



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present*

**Sunday 25 January 2009**

## **AIATSIS celebrates the award of Australian of the Year 2009 to Professor Mick Dodson**

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) congratulates its Chairman, Professor Michael Dodson, as the 2009 Australian of the Year.

‘The Australian of the Year Award celebrates the profound impact Mick Dodson has achieved as a leading advocate on issues affecting Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as other Indigenous peoples around the world’, said Dr Luke Taylor, Acting Principal of AIATSIS.

‘While Professor Dodson is well-recognised for his contribution to addressing Indigenous disadvantage as Australia’s first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, and the ‘Bringing them Home – The Stolen Children Inquiry and Report in 1997, and as co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia, Mick Dodson’s determination to advance the situation of Indigenous peoples in Australia and worldwide continues to place Indigenous issues at the forefront of Australia’s national consciousness’, he said.

‘We also acknowledge today the longstanding contribution Mick Dodson has made to the preservation and promotion of Australian Indigenous cultures through his role as Chair of AIATSIS’, said Dr Taylor.

Under the leadership of Professor Dodson, AIATSIS continues to build its unique, world-class research collections. The Institute’s Library and Audiovisual Archives contain the most comprehensive collection of material on Indigenous Australia, which enable many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to revitalise lost languages, and to revive and perform songs and ceremonies.

The AIATSIS collections have provided valuable research material for Native Title claims and have enabled members of the Stolen Generations to trace and make connections with families previously lost to them. AIATSIS continues to develop cutting-edge research on many issues relevant to Indigenous Australians.

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