

Statement of Expectations

Context

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) works to promote knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present. The Institute is a statutory authority within the Education, Science and Training portfolio, for which I have ministerial responsibility. This Statement of Expectations (SoE) recognises the important contribution of AIATSIS to Australian heritage, and outlines my expectations for the Institute's continued success.

Expectations

It is my expectation that AIATSIS seek to position itself as the pre-eminent institution for information and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Corporate Governance

I expect AIATSIS to ensure it meets the Australian Government's expectations for good governance and accountability by:

- Being responsive to Government and to the Parliament in fulfilling AIATSIS' functions, complying with all relevant legislation, including the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989*.
- Implement and maintain high standards of corporate governance, including through the development of strategic and business planning documents and performance monitoring frameworks.
- Ensuring robust risk management systems are in place and maintained across AIATSIS and documented in a risk management plan.

It is my expectation:

- Members of the Institute will continue to elect four Council members, and I retain my right to appoint the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson from the full membership of the Council, noting the convention has been to appoint these positions from the elected members.
- Future appointments of Councillors will be for three years, with any re-appointment also being for a period of three years.
- To be consulted about the appointment of the Principal, prior to formal arrangements being made by the Council.

Strategic Direction

In fulfilling its functions, I expect AIATSIS to:

- Monitor and assess developments in Australian Government policy and, where appropriate, ensure that they are made known and implemented across AIATSIS.
- Enhance links between AIATSIS and government policies and programmes by: collaborating with Departmental officers in the development of the Institute's research agenda; consulting with Departmental officers on cross-membership on committees; and, engaging with the Department in the development of plans relevant to the publication and dissemination of cultural resource materials.
- Provide leadership and excellence in promoting, facilitating and undertaking high quality research in Australian Indigenous Studies, across disciplines including education.
- Contribute effectively, including through collaboration with the Department, toward the Australian Government's four National Research Priorities and their associated priority goals.
- Develop, maintain and preserve well-documented archives and collections as a primary means of dissemination to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and facilitating research and education within the Australian population more broadly.
- Produce digitised materials of high educative value for use in teaching Indigenous culture and history.
- Take active steps to secure revenue from sources other than Government in order to increase the revenue base for AIATSIS.

Communication

I also expect AIATSIS to:

- Keep me fully informed of AIATSIS' activities and alert me in a timely manner to any significant events relating to AIATSIS' business.
- Provide key information and documentation to the Department in parallel to providing it to me.
- Build on the current working relationship with the Department by being party to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cover reporting and communication flows.