



MEDIA ALERT

Wednesday, 28 June 2006

A new era for preserving Indigenous cultural heritage **Launch of the AIATSIS Digitisation Project**

All media are invited to attend the official launch of the AIATSIS Digitisation Project tomorrow, 29 June 2006.

This project marks the start of a new era for preserving Indigenous cultural heritage, thanks to a \$12 million funding commitment by the Australian Government in May 2005.

Employing 20 extra staff, renovating and re-fitting the AIATSIS building and upgrading technology, the AIATSIS Digitisation Project will enable AIATSIS to digitise up to a third of its film, video, photographic and audio collections and develop an online Indigenous research library by the end of 2008.

- What:** Official launch of AIATSIS Digitisation Project
The launch will include tours, demonstrations, and two new online exhibitions, *To remove and protect: laws that changed Aboriginal Lives* and *Collectors of Words*.
- Where:** Stanner Reading Room (AIATSIS Library)
AIATSIS, Lawson Cres, Acton Peninsula (next to the National Museum of Australia)
- When:** 11 to 12.30pm
Thursday, 29 June 2006
- Who:** AIATSIS Chairman Mick Dodson, AM
Gary Humphries, Senator for the ACT (representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop)
Australian 'National Living Treasure', performer Mr Jimmy Little, AO

Broadcast quality vision/footage of the new facilities will be available to television outlets.

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