

Sunday 13 July 2008

AIATSIS research contributed to Indigenous representative body

AIATSIS was proud to be part of the research team that contributed to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's issues paper about a new National Indigenous Representative Body, launched last night in Canberra.

AIATSIS Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson is also the Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) – the centre contracted to conduct the research for the paper for HREOC.

With input from AIATSIS researcher, Dr Patrick Sullivan, Professor Dodson and the NCIS team spent the past seven months researching the paper which was enhanced by HREOC before being launched by Ms. Jenny Macklin the Indigenous Affairs Minister at the NAIDOC Week National Ball.

“AIATSIS was involved in scoping the options for a future Indigenous representative body,” Professor Dodson said.

“The Institute and the NCIS have enormous depth of experience in Indigenous policy over several decades between them and worked in a highly co-operative way on this research project.”

Dr Sullivan who is also an adjunct associate professor at the NCIS, said scoping options for a future Indigenous representative body was both challenging and stimulating because of its importance to the future of Indigenous policy making.

“Indigenous programs have been developed in a vacuum since ATSIC was abolished,” Dr Sullivan said. “You cannot make effective Indigenous programs – no matter how well meant – if you don't draw on the experience of the many highly qualified Indigenous voices available.

“AIATSIS is proud to be involved in the start of a national discussion and to have contributed to placing these options on the table,” Dr Sullivan said.

Further information on the paper is available at:
http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/rebody/index.html

Media contact:

Chris Ryan
AIATSIS Media and Communications
M| 0408 682 247