 2, Suite 209, 410 Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010  
Phone: (02) 9281 2344 (02) 9211 2037

#### **Youth Justice Advisory Committee**

Chair, Patric Power  
c/o Youth Justice Conferencing Directorate  
Level 5, 24 Campbell Street  
Haymarket, NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9209 3330 Fax: (02) 9299 3351



New South Wales Department of

# Aboriginal Affairs

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