

Recent publications

The publications reviewed here are not available from AIATSIS. Please refer to individual reviews for information on obtaining copies of these publications.

Native Title Report: July 1997 - June 1998, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner has a reporting function under section 209 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the NTA). The Commissioner is required to:

- prepare an annual report to the Attorney-General on the operation of the NTA and its effect on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and
- report, when requested by the Attorney-General, on any other matter relating to the rights of Indigenous people under the NTA.

To date, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner has published five Native Title Reports.

The fifth Native Title Report is the first report of the Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Ms Zita Antonios. The report focuses on the amendments to the *Native Title Act 1993* that were passed on 8 July 1998. The report evaluates the amendments against principles of equality and non-discrimination. It considers whether the amendments comply with Australia's international human rights obligations as well as considering emerging international standards (such as the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People). It contrasts the meaning of equality within a human rights framework with the notion of equality used to justify certain amendments to the right to negotiate provisions of the NTA. The report also examines a number of agreements that have been reached through the native title process to date, and highlights the very real outcomes that have been achieved through negotiation. (*HREOC website, native title page*)

The report can be downloaded from HREOC's website at:

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/native_title/index.html

Land Rights at Risk? Evaluations of the Reeves Report, Research Monograph No. 14, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra. Altman, J. C., Morphy, F., and Rowse, T. (Editors)

In Building on Land Rights for the Next Generation: Report of the Review of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (the Reeves Report) John Reeves QC proposes fundamental and controversial changes to land rights law in

the Northern Territory. *Land Rights at Risk?* is the published outcome of a conference - 'Evaluating the Reeves Report: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives' - convened by the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, the Australian National University, March 1999.

In this monograph the broad scope of the conference is maintained, and the sixteen published papers represent a cross-section of disciplines from the social sciences and humanities, including social anthropology, political science, law, economics, public policy, geography and social work. The majority of the contributors have a long-term professional involvement in land rights issues. Taken as a whole, this volume provides a comprehensive and informed critique of the Reeves Report, and it will be essential reading for all those concerned with the Reeves recommendations and their implications. (*CAEPR publicity material*)

Guide to Connection Reports

The Queensland State Department of the Premier and Cabinet is producing a guide to compiling connection reports, which clearly sets out the State's requirements. The guide will also list sources of relevant material and provide some guidance on researching oral histories. For further information contact Val Donovan on phone (07) 3227 7994 or Colin Sheehan on phone (07) 3227 7964.

Connections in Native Title: Genealogies, Kinship and Groups, Research Monograph No. 13, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra Finlayson, J. D., Rigsby, B. and Bek, H. J. 1999. *Connections in Native Title* is a collection of papers presented to the Anthropological Research Issues and Perspectives workshop held at the Australian National University in February 1998. The papers focus on issues of 'Genealogies, kinship, descent and groups: issues and problems in the native title era'. While these papers focus on issues for anthropological research, they also speak to a wider readership interested in native title claim preparation and mediation. Contributions focus on anthropological issues of kinship and social organisation in particular where these matters are increasingly sites of political and academic debate in native title claim research, preparation and presentation. This volume includes papers by Peter Sutton, Fiona Powell, Rod Hagen, Julie Finlayson, Ian Keen, Bruce Rigsby, Nancy M. Williams and Geoff Clark. Each author draws on their significant practical experience in both land rights and native title issues to discuss these matters. (*CAEPR flyer*)