

## The NTRU Native Title Research Service

After an interruption of a number of months the AIATSIS native title research service will be fully operational from 12 March 2001. The interruption has been due to our moving to a new site. As well as improvements to visitor facilities, our new building has been purpose built with climate controlled and fire resistant vaults to protect our unique collections.

For those not already familiar with our service, the Native Title Research Unit provides a research service for those people engaged in native title proceedings or background research for the preparation of native title applications.

AIATSIS holds one of the most important collections relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the world. A great deal of the research that has been undertaken within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has been deposited with AIATSIS. This covers all media such as print, photography, film and audio. As part of this collection the Institute holds a large collection of unpublished material including manuscripts, field notes and the associated field tapes of anthropologists and linguists. This makes the Institute an excellent starting point for undertaking research in relation to native title applications.

By using the native title research service, clients have a single point of contact which can coordinate the identification and retrieval of information held in both the Library and Archives. The service also assists those researchers visiting the Institute to access the collections and speak to people with specialist knowledge, such as the staff of the Family History Unit.

If you are researching native title you may wish to access the AIATSIS catalogue (Mura) through our web site. This can be found at [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au). If you see an item relevant to your native title application, you can request that it be copied and sent for a modest fee. Clients should note, however, that full searches of the audio-visual collections can only be done by the native title research access officer.

For more information on the service contact the native title research access officer on (02) 6246 1103 or else email [ntss@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ntss@aiatsis.gov.au).

*David Leigh*  
*Native Title Research and Access Officer*  
*NTRU, AIATSIS*