National Centre for Indigenous Studies

Year in Review 2014
Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we work and meet, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.
NCIS welcomes enquiries from those interested in working with, visiting, or studying at its Centre. If you would like to engage a member of NCIS as a consultant, collaborate with us or join us as a staff member, visitor, adjunct scholar, Higher Degree by Research scholar, summer scholar or intern please visit the following webpages for further information and contact us using the details below:

| Engagement opportunities with NCIS (including staff vacancies, consultancies and collaborations) | http://ncis.anu.edu.au/engagement.php |
| NCIS visitor programs | http://ncis.anu.edu.au/vfp/ |
| Study at NCIS | http://ncis.anu.edu.au/study/ |
| ANU summer research scholarships and internships, and Aurora internships with NCIS | http://ncis.anu.edu.au/sum_res_schol.php |

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NCIS people

Academic staff

Executive

Professor Mick Dodson AM – Director
Associate Professor Cressida Fforde – Deputy Director

Other academic staff

Dr Fleur Adcock – Research Associate
Dr William (Bill) Fogarty – Research Fellow
Dr Jill Guthrie – Research Fellow
Dr Asmi Wood – Senior Research Fellow and HDR Program Manager (until December 2014)

Adjunct scholars

Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Lawrence Bamblett
Adjunct Professor Frank Brennan SJ AO
Adjunct Associate Professor Tom Calma AO
Adjunct Research Fellow Grace Koch
Adjunct Professor John Maynard

Adjunct Fellow C. Timothy McKeown
Adjunct Associate Professor Michael Pickering
Adjunct Professor Lisa Strelein
Adjunct Professor Patrick Sullivan

Visiting Fellows

Mr Len Kanowski (NCIS)
Ms Yan Li (NCIS and ANU College of Law)

Support staff

Ms Emily Brennan – Research Manager
Mr Craig Greene – Community Consultation Coordinator, Serving Our Country project
Ms Tamai Heaton – Centre Administrator
Dr Melissa Lovell – Research Officer
Ms Corinne Walsh – Research Officer

Ms Kate Macfarlane – Project Coordinator, Serving Our Country project
Ms Costanza Maffi – Administrative Officer & Webmaster
Ms Julia Torpey Hurst – Research Officer
Ms Corinne Walsh – Research Officer

Higher Degree by Research scholars: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Ms Katherine Aigner
Ms Diana Anderssen
Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley
Ms Sophia Close
Ms Sarah Down
Associate Professor Kerrie Doyle
Ms Veronica Fynn
Ms Terri Janke

Ms Magali McDuffie
Mr Myles Mitchell
Ms Alycia Nevalainen
Ms Sidha Pandian
Ms Annie Te One
Mr Gary Toone
Mr Ed Wensing
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Overview from the NCIS Director

The National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS), a stand-alone interdisciplinary academic Centre within The Australian National University (ANU), enjoyed a rewarding and productive year in 2014.

NCIS has continued on its mission to be recognised as a leading academic institute for interdisciplinary research in fields that are of relevance to Indigenous Australians, especially in relation to the enrichment of scholarly and public understandings of Australian Indigenous cultures and histories. This is evident in our research activities, expanding team, achievements, promotion of Indigenous studies research, Higher Degree by Research (HDR) scholar outreach, and collaborations beyond the University.

NCIS undertook research activities across its seven core research themes in 2014:

- law and native title
- human rights, social justice and governance
- policy, development and engagement
- social determinants of a healthy life
- education and knowledge
- culture, heritage, history and repatriation
- representation, discourse and identity.

The Centre’s work across each of these themes is discussed in the pages that follow. Key highlights for the year were the Centre’s success in securing Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Indigenous funding for a three-year project examining the effects of deficit discourse in Indigenous education; extensive community consultations, or Community Yarnups, that NCIS undertook across Australia (along with its research collaborators) during the first year of its five-year ARC Linkage project looking at the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia; the first wave of interviews with young people and service providers in Cowra as part of a three-year ARC Discovery Indigenous study using Justice Reinvestment methodology to look at ways to reduce youth incarceration; progress made on the Centre’s ARC Linkage project to further understanding of the history, effects and opportunities of the repatriation of Indigenous ancestral remains, including a month-long visit from Dr Tim McKeown, an American repatriation expert, as a Fulbright Senior Specialist; completion of a report on the state of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in cricket as part of a collaborative project with Cricket Australia; and continuing work, along with the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), on an evaluation of the Learning on Country Program in the Northern Territory funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). NCIS staff, adjunct scholars and HDR scholars have shared their work in a host of different spaces. A compilation of our publications, presentations and externally funded projects for 2014 are set out in the Appendices. Some of our staff, adjunct scholars and HDR scholars’ presentations for 2014 are also highlighted within these pages. We invite you to visit the searchable database of the Centre’s publications and other research outputs, on http://ncis.anu.edu.au/publications/.

The year saw the growth of NCIS. Joining our existing academic staff was Dr Fleur Adcock, a former PhD scholar at NCIS, as a Research Associate. Our team of support staff also expanded with Ms Tamai Heaton joining NCIS as Centre Administrator, Ms Emily Brennan as Research Manager and Dr Melissa Lovell and Ms Julia Torpey Hurst as Research Officers. In addition, the Centre’s HDR scholar cohort grew with the addition of Ms Annie Te One as a PhD scholar. More detailed introductions to those new to NCIS in 2014 are included in this review.

NCIS was sad to farewell Dr Asmi Wood, a Senior Research Fellow and the HDR Program Manager with NCIS, after three years of exemplary contributions to the Centre; Ms Yan Li, a year-long Visiting Fellow at NCIS and the ANU College of Law, from the Faculty of Yunnan Normal University in China; our former Centre Administrator,
Ms Barbara Wallner; and Research Officer, Ms Krystal Lockwood. We wish all of our former staff and visitors the very best in their new endeavours.

Our continued expansion prompted a move to a new home. In September, NCIS relocated to the refurbished John Yencken building on the ANU campus, reuniting our staff and HDR scholars under one roof. We are excited to welcome you to our new space and hope that you will find an opportunity to stop in and say hello.

NCIS staff, adjunct scholars and HDR scholars were recognised for their achievements and expertise throughout the year. I was fortunate to address the nation at the National Press Club in my capacity as Chair of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). NCIS Adjunct Associate Professor Tom Calma AO began his role as the new Chancellor of the University of Canberra. NCIS PhD scholar Aunty Kerrie Doyle was appointed as Associate Professor Indigenous Health at RMIT University. NCIS Visiting Fellow Mr Len Kanowski was awarded the Australian Rotary Health/Kaiyu Enterprises Scholarship. NCIS PhD scholars Ms Katherine Aigner and Mr Ed Wensing each contributed to award-winning publications. NCIS PhD scholar Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley became an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. The year also saw the graduation of our Centre’s first two Doctor of Philosophy graduates: Dr Samuel Curkpatrick and Dr Fleur Adcock.

NCIS was active in promoting understanding of the Indigenous studies space and reaching out to Indigenous and non-Indigenous HDR scholars across ANU and beyond. It hosted another successful graduate research retreat open to NCIS HDR scholars and other HDR scholars in Indigenous studies across the ACT and NSW at Eaglehawk in NSW. It also hosted a week-long writing retreat for NCIS staff and HDR scholars at the University’s Kioloa Coastal Campus. Once again, NCIS (along with Reconciliation Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive) supported the presentation of the Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture, delivered in 2014 by the Hon Fred Chaney. Throughout the year, NCIS also fostered its research community through its monthly research hours, master classes for its HDR scholar cohort, public lectures, one-day writing retreat at Mt Stromlo and a newly instituted bi-monthly NCIS Indigenous studies reading group.

NCIS built on its collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities and organisations, government and other agencies throughout the year, including working with AIATSIS, CAEPR, Cricket Australia, PM&C, the Attorney-General’s Department and the ACT Government.

NCIS looks forward to another productive year in 2015 and to engaging with you to enrich understandings of Indigenous cultures and histories.

Professor Mick Dodson AM
Director
March 2015.

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NCIS welcomes and goodbyes

New Research Associate

In January 2014, former NCIS PhD scholar Dr Fleur Adcock (from the Māori iwi or nation Ngāti Mutunga) joined the NCIS academic staff as a Research Associate. Fleur contributes to the Centre’s expertise in law, human rights, social justice and governance. Fleur’s role involves providing research assistance on several of the Centre’s research projects, publishing from her doctoral dissertation, and developing new research projects for the Centre. She will also teach within ANU. In addition to her PhD, awarded in 2014, Fleur holds a Master of Laws with Distinction from the Victoria University of Wellington and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons I) and Arts (in Māori Studies) from the University of Canterbury. Fleur was admitted to the Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ) in 2003 and spent several years practising as a solicitor in NZ and as in-house legal counsel in the United Kingdom. Fleur has published and presented widely on her work and has taught in the ANU College of Law’s ‘Indigenous Australians and the Law’ and ‘Lawyers, Justice and Ethics’ courses.

New Centre Administrator

In July, Ms Tamai Heaton joined NCIS as Centre Administrator. Tamai’s passion for reconciliation strategies drew her to the Centre to support its research initiatives, provide executive support to the Centre Director, and take ownership of the Centre’s administrative load. Tamai has more than 12 years' experience providing executive support at Mission Australia, Le Cordon Bleu, the Australian Medical Council and ANU. She has served on the ANU College of Asia and Pacific’s Reconciliation Action Plan Committee, contributing ideas and actions for winning greater visibility for Indigenous students, staff and cultures around ANU. Tamai holds a Diploma from the APM College of Business and Communication and is currently undertaking a Master of Business Administration through Torrens University.

New Research Manager

Ms Emily Brennan joined NCIS part-time in July as Research Manager, a newly created position. Her role involves working closely with NCIS staff to support and promote research at the Centre. Emily advises academic staff on research-related policy, assists in identifying opportunities for research funding, supports funding applications and helps to manage contractual requirements for grants, contracts and consultancies. Prior to coming to NCIS, Emily was responsible for communications and training with the Grants Management Office at the University of New South Wales (University of NSW). Before working in research management, Emily worked in executive support roles involving strategic planning, quality management, policy, and training and development. She holds a Master of Organisational Coaching from The University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Education from The University of Melbourne.
**New Research Officers**

**Dr Melissa Lovell** joined NCIS as a Research Officer in March 2014 to provide research assistance on projects being undertaken by NCIS Research Fellow, **Dr Jill Guthrie** (Wiradjuri) and NCIS Research Fellow, **Dr Bill Fogarty**. Melissa contributes to the Centre’s expertise in governance, policy, human rights, identity politics, and social justice. She is also working with NCIS researchers to develop a better understanding of the role that ‘deficit discourses’ play in Indigenous affairs governance. Melissa has a long-term interest and involvement in political advocacy and community sector organisations. She was awarded a PhD by the ANU School of Politics and International Studies in 2012 and completed her undergraduate education in policy and political science at the University of Queensland.

In July, **Ms Julia Torpey Hurst** joined NCIS as a Research Officer to provide research assistance to NCIS Deputy Director, **Associate Professor Cressida Fforde**, on the ARC-funded repatriation project. Julia contributes to the Centre’s expertise in culture, heritage, history, repatriation, representation and identity. Julia is an Aboriginal writer, playwright, director and historian. Her mother’s Aboriginal family is from New South Wales and their experience as a family is of separation and continuing to reconnect with history. Julia has a particular interest in Indigenous culture and history and is currently completing her PhD in History at the University of Sydney. Julia also holds a Master of Urban Planning and BA from the University of Melbourne, a Postgraduate Diploma in Indigenous Arts Management from the Wilin Centre, Victorian College of Arts, and a Certificate III in Stage Management from the Koorie Heritage Trust.
New PhD scholar

In 2014, NCIS was pleased to welcome Ms Annie Te One (from the iwi Te Ātiawa) as a new PhD scholar. Annie’s research will explore the relationships between Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika (iwi and hapū or kinship groups of Taranaki in the Wellington region) and their relationships with local governments. Annie’s supervisory panel includes NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson and Senior Lecturer Dr Maria Bargh (Victoria University of Wellington). Annie is from Wellington in NZ and has a BA in International Relations and Te Reo Māori with Honours from Victoria University of Wellington. Annie has worked for UNICEF NZ as an intern, helping to produce a bilingual Māori/English children’s picture book about the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child. Annie has also worked as a Research Assistant at Victoria University assisting on projects looking into Māori in local government and sustainable economies.

Farewells

The end of the year saw NCIS bid a sad goodbye to its Senior Research Fellow and HDR Program Manager of three years, Dr Asmi Wood (from the Torres Strait Islands). Asmi has been a valued part of the NCIS family since joining the ANU College of Law in 2002. He is moving back to the ANU College of Law in early 2015 and will continue his ongoing role there as a Senior Lecturer. We are delighted that Asmi will remain on the NCIS HDR Scholar Program Committee and will continue to advocate for NCIS HDR scholars.

NCIS also wishes a fond farewell to our former Centre Administrator, Ms Barbara Wallner, and Research Officer, Ms Krystal Lockwood, and thanks them both for their important contribution to the Centre.
Our new home in the John Yencken Building

To match our current and predicted future growth, in 2014 NCIS relocated to a new home. In early September, we moved into the refurbished John Yencken Building on Sullivans Creek Road on the ANU campus. The move reunites our staff and HDR scholars in the one building. Since 2005, NCIS staff had been housed in the ANU College of Law where NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson also holds a Professorship. While this was well-suited to our needs in the Centre’s early years, when NCIS had only three staff members, we now have more than a dozen staff members and an increasing number of adjunct and HDR scholars. Current project development plans are also likely to bring in additional staff members in the future. To accommodate our growing size, in the years prior to our September relocation, most of our Canberra-based HDR scholars were housed in a separate building on campus, graciously undertaking several moves as the University juggled with competing demands on space.

In our new home, our HDR scholars, adjuncts and visitors enjoy the ground floor of the building, with our staff members and interns on the third floor. The extra space enables NCIS to further grow its excellent visitor and internship programs. It also allows us to bring together our staff, adjuncts, HDR scholars and guests in dedicated NCIS meeting spaces. The building includes two meeting rooms, on the first and third floors. Our third floor meeting room is currently being equipped with hi-tech audio-visual equipment to support our staff, HDR program and research project meetings, our monthly NCIS research hours, HDR master classes, NCIS Indigenous studies reading group, HDR scholar presentations and our public seminars. We hope there will be an opportunity for you to join us for one of these events in the near future.

Official opening

Our new building was officially opened on 26 September 2014 with a special celebration attended by many from our community, including respected Ngunnawal elder, Aunty Agnes Shea; Professor Margaret Harding, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at ANU; Professor Stephen Bottomley, Dean of the ANU College of Law; members of Reconciliation Australia, the University of Canberra and the Tjabal Centre at ANU; and, of course, our staff, adjuncts, HDR scholars, visitors and interns. In her Welcome to Country speech, Aunty Agnes Shea remarked that “This will be a place where our stories and our history will be honoured and where we will see cutting-edge Indigenous research conducted, and research knowledge developed and shared, in the hope for a greater understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and communities.” We are enjoying giving life to Aunty Agnes Shea’s predictions and look forward to showing you around our new home.
Research Theme 1: Law and native title

Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson (a member of the Yawuru peoples from Broome) presented a public lecture on the ‘Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians’ at ANU in November. He talked about the fast growing support for an updated Constitution that reflects the reality of Australia today and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians. The lecture was hosted by the ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment in association with the ANU Medical School, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, and the Indigenous Health Interest Group. Mick also presented on the topic of constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians at the “2014 Warm Winter Words – Rethinking Australia’s indigenous past” event and to the Apollo Bay P-12 College, both in Apollo Bay, Victoria, in August.

National Native Title Conference 2014

NCIS Director, Professor Mick Dodson, welcomed delegates and guests and chaired a discussion panel at the National Native Title Conference held in Coffs Harbour in June in his capacity as Chair of the AIATSIS Council. The conference was convened by AIATSIS and NTSCORP Ltd to bring people together to debate native title as an agenda for justice.

NCIS public lecture: ‘Land, property and authority’

In May, NCIS hosted a public lecture by Ms Siobhan McDonnell, legal advisor to the Minister of Lands in Vanuatu and an ANU PhD scholar, on creating a new model of Indigenous land rights and legal pluralism in Vanuatu informed by the principles of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT).

Visiting Fellow - Legal protection of Indigenous traditional cultural expressions

In July, Ms Yan Li completed a year-long Visiting Fellowship with NCIS and the ANU College of Law. Yan Li spent her fellowship undertaking a comparative study of the legal protection of Indigenous traditional cultural expressions in Australia and China. She has returned to China to resume her role as a lecturer in international law and human rights law in the Law Faculty of Yunnan Normal University.
HDR achievements

In 2014, NCIS PhD scholar Ms Veronica Fynn (a member of the Loma and Grebo Indigenous groups from Northern and Eastern Liberia) finished field research for her PhD on Gender violence and the “Rule of Law” in Indigenous communities in post-war Liberia and Australia in her homeland of Liberia in West Africa; completed her mid-term review; and taught at ANU, tutoring international law in the ANU College of Law and teaching ANU students in receipt of Australia Awards. Veronica also presented on her research and personal experiences fleeing civil war in Liberia at the 6th Biennial International Indigenous Research and Development Conference at the University of Auckland in Auckland, NZ, and the 2014 UN Youth Australia National Conference in Canberra.

NCIS PhD scholar Mr Ed Wensing completed his thesis proposal review for his PhD on Land Justice for Indigenous Australians: Accommodating customary land rights in conventional land tenure systems (in Western Australia). Ed co-delivered an online course on Native Title and Land Use Planning as part of the Post-Graduate Certificate in Planning and Indigenous Communities through James Cook University. Ed also presented extensively on his research, speaking at the Northern Research Futures Collaborative Research Network Program’s “A Northern Perspective: Northern Australia Development Conference” in Canberra; the “Development on Aboriginal Freehold Land” public seminar at James Cook University in Cairns; the ACT Council of Social Service and the University of Canberra Conference “Designing Social Change: Beyond Talk, Taking Action in Canberra”; the Nulungu “Talking Heads” seminar series at the University of Notre Dame’s Broome Campus; the “Engaging Indigenous Economy Conference” at ANU in Canberra; and the “Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate Nation Building Summit” in South Stradbroke Island. Additionally, Ed delivered lectures on his work to students of Urban Geography and Design at James Cook University in Cairns and the ANU College of Law in Canberra.

Former NCIS Masters’ scholar Ms Sarah Down also completed her mid-term review. At the beginning of 2015, Sarah joined the NCIS PhD program. Her research examines the law as it relates to obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of iwi regarding mineral exploration and extraction on their territories in NZ.
Research Theme 2: Human rights, social justice and governance

Reflections on the past and future of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

International expert meeting

In April, NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson participated in a meeting of international experts brought together to discuss the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples at the University of Arizona in the USA. The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert charged by the UN Human Rights Council with reporting on and promoting the rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. The meeting was convened by Professor James Anaya at the end of his term as Special Rapporteur to reflect on the work of the mandate and to look at how it might be improved going forward. In early June, Ms Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, an Indigenous rights activist from the Philippines with extensive international experience, took over the role from Professor Anaya.

The Special Rapporteur’s engagement with stakeholders

Mick’s contribution to the discussion concerned the modalities of the Special Rapporteur’s engagement with stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples and their organisations, NGOs, national human rights institutions and governments. He shared ideas on how to build best practices for the dissemination of information, the shaping of debate, and how to influence governments and other actors.

Meeting participants

The meeting was attended by representatives from organisations including the International Labour Organization, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, the University of Arizona’s Rogers College of Law, Tebtebba and the Saami Council.

Scholarly cooperation with Indigenous Centres

While at the University of Arizona, Mick also took the opportunity to speak with members of the Udall Centre for Studies in Public Policy and the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy about possible future scholarly cooperation with NCIS.
2014 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture: ‘Is Australia big enough for reconciliation?’
NCIS was honoured to have the Hon Fred Chaney AO, former Deputy Liberal Leader and Indigenous rights advocate, present the 2014 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture. Mr Chaney’s lecture challenged the governmental approach to closing the gap. According to Mr Chaney, his questioning arose “from our response to the determination of so many Indigenous people to achieve not just social and economic equality – the closing of the gap – but to maintain their collective identities and their cultures.” The annual lecture was hosted by NCIS in conjunction with Reconciliation Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive Australia.

PhD awarded – The United Nations Special Procedures and Indigenous Peoples: A Regulatory Analysis
Former NCIS PhD scholar and new NCIS Research Associate Dr Fleur Adcock graduated with her doctoral thesis, titled The United Nations Special Procedures and Indigenous Peoples: A Regulatory Analysis, in July. Fleur’s thesis explored how the international human rights system regulates state behaviour towards Indigenous peoples, focusing on the role of the UN Human Rights Council’s special procedures mechanism. Fleur received an ANU Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship for Doctoral Study to pursue her research at ANU. She was supervised by NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson with Professor Hilary Charlesworth (ANU) and NCIS Adjunct Professor Lisa Strelein members of her supervisory panel.

Research presentations
In 2014, NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson delivered a keynote presentation on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) in Australia at a symposium on the implementation of the UN Declaration in NZ in Hamilton, NZ.

NCIS Research Associate Dr Fleur Adcock presented on different aspects of her doctoral research at the AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference “Breaking Barriers in Indigenous Research and Thinking” in Canberra; the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, USA; a symposium on the implementation of the UN Declaration in NZ in Hamilton, NZ; and, the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington DC, USA. Fleur also represented NCIS as an observer at the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York, USA, in September.
Research Theme 3: Policy, development and engagement

Collaborative Indigenous cricket research project completed

In 2014, NCIS completed its Indigenous Cricket pilot study. The project was led by NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty and NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson, with research assistance from NCIS Research Officer Ms Corinne Walsh. It was a 12-month collaborative research partnership between Cricket Australia and NCIS that investigated and critically evaluated approaches to engaging young Indigenous people through cricket.

Project aims and methods

The pilot project’s aims included reviewing existing research and literature regarding Indigenous Cricket in Australia; beginning to document a contemporary social history and analysis of cricket among Indigenous people; producing, compiling and analysing baseline Indigenous population and participation data for all Australian states and territories; and identifying and making recommendations on statistical and data gaps. A central component of the project was consultation with key Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders in all Australian states and territories regarding their Indigenous cricket and youth development programs and pathways. The project also conducted an audit of existing models of Indigenous youth engagement through sport.

Report delivered

In December, the project team delivered the report entitled ‘For the love of the game’ to the Board of Cricket Australia. The report, which was well received, will be publically released in early 2015.
Research presentations

NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty, along with ANU colleague Dr Hannah Bulloch, presented a paper on ‘Responsibility and Resistance: Moral Development in Remote Indigenous Australia’ at the Global bi-annual Development Network conference “From Vulnerability to Resilience: Partnerships for Development” at the University of Otago in Dunedin, NZ.

NCIS Adjunct Professor Dr Patrick Sullivan presented a paper titled ‘The tyranny of bureaucracy and the anthropologist’s social contract’ at the Indigenous Advocacy in Australian and Canadian Anthropology workshop in Sydney. NCIS Research Officer Dr Melissa Lovell presented on her research regarding Aboriginal affairs governance at the 2014 NZ Political Studies Association conference in Auckland, NZ, and the Engaging Indigenous Economy: Debating Diverse Approaches conference in Canberra. NCIS PhD scholar Ms Sophia Close, whose research examines Indigenous perspectives on development and conflict through a case study of Timor-Leste, presented a poster at the 2014 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference in Canberra.

NCIS consultancy for the ACT Government: Caring for the Cotter evaluation project

During 2014, NCIS PhD scholar Ms Magali McDuffie, NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty and NCIS Adjunct Professor Patrick Sullivan undertook consultancy work for the Environmental and Sustainable Development Department of the ACT Government evaluating the Caring for the Cotter Catchment Project. As part of the consultancy, Magali was the principal author of the evaluation report Caring for Our Country: Yurung Dhaura Land Management Team (co-authored by Bill and Patrick) and director of the film Yurung Dhaura Land Management Team (2014). The Caring for the Cotter Catchment Project, which ran from 2010-2013, was a collaborative project funded under the Federal Caring for Our Country initiative that sought the environmental rehabilitation of extensive land areas within the Cotter Catchment and to create employment pathways for Aboriginal trainees in land and resource management.
Reducing incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: an exploratory case study

ARC Discovery Indigenous grant funded project

In 2013, researchers from ANU began research on a three-year ARC Discovery Indigenous grant-funded project exploring the theory and research methodology of Justice Reinvestment (JR) as a way of reducing the incarceration of juveniles. JR focuses on ideas for diverting public funds from the need to build prisons and reinvesting those funds in social and health programs that offer the potential for lowering both crime and incarceration rates. The research, led by NCIS Research Fellow Dr. Jill Guthrie, is a community-driven project with the NSW town of Cowra, where the entire community – not just the Indigenous community – is invited to participate, thus enabling whole-of-community responses to juvenile justice issues.

Interviews and consultations

Research on this project was in full swing in 2014. Interviews of young people and service providers in Cowra were carried out between March and July 2014. Preliminary analysis of the data obtained through these discussions was carried out throughout 2014.

Towards zero prison population growth

In November, NCIS Research Fellow Dr. Jill Guthrie, new NCIS Research Officer Dr. Melissa Lovell and new NCIS Research Manager Ms. Emily Brennan submitted an ARC Linkage grant application entitled ‘Towards zero prison population growth: Justice Reinvestment in the ACT’. Partner organisations on the application are the ACT Government and the Australian Institute of Criminology. Other University collaborators on the funding...
application include the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, the ANU College of Law, the University of NSW Kirby Institute and the University of NSW Law School, and The University of Melbourne’s Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. The application is the culmination of several years of developmental work on JR. The research aims to explore whether JR is a viable policy for the ACT. It seeks funding for three years. Reviewers’ comments will be received in February 2015, and the results of the application will be known in June 2015.

Assessing the public’s views of incarceration and non-incarceration alternatives using Citizens’ Juries

Early in 2014, NCIS presented senior policymakers with the findings of Citizens’ Juries conducted in Canberra (28 September 2013) and in Perth (5 October 2013) on alternative strategies to incarceration. Citizens’ Juries involve bringing together a randomly selected group of citizens, providing them with good information on the issue at hand, and asking them as members of the citizenry about their preferences for policy options or resource allocation. The Citizens’ Juries were carried out following the award of a Lowitja Institute grant in 2012. The research team included NCIS Research Fellow Dr Jill Guthrie and NCIS Research Officers Ms Corinne Walsh and Dr Melissa Lovell; Professor Tony Butler, Dr Paul Simpson and Mr Michael Doyle from the University of NSW; and Ms Jocelyn Jones from Curtin University. One of the key findings from the Citizens’ Juries was that citizens believed that excessive investment in prisons has become an unnecessary burden on the public purse. Jurors were also supportive of alternatives to incarceration, including investment in holistic, early intervention and prevention strategies such as JR. Policymakers were largely supportive of the Citizens’ Jury findings, flagging the need for more concrete information about what JR might look like in an Australian policy context (which is the focus of the ARC Linkage grant application, outlined above).

National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG)

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson has commenced a new role as member of the governance board for an ANU Centre to boost Indigenous health research. The newly launched National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG) aims to establish a national resource, under Indigenous governance, for appropriate and respectful genetic and genomic research that will benefit Indigenous Australians. The Centre’s purpose is to give researchers new tools to help close the gap on Indigenous health and life expectancy (http://ncig.anu.edu.au/). NCIS Deputy Director Associate Professor Cressida Fforde is on the NCIG Consultative Group and its Research Advisory Committee.

Reconciling biological and social Indigeneity in the genomic era

NCIS Deputy Director Associate Professor Cressida Fforde is a Chief Investigator on a project examining the impact of genomic research on concepts of indigeneity, which successfully secured ARC Discovery funding in 2014. The project is undertaken in collaboration with Associate Professor Emma Kowal (CI1) and Professor Yin Paradies at Deakin University.
National Centre for Indigenous Studies: Year in Review 2014

From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery

The Indigenous Offender Health Research (IOHR) Capacity Building Group, which includes NCIS Research Fellow Dr Jill Guthrie and NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson, is a five-year National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funded project that began in 2010. It is designed to develop research capacity in Indigenous offender health research through an Australian-wide collaborative research network of Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers. Outcomes of the project will include better health services for Indigenous offenders, and more generally, improved health and wellbeing for those in the communities from which they come, and to which they return.

The Australian Centre for Research Excellence in Offender Health

In 2014, the University of NSW commenced work on a project, supported by a five-year NHMRC grant, to establish a national Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Offender Health building on research undertaken by the project’s chief investigators, including NCIS Research Fellow Dr Jill Guthrie, over the past fifteen years. The Centre will develop a national culture of evidence-based research with mechanisms for translation into policy and practice. One research project to be undertaken as part of the CRE emanates from the Citizens’ Jury work described above: the proposed research, using deliberative research techniques, will seek the views of prisoners and/or ex-prisoners (often a forgotten group in prison health research), as well as of members of human research ethics committees and prison health directors, to explore not only prison health issues, but also ethical issues surrounding prison health research.

Footprints in Time: Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson continues to chair a steering committee for ongoing research that began in 2008, undertaken in partnership with the Department of Social Services, to develop quantitative and qualitative data management protocols in a longitudinal study of approximately 1,700 Indigenous children from communities across Australia. Its aim is to improve understanding of, and policy responses to, the diverse circumstances faced by Indigenous children, families and communities. The research has allowed the Australian Government to create a data resource that state governments, researchers, service providers, parents and communities can draw on.

Award for NCIS Visiting Fellow

In December, NCIS Visiting Fellow Mr Len Kanowski was awarded the Australian Rotary Health/Kaiyu Enterprises Scholarship in Sydney. It will support him in his doctoral studies on Aboriginal mental health and wellbeing worker support in NSW, which is being completed through the University of Newcastle.
HDR achievements

NCIS PhD scholar, Associate Professor Kerrie Doyle, completed her mid-term review in 2014. Her research, titled ‘The Genealogy of social exclusion: women and identity in Aboriginal Australia’, examines the experiences of internal and external racism, by Aboriginal people that do not match a pre-conceived physical stereotype. Aunty Kerrie was appointed as Associate Professor Indigenous Health at RMIT University, commencing in 2015. She was also featured in the Sydney Morning Herald in April as ‘[a]n indigenous Oxford graduate [who] is making her mark in health’ after graduating in 2013 with a scholarship-backed Master of Science in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy from Oxford University (David Wilson ‘Cloisters and clapsticks’ The Sydney Morning Herald, 5-6 April 2014 at p.13).

NCIS Aurora Interns – Justice Reinvestment

In 2014, NCIS welcomed two Aurora interns to assist NCIS Research Fellow Dr Jill Guthrie on her work on Justice Reinvestment. Dr Zeljko Jokic joined NCIS part-time for a month over June to July working on developing a short history of the development and funding models of the Weigelli Centre, an Indigenous, rural, residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility located near Cowra. Ms Hilary Miller joined NCIS full-time for a month over August to September working on a qualitative analysis of data regarding two programs geared at keeping Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in school in Cowra: the Breakaway Program and the Girri Girri Program.

Professor Mick Dodson speaks at the launch of Yatdjuligin and Arresting incarceration

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson spoke at the launch of the edited collection by Odette Best and Bronwyn Fredericks, Yatdjuligin: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Care (Cambridge University Press, 2014), at AIATSIS in November.

Mick also spoke at the launch of Don Weatherburn’s book, Arresting incarceration: pathways out of Indigenous imprisonment (AIATSIS, 2014), at AIATSIS in March.
Research Theme 5: Education and knowledge

Innovative collaborative evaluation of the Learning on Country Program

Collaborative evaluation

NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty is leading a partnership between NCIS and CAEPR that is conducting an innovative collaborative evaluation of the Learning on Country Program in the Northern Territory. The evaluation began in 2013 and runs until April 2015. It is being undertaken in conjunction with four Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land and is funded by PM&C.

The Learning on Country Program

The Learning on Country Program is a cutting-edge approach to education in remote areas where learning is designed to be both relevant and engaging to the local community. The Learning on Country Program aims to incorporate local Indigenous aspirations and perspectives, while simultaneously embedding literacy and numeracy learning in real activities, such as management of environmental threats and pursuit of economic development opportunities. The program links best practice in Indigenous land and sea management and education.

The Learning on Country Program evaluation team conducted extensive fieldwork in Arnhem Land during 2014. This fieldwork included time spent with eight community organisations across four remote field sites and included in-depth discussions and research with seven different language groups in the region.

The team also provided a very well attended mid-term evaluation seminar to PM&C. The report for this project will be finalised in April 2015.

National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network

Throughout 2014, former NCIS Senior Research Fellow and HDR Program Manager Dr Asmi Wood continued work supporting a four-year ARC grant secured by the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network in 2011 to support and develop the skills of Indigenous researchers.
Adjunct and HDR scholar achievements

NCIS Adjunct Associate Professor Tom Calma AO began his role as the new Chancellor of the University of Canberra in 2014.

NCIS PhD scholar Ms Magali McDuffie completed her thesis proposal review in 2014. Her research, titled Jimbin Kaboo Yimardoowarra Marninil: Listening to Nyikina women’s voices, from the inside to the outside, is a cross-generational study through film of how Nyikina women’s voices have influenced, and are still influencing, cultural actions, sustainable economic initiatives and self-determination in the Kimberley. Between August and September, Magali returned to the Kimberley to carry out additional film projects with Nyikina people, producing a number of films that are detailed in Appendix 1. Her films enjoyed numerous screenings, including at the Festival International du Film Pacifique de Rochefort in France in May. Magali also presented on her research at the TransOceanik Conference in Cairns and the “Talking Heads” seminar series at the University of Notre Dame’s Broome Campus.

NCIS PhD scholar Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley became an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Memorandum of Understanding between ANU and the South West University of Nationalities, China

Memorandum paves way for NCIS collaboration with Yi Studies Centre

In October, ANU and the South West University of Nationalities (SWUN) in Chengdu, China, signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) crystallising an important new friendship between the two institutions. The unique collaboration was initiated by NCIS PhD scholar Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley with the support and encouragement of NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson. The signing of the MoU paves the way for NCIS to formally collaborate with the Yi Studies Centre. The Centre is directed by the internationally renowned poet of the Nuosu branch of the Yi ethnic group: Professor Luo Qingchun (Aku Wuwu), Dean and Professor of Ethnic Minority Studies. It is intended that Australian Indigenous scholars, researchers, artists and poets will come together with their Yi Studies Centre counterparts in sincere friendship, good will and cross-cultural exchange.

Event celebrates signing

After signing the MoU, the delegation, which included Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr Erik Lithander, Professor Mick Dodson and Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley, attended an event to celebrate the signing. The prestigious event was also attended by the President of SWUN, Professor Zeng Ming. Professor Mick Dodson presented the opening speech (translated into Mandarin Chinese by Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley) at the Yi Studies Centre.
graduated Masters scholar, recited the first of a nineteen-verse historical poem by Wiradjuri poet and ANU Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr Jeanine Leane, Dark Secrets: Camp, in three languages. The complete poem (with translations by Glynnis-Anne and Lama), along with an epic piece from Professor Aku Wuwu, are due to be published as an illustrated book in 2015 in English, Chinese and the Yi language.

The trip to China concluded with a visit to the Yi Studies Classical Literature Museum, the only one housed in China. The centre carries 6000 texts, 3000 of them classical pieces from the Yi regions of Sichuan, Guiyang, Yunnan and Guangxi.

NCIS looks forward to deepening its relationship with the Yi Centre at the South West Nationalities University to further scholarship and research between the Centres and the two universities.

Undergraduate course – Indigenous Australians and the Law

Former NCIS Senior Research Fellow Dr Asmi Wood again convened and co-taught the undergraduate course ‘Indigenous Australians and the Law’ in the ANU College of Law in 2014.

Research presentations

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson presented on the themes of education and leadership at the Podmore Foundation Lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club in June and at the Yalari Graduation Certificate Presentation at Duntroon in Canberra in August. While in Chengdu, China, Mick also presented a lecture on Indigenous Australia to students of SWUN.

NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty presented, along with the Deputy Director of CAEPR, Dr Jerry Schwab, at the AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference 2014 on deeper understandings of Indigenous ‘Learning on Country’.
Serving Our Country: a history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia

The ARC Linkage project

The Serving Our Country project was launched in March during the 2014 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference in Canberra. It is a five-year major research project led by NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson and Professor Joan Beaumont of the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. The project traces the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia throughout the twentieth century and provides authoritative accounts of their contributions to the nation. The project was awarded more than $1 million as part of the ARC’s Linkage projects funding in 2012. The partnership organisations for the project are the Department of Defence, AIATSIS, the National Archives of Australia, the Australian War Memorial and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Community Yarnups

The project team spent 2014 carrying out nationwide community consultations, also known as the Community Yarnups, to collect oral history recordings of Indigenous defence stories. So far, the team has heard powerful stories from New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania, including in Newcastle, Cairns, Cherbourg, Moree, Hobart and Launceston. All over people turned up with stories, photographs and other memorabilia to share. The Community Yarnups were led by Professor Mick Dodson with the support of the project’s Community Consultation Coordinator Mr Craig Greene (a Gurindji Warlpiri man) and ANU Research Associate Dr Allison Cadzow. The team has another busy year planned for 2015, with Community Yarnups scheduled to take place in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia.

Defending Country conference

The year culminated with the project conference ‘Defending Country: Sharing stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service’ held at ANU from 1-3 December. The conference brought together a large group of Indigenous veterans, defence personnel and family members to share their defence service stories. Also in attendance were the project researchers, community organisations and representatives from our partner organisations. The three-day conference was structured into thematic panels, including commemoration and remembrance, citizenship and activism, and social justice issues. Conference activities included a reception at Duntroon House, hosted by the Chief of Army, and a special guided tour of the Australian War Memorial. Feedback from the conference was very positive, with participants appreciative of the opportunity to come together as a community and share stories in a supportive environment.
Professor Mick Dodson National Press Club address: It’s not too late to secure Australia’s Indigenous heritage

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson, who is also Chair of AIATSIS, addressed the nation at the National Press Club on AIATSIS’ collection on Indigenous Australia in recognition of its fiftieth anniversary in November. According to Mick, AIATSIS holds the most extensive and best contextualised collection on Indigenous Australia in the world. These records have proved immensely helpful to reconnect generations with their culture and find lost family, and assist traditional owners, mining companies and pastoralists, draft and settle native title claims. He talked about how AIATSIS is working hard to develop new partnerships with Australian and international corporations, governments and individuals who can contribute to the building of a facility to house these collections in Canberra. The facility will be for all people from all walks of lives all over the world who are keen to know and understand more about the world’s longest continuous civilisation and of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

PhD awarded – Conversing tradition: Wägilak manikay ‘song’ and the Australian Art Orchestra’s Crossing Roper Bar

Former NCIS PhD scholar Dr Sam Curkpatrick was awarded his doctoral thesis, titled ‘Conversing tradition: Wägilak manikay “song” and the Australian Art Orchestra’s Crossing Roper Bar’, in June. Sam’s thesis explored tradition as event in the present, realised through the dynamic expressions of manikay (song) in contemporary contexts. His research gave particular emphasis to the collaboration between Wägilak songmen from Ngukurr in Australia’s Northern Territory and the Australian Art Orchestra, known as Crossing Roper Bar. Sam was supervised by NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson along with Associate Professor Aaron Corn and Mrs Frances Morphy from ANU.
Further HDR achievements

NCIS PhD scholar Ms Sidha Pandian completed her mid-term review in 2014. Her doctoral research, titled ‘Indigenous Australian and South Indian Classical Dance Dialogues: An ontological and epistemological performance-based study’, explores the spiritual, corporeal, emotional and intellectual possibilities of collaboration, dialogue and exchange between Indigenous Australian and South Indian Classical dance expressions of culture. Sidha also presented, together with Noongar Dancer Justina Truscott-Smith, at Curtin University’s “Where do we go from here?” 15th Humanities Postgraduate Research Conference.


NCIS PhD scholar Ms Katherine Aigner, whose dissertation titled ‘Reconciliation of a Stolen Generation Scholar’ examines matriarchal knowledge holders and cultural heritage protection through the life of custodian Lorraine Mafi-Williams (1940-2001), carried out ongoing work for the Vatican Ethnological Museum during 2014 as an associate curator and facilitator of Indigenous community reconnection. Her work included research: with the Kogi Mamas of Colombia; on the Indigenous collections at the Bishop Museum in Hawaii; and in South Dakota, USA, including at the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations. She carried out preparatory work for three exhibitions that ran in 2013-2014, including the permanent Australian exhibition in the Vatican Ethnological Museum. Katherine also had fieldtrip photos from Argentina and Colombia shown in the ANU Anthropology Photographic Exhibition 2014. Katherine presented on her doctoral and Vatican research throughout the year, including at the Indigenous Advocacy in Australian and Canadian Anthropology workshop in Sydney, the AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference in Canberra and the Annual Oceanic Art Society meeting in Sydney.

Return, Reconcile, Renew: understanding the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future

International ARC Linkage project

In 2014, NCIS, along with its research and industry partners, began work on a three-year project that seeks to further understanding of the history and effects of repatriation and to present new information about the current and future role of repatriation in community development. The international project is led by NCIS Deputy Director Associate Professor Cressida Fforde and is funded by an ARC Linkage grant and Partner Organisation contributions. The repatriation of ancestral remains is an extraordinary Indigenous achievement and inter-cultural development of the past forty years that requires greater recognition and understanding. The project will significantly advance knowledge about the history, effects and development opportunities of repatriation and will forge urgently needed new ground in the development of protocols for online access to digital archives of cultural sensitivity.

The project team

The project brings together the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority; the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Gur A Baradhawar Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation; the Ministry for the Arts (Attorney-General’s Department); Flinders University; The University of Melbourne; The University of Tasmania; AIATSIS; the National Museum of Australia; the University of Otago; the Association on American Indian Affairs; and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.
Progress in 2014

Project planning meetings and workshops were held in Canberra, Melbourne, Camp Coorong, Fitzroy Crossing and Broome during 2014. Work began in a variety of areas, including understanding the relationship between repatriation and community development, developing accessible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories of repatriation, establishing protocols for information representation and access as Phase 1 of the knowledge base, and developing educational materials for an intensive training course to be delivered in 2015.

The project team delivered a number of conference papers and public seminars in support of the project throughout the year, including Associate Professor Cressida Fforde, Associate Professor G. McCarthy, Professor Paul Turnbull and Mr Lyndon Ormond-Parker ‘Repatriation and the Challenges of Cross-cultural Informatics’ – a paper presented at the Digital Communities in Action Conference, Centre for Digital Heritage, University of York, UK; Daryle Rigney and Associate Professor Steve Hemming ‘Indigenous National Building, Community Wellbeing and Repatriation’ – a public seminar delivered at Yunggorendi, Flinders University; NCIS Adjunct Senior Research Fellow Dr C. Timothy McKeown ‘Return, Reconcile, Renew: learning from the US experience of repatriation’ – a public seminar delivered at Yunggorendi, Flinders University; NCIS Adjunct Senior Research Fellow Dr C. Timothy McKeown ‘Repatriation Stories from a Far Away Land: Progress and Obstacles in the repatriation of Indigenous human remains in the USA’ – a public seminar delivered at ANU; and NCIS Adjunct Associate Professor Mike Pickering ‘Colonial Legacies? Is repatriation of remains an act of post-colonial justice?’ – a paper presented at the Post-colonial Justice Conference, Potsdam University.

Dr C. Timothy McKeown, repatriation expert, visits as Fulbright Senior Specialist

Washington DC-based applied anthropologist and NCIS Adjunct Senior Research Fellow Dr C. Timothy McKeown spent November in Australia, supported by an Australia-American Fulbright Commission’s Senior Specialist grant, to assist on the Return, Reconcile, Renew project. His extensive specialist teaching experience was drawn on to develop the repatriation intensive course proposal.

NCIS public lecture – Black Seeds

In November, NCIS hosted Mr Bruce Pascoe, a Bunurong/Tasmanian Yuin man and award-winning author, to discuss his most recent book, Dark Emu - Black Seeds: Agriculture Or Accident?, which examines the myth of hunting and gathering and how this assumption has affected the relationship and dialogue between Aboriginal people and the Australian mainstream.

Professor Mick Dodson speaks on culture, heritage and history

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson offered the closing remarks at the 2014 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference in Canberra in his capacity as Chair of the AIATSIS Council. He also spoke at the NAIDOC Week Symposium “More than Service: Black Diggers and the Great War” and the launch of John Maynard’s book, True Light and Shade: An Aboriginal Perspective of Joseph Lycett’s Art (National Library of Australia, 2014).
Deficit discourse and Indigenous education

ARC Discovery Indigenous grant

In 2014, NCIS successfully secured ARC Discovery Indigenous funding for a three-year project examining the effects of deficit discourse in Indigenous education. The project team, led by NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson, includes NCIS Deputy Director Associate Professor Cressida Fforde, NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty, NCIS Adjunct Professor Dr Patrick Sullivan, Mr Scott Gorringe (The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Murrimatters Pty Ltd), Associate Professor Kerry McCallum (University of Canberra) and Senior Lecturer Dr Lisa Waller (Deakin University).

The project

The project, which commences in 2015, investigates the prevalence of deficit discourse and its influence on Indigenous education. Deficit discourse frames Indigenous identity in a language of negativity and deficiency. Recent work indicates that deficit discourse is active in policy, public debate, pedagogy and practice and that its prevalence in Indigenous education influences student performance. The project seeks to map the discursive environment and analyse education programs that reject the deficit model. The project then assesses whether the removal of deficit discourse improves outcomes for Indigenous students. The project provides an original approach to challenge entrenched perceptions, with the aim of providing tangible benefits to the Australian education system and the communities that it serves.

The project’s significance

The project is significant for Indigenous communities and wider Australian society. A comprehensive assessment of deficit discourse and its influence is of direct relevance to key stakeholders in the Indigenous education system. The project’s findings will inform education policy, pedagogy and practice to optimise learning for Indigenous students. Its results will provide critical evidence to address how Indigenous education is understood and represented in forums of influence, particularly politics and the media.
Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation grant: Improving Indigenous education outcomes in Victoria

NCIS Research Fellow Dr Bill Fogarty, NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson, NCIS Deputy Director Associate Professor Cressida Fforde and Mr Scott Gorringe successfully secured a Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation (LMCF) grant to look at improving Indigenous education outcomes in Victoria, which will be undertaken in conjunction with the ARC-funded ‘Deficit Discourse and Indigenous Education’ project in 2015. This LMCF-funded project explores whether and how deficit discourse surrounding Aboriginality affects educational outcomes for Indigenous youth in Victoria. To do so, it focuses on two case study schools in Melbourne, investigating what happens to Indigenous educational achievement after the implementation of a professional development program for teachers that results in deficit discourses no longer being the dominant frame in the school environment. This innovative project will establish a baseline in each site and measure the practical outcomes achieved at the end of the twelve month program.

Indigenous Nationhood in the absence of recognition: Self-governance insights and strategies from three Aboriginal communities

Former NCIS Senior Research Fellow and HDR Program Manager Dr Asmi Wood is a chief investigator on a three-year project that secured an ARC Linkage grant in 2014. The project, led by Professor Larissa Behrendt (University of Technology Sydney), examines the dynamics of Indigenous success in three Aboriginal communities that are improving their governance capacities.

NCIS summer intern – discourses surrounding incarceration

Amy Windsor joined NCIS as an ANU Summer Intern for the month of February 2014. Amy was jointly supervised by NCIS Deputy Director Associate Professor Cressida Fforde and NCIS Research Fellow Dr Jill Guthrie. Her project involved scoping discourses surrounding the incarceration of Indigenous Australians, as well as prison building or expansion, in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Professor Mick Dodson celebrates Indigenous Australian success stories

NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson celebrated and promoted stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island success during 2014. He delivered a speech on confronting stereotypes and celebrating our heroes, at the launch of the ABC’s Untold Stories series, in Sydney in July. The series showcases some of the country’s most extraordinary Indigenous Australians. Mick had the honour of presenting the Female Elder of the Year award to Patricia O’Connor, the inspirational woman behind the Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture, at the National NAIDOC Ball held on the Gold Coast in July. He also sat as Chairman of the judging panel for the national 2014 Indigenous Governance Awards sponsored by BHP Billiton and Reconciliation Australia. Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation from Alice Springs was awarded the best run Aboriginal organisation and The Marruk Project from Swan Hill was awarded the best run Aboriginal project at the awards ceremony held in October in Melbourne.
NCIS research promotion and support

NCIS graduate research retreat

NCIS hosted its fifth retreat for HDR scholars undertaking research into Indigenous topics, on 8-10 October 2014 at Eagle Hawk on the ACT/NSW border. The retreat is an opportunity for Indigenous HDR scholars and HDR scholars researching in Indigenous studies to engage in intellectual discussion, network and share information.

The program included a keynote presentation by Mr Michael Mansell (Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre), a Palawa/Trawlwoolway/Pinterrairer man, on how representative democracy has failed Aboriginal people, and its alternatives, as well as presentations from Professor Miriam Jorgensen (Research Director of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development) regarding Indigenous research challenges and how to tackle them; ANU Professor Jon Altman on changes in higher education and research; and Ms Leanne Holt (Director of The Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle), a Worimi woman, on Indigenous higher education research and post-PhD career options, amongst others.
The retreat also provided an opportunity for 17 current and prospective HDR scholars researching Indigenous topics to present their ideas in an academically rigorous but supportive environment. Themes discussed ranged from land and resources, law and political economy, to the value of art, leadership and the public intellectual, the influence of culture, health and education.

A big thank you to NCIS PhD scholar Mr Ed Wensing for taking the lead in organising such a successful graduate research retreat.

**NCIS writing retreats**

NCIS staff and HDR scholars participated in an annual week-long writing retreat at the University’s Kioloa Coastal Campus, NSW, from 13-17 October. The week was loosely structured, with a primary focus on writing, along with opportunities for discussion on sorting out writing problems and enhancing writing skills. Thank you to NCIS PhD scholar Mr Ed Wensing for organising the retreat.

Participates at the 2014 NCIS writing retreat, Kioloa Coastal Campus, NSW.

NCIS also hosted its first one-day writing retreat at the University’s Mt Stromlo Observatory in Weston Creek, for staff and HDR scholars, on 31 July. We look forward to making this a regular feature in the NCIS calendar.

**NCIS research hours**

Throughout the year NCIS continued to host monthly research hours for its staff, HDR scholars and adjuncts to discuss matters of importance to Indigenous peoples and the field of Indigenous studies. Our 2014 calendar included presentations from NCIS PhD scholar Mr Ed Wensing on the outcomes of the Living on Our Lands study he was involved in preparing on behalf of SGS Economics and Planning for Western Australia’s Department of Indigenous Affairs; NCIS Research Fellow Dr Jill Guthrie on her Reducing incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: an exploratory case study project; Mr Rod Little (from the Amangu and Wajuk peoples), Chair of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, on that body’s work; NCIS Community Consultation Coordinator (Serving Our Country project) Mr Craig Greene on the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, where he formerly worked as the Community Engagement Coordinator; Dr Allison
Cadzow (ANU) on the Serving Our Country Project; NCIS Adjunct Associate Professor Michael Pickering (National Museum of Australia) on whether the repatriation of remains is an act of post-colonial justice; NCIS Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Lawrence Bamblett (a Wiradjuri man based at AIATSIS) on conducting ethical insider research with a Wiradjuri community; and the screening of NCIS PhD scholar Ms Magali McDuffie’s film, Three Sisters: Women of High Degree, which was developed in collaboration with three Yimardoowarra Marninil, Nyikina women from the Mardoowarra, Fitzroy River: Lucy Marshall, Jeannie Wabi and Anne Poelina.

**NCIS HDR scholar master classes**

NCIS continued to support a program of master classes for its HDR scholars throughout 2014, which were initiated and coordinated by NCIS PhD scholar Ms Glynnis-Anne Buckley. Presenters included Professor Kirin Narayan (ANU) on bringing writing alive, Dr Jeanine Leane (ANU) on utilising Indigenous poetry in academic discourse and the politics of Indigenous writing, Professor Nicholas Peterson (ANU) on the current impacts of modernisation in Aboriginal Australia, and ANU Pro-Vice Chancellor (Student Experience) Professor Richard Baker on lessons in Yanyuwa traditional knowledge. The master classes have contributed to the intellectual stimulation, inspiration and enthusiasm of our HDR scholars. Many thanks to Glynnis-Anne for her initiative.

**NCIS Indigenous studies reading group**

In 2014, NCIS also launched an Indigenous studies reading group. It is held every 2 months and open to all ANU HDR scholars and staff with an interest in Indigenous studies. The aim of the reading group is to develop scholarly understandings of the Indigenous studies field within ANU. It is facilitated by NCIS Research Associate Dr Fleur Adcock. During the year the reading group explored the themes of Indigenous representation, Indigenist research and Indigenous sovereignty and nationhood drawing on a variety of texts, including journal articles, book chapters, public lectures and spoken word poetry from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars.
Appendix 1 – NCIS publications 2014

Fleur Adcock


Katherine Aigner


Aigner, Katherine, contributing author in Atua: Sacred gods from Polynesia, National Gallery of Australia, 2014.

Lawrence Bamblett

Bamblett, Lawrence, 'Picture who we are: representations of identity and the appropriation of photographs into a Wiradjuri oral history tradition', in: J. Lydon (ed.), Calling the shots; Aboriginal photographies, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, ACT, 2014, pp:76-100.

Glynnis-Anne Buckley


Mick Dodson

Fogarty, William; Dodson, Mick, 'Submission to the Northern Territory Indigenous Education Review', submitted to the Northern Territory Government Department of Education, Northern Territory on 19 March 2014, 8 pages.

Bill Fogarty

Fogarty, William; Dodson, Mick, 'Submission to the Northern Territory Indigenous Education Review', submitted to the Northern Territory Government Department of Education, Northern Territory on 19 March 2014, 8 pages.

McDuffie, Magali; Fogarty, William; Sullivan, Patrick, 'Caring for Our Country: Yurung Dhaura Land Management Team', consultancy report submitted to the Environmental and Sustainable Development Department, ACT Government, Canberra, ACT on 30 April 2014, 92 pages.
Veronica Fynn


Jill Guthrie


Melissa Lovell


Guthrie, Jill; Lovell, Melissa, ‘Future-proofing the ACT justice system’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 May 2014.

John Maynard


Magali McDuffie

McDuffie, Magali; Fogarty, William; Sullivan, Patrick, 'Caring for Our Country: Yurung Dhaura Land Management Team', consultancy report submitted to the Environmental and Sustainable Development Department, ACT Government, Canberra, ACT on 30 April 2014. 92 pages.

McDuffie, Magali, Anne Poelina: Yimardoowarra Marrin (Short Film, 2014): Madjulla Inc. for presentation at the TransOceanik Conference in Cairns (July 2014).

McDuffie, Magali, Gulbujargu Personal Development Program (Short Film, 2014): Gulbujargu Inc., Derby.

McDuffie, Magali, Indigenous River Voices: Reading Our Kandri (Short Film, 2014): Madjulla Inc. for presentation at the River Symposium, Canberra.

McDuffie, Magali, Mapping and Protecting Our Sacred Sites (Short Film, 2014): Madjulla Inc., in collaboration with Auckland University of Technology.

McDuffie, Magali, Trip on Country (Short Film, 2014): in collaboration with a family from Noonkanbah, for archival purposes.

McDuffie, Magali, Yurung Dhaura Land Management Team (Short Film, 2014): for the Environmental and Sustainable Development Department, ACT Government, 2014.

Patrick Sullivan

McDuffie, Magali; Fogarty, William; Sullivan, Patrick, 'Caring for Our Country: Yurung Dhaura Land Management Team', consultancy report submitted to the Environmental and Sustainable Development Department, ACT Government, Canberra, ACT on 30 April 2014, 92 pages.

Corinne Walsh


Ed Wensing


Appendix 2 – NCIS presentations 2014

Fleur Adcock


Katherine Aigner


Sophia Close


Mick Dodson

Dodson, Mick; Fogarty, William, ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in cricket’, presented to the Cricket Australia Board, 12 December 2014. Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA.

Dodson, Mick, speech at the launch of Odette Best and Bronwyn Fredericks (eds) Yatdjuligin: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Care (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 27 November 2014. AIATSIS, Canberra, ACT.

Dodson, Mick, ‘Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians’, public lecture hosted by the ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment in association with the ANU Medical School, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, and the Indigenous Health Interest Group, 12 November 2014. The ANU, Canberra, ACT.

Dodson, Mick, address to the National Press Club on 12 November 2014 on AIATSIS’ collection on Indigenous Australia. National Press Club, Canberra, ACT.

Dodson, Mick, ‘Indigenous Australia’, lecture at the South West University of Nationalities. Chengdu, China, 3 November 2014.


Dodson, Mick, ‘Constitutional recognition’, presentation at the 2014 Warm Winter Words – Rethinking Australia’s indigenous past event, 3 August 2014. Apollo Bay Hotel, Apollo Bay, VIC.

Dodson, Mick, ‘Constitutional recognition’, presentation to the Apollo Bay P-12 College. Apollo Bay, VIC, 4 August 2014.


Dodson, Mick, ‘Confronting stereotypes and celebrating our heroes’, speech at the launch of the ABC’s Untold Stories series, 7 July 2014. ABC Ultimo Centre, Sydney, NSW.

Dodson, Mick, ‘Education and leadership’, speech at the Podmore Foundation Lunch, 15 June 2014. Royal Canberra Golf Club, Canberra, ACT.


Cressida Fforde


Bill Fogarty

Dodson, Mick; Fogarty, William, ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in cricket’, Cricket Australia Board, 12 December 2014. Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA.


**Veronica Fynn**


**Melissa Lovell**


**Magali McDuffie**


**C Timothy McKeown**


**Alycia Nevalainen**


**Sidha Pandian**

Pandia, Sidha (on behalf of the Temple of Fine Arts); Truscott-Smith, Justina, ‘The seed’, a collaborative performance at the Where Do We Go From Here? 15th Humanities Postgraduate Research Conference, Curtin University on 12-14 November 2014, Perth, WA.
Pandia, Sidha (on behalf of the Temple of Fine Arts); Truscott-Smith, Justina, ‘The seed’, a collaborative performance at the Swan Festival of Lights, 22-26 October 2014. Perth, WA.

Michael Pickering

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Wensing
Wensing, Ed, ‘Embedding native title rights and interests in land use and environmental planning’, presented at the RNTBC Nation Building Summit hosted by Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS) and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), 10-11 December 2014. South Stradbroke Island, QLD.


Wensing, Ed, ‘Designing social change to rebuild the Narrabundah Longstay Park’, presented at the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) and University of Canberra Designing Social Change: Beyond Talk, Taking Action conference on 7 August 2014. University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT.

Wensing, Ed, ‘Unsettling planners’ and urban geographers’ paradigms about cities and Indigenous rights to their Traditional Country’, lecture on 7 August 2014 to Indigenous Australians and the Law, ANU College of Law. The ANU, Canberra, ACT.

Wensing, Ed, ‘Unsettling planners’ and urban geographers’ paradigms about cities and Indigenous rights to their Traditional Country’, lecture 6 August 2014 to Urban Geography and Design. James Cook University, Cairns, QLD.
## Appendix 3 – NCIS externally-funded projects 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Funding body</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Chief investigator(s)</th>
<th>Lead organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towards zero prison population growth: Justice Reinvestment in the ACT</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Linkage Project</td>
<td>Applied for</td>
<td>Dr Jill Guthrie, Dr Nova Inkpen, Mr Matthew Willis, Prof Mick Dodson, Prof Tom Kompas, A/Prof Stuart Kinner, Prof Tony Butler, Ms Melanie Schwartz, Dr Paul Simpson, Dr Hoa Nguyen, Prof Simon Rice, Adjunct A/Prof Tom Calma</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Indigenous education outcomes in Victoria</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>Dr Bill Fogarty, Mr Scott Gorringe, Prof Mick Dodson, A/Prof Cressida Fforde</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit discourse and Indigenous education</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Project</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>Prof Mick Dodson, Dr Bill Fogarty, Mr Scott Gorringe, A/Prof Kerrie McCallum, Adjunct A/Prof Patrick Sullivan, Dr Lisa Waller, A/Prof Cressida Fforde</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciling biological and social Indigeneity in the genomic era</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Discovery Project</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>Dr Emma Kowal, Prof Yin Paradies, A/Prof Cressida Fforde</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous nationhood in the absence of recognition: Self-governance insights and strategies from three Aboriginal communities</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Linkage Project</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>Prof Larissa Behrendt, Dr Miriam Jorgensen, Prof Stephen Cornell, Prof Daryle Rigney, A/Prof Steve Hemming, Dr Mark McMillan, Dr Yoko Akama, Dr Asmi Wood, Dr Raymond Orr, Mr Daneim Bell, Mr Timothy Hartman</td>
<td>University of Technology, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return, Reconcile, Renew: Understanding the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Linkage Project</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>A/Prof Cressida Fforde, A/Prof Daryle Rigney, Prof Paul Turnbull, A/Prof Gavan McCarthy, Mr Lyndon Ormond-Parker, A/Prof Steve Hemming, Adjunct A/Prof Michael Pickering, Prof Paul Tapsell, Dr Tim McKeown, Mr Christopher Wilson, Mrs Grace Kobl, Ms W Dallitz, Mr Wes Morris, Mr L N David, Ms Amber Aranui, Ms H Keeler</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Funding body</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Chief investigator(s)</td>
<td>Lead organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Australian Centre for Research Excellence in Offender Health</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Prof Tony Butler, Prof Andrew Lloyd, A/Prof Peter Schofield, Mr James Ward, Prof Philip Mitchell, Prof David Greenberg, Dr Jill Guthrie, Prof John Kaldor, A/Prof Kimberlie Dean, Dr Georgina Chambers</td>
<td>University of NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Cricket pilot project</td>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>Cricket Australia</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Dr Bill Fogarty, Prof Mick Dodson</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning on Country Program evaluation</td>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Dr Bill Fogarty</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: An exploratory case study</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Project</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Dr Jill Guthrie, Prof Mick Dodson, Adjunct A/Prof Tom Calma, Prof Dr Michael Levy, Prof Tony Butler, Dr Phylis Dance, Dr Lisa Strelein, Dr Kamalini Lokuge</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serving Our Country: a history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council Linkage Project</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Prof Mick Dodson, Prof John Maynard, Dr N J Riseman, Dr G Gray, Dr S Furphy</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Prof Tony Butler, Prof Michael Levy, Mr John Kaldor, Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman, Prof Kay Wilhelm, Prof Mick Dodson, Prof Dennis Gray, Prof Steve Allsop, Dr Jill Guthrie, Mr James Fetherston, Mr Michael Doyle, Mrs Victoria Hovane, Ms Leila Smith, Dr Kerry Arabena, Dr Nerelle Poroch, Mr Kurt Andersson-Noorgard</td>
<td>University of NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>44 network participants, including Dr Asmi Wood and Dr Jill Guthrie</td>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<td>Caring for the Cotter Catchment Project evaluation</td>
<td>Consultancy</td>
<td>Environmental and Sustainable Development Department, ACT Government</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Ms Magali McDuffie, Dr Bill Fogarty, Adjunct Prof Patrick Sullivan</td>
<td>NCIS</td>
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