

ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
(Department of Indigenous Affairs from 1 July 2001)



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For the first time, the Aboriginal Affairs Department's Annual Report has been produced in two parts.

Part One recognises the fact that many Indigenous communities would appreciate a simpler, easy to read publication that gives an overview of the work of the Department.

It is intended to produce copies of Part One for Indigenous people who do not have access to the Internet, thus minimising printing costs.

Part Two fulfils the Department's statutory reporting requirements.





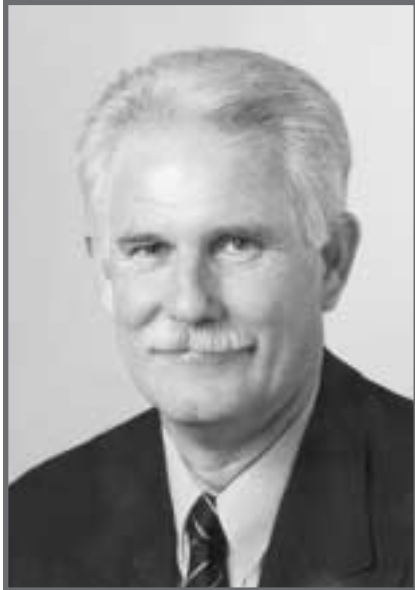
PART ONE

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
(Department of Indigenous Affairs from 1 July 2001)

AGENCY OVERVIEW

2000–2001

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OVERVIEW



Richard Curry

AAD is a small agency of around 140 staff, covering the vast geographical area of Western Australia, and working to improve outcomes for the 53,000 Indigenous citizens of our State, some of whom live in the most isolated and harsh physical environments in the country.

Meeting the needs of our Indigenous citizens is a joint effort by all agencies of the Western Australian Government, and I recognise the effort and commitment of the many staff across Government who provide the range of services and support to Indigenous communities, individuals and organisations.

In some cases the needs are so great that it is possible to overlook the resilience and capacity of Indigenous people themselves to successfully meet and manage their needs.

In fact, there is an increasing recognition across all levels of Federal, State and local government, that we will only achieve the significant steps we need to take if we coordinate our efforts on common goals and work in partnership with the Indigenous community.

Our small agency has a significant role, to add value to the business of government agencies in achieving their objectives for their Indigenous service users.

It is not our role to try and duplicate the responsibilities or work of other agencies. Rather, we work to see how we can assist those agencies to find opportunities where they can join up their efforts to achieve better results in a collaborative approach.

Often, the solution to the problem can be better addressed by focussing the efforts of another agency to address the underlying causes of the presenting difficulty.

Understanding how to do business with the Indigenous community is the second major contribution we make to improving outcomes.

Our staff, many of whom are local Indigenous people, can provide the access and understanding necessary to achieve meaningful results in partnership with local communities.

Our skills are built around an understanding of how we must do our business on a number of fronts.

We work in large urban settings and remote communities with significantly different needs.

We coordinate across all levels of government, at both the policy and service levels. At any one time we are engaged with an extensive range of service providers across the State.

We provide advice to government and participate in the many coordinating and planning forums which drive government business.

Our staff spend a significant proportion of their time with the Indigenous communities in their local area, building a working relationship and gaining an understanding of emerging and current issues.

We are involved in the administration of our legislative responsibilities in the areas of land, heritage and whole of Government coordination.

At heart we are a people focussed organisation. Our whole purpose is to work for better outcomes for the Indigenous people of our State.

We work hard at understanding our business and delivering products that add value to all those with whom we work.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs, as we are to be known as from July 2001, is looking forward to sharpening its business focus in the year ahead in its core activity areas of land, heritage and culture, and coordinating the building of the capacity of Indigenous communities to achieve the outcomes they desire through meaningful and results-driven partnerships with Government.

MEMORIAL TO INDIGENOUS FALLEN

People came from all parts of Western Australia to gather in Kings Park for the dedication of Australia's first State war memorial for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

On 9 December 2000, Indigenous veterans, the families of veterans and the fallen, and non-Indigenous people stood together for a ceremony that was a potent mix of Indigenous, military and Christian traditions.

About 200 people attended the ceremony – an indication of how much the local Indigenous community appreciated the memorial.

Organised and funded by AAD, the memorial aims to honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who gave their lives in the service of their country in times of conflict.

But the memorial plays another very important role.

It is designed, with Indigenous input, to serve as a constant reminder to all Western Australians that Indigenous people stood up to be counted when their country needed them – from the Boer War to the present day.

Set in a beautiful part of Kings Park – chosen in recognition of the cultural and heritage significance it has for Indigenous people – the memorial has become a popular meeting place for Indigenous people.

The memorial consists of a large rock, with a brass plaque attached to it, set in a design of Toodyay stone and flanked by a sitting wall.

A commitment by the Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association and the Returned Services League helped make the memorial possible.

INDIGENOUS FEATURE AT PARLIAMENT OPENING

The official opening of the 36th Western Australian Parliament on 1 May 2001 was an historic occasion – for the first time Indigenous people played a part in the event.

AAD had a major role in the organisation of the Indigenous segment, which saw the Governor, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, receive a welcome to country from Nyoongar Elders, as he arrived at Parliament House to officiate at the opening.

Nyoongar dance group Doorum entertained Members of Parliament, their guests and the general public, prior to the welcome.

In his address to the gathered crowd, Premier Dr Geoff Gallop said he hoped the Indigenous input would become a feature of the occasion throughout future years.

"We are honoured that the Elders have agreed to join us here today to represent the Nyoongar people, in particular, and Indigenous people throughout the State," Dr Gallop said.

The welcome to country was given by Ken Colbung, who was accompanied by highly respected Nyoongar Elders – Maisie Weston, Janet Hayden and Norm Harris.

Ms Weston presented the Governor with a traditional cooliman, in recognition of the importance of family unity in Indigenous society.

The Elders were then invited to the Legislative Council chamber, where they heard the Governor officially open State Parliament.

And there was a special spot for them in the Legislative Assembly to hear Carol Martin, the first Indigenous woman elected to an Australian Parliament, give the address in reply – her maiden speech.

WHAT WE DO

The Aboriginal Affairs Department works with Indigenous people to assist them access the services they are entitled to as citizens of the Western Australian community.

It also works to protect Aboriginal heritage and culture, by making sure that places and objects of significance are preserved under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, and supports the Aboriginal Lands Trust in its management of the Indigenous land estate and the transfer of that land to the direct control of Indigenous people.

SAFEGUARDING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE SITES

The AAD Heritage and Culture Branch is involved in the management of Aboriginal sites and promoting awareness of Aboriginal heritage issues.

It also supports the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC), which consists of Indigenous representatives and technical experts charged with advising the Government on the impact of development and research on Aboriginal sites.

The Heritage and Culture Branch has a growing role to play in the Government approvals process.

During the year, environmental reviews for major projects were referred through the Department of Resources Development or the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and staff assisted the EPA to draft assessment guidelines for Indigenous heritage issues.

Residential and commercial projects were referred to AAD by the WA Planning Commission and local government authorities.

Discussions were held with the Swan River Trust on the processes for development along the Swan and Canning Rivers.

In this way, many heritage surveys were set in place, providing input to the growing Sites Register, and Indigenous people had the opportunity to be consulted. The aim of a heritage survey is to identify places of heritage value and then plan to protect such sites.

Occasionally a clash between heritage and development will arise, which means an application under Section 18 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* must be made by the landowner for consent to use the land.

During 2000/2001, the ACMC considered 46 Section 18 applications. And recommendations on each application were made to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

Consent was recommended for 35 of the applications, while four were considered inapplicable, five were referred back to the applicant for further information and only two were declined.

Under section 16 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, through which applications can be made for the supervised removal of cultural material from a site, AAD received 37 applications during 2000/2001 year.

MARSHALL POOL DECISION

The mettle of the ACMC was tested recently over claims by an Indigenous group that miner Anaconda Nickel (ANL) had disturbed a heritage site.

Although ANL had been granted clearance, under Section 18 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*, to work on certain land at Marshall Pool, near Leonora, a local Indigenous identity alleged that a ridgeline near the area had been disturbed by mining.

It was also claimed that the site boundaries were incorrect.

On behalf of the ACMC, AAD staff visited the site and discussed the claims with local Indigenous groups and families, including the claimant.

The visit found that there were discrepancies between the claimant's current view of the site extent and those recorded in the original heritage survey report, even though the claimant was extensively consulted during the original drawing of the site boundaries.

The ACMC recommended to the Minister that consent be granted for the ANL project to proceed, on condition that work avoided the ethnographic sites (and the archaeological sites encompassed by them) as plotted on the plans.

It was suggested that a permit, under section 16 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*, be issued to a qualified archaeologist to conduct further investigation at particular sites.

In addition, it was recommended that if impact to the ethnographic sites was unavoidable, another section 18 application should be submitted, and that further attempts be made to reach an amenable situation with the claimant.

Following consideration by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, conditional consent was granted to ANL to proceed.



SITE FILE ASSESSMENT PROJECT

AAD has initiated a special project to analyse the content of files held in the Sites Register.

Three heritage professionals were contracted to investigate and assess the archaeological and ethnographic data for sites, in line with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The project found that:

- Site files often do not include all information available on the site and they sometimes contain irrelevant and/or duplicate information
- Site files often do not contain enough information to accurately assess the location under the Act
- Registered sites are often not re-recorded in the field
- Not all of the "site attributes" are listed on the computer database
- Many registered sites may have since been disturbed or destroyed and an on-the-ground site audit may determine what sites still exist.

Work on this project is continuing, including data entry and site assessment by the ACMC.

A pilot Site Audit project has been held in the metropolitan area, during which some sites were verified on the ground.

KEEPING PLACE FOR REMAINS

A facility for housing the skeletal remains of Indigenous people was created in Karrakatta Cemetery late last year.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Keeping Place was built in response to the long-held wish of many Aboriginal Elders that a special place be built to hold remains waiting to be taken back to their country for re-burial.

A joint initiative of AAD and the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, the Keeping Place will also be used to store remains that cannot be re-buried because their home country in WA is not known.

"This is only a holding place, where remains can stay until relatives or someone else can say where they belong so that they can be re-buried," explained Norm Harris, Chairperson of the Metropolitan Nyoongar Council of Elders.

"The Regional and State Commission of Elders have held lengthy discussions on the need to have a respectful and peaceful place to hold unidentified remains."

Elder Doolan-Leisha Eatts said that the location of the Keeping Place at Karrakatta Cemetery was ideal.

"We couldn't have wished for anything better," she said.

"This is a resting place within a resting place. It's peaceful and respectful."

The Keeping Place, which was officially commissioned in December, is the result of four years of planning and preparation.

Designed to hold remains with dignity and respect, it can hold up to 250 skeletal remains, which may come from museums in WA, other States and overseas, or even private collections.

With two-thirds of the structure underground, native plants from the South West have been used in landscaping over the roof, to provide a natural, bushland setting.

A large rock with a commemorative plaque has been positioned nearby.



Elders Doolan-Leisha Eatts and Norm Harris (right), at the Karrakatta Cemetery Keeping Place with (left) Chairperson of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee Irene Stainton and AAD's Dr Madge Schwede.

JOURNEY OF HEALING

Through a Journey of Healing tour of schools during October and November last year, thousands of WA school children and community members learned about the effects of the Stolen Generation.

A team travelled throughout much of WA to explain the results of the widespread removal of Indigenous children from their families.

The project was run by the WA Bringing Them Home Committee.

AAD is represented on the Bringing Them Home Committee by Irene Stainton, Chairperson of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee, and Julie Hayden, Family History and Information Officer.

The Journey of Healing tour team included Rosalie Fraser, Nyoongar member of the Stolen Generation and author of *Shadow Child*, and singer/songwriters Johnny Huckle and Helen Moran, also members of the Stolen Generation.

They were joined in the different regions by local members of the Stolen Generation, who talked about their experiences.

It was designed to help the healing process by raising awareness of the impact of the Stolen Generation on Indigenous families, and to increase the understanding and acceptance by the non-Indigenous community.

FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Department has finished work on the Sites Verification Project (SVP), capturing the locations of about 18,000 sites in a Geographic Information System – 2000 more than expected.

The original scope of the SVP was to perform a desktop analysis of 16,000 sites and review, verify and map the location and extent of sites based on information in files.

It was an enormous task, but the SVP also managed to complete a number of smaller projects and partially finish a number of large projects, all of which were outside of the original project scope.

Additional work included:

- designing and implementing a new site filing system for the Sites Register;
- auditing, replacing and bar coding almost 16,000 site files;
- implementing a new Heritage Report cataloguing system for the Sites Register;
- physically viewing and cataloguing all registered Heritage Survey Reports;
- beginning the work to electronically link each site number with the number of the Heritage Survey Reports in which each site is reported.

The SVP has established a foundation for the future development of improved information management procedures in relation to the Aboriginal Sites Register.

The SVP highlighted the need for Information Standards to be established and the Department now has a Draft Spatial Standard for the Recording of Aboriginal Sites, as the first step towards the development of a comprehensive standard.

In the coming year, the Department will continue to develop these standards, and will work with a range of stakeholders to ensure broad agreement is reached prior to their implementation.

FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

The AAD Family History Unit provides a valuable service for Indigenous people wishing to access personal records.

Indigenous people can visit any AAD or Family and Children Services office for information about accessing their personal records.

AAD has a collection of family history records, which includes family history cards, Tindale genealogies and archive files stored at the State (Public) Records Office.

Through its Native Title Access Policy, AAD has received many requests for access to corporate and cultural information – including Aboriginal Sites, Family History and archive material – from native title claimants and their legal representatives.

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

The Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) manages about 12 per cent of the land area of Western Australia, made up of 250 Aboriginal reserves, six pastoral leases, 10 general leases and 59 blocks of freehold land.

The ALT estate includes land that had been held previously by the old Native Welfare Department and a number of other State Government departments.

The members of the ALT board are all Indigenous people appointed by the State Government to administer the land effectively and to address the interests of Aboriginal people.

As a result of the review of the ALT in 1995, to investigate how the land could be better used by Indigenous people, the current role of the ALT is to oversee the transfer of its 27 million hectare estate direct to Indigenous organisations.

At the same time, the ALT is continuing to manage its estate, and is attempting to address a number of land management and land use planning issues, which have been neglected for several years.

BIG DAY AT BARREL WELL

On September 8, the Chairman of the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT), Clem Riley, handed control of the 242 hectare Barrel Well Reserve to Bill and Peggy Mallard and their family.

Unfortunately, Mr Mallard was ill in hospital and could not be there for the big day, but Mrs Mallard and Sandy Davies, family member and former ALT member for the Murchison/Gascoyne, accepted the handover on his behalf.

The Mallards first set up camp on the land 14 years before, with only simple shelters and water carted from the well that gave the property its name.

Since then, the family community has grown to the stage where there are about 30 people living on the well-maintained property, in modern housing and with tap water from their own water supply.

The community was also runner-up in the 1996 State-wide Clean and Healthy Communities competition.

The handover of management control means the Barrel Well community will be able to determine its own future development, with AAD staff on hand to advise and assist when required.

GUNNADO FARM TRANSFER

The first property in the Murchison/Gascoyne region to be handed over to local Indigenous people as part of the ALT land transfer program was Gunnado Farm, east of Walkaway.

In August 2000, management, control and freehold title over the property was transferred to the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation (GSAC), which had occupied the farm for the previous six years.

"The property was purchased specifically for the Geraldton Streetworkers and the handover marked a natural progression of events," said Mike Collins, Manager of the ALT.

"The farm is used to hold cultural days for local schoolchildren, where they learn about Aboriginal culture and heritage.

"Local young Indigenous people also use the property to grow seedlings of Geraldton wax, kangaroo paw, vegetables and other produce."

CHANGE OF USE FOR BUNGARUN

Early in 2001, part of Bungarun, the former Derby Leprosarium, was set aside as a work camp for minimum security prisoners from Broome Regional Prison

The ALT and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) reached agreement to house up to 25 prisoners at the complex, following widespread community consultation throughout the West Kimberley.

Under the full-time supervision of an MOJ officer, the prisoners have been working on community-based projects in

and around Derby, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds at Bungarun.

In due course, some prisoners may be allocated to work on community-based projects in Indigenous communities within the region.

Bungarun is also now on the tourist trail, and remains available for use by Indigenous organisations, communities and other groups for functions such as conferences, workshops and camps.



SERVICES UPGRADE PROGRAM

AAD and the Ministry of Housing have commissioned a consultant to look at the cost of a program to upgrade services to 26 town reserve communities.

This is the first step in a long-term program to improve services to about 45 town-based communities.

Under the program, essential and municipal services will become the responsibility of Western Power, the Water Corporation and local governments.

The program aims to:

- Improve service and environmental health for town reserves residents
- Transfer maintenance responsibility to appropriate mainstream agencies
- Provide long-term cost savings by reducing the drain on future ATSIC and Ministry of Housing infrastructure programs
- Reduce problems with unpaid water and power accounts

The program has been piloted in the Cheeditha community, near Roebourne, resulting in improvements to water and wastewater services.

AAD has played a significant role in establishing the policy framework for this program and will continue to lead this initiative in 2001/2002.

WHY WE DO IT

Indigenous people make up the largest minority population group in the State, yet they are still the most disadvantaged members of the WA community.

The Aboriginal Affairs Department aims to improve the lifestyle and living conditions of Indigenous people by coordinating the:

- *elimination of sub-standard living conditions in Indigenous communities'*
- *reduction of the number of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system,*
- *assistance for Indigenous people to gain skills to manage their communities,*
- *assistance for Indigenous to protect and manage their heritage and culture,*
- *an increase in the land owned and controlled by Indigenous people.*

CAPACITY BUILDING

AAD has taken the lead in the development of a strategy to build the capacity of Indigenous people to improve the management of their communities.

This is seen as essential in achieving long-term, sustainable economic, social and environmental health outcomes.

A consultancy report was prepared for AAD entitled *Revisiting the Old in Revitalising the New – Capacity Building in Western Australia's Aboriginal Communities*.

The report makes recommendations on improving community governance, management and administration, staff recruitment, improving skills and vocational opportunities, local government service delivery, cultural and political considerations, and resourcing a lead agency for Indigenous community development.

An implementation strategy is being progressed by AAD through a Working Group consisting of Commonwealth, State and local government agencies.

Negotiations have begun on a pilot project at the Balgo community, in the East Kimberley, in 2001/2002.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Efforts to improve the delivery of essential services to Indigenous communities took a step forward in October 2000, with the signing of an agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments and ATSIC.

Developed by AAD in co-operation with ATSIC and other State and

Commonwealth agencies, the agreement was signed by State and Federal Ministers, the ATSIC Chairman and the chairpersons of the nine ATSIC Regional Councils in WA.

"This agreement formalises a co-operative approach that has generated many important initiatives that are leading

directly to improved outcomes for Indigenous people," AAD Assistant Director Policy Trevor Tann said.

"Since 1994, when work started on the agreement, there have been many changes in the way governments work together and in the services now available to Indigenous people living in remote communities."

TOWN PLANNING FOR COMMUNITIES

Progress was made towards improving services in remote communities with the introduction of the Planning for Aboriginal Communities policy.

The new policy brings Aboriginal communities into the mainstream town planning process, by requiring local governments to identify and zone large permanent communities in their town planning schemes.

Developed by AAD and the Ministry for Planning, it followed extensive consultation with Indigenous communities and government agencies throughout WA.

"This means we can now prevent the problems that have arisen in the past in the location of housing and other facilities," explained Trevor Tann, Assistant Director of Policy at AAD.

"Improved planning will mean that services such as water, sewerage, power and roads, can be delivered more efficiently to remote communities.

"The policy is also a major step forward in increasing the involvement of local government in Indigenous communities."

Under the new policy, local governments will be encouraged to approve layout plans, prepared by the communities, for all future development work.

Since the policy has been in place, seven community layout plans have been endorsed by the Western Australian Planning Commission, a further 50 plans are currently being completed and eight new layout plans were commenced in 2000/2001.

AAD and ATSIC have developed a set of Town Planning Guidelines to assist communities and local governments in the preparation and management of community layout plans.

SENSITIVE SUBJECT TACKLED

A group of Indigenous women and men from across the State have helped AAD in its efforts to raise awareness of sexual abuse in Indigenous communities.

Sexual abuse is a problem throughout Western Australian society, but AAD responded to concerns in the Indigenous community, and addressed the problem in a culturally appropriate way.

The result was a video entitled *My Body Belongs to Me*, which is designed to convey the message that sexual abuse is not acceptable and to encourage people to seek help if it is happening to them or someone they know.

The video is being made available to communities who wish to generate

discussion on how they can try to solve the problem themselves.

AAD, in consultation with community groups, has organised training of community members in the presentation of the video. Five training workshops have been held, and the response to the workshops has been positive.

AAD is also working with Indigenous communities to develop, implement and maintain a range of strategies to assist in the reduction of family violence.

Advice was provided to National, State and Local Government in relation to Indigenous family violence issues and priorities.

PREVENTION OF YOUTH SUICIDE

AAD has played a coordination role in the development of a State strategy for the prevention of suicide and suicidal behaviour among Indigenous youth.

In its support of the Health Department and the Youth Suicide Advisory Committee (YSAC), AAD also funded an Executive Officer at YSAC to assist in the development of the strategy.

A discussion paper was finalised and circulated in 2000/01, which outlined a number of strategies, based on international, national and State evidence, on what works to reduce suicide and suicidal behaviour.

AAD provided a \$50,000 grant (over two years) to the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation to implement recommendation 2 of the "Reclaiming Our Future" Youth Conference Report, which called for the establishment of a State Aboriginal Youth Council under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.

CLEAN AND HEALTHY AWARDS

An Indigenous community emu farm in the Goldfields and a Central Desert community for juvenile offenders were the big winners in the 2000 Clean and Healthy Community Awards.

The Kurrawang Community, near Kalgoorlie-Boulder, received \$12,000 for the best Clean and Healthy Community with a population over 50, and the Kanpa Community, near of Warburton, received \$5000 as the winner of communities with fewer than 50 people.

This is the third year of the Clean and Healthy Communities competition, in which communities are judged on their dust abatement, absence of litter, water management, waste disposal, beautification and overall appearance.

The competition is designed to recognise Indigenous communities who put in that extra effort to keep their communities clean.

The competition was supported by AAD, the Ministry of Housing, the Health Department of WA and ATSIC.

TINA GETS HER DREAM JOB

Tina Carmody was convinced there had to be more to life than working in a job she found unchallenging – so she gave up the security of her parents' Kalgoorlie home and a regular income, and went to study Arts Management at Edith Cowan University, in Perth.

Now, with two years' study under her belt, she has managed to secure her dream job – trainee Assistant Curator of Indigenous Art at the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

A new initiative, the position is sponsored jointly by AAD and Rio Tinto over a three-year period, with the Australia Council also providing seed funding.

"My duties include the curating of exhibitions, but also the responsibility of conserving artworks," Tina said.

"I feel a great responsibility when it comes to conservation, not just from the point of view of the aesthetics but from the spiritual too.

"We have more than 2300 Indigenous art works in the collection.

"These are stories that have been handed down over the years, and we have to maintain them and look after them."

Below: Tina Carmody (left), with Brenda Croft, Curator of Indigenous Art, and Kate McMillan, Curatorial Intern, Craft and Design.



IMPROVING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND STATES

AAD is working to achieve better results in Indigenous affairs, through developing greater cooperation between Commonwealth and State government departments and partnerships between government and Indigenous people.

The Department was supported by the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, ATSIC and Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs in all other State and Territories, on how they will set clear targets to be achieved, regularly review results and jointly discuss ways of improving performance.

Through the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA), AAD's work formed a significant part of the national policy on reconciliation.

The Department is playing a leading role in developing action plans, benchmarks and performance reporting processes for MCATSIA and other Ministerial Councils.

It is also working to implement the national policy agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to making a real difference in the lives of Indigenous people by addressing social and economic disadvantage.

IMPORTANT AGREEMENT SIGNED

The WA Government and ATSIC signed an historic agreement during the year.

The agreement listed the priority issues in Indigenous affairs and detailed how the parties would work together to tackle them.

The State Government and ATSIC made a commitment to improve conditions for the Indigenous people of Western Australia and agreed to a funding partnership to ensure initiatives were carried out.

Each party committed \$2.8 million over three years towards upgrading facilities and services in town-based communities to the same level as those provided in adjoining towns in WA.

Also, they jointly set aside a total of \$500,000 to support family strategies aimed at reducing family violence and youth suicide among Indigenous people.

BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

AAD is coordinating the efforts of different government departments in Indigenous affairs, by helping them agree on a common goal and work together to achieve it.

One way it is doing this is through the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC), which links together the activities of departments with the aim of focussing on helping Indigenous people.

The AACC met in August 2000 and brought together the Chief Executive Officers of State Government agencies, ATSIC and other Indigenous representatives, and senior managers of Commonwealth agencies to discuss cooperative initiatives in Indigenous affairs in Western Australia.

In the 2000/2001 year the AACC endorsed:

- proposals for improving the reporting on the effectiveness of government services to Indigenous people
- a plan to reduce the involvement of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system
- a strategy for government's role in reducing Aboriginal youth suicide
- a strategy for improving the efficiency of the application of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*
- proposals to help eliminate sub-standard living conditions in Aboriginal communities
- a proposal for building the capacity of Indigenous people to improve the management of their communities.

JOB BENEFITS FROM DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

A project being developed by two small communities in the Goldfields to reduce dust levels is set to bring some unexpected benefits.

The communities of Ninga Mia, situated just outside Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and Coonana, 180kms south east of the city, are working to tackle the health risks caused by excessive dust.

A lack of groundcover, as well as unsealed roads with unrestricted traffic, is the main cause of airborne dust, which can lead to respiratory illness and eye complaints.

Both communities asked AAD's Goldfields Regional Office to help them implement dust control projects, such as planting gardens, sealing roads and restricting the movement of vehicles.

AAD was successful in getting the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, CALM, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Land Care Group, and Agriculture Western Australia to agree to assist the communities.

At the same time, Curtin University and Kalgoorlie College of TAFE added another possible benefit to the project.

They have expressed interest in assessing the community members working on the landscaping projects with a view to awarding them a qualification upon completion.

"Whereas the original proposal was simply to control dust, we now have a project that will also provide training and skills development, and possible accreditation, for community members," said Ben Garwood, from AAD's Goldfields Regional Office.

"The landscaping will also make the communities much more attractive places."

HOW WE DO IT

AAD builds partnerships with Indigenous people, with State and Commonwealth Government agencies, with local government, with the private sector, with community groups and with other interested parties.

The objective is to ensure that everybody works together to achieve the same aims, by making the best use of resources.

WUNNGAGUTU ABORIGINAL STREET PATROL

AAD has developed a new operational plan for Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Wunngagutu Aboriginal Street Patrol (WASP), in a bid to improve its operations.

The new plan was developed from a series of meetings with stakeholders and patrol members.

It is now expected that the patrol will be fully supported by the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder, the Chamber of Minerals and Energys and the Chamber of Commerce.

WASP plays a valuable role in collecting Indigenous people off Kalgoorlie-Boulder streets and taking them to their camps, homes, or the Bega Garnbirringu Medical Service sobering-up shelter.

The patrol also helps enforce regulations relating to alcohol consumption.

ADELINE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

AAD is playing a central role in attempts to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour by young Indigenous people in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder suburb of Adeline.

The Department's Goldfields Regional Office took the first step by organising youth consultation forums, and establishing a youth working group to discuss the issues confronting young people and suggest possible solutions.

The youth working group recommended establishing a youth centre in South Kalgoorlie and inter-agency support was received as the result of consultations organised by AAD.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Youth Taskforce Committee agreed to include this development in the city's overall Youth Facilities Development Plan.

And the Lotteries Commission agreed to provide funding to employ two staff members at the youth centre.

AAD has asked the Aboriginal Lands Trust to consider allocating a portion of land at the back of Maku Stadium, in Adeline, to be used for housing the youth centre, the Youth Engagement Program (alternative schooling for 'at risk' young people) and the Wongutha Birni Aboriginal Cultural Centre (youth arm).

JOBS ARE THE MAIN AIM

An imaginative range of furniture is helping to improve employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the Esperance area.

Jarrah furniture with Indigenous designs embedded in the wood has become the signature of Bay of Isles Aboriginal Community, and it is finding a ready and expanding market in Perth.

That growing popularity is testament to the drive of the group's manager, Doc Reynolds, and the growing skills of his workforce.

However, the success of the furniture enterprise only means that Doc Reynolds can continue with his main aim – to

provide Indigenous people with employment and training opportunities.

"Because there aren't a lot of Aboriginal people working in mainstream employment, we are trying to provide our workers with the skills they will need to get a job," Mr Reynolds said.

"We started the woodworking on a small scale in 1988 as a winter activity, allowing people to work indoors, but now the shop is operating summer and winter."

To assist the group further improve the quality of their furniture, AAD helped the community buy a thicknesser, plane, sander and band saw.

PROTECTION FOR MT RIDLEY

AAD is working with the Bullenbuk people of Esperance, the Goldfields Land Council and the Shire of Esperance to protect the Mt Ridley site and its ancient rock paintings.

Situated north east of Esperance, Mt Ridley is an important heritage site for the Bullenbuk Nyoongar community and contains rock paintings dating back thousands of years.

In February this year, Robert Reynolds, AAD Senior Heritage Officer, and Frank Martin, from the Goldfields Regional Office, had several meetings with all the groups involved and began working on a management plan for Mt Ridley.

"It is important that sites are properly managed and protected and only by working closely with the local Indigenous community and associated agencies can we achieve this," Mr Martin said

"Indigenous people do want to share their history with the wider community, and want these places protected and managed correctly so that they can be enjoyed by all Australians."



Doc Reynolds, Manager of the Bay of Isles Aboriginal Community, says his furniture enterprise has helped many people go on to hold down regular jobs.

FAMILIES IN WAYS OF WORKING

The "Nyoongar way of working" has led to considerable progress on local issues in the Brookton area.

Instead of local affairs being dominated by a couple of family groups, Brookton's Nyoongar community have formed a Community Action Group (CAG), to represent all the local families.

The CAG was a recommendation of the Kaata Wangkinyiny Region Nyoongar Plan, a joint initiative of AAD and ATSIC, developed following consultation with Nyoongar people in 20 communities throughout the South West.

The CAG approach is designed to enable extended family groups to take the lead in responding to issues of concern to local communities.

The Brookton CAG is made up of six representatives, elected by each of the six families in the area.

"The Community Action Group is based on equal family representation," explained Chairperson Erica Maguire.

"Because all families are equally represented, we have been able to avoid family divisions and domination by one family, and every Nyoongar family has input through their representative."

CAGs have also been set up in Katanning and Bunbury.

FEDERATION FESTIVAL EVENTS

AAD organised a number of events to ensure that the Indigenous community had a strong presence during the recent week-long Federation Festival in Albany.

Held on Anzac Day, one of the highlights was a time tunnel mounted in Albany's town centre.

This displayed a time line, prepared by the AAD team, which noted the history and achievements of Indigenous people, and especially local people, before and since European settlement.

"This was part of our aim to strengthen relations between our people and the wider community," explained Samantha Merritt, from AAD.

The time line formed the backdrop to an art exhibition held in the tunnel, which was funded by the Aboriginal Arts Program and the Southern Aboriginal Corporation.

Rebecca Khan, of AAD's Albany office and the Department's representative on the Federation Festival Planning Committee, organised the exhibition.

Too Dark for the Light Horse

The contribution Indigenous people have made to the Australian defence forces was highlighted in the Australian War Museum's travelling exhibition "Too Dark for the Light Horse", which was displayed at the WA Museum, in Albany.

Sponsored by AAD, the display served as a reminder to the local community that Indigenous people stood up to be counted when their country needed them.

AAD Special Projects Officer, Heritage Management, Robert Reynolds, who played an integral role in getting the exhibition to visit Albany, said Indigenous people had served in the Australian forces, with distinction, in every conflict or action involving Australia since the Boer War.



Members of the Brookton CAG (left to right) Lorraine Collard, Treasurer; Erica Maguire, Chairperson; Arthur Slater, Administrator; Fay Slater, Deputy Chairperson; and Annette Bennell, Secretary. The Hayden and Garlett families are also represented on the group.

AAD IN CO-ORDINATING ROLE

The Southern Region Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (SRAACC) plays an important role in ensuring Indigenous people have their say.

Made up of representatives of Indigenous organisations, as well as government agencies working with Indigenous people in the region, this committee is designed to help Indigenous community groups work with Government to resolve problems and plan for the improved delivery of services.

"I am very proud and enthusiastic to be a part of the SRAACC," said Merv Pegler, Superintendent, WA Police Southern District Region, who chairs the SRAACC's Law and Justice sub-committee.

"The SRAACC's most important role is to focus government agencies on the issues facing Aboriginal people in a given community and on our responsibilities."

Superintendent Pegler emphasised the important role played by AAD in co-ordinating the work of the SRAACC.

"AAD's role is vital in all this," he said.

"It is too easy for all of us to get overwhelmed by our own individual concerns, but AAD keeps us on track."

LIKE COMING HOME

A Garden of Remembrance was opened in November 2000 to honour former residents of Marribank Mission and Carrolup Native Settlement.

An initiative of Karli Ministries Corporation, the Garden was designed to help the healing process for members of the Stolen Generation by enabling them to come home.

The project, funded by AAD and ATSIC with support from the Community Development Employment Program, was managed by Cherry Yates, of AAD.

At a special opening ceremony, the mission's former residents thanked Ms Yates for her hard work in making their dream a reality.

David Williams, a former resident of Carrolup, also announced that ATSIC would be providing funding to start a housing program at Marribank, that would allow Indigenous people and visitors to stay at the former mission.

The opening ceremony attracted a large number of former residents, many of whom had travelled long distances to attend the emotional gathering.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR FISH TRAPS

Visitors to Albany will soon enjoy a clear view of the Aboriginal fish traps heritage site in Oyster Harbour.

The local Nyoongar community, with help from AAD and other government agencies, has secured funding from Coastcare to erect a viewing platform over the traps.

A Greenskills team is building the platforms, and clearing the introduced Sydney wattle trees that are currently obstructing the view of the traps.

"There are many people involved in the project, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal," said AAD's Acting Regional Manager Laurel Sellers.

"TAFE Nyoongar students, Elders, and community people have all made a contribution."

It is intended that the next stage of the project will see one of the traps working again.

SERVICE AGREEMENTS A FIRST

For five major communities in the Broome area, 14 August 2000 will be remembered as the day they finally forged local service agreements with the Shire of Broome.

The first of their kind in the Kimberley region, the agreements were the result of more than two years of discussions involving four Dampier Peninsula communities – Beagle Bay, Djarindjin, Lombadina and One Arm Point – Bidadanga community, the Shire of Broome, and local service providers.

The agreements cover environmental health services, building inspection services, as well as community layout planning in the five communities.

AAD, ATSIC and the Ministry of Housing were also parties to the agreements, while the Ministry of Planning, Kimberley Public Health, and the Office of Aboriginal Health were each involved in one agreement.

Jeremy Elliot, from AAD's Broome Regional Office, assisted the communities in the development of the agreements.

"Previously, services such as environmental health, community lay-out planning and building inspections were provided on an ad hoc basis," Jeremy said.

"Now, the communities are able to receive the services they need on a regular basis, and at the same time become more involved in the Shire's operations."

The agreements were the result of a framework agreement – the first of its kind in Western Australia – which set down guidelines for the provision of local government services to remote communities in the Dampier Peninsular.

A JOINT APPROACH

AAD's Kimberley Regional Manager, Mary Cowley, and her team are assisting five communities – Wirrimanu (Balgo), Billiluna (Mindibungu), Ringers Soak, Mulan and Yagga Yagga – to improve the level of services they are receiving.

The Kimberley staff are doing this by bringing community representatives and local service providers together to work out how best to deliver the programs required.

"Until now, each of these communities has been working in isolation, drawing up individual agreements with the Shire," Ms Cowley said.

"Because of their remote location, they have been less likely to receive appropriate services, but by joining together, they should be able to share resources to meet common concerns."

The proposed Katjunga Council, which would include representatives from each of the five communities, is looking at how they can help each other and best utilise the funds that are around.

It is identifying issues that can be dealt with at Council level, from health care to road maintenance, and making joint submissions instead of five individual ones.

"Although this project is still in its infancy, the community people are already getting the benefits of this joint approach," Ms Cowley said.

PROTECTING THE PRISON BOAB TREE

So great is the allure of the Prison Boab Tree that many visitors to Derby's best known heritage site have been unable to keep hands and feet at bay.

In order to keep onlookers at a respectful distance, local senior Indigenous people recently sought AAD's assistance in protecting the tree for future generations to enjoy.

The Prison Boab Tree is famous for its use in the early days of the State as a rest point for police escorting prisoners to Derby.

Less well known is the tree's ancient connection with traditional Indigenous religious beliefs.

"This is a very important sacred site," explained local Elder Lucy Marshall.

"This is a malaji tree. You should never interfere with these or you will disturb the spirits. Our old people took great care not to damage this tree."

A post and rail fence has now been erected around the tree, both to prevent pedestrian traffic from compacting the soil around its roots and out of respect for its religious significance.

A sign has also been put up explaining the tree's cultural and historical significance.

"The preservation of Indigenous heritage and culture is one of AAD's key responsibilities, and we are pleased to support such projects, that benefit the whole community," said Special Project Officer Kevin Shaw, responsible for maintaining heritage sites in the Kimberley region.

Kevin's work to help preserve the rich heritage of this region involves much more than the maintenance of sites.

He aims to ensure sites are properly registered, so they can be better protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

JACK JUGARIE HERITAGE TRAIL

The Governor General Sir William Deane officially opened the Jack Jugarie Heritage Trail, in Halls Creek, in June 2001.

AAD was a major sponsor in the creation of the Heritage Trail, which includes a life-size statue of the late Mr Jugarie, who achieved worldwide fame through the ABC documentary "The Human Race".

Mr Jugarie was 72 at the time of the documentary, which featured three men from diverse backgrounds racing more than 350 kilometres on foot, without any aids, from the Wolf Creek Crater to Wyndham.

As a result of the documentary, tourists

would often ask for Mr Jugarie when they arrived in Halls Creek and he was always willing to share his story.

Highly respected by all who knew him, he played a significant role in the cultural maintenance of his people and preservation of his heritage and the heritage of Halls Creek

From the Jaru and Goodingee tribe, Mr Jugarie grew up in the Wave Hill area and around the old Halls Creek, and as a teenager he worked on the cattle stations in the local area.

He was an internationally renowned artist, a bush tracker and Halls Creek's first Aboriginal Police Aide.

Senior Aboriginal people designed the fence that now surrounds the Derby Prison Boab Tree. The designers, who include Lucy Marshall, Maudie Lennard and Willie Lennard, pictured here with Kevin Shaw of AAD, were concerned to protect the tree for future generations.



HEALING WITHIN AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE

A conference designed to help heal the hurts of the Stolen Generation was bound to be an emotional experience for delegates, but it also delivered some pleasant surprises.

Healing Within, WA's first Stolen Generation conference, was held in Geraldton in August and was attended by people from all over the Murchison/Gascoyne region.

Others travelled from further afield in order to attend, from the Pilbara region to Perth.

"It was an extraordinary occasion," said Jerome Angelo, of AAD's Heritage and Culture Unit.

"The conference began in a very sombre mood as people told their stories.

"The mood then gradually changed to great excitement as the story tellers discovered family members among the audience – people with whom they thought they had lost all contact."

Organised by the Murchison/Gascoyne Stolen Generation Steering Committee, with support from AAD, the three-day conference was designed to help the healing process for members of the Stolen Generation.

The conference provided people with the opportunity to share and talk about their stories, to try and heal the hurts of the past, and move towards a brighter future.

AAD PROVIDES BIG PICTURE PERSPECTIVE

Simon Forrest, Western Australia's first Indigenous professor, joined AAD as Regional Manager in the Murchison/Gascoyne last November, after some 20 years in the education sector. Since then he has been working to support the AAD aim of improving the social, economic and cultural conditions of Indigenous people in the region.

"I am looking at ways in which we can effectively support the agency in its desire to build partnerships between Indigenous people and service providers," Mr Forrest said.

One such initiative is the Geraldton Aboriginal Reference Group (GARG), which AAD assisted in establishing.

This Group has about 25 members, who have either been elected or invited to represent a cross-section of the Indigenous community in Geraldton.

It has succeeded in strengthening partnerships between government agencies and the Indigenous community.

Its achievements included the preparation of a Local Framework Agreement with eight government agencies, which set down guidelines for the provision of services to the local community.

This was followed by the signing of local service agreements with the individual agencies.

The Group manages, in partnership with AAD and the Ministry of Justice, the Aboriginal Cyclical Offending Project in Geraldton.

"As a result of the GARG, government agencies are now more focused on specific areas of need, such as youth, health, family, and so on," said Simon Forrest.

"Of course, none of these areas can be looked at in isolation.

"We can't take steps to empower communities while overlooking environmental health problems, for example.

"This is where AAD has a key role to play.

"We are able to provide the GARG with information and data to provide the 'big picture' perspective of the community and show where action is needed."



PASSING ON LIFE SKILLS

With the help of AAD, a group of Meekatharra women are playing a leading role in putting values back into their community.

According to Roy Seery, of AAD's Meekatharra office, who recently assisted the women to set up their club as an incorporated body, the Bundi Club is one of the town's greatest assets.

Run by local women, the Bundi Club is a place where people can go to learn sewing and make craftwork together.

"There's so much talent out there and so many skills, but people aren't aware they have them," said Mavis Culey, Women's Officer at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation.

"We are showing women how to use their skills and give back a sense of purpose to their lives."

The women held the first sale of their wares before Christmas and made a "nice" profit, but Mavis and her team offer much more than sewing lessons.

"We are looking to teach the young ones some life skills," she explained.

"Lot of girls are becoming mothers and have no idea what to do. They go straight from school to married life.

"With the Stolen Generation we skipped a generation of learning, so someone has got to do something about it."

YOUNG PEOPLE HAD A BALL

Young Indigenous people in Carnarvon got quite a different type of training at the end of last year.

A group of 18 young people took part in an intensive eight-week training course in ballroom dancing, public speaking, grooming and deportment in the run up to the Aboriginal Debutantes Ball, held in December.

"The Ball is one of a number of activities that AAD has sponsored that are designed to bring all sections of the community together," explained Bill Doble, of AAD.

"It also provides an important opportunity to promote positive images and build self esteem in the community."

The Ball was attended by more than 250 people and was a huge success.

PROJECT PROVIDES ALTERNATIVES

In partnership with other government agencies and industry, AAD is working to increase employment opportunities in Wiluna and to assist the expansion of Indigenous-owned and operated businesses.

AAD is also working with other government agencies to complete a Youth Centre project at the Wiluna Remote School

The project aims to reduce juvenile crime and alcohol dependency by providing alternative forms of recreation, TAFE programs for school leavers, and improved health and lifestyle skills.



Jessica Taylor (Miss Personality), Victor Bellotti (Beau of the Ball) and Tara Cousins (Belle of the Ball) stole the show at Carnarvon's recent Aboriginal Debutantes Ball.



KIWIRRKURRA PEOPLE IN BIG MOVE

AAD staff played a vital link role in the biggest peacetime evacuation of people in the history of Western Australia, when the Kiwirrkurra people were flooded out of their remote community in the Gibson Desert.

The devastation caused by the floodwaters that surged through the community on 5 March 2001 left authorities with no choice but to move the people, initially to a short-term stopover in Alice Springs.

In a combined exercise organised by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, with AAD in a major support role, a total of 153 people were airlifted by helicopter.

Their first stop was Kintore, in the Northern Territory, then the helicopters took them to Yulara, near Uluru, before buses carried them on the final leg to the Norforce Barracks, in Alice Springs.

The constant companion of the Kiwirrkurra people during their big move, and the four weeks they spent in Alice Springs, was AAD's Sui Kamid, from the Pilbara Regional Office.

"The people needed somebody there that they knew and could trust, because the cohesion of the community had become fragile, given all the upheaval and the strange environment," Mr Kamid said.

His support was invaluable, according to Jenny Mills of the Northern Territory Regional Counter Disaster Welfare Sub-Committee.

"His rapport and understanding of the community dynamics and cultural mores assisted in dealing with the complex range of issues that arose during the stay," she said.



Extreme flooding at Kiwirrkurra peaked in March when 153 adults and children had to be evacuated.

"Without his knowledge, experience and skills, it is unlikely that many of those issues and problems could have been handled as effectively as they were."

At the beginning of April, the Kiwirrkurra people were on the move again, but this time they were flown to Kalgoorlie-Boulder, to take up temporary residence at Morapoi Station, near Menzies.

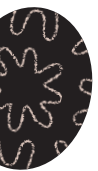
Mr Kamid was then able to hand over the reins to colleague Richard Collard, from the AAD Goldfields Regional Office.

The relocation of the Kiwirrkurra people to Morapoi brought new challenges for Richard Collard and Acting Regional Manager Neville Collard.

They worked closely with all State, Commonwealth, local and non-government agencies to ensure the needs of the Kiwirrkurra people were being met.

"It was important to maintain a sense of community in a land and situation that was far removed from their home lands," said Richard Collard.

AAD also liaised closely with the recovery team, working to rebuild the shattered Kiwirrkurra community.



NEW WARDENS AT JIGALONG

The Jigalong Community warden scheme was given a boost recently with six new wardens completing an intensive week-long training course.

Jointly run by AAD and the WA Police Service, the course covered a wide range of topics, from account keeping to hazard identification to vehicle stops.

Sui Kamid, of AAD's Port Hedland office, gave a presentation on the role and responsibilities of wardens, under the *Aboriginal Communities Act, 1979*.

"While AAD has transferred responsibility for the Aboriginal Wardens Scheme to the WA Police Service, the Department will continue to provide on-the-ground advice and support in training and other areas," he explained.

"The course went extremely well and it was a proud moment for the community when six wardens, two of whom were women, were presented with their certificates and uniforms."

The wardens will receive ongoing training from the WA Police Service and AAD.

SAFE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE

Walyun Mia, the Onslow Safe House, was opened by Carol Martin MLA, Member for the Kimberley, in April this year.

Designed to provide an immediate response to family violence, Walyun Mia operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week, providing safe accommodation and support in culturally appropriate ways.

AAD helped with the setting up of the safe house, by providing information and advice to the management committee.

Staff at Walyun Mia take referrals from a number of sources, over the phone, or from the Police, the hospital, Family and Children's Services and schools.

Links have also been established with local Indigenous groups, families and individuals in the Onslow area.

FORUMS SHARE INFORMATION

AAD has played a leading role in organising and coordinating a series of forums throughout the Pilbara under the theme Building Solid Families.

In line with a request from the Pilbara Indigenous Women's Bush Meeting, the forums were designed to provide information on the Bringing Them Home Report, Stolen Generations and Aboriginal Family History.

Maureen Kelly, from AAD's Pilbara Regional Office, was the lead coordinator.

With the help of an interim committee, formed from agencies that had demonstrated a commitment to addressing the needs of the Pilbara Indigenous communities, Ms Kelly put together teams to coordinate the forums in four Shires.

"The aim of the forums was to share information about the programs, hear what people wanted to say, identify gaps in the services provided, and link up with family tracing, reunification and local healing services," Ms Kelly said.

"The first meeting was held at Harding Dam, Roebourne, and more than 50 Elders, young people and parents attended

"At this forum support and assistance was requested to build and strengthen families, including cultural knowledge, and for ongoing support for Bringing Them Home.

"Further forums were held in Port Hedland, Newman and Tom Price.

"The recommendations from each forum will be produced in a report and the committee will reconvene to discuss strategies."

HERITAGE WORKSHOPS

Part of the AAD role is to help Indigenous people promote their heritage in your community, by providing them with training in this important area.

In order to make sure that the Department was getting it right – and to see how it could be done better – the South Metropolitan/South West Region team recently held a series of workshops in Armadale, Bunbury and Mandurah to trade ideas with community members.

“Providing training in Aboriginal heritage is a major part of AAD’s business and we need to make sure we are meeting the needs of Indigenous people,” said Regional Manager Tony Walley.

“Above all, Indigenous people themselves have to say what the course should involve and, in this regard, the workshops have been really helpful.

“A recurring issue has been how we can get people to become honorary wardens to manage and protect sites and how, once appointed to this role, they can be provided with the necessary training.”

Vivienne Hansen, from AAD’s Armadale office, said that committees with no Indigenous representation at all are managing important sites, such as the Swan and Canning Rivers.

“We need to provide training so that our own people can take on these roles,” she said.

CREATION OF NEW REGION

The seventh AAD Region was launched in December 2000.

The Department’s South Metropolitan/South West Region was formed by dividing the former South-West Region (now the Great Southern Region) and the Metropolitan/Wheatbelt Region (now the North Metropolitan/Wheatbelt Region), to create three regions.

AAD’s new presence in the area was welcomed by Jean Lewis, Child Development Officer at Fremantle Hospital.

“AAD has an important role to play in making sure the local Indigenous community is kept informed about what services and facilities are available,” she said.

“The provision of information is a big issue for us.”

The Aboriginal Education Team at Fremantle Education District Office said they, too, were building a partnership with AAD.

“AAD has a very important co-ordination role to play here,” said Peter Ward, Manager of Family and Children’s Services Fremantle District Office.

The new region was established in response to the needs and requests of Indigenous people in the area.

Since the office was established, the staff have been working to get to know the local people and set priorities for the coming year based on feedback from clients.

PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AT RISK

AAD has supported the development of a partnership between State government agencies and Indigenous community organisations in Perth to support Nyoongar families considered to be at extreme risk of involvement in the criminal justice and welfare systems.

During the year, the Indigenous Family

Program (IFP) was finalised, and is now an operating team working with eight urban Indigenous extended families.

The IFP team is taking on one of the most challenging social welfare roles in the State and is now working with three families.

STRONG FAMILIES

AAD played a leading role in an innovative new across-Government family support program, Strong Families.

Launched in November 2000, the program was jointly funded by a number of government agencies, including Premier and Cabinet, Police, Housing, Justice, Family and Children's Services, Education and Centrelink.

The 12-month pilot project is located in Midland and coordinated from the AAD North Metropolitan/Wheatbelt Regional Office.

The Strong Families initiative aims to bring about improved results for families, through better coordination of services and increased efficiency.

"AAD offered to play a leading role in this pilot, because we could see the potential of such a program had for Aboriginal families in the Midland area" said AAD Regional Manager David Pedler.

Two staff members from the Midland office, Grant Bobongie and Rhonda Murphy, are Strong Families facilitators, playing a vital role in the coordination of service providers and supporting the families.

HERITAGE TRAINING IN THE WHEATBELT

Heritage and culture is very important to the Indigenous people of the wheatbelt town of Moora, as AAD staff member Rhonda Murphy found after talking with local people about the things that were of concern to them.

"Moora is rich in Aboriginal history and it is fascinating to listen to the old stories of the area" said Ms Murphy.

"The protection of their sites is very important to the Yuat people."

AAD responded to community wishes and held a community heritage information session in the town in November 2000.

Among the people who attended were members of the Indigenous community, farmers and representatives of government departments.

Following the meeting, seven community members were selected to take part in a three-day training course, to learn about site identification, recording and management.

PATROL SYSTEM WORKING WELL

The Noongar Patrol System (NPS) continues to demonstrate that it is the most effective Aboriginal Community Patrol in Western Australia.

A finalist in this year's prestigious Community Services Awards, the NPS provides a range of services in the city area, with the primary focus being on youth issues in the Central Business District and Northbridge.

However, it also assists local authorities look after homeless people who frequent the city parks.

"To be nominated for a Community Service Award is an achievement in itself, but to reach the finals is an indication of the high regard in which this service is held," said David Pedler, AAD's North Metropolitan/Wheatbelt Regional Manager.

"The success of the NPS is due to the commitment and dedication of the Patrollers and the passion of the Coordinator, Maria McAtackney."

The NPS is sponsored by the Aboriginal Advancement Council (AAC), and receives funding from AAD and a number of other agencies, including the City of Perth, Town of Vincent and ATSIC.

It offers a positive view of Indigenous people, as they work alongside non-Indigenous people in a highly visible and important role in the city.

HOW DO WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS

To ensure it meets the demands of its customers, AAD surveyed a cross-section of its stakeholders in the past year.

Indigenous clients in all seven AAD regions were telephoned by Indigenous interviewers from an independent market research company.

Also, AAD staff focussed on contacting members of forums – such as the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee, the Commission of Elders and the Aboriginal Lands Trust – and Community Patrols and Government agencies.

The aim was to find out how effective the Department was in meeting its goals and the satisfaction level of customers and stakeholders in the service provided by AAD.

The specific objectives were to measure the:

- Perceived friendliness of AAD staff
- Ease of contacting AAD
- Extent to which help, information and advice was provided in a timely manner
- Extent to which patrols were perceived to have helped the community become a safer and more secure place
- Extent to which patrols were perceived to have helped lower the number of people who come into contact with the police or the justice system in local communities
- Satisfaction with the assistance provided to identify and protect Aboriginal heritage and culture sites
- Satisfaction with the site registration process and service

- Satisfaction with the ongoing management and maintenance of ALT properties
- Satisfaction with the process of transferring ALT land to Aboriginal people
- Extent to which AAD staff and field officers were perceived to have helped the community gain better access to other government services
- Extent to which AAD staff and field officers were perceived to have helped the community reach its goals.

Overall, the 2001 results showed an improvement in a number of key areas.

When it came to helping community groups gain better access to services and in making a contribution to the success of community projects, the survey found that AAD had improved its work substantially.

Customer satisfaction with the way AAD provided assistance to identify and protect Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites was also high.

The customers were also very pleased with timeliness in which AAD staff provided help, information and advice.

The Department's management support for Aboriginal Community Patrols was rated highly, especially in helping the scheme meet its important goals.

All of the respondents felt that the Community Patrol scheme had helped make the community a safer and more secure place and 94 per cent said it improved social relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Also, 88 per cent of the people surveyed agreed that the Patrols were playing a role in reducing the number of Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system.

The survey of members of the three forums administered by AAD, revealed that 81 per cent felt that the Department provided good management support, while 82 per cent felt that the policy and advice service met requirements.

However, while the majority of State Commission of Elders respondents believed that AAD helped them address the needs and priorities of Indigenous people, about half of the ALT and ACMC members felt that some improvement was needed in that area.

Government agencies, in general, were unsure of AAD's role in regional and State coordination and felt it needed to be more clearly defined, but said policy and advice information was timely and presented well, and were satisfied with the AAD service, overall.

AAD is planning to provide an even better service to Indigenous Australians from July 2001, to coincide with its name change to Department of Indigenous Affairs.

AAD has been re-aligning its existing resources to focus on the priority areas of heritage and culture, land and coordination.

An integral part of the delivery service, in line with those three core functions, is the Department's regional network of offices.

These offices work closely with Indigenous people at a local level to link up with State programs and plans.

HERITAGE AND CULTURE

In the Heritage and Culture area, the Department will increase its capacity to handle site management and protection issues by placing dedicated Heritage Officers in the regions and in its Perth office.

It will also boost the number of honorary heritage wardens, who assist in managing and safeguarding Aboriginal sites by, where appropriate, enforcing site regulations.

The Department also intends making greater use of the knowledge and experience of Indigenous Elders to provide advice on heritage and culture issues, and will continue to provide a comprehensive training program for Indigenous people and Departmental staff on cultural resource management.

LAND

Through its Land branch, the Department will also provide dedicated Land Officers in the regions, and develop a comprehensive awareness package on the role of the Department and its relationship with the ALT.

For the first time, there will be consultation with grass roots people and planning at the regional level on land management and land transfer issues, taking into account native title.

The Department will help to build the capacity of Indigenous people to extract the maximum benefits from land handed over through the ALT land transfer program.

Part of the service will include providing advice on economic development and land use diversification, such as completing a property and community management plan for the Dampier Peninsula and working with the Martu people on land management directions in Udall River National Park.

The Land branch will also develop closer working ties with the State and National native title bodies, to ensure coordination of effort and a sharing of knowledge.

COORDINATION

Coordination is all about partnerships, and the Department is already working on strengthening such relationships with the Indigenous community, ATSIC and key Indigenous organisations, and the agencies that provide services to Indigenous people throughout the State.

It will lead a pilot program to develop capacity building in Indigenous communities and ensure Indigenous people have the opportunity to participate in policy and program development, and on how they would like services delivered.

Important partnerships in the service delivery area will be developed through the creation of the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee (IAAC), which will be chaired by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and include senior representatives of all the agencies involved in Indigenous affairs.

The IAAC, which replaces the previous Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee, will report directly to the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy.

The Department will also play a lead role in the implementation of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reconciliation agenda, and it will coordinate national benchmarks, action plans and reporting processes on Indigenous affairs across all Ministerial Councils (eg Education, Health, Housing, Transport) with reporting back to COAG.





PART TWO

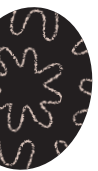
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
(Department of Indigenous Affairs from 1 July 2001)

STATUTORY REPORT

2000–2001

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OUR DESIRED FUTURE

A society where Indigenous Australians have greater ability to determine their own lives, where there is social and economic equity, respect and value for land, and Aboriginal heritage and culture.

OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

We are committed to working towards a society which respects and values land, Aboriginal culture and heritage, recognises the diversity of Indigenous people and provides reconciliation, justice and equity for all.

We are committed to the empowerment of Indigenous people to choose how they live their lives.

We provide the best possible service to our customers by being responsive and focusing on efficient, practical, equitable and achievable outcomes.

We treat each other and those with whom we deal openly, fairly, honestly and with respect.

We are committed to the highest ethical standards – with open, accountable and consistent decision-making.

We are a learning organisation that can adapt quickly to changing priorities and circumstances and can learn from what we and others do.

OUR PURPOSE

We build and support partnerships with and between Indigenous Australians, government and the broader community, to assist them to respond appropriately to the cultural, social and economic needs of Indigenous people.

OUR ROLE

We will work towards improving the living standards and lifestyle of Indigenous Australians, through:

- Managing and transferring Indigenous land to the direct control of Indigenous people
- Assisting Indigenous people to manage and protect their heritage and culture
- Coordinating whole of Government management of Indigenous affairs.



FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

The outlook for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia is improving, but Indigenous people still have poor outcomes, with improvements not matching those gained by non-Indigenous Western Australians.

Thus the gap in social and economic outcomes between the three per cent of Indigenous people and the 97 per cent of non-Indigenous continues to widen, even while basic standards of social and economic wealth (eg income, attainment of qualifications) are being attained or maintained for the first time.

This is perhaps surprising, given the fact that Indigenous people are the largest minority population in WA, and relations between them and other Western Australians have improved through advances in reconciliation.

However, the improvements being implemented now to "close the gap" are likely to demonstrate benefit in five to 10 years time.

Also, the public profile of Indigenous people as media personalities, actors, champion sporting persons and as articulate advocates for their people has come a long way in recent years.

It is the hope of many Western Australians and the Government that the status of Indigenous people in the State continues this upward trend.

THE SITUATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

About one-third of Indigenous Western Australians live in discrete, remote and isolated communities in the North West and East of the State.

These people still require fresh food, employment, income, sanitation, sewerage, town planning, roads, housing, transport and community infrastructure to avoid premature death in childhood or early adulthood.

The remaining two-thirds of Indigenous people live in cities, regional centres and rural towns, with one-third in the Perth metropolitan area, and while these two groups would appear to have easier access to services and the economy, in many respects they only fare marginally better than more isolated Indigenous people.

In the main, isolated Indigenous communities suffer from the effects of being deprived of essential and basic services, and lack an on-going economic role, while for many urban Indigenous people, lack of wealth, education, housing, and employment, plus racism and prejudice, work with the effects of dispossession, separation from families, and other impacts of colonisation to perpetuate poor outcomes.

Increased effort is required by service providers to address access and equity, with the aim of ultimately achieving better social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

CLOSING THE GAP

The Hicks review of the Machinery of Government, *Government Structures for Better Results*, saw a role for an Indigenous Affairs portfolio and reinforced the whole-of-government coordination role of AAD, at both the State and regional level, facilitating service delivery to Indigenous Australians comparable with that received by all citizens.

Closing the gap between living standards and opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people requires the capacity to focus efforts across government agencies and respond in an integrated and holistic way to the needs of Indigenous people.

Effective partnership building with Indigenous communities and families is essential to this process.

Elements of the Government's Public Sector Reform policies that can play an important role in refocussing government effort around the needs of Indigenous people include:

- Setting a clear direction;
- Developing benchmarks and measures of progress in consultation with Indigenous people;
- Clearly communicating priorities;
- Coordinating a whole-of-government response.

AAD OUTPUT STRUCTURE

In 2000-2001, AAD produced five outputs for the Indigenous groups that it served:

Output 1

Information, Facilitation and Advice to Indigenous People

Output 2

Information, Facilitation and Advice to Government and Others

Output 3

Assistance to Aboriginal Community-Based Patrols, Wardens and Town Reserves

Output 4

Promotion and Protection of Sites, Heritage, Culture and Family History

Output 5

Management and Transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Estate

These outputs were derived from a service delivery framework. In 2001-2002 a strategic result model will combine the above into two output classes:

Output 1

Support to Partnerships and Partnering Initiatives

The provision of support to current partnering or new partnerships which involve Indigenous individuals, families, communities and representatives participating with government; the private sector; community groups and others to achieve agreed priorities.

Output 2

Information and Advice

Commonwealth, State and relevant local governments and others involved in Indigenous issues are provided with information and advice on policy, legislation and the planning, coordination, delivery and effectiveness of services.

AAD PRIORITIES

AAD core business will involve listening, communicating, advising and facilitating changes to improve the lives of Indigenous people using three strategies:

Better Land Use through Indigenous Control and Recognition of Indigenous Land Care

AAD delivers services related to the management of the Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) estate, incorporating a land transfer program of direct vesting and control to Indigenous organisations.

In addition to managing the vast majority of Indigenous land holdings in WA, AAD will also provide strategic advice on regional land use, sustainable management, and related matters.

Interconnections between land, heritage and culture, and native title issues dealt with by AAD will become increasingly important as the Government moves to improve processes and guidelines to deal with these issues.

The ALT estate land transfer and management functions are now interwoven with government policy to co-operate wherever possible with Native Title Representative Bodies and their collective body, the Western Australian Aboriginal Native Title Working Group.

Advancement of Indigenous Heritage and Culture

AAD has the legislative mandate to manage and protect Aboriginal sites throughout Western Australia.

On the ground, site management plans will be developed through community consultation, with sites of outstanding importance and those vulnerable to tourist visitation investigated and appropriate strategies implemented to ensure they are protected.

AAD will continue to maintain and update a Register of all known sites and establish information and data spatial standards for the recording of Aboriginal sites.

AAD also provides an Aboriginal family history and tracing service and has a library and cultural resource centre which houses the most comprehensive collection of Aboriginal material in the State.

Whole-of-Government Co-ordination at all Levels

The Department will focus government effort on the key needs and aspirations of Indigenous people by setting a strategic direction for government and clearly communicating priorities.

This will steer government effort and resource allocation, develop benchmarks and measures of progress and enable a whole-of-government response.

At the local and regional level, AAD will integrate land management and transfer, reconciliation, heritage and culture promotion and sites management through strategic agreements with other stakeholders.

AAD will continue to administer the Aboriginal Community Patrols program and provide support so that operating conditions are improved for patrollers and service users.

It will also promote equitable service delivery at the local and regional level by bringing together Indigenous people and those who work with them delivering services in urban, regional, remote and isolated settings, where specific knowledge of the situation and key players is required.



OUTPUT 1 – INFORMATION, FACILITATION AND ADVICE TO ADVICE TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Indigenous Australians receive information, advice and facilitation to enable easier access to, and equitable outcomes from, existing services. Indigenous communities and organisations obtain information, advice and assistance to develop and implement a variety of community and capacity building initiatives – initiatives aimed at increasing the management skills of communities.

A consultancy report on community and capacity building was completed and negotiations have commenced to implement a pilot project at the Wirrimanu (Balgo) community in the East Kimberley in 2001-2002, and AAD officers have been assisting communities such as Bidyadanga, Djarindjin and Waankatjunka with capacity building exercises.

In Yandeyarra, 200km south of Port Hedland, AAD has provided community members with the skills to deal with service delivery agencies, resulting in the community successfully negotiating 15 service agreements and endorsing a 15-year, all-inclusive plan.

AAD supported projects to reduce the incidence of youth anti-social behaviour in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Wiluna, working with other agencies to fund youth centres and associated activities to reduce juvenile crime and alcohol and drug dependency through alternative forms of recreation.

Two AAD staff members have been trained as Strong Families facilitators and have been working alongside Midland-based families to improve results for families through better coordination of services and increased efficiency.

Environmental health projects were coordinated in:

- Cheeditha community, near Roebourne, resulting in improvements to water and wastewater services;
- Kurnangki and Mindi Rardi town communities, in Fitzroy Crossing, where discussions commenced regarding the delivery of essential services;
- Ninga Mia and Coonana communities, in the Goldfields, where dust control programs were implemented.

A framework agreement, the first of its kind in Western Australia, for the provision of local government services to remote communities in the Broome area was signed by the Beagle Bay, Djarindjin, Lombadina, One Arm Point and Bidyadanga communities with the Shire of Broome on 14 August 2000.

The East Kimberley Desert area communities of Wirrimanu (Balgo), Billiluna, Ringers Soak, Mulan and Yagga Yagga also plan to join together in the proposed Katjunka Council, and jointly submit proposals from health care to road submissions.

OUTPUT 2 – INFORMATION, FACILITATION AND ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

Government and service providers receive information and advice to coordinate the delivery of across-government services, making them more appropriate to the needs of Indigenous Australians.

They also receive information and advice gained from extensive consultation with a broad range of local representative groups including Elders and regional councils.

AAD was a major contributor to the development of the national policy on Reconciliation as endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), through work for the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA).

In MCATSIA, AAD is playing a lead role in developing action plans, benchmarks and reporting processes to improve service delivery to Indigenous people, assisting other Ministerial Councils with their plans, and identifying gaps and opportunities for improving results and reporting them to COAG.

The first ever-joint communiqué between the State and ATSIC was signed on 18 October 2000, where each party committed \$2.8 million over three years toward upgrading facilities in 45 town based Indigenous communities, and \$500,000 to support strategies to reduce family violence.

A *Bilateral Agreement for the Provision of Essential Services to Indigenous Communities in Western Australia*, detailing the roles and responsibilities of each party in the provision of power, water and sewerage services to Indigenous communities, was also signed by the parties.

A key element in building a new relationship between government and Indigenous people was put in place in May 2001, when State Cabinet endorsed the reconfiguration of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC) as the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee (IAAC).

A Statement of Planning Policy prepared by AAD and the Ministry for Planning was formally gazetted under the *Town Planning and Development Act 1928* in August 2000; the Western Australian Planning Commission has now endorsed seven community layout plans, 50 are currently being completed and eight new layout plans are underway.

AAD worked closely with the Aboriginal Justice Council (AJC), the WA Police Service, the Ministry of Justice and other agencies to progress the implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Plan, identifying the family, education and policing as critical to addressing the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.

AAD provided secretariat and policy support to the AJC since its establishment in 1992, but in February 2001 responsibility for the administration of the AJC was transferred to the portfolio of the Attorney General.

AAD played an important coordination role in support of the Health Department and the Youth Suicide Advisory Committee (YSAC) in developing a State strategy for the prevention of suicide and suicidal behaviour among Indigenous youth, and funded an Executive Officer at YSAC to assist in the development of the strategy.

OUTPUT 3 – ASSISTANCE TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY-BASED PATROLS, WARDENS AND TOWN RESERVES

Indigenous organisations receive grants and management assistance to provide warden and patrol schemes; services which assist the maintenance of civil order and divert Indigenous people from harm or minimise harm. Indigenous town reserves obtain management assistance to ensure better community and asset management.

Aboriginal Community Patrols were established in the early 1990s, with the aim of reducing Indigenous contact with the justice system, supporting Indigenous Australians, and preventing self-harm and social disruption within their own and the wider community.

AAD continued to support this important initiative by administering more than \$932,000 for 21 Patrols throughout the State.

At the local level, AAD regional officers provided advice and support in relation to the linking of sobering-up shelters, building partnerships with other relevant bodies such as Safer WA and local councils, and assisting Patrol committees with management and operational issues.

The Aboriginal Warden Scheme is an innovative community-based initiative to manage law and good order within the communities, made possible through the *Aboriginal Communities Act 1979*, which provides for Indigenous communities to develop their own by-laws.

While no longer a funder of this program, AAD continued to support local governance within communities and administration of the Act, while consolidating its role of coordination and service monitoring.

OUTPUT 4 – PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF SITES, HERITAGE, CULTURE AND FAMILY HISTORY

Indigenous heritage and cultural sites are recorded, preserved and protected in line with Indigenous heritage legislation. The public are made aware of Indigenous cultural issues. Indigenous people receive a family history service.

The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) is a statutory body comprising Indigenous representatives and technical experts in the fields of anthropology and archaeology, which advises Government on the impact of development and research on Aboriginal sites.

The ACMC considered 46 applications under Section 18 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AHA) in 2000–2001, of which 17 applications related to mining, 24 to government infrastructure and five applications to commercial/residential.

Of these, 35 were given consent or conditional consent to undertake development activity, two were declined, five were referred back to the applicants for further work and four were withdrawn.

The ACMC also received 37 applications under Section 16 of the AHA to remove cultural material from a site for management, research or salvage purposes.

A number of burial sites were recorded in the Kimberley region and skeletal material was reburied at designated sites in Bunbury, Busselton and Eco Beach, near Broome.

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Repatriation of skeletal material remains a significant issue and meetings have taken place with ATSIC and other relevant parties.

Management activities were undertaken at rock art complexes at Willigulli in Northampton and Mt Ridley near Esperance, and at other significant areas such as Wagin Lakes, the Oyster Harbour Fish Traps in Albany, Karlkulla Rockhole near Kalgoorlie, and the Prison Boab Tree near Derby.

In addition, discussions are underway with many Shire Councils, including Broome and Ngaanyatjarra, regarding heritage management plans for these areas.

To support and educate staff and community members in cultural resource management, a series of workshops were conducted in the Metropolitan, South West, Murchison/Gascoyne, Goldfields and Pilbara regions.

The two-day workshops covered relevant legislation, recognising and recording an Aboriginal site, and initial protection and conservation strategies and techniques.

The State Commission of Elders continued to provide advice to AAD and government on social, justice, economic and cultural matters, and met with the new Minister for Indigenous Affairs during a two-day meeting in Perth.

The Regional Commissions of Elders worked with AAD regional offices to provide local solutions to local issues.

The Family History Unit received 313 applications from Indigenous people researching their own family history and that of their extended families.

The Department holds personal information on some 5500 Indigenous people and provided seminars in the metropolitan and regional areas of the State on the collection and the accessing of this information.

At both the State and regional levels, AAD continued to make progress on reconciliation and Stolen Generation healing, through participation on regional Stolen Generation committees and the ATSIC Link-Up Program.

Meetings were held in four areas of the Pilbara to build and strengthen families, share ideas and provide local healing services.

The annual Schools Essay and Poster Competition *Breaking Down the Barriers Between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians* was upgraded into a joint initiative with the Department of Education and renamed *Our Future Together*.

OUTPUT 5 – MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFER OF THE ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST ESTATE

Management of land held in trust by the ALT. Progressive transfer of the Trust's land to local Indigenous organisations.

In 2000–2001, the ALT continued to fulfil its statutory obligations as the holder of the Indigenous land estate and provided advice and assistance in the areas of economic development, land use diversification and land conservation.

Specific projects included:

- a management and land use planning exercise with the Maddarr Aboriginal Corporation on the Dampier Peninsula;
- assistance to the Martu people to formulate a direction through which joint management of the Rudall River National Park can be established;

- land management advice for occupants of Doon Doon and Glen Hill pastoral leases;
- development of a platform through which aquaculture can be developed on ALT held lands in the Kimberley region.

A joint initiative by the ALT and the Ministry of Justice saw part of Bungarun, the former Derby Leprosarium, utilised as a work camp for minimum security prisoners from Broome Regional Prison.

Bungarun is also used as a conference and meeting centre by government and community groups.

The Land Transfer Program continued, with 21 parcels of land being transferred to date and a further 85 properties at various stages of negotiation.

Processes in the Lands Register, which the Department holds and maintains as part of the Aboriginal Information System, were streamlined in 2000–2001 to capture more detail on land holdings and current leaseholders.

The Trust will continue to ensure that the interests of historical residents are protected and achieve non-native title outcomes and other land transfers when resources are available.

In the mission land transfer process, AAD negotiated the transfer to the ALT of significant parcels of land held by the Catholic Church in five areas of the Kimberley, after seven years of discussion with relevant parties.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations Branch continued its work of:

- promoting the Department's role
- promoting Aboriginal heritage and culture
- liaising with the Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on promotional and media issues
- liaising with the news media
- providing advice on public relations and media issues
- liaising with other government agencies.

Now in its fifth year, the Department's Essay and Poster Competition, *Breaking Down the Barriers between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Australians*, continued as a positive reconciliation initiative, with about 1200 entries received from 50 schools throughout the State.

Community Relations maintains an Intranet-based *Calendar of Events*, which incorporates forthcoming Indigenous events, and the *Newsflash* initiative, to provide staff with instant Intranet information on items of interest.

Major tasks undertaken by the Community Relations Branch, in cooperation with other Departmental branches and external agencies, were the creation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial, in Kings Park, the Indigenous input into the official opening of the 36th Western Australian Parliament, and the production of a video entitled *My Body Belongs to Me*, to be part of a package designed to combat sexual abuse of young people on Indigenous communities.

For the first time, the Department sponsored Indigenous input into the Perth International Arts Festival, providing \$20,000 to support program items such as *Crying Baby* and *Alice*.

PUBLICATIONS

The Department produced the following publications during the year:

- *Communities News* external magazine. Produced quarterly and distributed throughout the State to all Indigenous communities and organisations, to State and Commonwealth government agencies, to local government entities, and to interested parties in the general community
- *Nadja Yira* staff newsletter (bi-monthly), produced in electronic format on the AAD Intranet
- Schools Essay and Poster Competition brochure
- *Who We Are, What We Do* corporate brochure

The Department has stocks of the following older publications:

- Regional brochures:
 - Kimberley
 - Pilbara
 - Murchison/Gascoyne
 - Goldfields
 - Metropolitan/Wheatbelt
 - South West
- Style guide
- Brochure guide
- Heritage brochures:
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Developers
 - Aboriginal People
- *Messages for Our Children*. A summary of an oral history project, in which selected Aboriginal Elders from all regions were interviewed.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Enabling Legislation

The Aboriginal Affairs Department is established under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Legislation Administered

Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (the Authority) is established as a body corporate under section 8 of the Act, constituted by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs (the Minister).

The main duty of the Authority is to promote the wellbeing of Indigenous people in Western Australia, and to take into account their views in relation to policy development and State Government service delivery to Indigenous people.

The Act also establishes the Aboriginal Lands Trust and the Aboriginal Affairs Co-ordinating Committee.

Under section 7 of the Act, the Minister is responsible for the administration of the Act. In this capacity, the Minister provides direction to the bodies created under the Act in the exercise of their respective functions.

In discharging these functions, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department, who is also appointed as the Commissioner for Aboriginal Planning under the Act, is responsible to the Minister.

The continued existence of the Authority as a separate statutory body corporate gives rise to an ongoing requirement for separate financial reporting.

Aboriginal Communities Act 1979

The *Aboriginal Communities Act 1979* was established to enable Indigenous communities to better manage and control their communities by making by-laws that regulate conduct on their community lands.

As at 30 June 2001, 21 Indigenous communities across the State have had by-laws proclaimed under the Act.



EQUITY, ACCESS, CUSTOMER FOCUS AND COMPLIANCE

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* provides for the preservation, on behalf of the community, of places and objects that are of significance for the Aboriginal heritage of the State.

The Aboriginal Sites Register is maintained by the Department in accordance with section 38 of the Act, as a record of places of significance to which the Act applies.

The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC), established under section 28 of the Act, provides advice to the Minister on matters relating to Aboriginal heritage.

The ACMC also provides advice to the Minister on the assessment of Notices under section 18 of the Act.

Developers are obliged to submit these Notices so that a determination can be made as to whether or not an Aboriginal site will be disturbed by proposed development.

The ACMC makes a recommendation to the Minister, who makes the final decision as to whether consent for the development should be granted.

Other Relevant Legislation

Other legislation with which the Department complied includes:

- *Anti-Corruption Commission Act 1988*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*

The Department also complied with all other relevant Commonwealth and State legislation.

STAFFING PROFILE

(As at 30 June 2001)

Staff Employed	143
Staff on secondment from AAD to other agencies	4
Staff on secondment to AAD from other agencies	10
Staff with a disability	2
Staff from non-English speaking backgrounds	4
Staff of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background	43%
Staff employed under an Enterprise Agreement	27%
Staff employed under a Workplace Agreement	73%

AGENCY PROFILE – AS AT 30 JUNE 2001

SALARY RANGE	MALE	FEMALE	INDIGENOUS	TOTAL EMPLOYEES
0 – 33,556	0	5	2	5
33,557 – 38,577	3	14	11	17
38,578 – 43,431	1	9	1	10
43,432 – 47,604	15	13	20	28
47,605 – 55,376	18	12	16	30
55,377 – 64,567	13	12	3	25
64,568 – 72,824	9	5	5	14
72,825 – 83,586	7	4	3	11
83,587 – 94,798	1	0	0	1
> 94,798	1	1	1	2
TOTAL	68	75	62	143

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The *Equity in Employment Plan* – aimed at increasing the representation of Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and women in all levels and areas of the Department – was endorsed by AAD Corporate Executive in August 2000.

Developed by an Equity Group, which included Indigenous and non-Indigenous members, the Plan includes a series of strategies to be implemented over the next two years.

This will be achieved by focussing on four key areas – recruitment, career development and management, retention and creating a work environment conducive to these aims.

Recent achievements in the area of equity include:

- introduction of newly appointed and trained Grievance Officers, to complement existing officers
- introduction of the Study Scholarship Scheme, to encourage officers to undertake work related study
- preliminary work on the development of a Mentoring Program, to support staff from within
- encouragement of Indigenous Traineeships within the Department

An extensive analysis of staff turnover has been undertaken across the whole agency, based on the last four years.

The rate of turnover continues to improve, from 42.01 per cent for the 1998 calendar year to 26.94 per cent for the 2000 calendar year.

Significantly, of 15 Regional Officers who commenced with the Department in January 2000, under the Regional Expansion Program, all remain after 18 months continuous service as permanent officers.

The findings from this analysis will be used to target strategies developed in the *Equity in Employment Plan*.

Some of these strategies include:

- revision of the Induction and Orientation Manual
- ongoing support for the Wellness Program
- ongoing commitment to the Study Scholarship Scheme
- commencement of the Graduate and Mentoring Program

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The Department's Occupational Safety and Health, Policy and Advisory Group has nurtured experienced officers who ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in creating a safe and healthy in the workplace.

Achievements in the area of occupational safety and health (OS&H) include:

- the development of the *Aids to Survival* handbook for regional officers
- the ongoing success of the Wellness Program
- the development of the Critical Incident Reporting Policy and Procedures to complement the policy on Violent and Aggressive Behaviour
- the display of agency specific OS&H Policy posters in all offices
- the development and completion of the OS&H Workplan 2000-2001

Historically, sick leave usage in the Department has been comparatively higher than most other Government Departments.

AAD sought to improve its sick leave record through articulating clear policies and procedures on sick leave, compiling bi-monthly reports for managers, actively managing sick leave, and developing other strategies for optimising working conditions and employee attendance, such as the Wellness Program and Family Friendly policies.

Accordingly, AAD has made significant gains in reducing sick leave usage over the past five year, from 9.10 sick days per employee at 30 June 1997, to 6.80 sick days per employee at 30 June 2001.

There were four workers compensation claims in the financial year ending 30 June 2001, of which one claim remains active.

It is anticipated that the low number and cost of claims will continue under the current successful OS&H framework at AAD.

DISABILITY SERVICE PLAN

The second AAD Disability Service Plan was endorsed by the Department's Corporate Executive on 8 November 2000.

Covering the period 2000 to 2003, the new Disability Service Plan was produced after wide discussion with internal and external stakeholders, in the metropolitan and country areas.

As far as resources allowed, recommendations from the Plan were progressively implemented during the second half of the year.

The Plan will be audited every six months (in November and May of each year) and the Disability Service Plan Working Party will meet immediately after the audit has been completed to review the findings and take any necessary action or make any needed adjustments to strategy implementation.

EQUITY, ACCESS, CUSTOMER FOCUS AND COMPLIANCE

PLAN FOR WOMEN

AAD maintains a record of Indigenous women with the skills and experience to take up positions on boards and committees within the public and private sectors.

The Department continues to foster partnership links with the Women's Advisory Council on matters that relate to Indigenous women's issues, and works in partnership with the Women's Policy Development Office to improve the representation of Indigenous women on government boards and committees.

It also provides support and advice on issues such as personal safety, through crime prevention strategies, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Justice Council and Justice Co-ordinating Council.

AAD consults with Indigenous communities and forms partnerships to assist with culturally relevant community crime prevention strategies.

It has also provided advice and support to the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit, on culturally relevant strategies for Indigenous women in relation to the Domestic Violence Prevention Plan.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Department reviewed its Language Services Policy in November 2000 and maintains a register of employees with multi-lingual skills.

The Department is committed to culture and language diversity, and the ongoing development of efficient communication strategies, to enable it to deliver services that are responsive and equitable for all clients.

Standards for statistics for cultural and language diversity, recently produced by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, will also be implemented.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) developed a draft Workplace Agreement 2001 (WPA 2001) to replace the AAD Workplace Agreement 1998 (WPA 1998), that expired on 1 March 2001.

The WPA 2001 received extensive input from all staff in framing an agreement that reflected an agency with 26 regional offices.

An integral part of the consultative process was the 'all-staff survey', to canvass views on staff needs across the agency.

A major theme from the findings was the desire to have an agreement that reflected the particular needs and characteristics of the agency.

In response, the JCC developed the Isolation Bonus, revised the Travel Policy, broadened Telecommuting and placed a greater emphasis on Workplace Flexibility.

With a change in Government Policy in February 2001, the WPA 2001 was set aside.

Up to 80 per cent of staff continue to work under the terms and conditions of the expired WPA 1998. No further milestone increases are payable under this agreement.

The Management Team commenced bargaining with the Civil Service Association of WA (Union) in February 2001, to negotiate a replacement agreement to the AAD Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 1998 (EBA 1998), which expires on 22 July 2001.

Further negotiations on the EBA 2001 were delayed in anticipation of the release of the Framework Agreement, in July 2001, that will set out the terms and conditions of employment for all Government agencies.

PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARDS COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Department developed a Code of Conduct in January 1998, to provide employees with clear and practical guidelines on ethical behaviour in the workplace.

Considering the length of time since the document was written, and with recent developments across the Public Sector in this area, a review of the 1998 version was necessary to make employees aware of present day issues.

The Code of Conduct is an important document which needs to be supported and adhered to by staff.

Consequently, all staff were advised of the revision process and invited to comment and provide input into the document. Staff responded positively to the revised version and assisted in clarifying information and refining the document.

The revised Code of Conduct is less focused on what we do, but more on how we do it – how we provide services, how we interact with each other, and how we behave in the workplace reflects on the agency as a whole.

The Code of Conduct is designed to assist staff understand the behaviours, actions and attitudes expected as staff go about their day-to-day business.

Awareness raising sessions were undertaken throughout the State, to ensure all staff were fully briefed on the revised Code of Conduct.

Applications for breach of standards review and corresponding outcomes for the period 30 June 2001 included:

• number lodged	1
• number of breaches found	0
• multiple breaches	0
• material breaches	0
• non-material breaches	0
• number still under review	0

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

AAD received a total of six applications under Freedom of Information (FOI), from people wishing to access records of a non-personal nature.

In addition, some 300 applications were submitted from Indigenous people wishing to access personal records through the Family Information Records Bureau, which is with Family and Children's Services.

These latter applications were dealt with outside FOI, through Section 6 of the Act, under AAD's access guidelines.

Owing to the change of government and new strategic directions of the agency, AAD is preparing a new Information Statement and necessary amendments to the Act to protect Aboriginal cultural information for customary and traditional purposes.

ELECTORAL ACT 1907

In accordance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907, the Department incurred expenditure of \$125,536 during 2000/01 in relation to advertising agencies.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Department did not receive any capital funds for 2000/01 from the Consolidated Fund.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There have been no declarations of pecuniary interests from senior officers.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There have been no subsequent material events since 30 June 2001.

WASTE PAPER RECYCLING

The Department actively supports the recycling of waste paper by the provision of confidential and general waste paper bins in all offices throughout the State where such a facility is provided by waste management contractors.

The majority of Departmental waste paper is recycled.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS

No material activity occurred in these areas in 2000-2001.

CUSTOMER FOCUS 2000-2001

(see Key Performance Indicators 2000-2001 for discussion of methods used to collect data)

Summary of Key Findings

Overall, the 2001 results showed an improvement on a number of key dimensions.

When considering the combined proportion of "usually", "mostly" and "always" ratings, each of the following improved:

- ◆ The extent to which AAD was perceived to help:
 - ◇ community groups gain better access to services ↑↑↑
 - ◇ community projects reach their goals ↑↑↑
- ◆ Satisfaction with the assistance provided to identify and protect Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites ↑↑
- ◆ The extent to which help, information and advice is perceived to be provided in a timely manner ↑

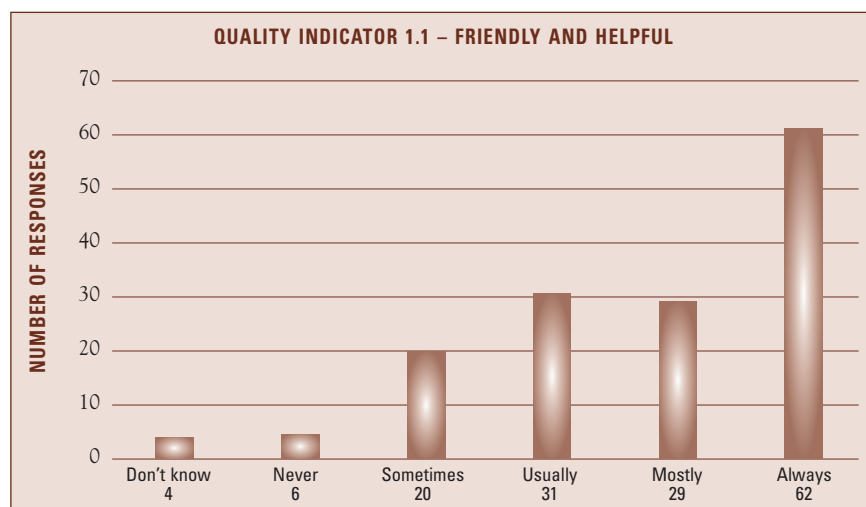
All other ratings remained steady at the 95% confidence level, over the last 12 months.

EQUITY, ACCESS, CUSTOMER FOCUS AND COMPLIANCE

Customer Focus Results 2000-2001: Services provided to Indigenous People

The extent to which AAD staff and field officers are friendly and helpful

Quality	2000/2001 (Don't know/Not applicables removed)	
	1999/2000	
Average rating	3.7	3.8
Median	4	4
Confidence interval at 95%	+/-0.4	+/-0.2
% of responses between 1 and 5 rating service at 3 or higher	77.6%	82.4%



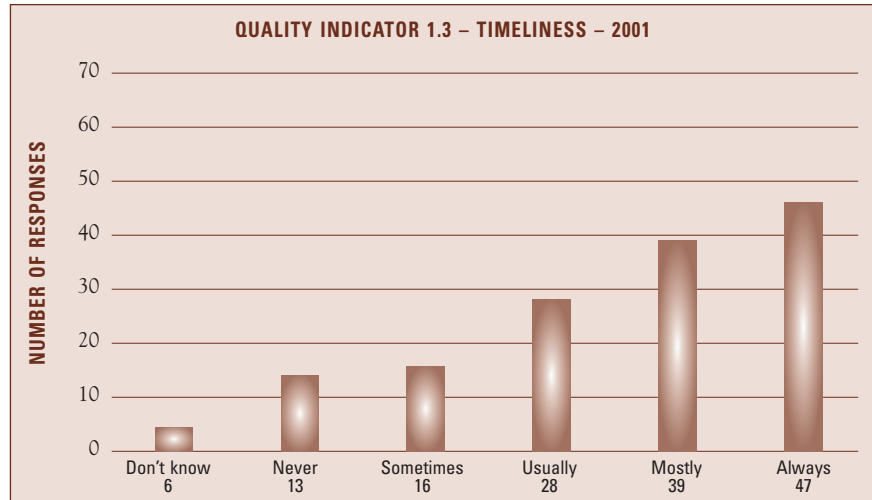
The extent to which help, information and advice is provided in a timely manner

Quality	2000/2001 (Don't know/Not applicables removed)	
	1999/2000	
Average rating	3.4	3.6
Median	3	4
Confidence interval at 95%	+/- 0.4	+/-0.2
% of responses between 1 and 5 rating service at 3 or higher	65.3%	↑ 79.7%

↑ Denotes an increase at 95% confidence level

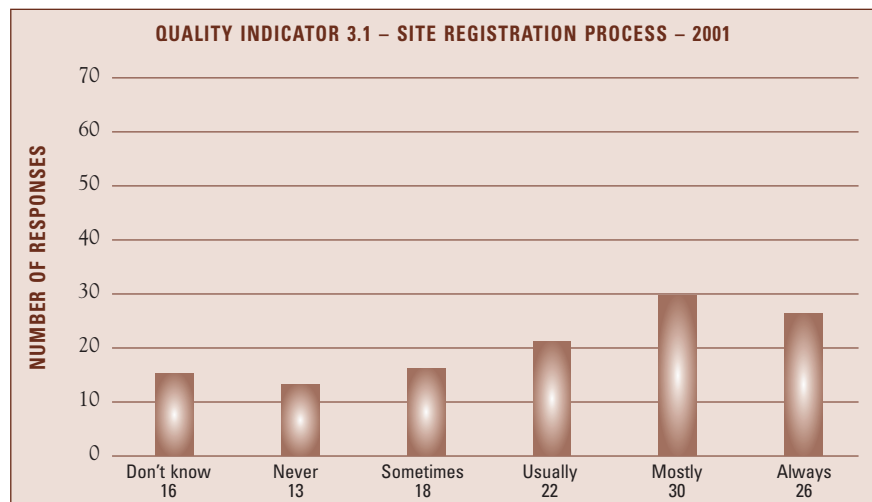


EQUITY, ACCESS, CUSTOMER FOCUS AND COMPLIANCE



The extent to which Indigenous clients are satisfied with the site registration process and service

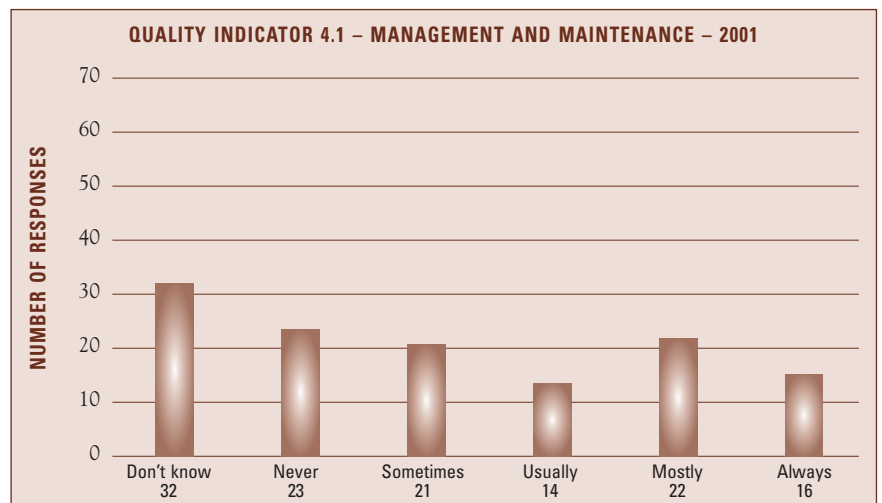
<i>Quality</i>	<i>1999/2000</i>	<i>2000/2001 (Don't know/Not applicables removed)</i>
Average rating	3.0	3.4
Median	3	4
Confidence interval at 95%	+/- 0.4	+/-0.2
% of responses between 1 and 5 rating service at 3 or higher	57.9%	71.6%



EQUITY, ACCESS, CUSTOMER FOCUS AND COMPLIANCE

The extent to which Indigenous clients are satisfied with the site registration process and service

<i>Quality</i>	<i>1999/2000</i>	<i>2000/2001 (Don't know/Not applicables removed)</i>
Average rating	2.6	2.9
Median	2	3
Confidence interval at 95%	+/- 0.4	+/- 0.3
% of responses between 1 and 5 rating service at 3 or higher	41.2%	54.2%



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

CERTIFICATION OF THE 2000-2001 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

I hereby certify that these performance indicators are based on proper records and fairly represent the performance of the Aboriginal Affairs Department for the financial year ended 30 June 2001.



RICHARD CURRY
ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER
31 August 2001

AUDITOR'S REPORT



AUDITOR GENERAL

To the Parliament of Western Australia

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

Scope

I have audited the key effectiveness and efficiency performance indicators of the Aboriginal Affairs Department for the year ended June 30, 2001 under the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Accountable Officer is responsible for developing and maintaining proper records and systems for preparing and presenting performance indicators. I have conducted an audit of the key performance indicators in order to express an opinion on them to the Parliament as required by the Act. No opinion is expressed on the output measures of quantity, quality, timeliness and cost.

My audit was performed in accordance with section 79 of the Act to form an opinion based on a reasonable level of assurance. The audit procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the performance indicators, and assessing the relevance and appropriateness of the performance indicators in assisting users to assess the Department's performance. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the performance indicators are relevant and appropriate having regard to their purpose and fairly represent the indicated performance.

The audit opinion expressed below has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the key effectiveness and efficiency performance indicators of the Aboriginal Affairs Department are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended June 30, 2001.



D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
October 31, 2001

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INTRODUCTION

The desired outcome for 2000-2001 was to achieve better social, cultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities (and Indigenous people).

AAD measures progress towards this whole-of-government goal in terms of baseline economic and social data at the community and state level. Performance indicators of effectiveness have historically included a range of social and economic factors that identified and compared trends between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples. These indicators included trends in housing, education, employment, income, health, justice, and community planning.

Such indicators are important benchmarks of Aboriginal wellbeing and will continue to be reported as they become available after each ABS census. However, these performance indicators are whole-of-government measures. Those reported

here are more discrete, enabling a direct link to be made between the effectiveness of AAD service delivery and the achievement of better social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

Two sets of Key Performance Indicators for 2000-2001 are described here, those concerning effectiveness and those relating to efficiency.

Effectiveness as measured here presents the ability of AAD to make a change in clients lives; a more difficult task than simply achieving customer satisfaction with the presentation and delivery of services (see Customer Focus for more on this).

Efficiency indicators relate to the cost of the 13 major activities/tasks/projects.

CONDUCT OF SURVEY

Over a three week period in June and July 2001 more than 236 regional Aboriginal clients of AAD in 2000-2001 (now DIA) were telephoned by Aboriginal interviewers from an independent market research company. A total of 155 people responded, delivering sampling accuracy $\pm 4.2\%$ at a 95% confidence level.

This survey was conducted across all seven AAD regions, covering the entire State.

Comparison to last year's results must note that only three of the seven AAD regions were surveyed for 1999-2000 performance. This survey applies to Indicators 1, 3 and 4 below.

Over a similar time period, AAD conducted fax-out fax-back surveys with telephone follow-up of the quality of it's service to 29 relevant Government agencies. This survey applies to Indicator 2 below.

Indicator 1

The extent to which Aboriginal client groups consider that information, advice and facilitation has improved access to government and other services for Aboriginal people. This is a proxy measure of the effectiveness of AAD in improving co-ordinated service delivery by others to achieve better social and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

SURVEY QUESTION INDICATOR: AAD HELPED YOUR COMMUNITY GAIN BETTER ACCESS TO SERVICES?

	1999/2000	2000/2001
Percent of sample reporting "Usually", "Mostly" or "Always" helped (average response)	47%	↑71%
Number of positive or negative respondents	78	136
Relevant client population for Indicator 1	181	236
Sampling error at 95% level of confidence	$\pm 8.4\%$	$\pm 5.0\%$
Boundary of confidence around the <i>average response</i> covering a 95% level of sampling error	38.6%-55.4%	66.0%-76.0%
↑ Denotes an improvement at 95% confidence level		

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator 2

Extent to which government agencies consider that information and advice has assisted their organisation in addressing the needs of Aboriginal people. This is a proxy measure of the effectiveness of AAD in co-ordinating service delivery by others and itself to achieve better social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

SURVEY QUESTION INDICATOR: AAD POLICY AND ADVICE ASSISTS YOUR ORGANISATION TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE?		
	1999/2000	2000/2001
Percent of sample reporting "Usually", "Mostly" or "Always" helped (average response)	64%	71%
Number of positive or negative or "not applicable" respondents	25	27
Relevant client population for Indicator 2	35	29
Sampling error at 95% level of confidence	±10.1%	±4.5%
Boundary of confidence around the <i>average response</i> covering a 95% level of sampling error	53.9%-74.1%	66.3%-75.3%

Indicator 3

The extent to which Aboriginal client groups are satisfied with the identification and protection of Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites. This is a proxy measure of the effectiveness of AAD in delivering services to achieve better cultural outcomes for Indigenous people.

SURVEY QUESTION INDICATOR: SATISFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT ABORIGINAL HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SITES?		
	1999/2000	2000/2001
Percent of sample reporting "Usually", "Mostly" or "Always" helped (average response)	51%	↑68%
Number of positive or negative respondents	78	123
Relevant client population for Indicator 3	181	236
Sampling error at 95% level of confidence	±8.4%	±5.7%
Boundary of confidence around the <i>average response</i> covering a 95% level of sampling error	42.6%-59.4%	62.3%-73.7%
↑ Denotes an improvement at 95% confidence level		

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator 4

The extent to which Aboriginal client groups are satisfied with the ongoing management and maintenance of Aboriginal Land Trust properties. This is a proxy measure of the effectiveness of AAD in delivering services to achieve better economic, social and cultural outcomes for Indigenous people.

SURVEY QUESTION INDICATOR: ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE ONGOING MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ALT PROPERTIES?		
	1999/2000	2000/2001
Percent of sample reporting "Usually", "Mostly" or "Always" helped (<i>average response</i>)	41%	54%
Number of positive or negative respondents	78	96
Relevant client population for Indicator 4	181	236
Sampling error at 95% level of confidence	±8.9%	±7.7%
Boundary of confidence around the <i>average response</i> covering a 95% level of sampling error	32.3%-50.1%	46.5%-61.9%



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key Performance Indicators Results 2000-2001: Efficiency of AAD service co-ordination and delivery.

The cost-efficiency of AAD in providing outputs is monitored for each of the Department's outputs, and relevant sub-outputs. All figures below are based on accrual costings.

INDICATORS OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH AGENCY OUTPUTS, AND RELEVANT SUB-OUTPUTS, ARE PROVIDED IN A COST-EFFICIENT MANNER			
	1999-2000 Actual	2000-2001 Actual	Budget target 2000-2001
Output 1. Information, advice to, facilitation for, Aboriginal People			
Average cost of requests for information, advice and support	\$606	\$859	\$680
<i>Variation in average cost of requests for information, advice and support 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, due to cost increases in regional service delivery and more extensive servicing of remote areas.</i>			
Average cost of community initiatives supported	\$27,582	\$23,400	\$23,875
Output 2: Information and Advice to Government			
Average cost of policy advice	\$7,678	\$4,654	\$6,084
<i>Variation in average cost of policy advice 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to greater throughput.</i>			
Average cost of regional interagency negotiations	\$17,985	\$12,149	\$23,333
<i>Variation in average cost of regional interagency negotiations 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to greater throughput.</i>			
Average cost of regional Aboriginal forums	\$71,498	\$63,829	\$126,302
Output 3. Assistance to Aboriginal Community-Based Patrols, Wardens and Town Reserves			
Average cost of patrol, warden and town reserve schemes financial assistance	\$75,179	\$55,406	\$70,149
Average cost of patrol, warden and town reserve schemes management support	\$11,396	\$14,791	\$13,669
<i>Variation in average cost of above two items 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to transfer of Community by-Laws Wardens scheme to WA Police Services</i>			
Output 4. Promotion and Protection of Sites, Culture and Family History			
Average cost of locally managing and protecting Aboriginal sites	\$10,352	\$10,123	\$10,167
Average cost of processing requests for sites information	\$224	\$106	\$233
<i>Variation in average cost of processing requests for sites information 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to greater throughput, impact of internet self-service technology.</i>			
Average cost of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (recommendations)	\$2,731	\$4,709	\$3,266
<i>Major variation in average cost 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to increase in data collection, data quality and data integrity</i>			
Average cost of processing requests for family history information	\$1,163	\$2,484	\$2,381
<i>Major variation in average cost 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to native title related requests from applicants, Native Title Representative bodies and Crown Solicitors Office which required high levels of family history information.</i>			
Output 5. Transfer and management of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Estate			
Average cost of land transfer program	\$18,945	\$15,319	\$20,716
Average cost of managing and maintaining ALT estate	\$3,571	\$8,123	\$2,661
<i>Major variation in average cost 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 due to increase in spending on properties prior to transfer, one-off acquisition of Kimberley mission lands using Commonwealth ATSIC funds</i>			





ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

(Department of Indigenous Affairs from 1 July 2001)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001**



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CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

The accompanying financial statements of the Aboriginal Affairs Department have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ending 30 June 2001 and the financial position as at 30 June 2001.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Richard Curry

Accountable Officer

Date: 31 August 2001



Stan Stylianou

Principal Accounting Officer

Date: 31 August 2001

OPINION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL



AUDITOR GENERAL

To the Parliament of Western Australia

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

Scope

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Aboriginal Affairs Department for the year ended June 30, 2001 under the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Accountable Officer is responsible for keeping proper accounts and maintaining adequate systems of internal control, preparing and presenting the financial statements, and complying with the Act and other relevant written law. The primary responsibility for the detection, investigation and prevention of irregularities rests with the Accountable Officer.

My audit was performed in accordance with section 79 of the Act to form an opinion based on a reasonable level of assurance. The audit procedures included examining, on a test basis, the controls exercised by the Department to ensure financial regularity in accordance with legislative provisions, evidence to provide reasonable assurance that the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements are free of material misstatement and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Treasurer's Instructions so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Department's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed below has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by the Aboriginal Affairs Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Activity/Output Schedule of Expenses and Revenue and Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates and the Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Department at June 30, 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
October 31, 2001

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	14	235	1,711
Receivables	15	213	101
Other assets	16	240	173
Total Current Assets		<u>688</u>	<u>1,985</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant, equipment and vehicles	17	759	1,001
Works of art	18	204	181
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>963</u>	<u>1,182</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,651</u>	<u>3,167</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	19	452	898
Provisions	20	770	899
Other liabilities	21	40	20
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,262</u>	<u>1,817</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	20	546	435
Total Liabilities		<u>1,808</u>	<u>2,252</u>
EQUITY			
Reserves	22	76	64
Accumulated surplus/(deficiency)		(233)	851
Total Equity		<u>(157)</u>	<u>915</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>1,651</u>	<u>3,167</u>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	4	9,888	8,323
Depreciation expense	5	441	350
Administration expenses	6	5,737	6,775
Accommodation expenses	7	1,266	1,129
Grants and subsidies	8	2,729	4,306
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	9	8	1
Total cost of services		20,069	20,884
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from ordinary activities	10	191	147
NET COST OF SERVICES		19,878	20,737
REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT			
Appropriations	11	17,771	17,757
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	12	959	221
Resources received free of charge	13	64	65
Total revenues from Government		18,794	18,043
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
		(1,084)	(2,694)
Net increase in asset revaluation reserve	22	12	64
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		12	64
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS			
		(1,072)	(2,630)

The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 (\$'000) Inflows (Outflows)	1999/00 (\$'000) Inflows (Outflows)
CASH FLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT			
Recurrent appropriations		17,771	17,307
Capital appropriations		0	450
Net cash provided by Government	11	17,771	17,757
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employees costs		(7,821)	(6,621)
Administration		(7,262)	(7,541)
Grants		(2,757)	(4,327)
Accommodation		(1,291)	(1,082)
GST payments		(1,130)	0
Receipts			
Revenues from services		193	133
Trust accounts receipts		0	30
Leave liability receipts		60	0
GST Receipts		1,003	0
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	23(b)	(19,005)	(19,408)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		3	20
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(246)	(736)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(243)	(716)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(1,477)	(2,367)
Cash assets at the beginning of the financial year		1,712	4,079
CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	23(a)	235	1,712

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ACTIVITY/OUTPUT SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES AND REVENUE

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Information, facilitation and advice to Aboriginal people	Information, facilitation and advice to Government and others	Aboriginal community- based patrols, wardens and town reserves	Promotion and protection of sites, heritage, culture and family history	Management and transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES						
Operating Expenses						
Salaries and related costs	1,858	2,613	606	1,526	1,139	7,742
Superannuation	230	321	75	189	141	959
Depreciation	106	149	35	87	65	441
Administration expenses	1,662	2,336	542	1,365	1,019	6,924
Accommodation expenses	304	427	99	250	186	1,266
Grants	1,223	85	930	202	289	2,729
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	2	2	1	2	1	8
Total Cost of Services	5,384	5,936	2,287	3,621	2,841	20,069
Operating Revenues	52	57	21	34	27	191
Net cost of services	5,333	5,878	2,266	3,586	2,814	19,878
REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT						
Amounts received from appropriations	4,798	5,331	1,955	3,199	2,488	17,771
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	259	288	105	173	134	959
Resources received free of charge	17	19	7	12	9	64
Total revenues from Government	5,074	5,638	2,067	3,383	2,631	18,794
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS						
	(258)	(240)	(199)	(203)	(183)	(1,084)

ACTIVITY/OUTPUT SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES AND REVENUE

for the year ended 30 June 2000

	Information, facilitation and advice to Aboriginal people	Information, facilitation and advice to Government and others	Assistance to Aboriginal community- based patrols, wardens and town reserves	Promotion and protection of sites, heritage, culture and family history	Management and transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES						
Operating Expenses						
Salaries and related costs	1,884	2,232	700	1,185	794	6,795
Superannuation	51	93	18	40	20	222
Depreciation	81	147	27	63	32	350
Administration expenses	2,075	2,941	565	1,217	1,284	8,082
Accommodation expenses	313	411	117	200	88	1,129
Grants	782	556	2,449	504	15	4,306
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	1					1
Total Cost of Services	5,187	6,380	3,876	3,209	2,233	20,885
Operating Revenues	40	55	10	32	11	148
Net cost of services	5,147	6,325	3,866	3,177	2,222	20,737
REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT						
Amounts received from appropriations	4,084	7,458	1,421	3,196	1,598	17,757
Resources received free of charge	15	27	5	12	6	65
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	51	93	18	40	20	221
Total revenues from Government	4,150	7,578	1,444	3,248	1,624	18,044
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS						
	(997)	1,253	(2,422)	71	(598)	(2,694)



SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE ESTIMATES

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Estimate (\$,000)	2000/01 Actual (\$,000)	Variation (\$,000)
RECURRENT			
Amount required to fund outputs for the year	17,667	17,600	67
Less retained revenues – Section 23A of the FAAA	180	191	(11)
Item 98 Amount provided to fund outputs for the year	17,487	17,409	78
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes			
Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	160	362	(202)
Total recurrent services	17,647	17,771	(124)
DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE			
Recurrent			
<u>OUTPUTS</u>			
Output 1			
Information, facilitation and advice to Aboriginal people	4,173	4,784	(611)
Output 2			
Information, facilitation and advice to Government and others	5,970	5,315	655
Output 3			
Assistance to Aboriginal community-based patrols, wardens and town reserves	2,701	1,949	752
Output 4			
Promotion and protection of sites, heritage, culture and family history	2,882	3,189	(307)
Output 5			
Management and transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate	2,243	2,481	(238)
Total	17,969	17,718	251
Less: Retained Revenue	0	(193)	(193)
Adjustments for cash balances and other funding sources	(322)	0	(322)
	17,647	17,525	122
Capital			
Asset replacement/maintenance	50	246	(196)
	50	246	(196)
Adjustments for cash balances and other funding sources	(50)		50
GRAND TOTAL OF APPROPRIATIONS	17,647	17,771	(124)
DETAILS OF REVENUE ESTIMATES			
Revenues disclosed as Operating Revenues	180	191	11
Total Revenue Estimates	180	191	11

The Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes. This summary provides the basis for the Explanatory Statement information requirements of TI 945.

SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE ESTIMATES

for the year ended 30 June 2000

	Estimate (\$,000)	1999/00 Actual (\$,000)	Variation (\$,000)
RECURRENT			
Amount required to fund outputs for the year	16,989	17,232	(243)
Less retained revenues – Section 23A of the FAAA	35	147	(112)
Item 98 Amount provided to fund outputs for the year	16,954	17,085	(131)
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes			
Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	160	222	(62)
Sub-total	17,114	17,307	(193)
CAPITAL			
Item 179 amount provided for capital services for the year	450	450	0
GRAND TOTAL	17,564	17,757	(193)
DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE			
Recurrent			
<u>OUTPUTS</u>			
Output 1			
Information, facilitation and advice to Aboriginal people	5,530	4,268	1,262
Output 2			
Information, facilitation and advice to Government and others	5,124	6,634	(1,510)
Output 3			
Assistance to Aboriginal community-based patrols, wardens and town reserves	2,514	3,457	(943)
Output 4			
Promotion and protection of sites, heritage, culture and family history	2,500	2,926	(426)
Output 5			
Management and transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate	2,786	2,311	475
Total	18,454	19,597	(1,143)
Less: Retained Revenue	(35)	(133)	(98)
Adjustments for cash balances and other funding sources	(1,305)	(2,157)	852
	17,114	17,307	(193)
Capital			
Asset replacement/maintenance	500	736	(236)
	500	736	(236)
Adjustments for cash balances and other funding sources	(50)	(286)	(236)
GRAND TOTAL OF APPROPRIATIONS	17,564	17,757	(193)
DETAILS OF REVENUE ESTIMATES			
Revenues disclosed as Operating Revenues	35	133	98
Total Revenue Estimates	35	133	98

1. DEPARTMENTAL MISSION AND FUNDING

A society where Indigenous Australians have greater ability to determine their own lives, where there is social and economic equity, respect and value for land, and Aboriginal heritage and culture.

The Department is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriation. The financial statements encompass all Funds through which the Department controls resources to carry on its functions.

In the process of reporting on the Department as a single entity, all intra-entity transactions and balances have been eliminated.

In line with Government direction following the "Machinery of Government" review, the Department changed its name on 1st July 2001 to the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

Unless otherwise stated these policies are consistent with those adopted in the previous year.

(a) General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary the application, disclosure, format and wording. The Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views. The modifications are intended to fulfil the requirements of general application to the public sector together with the need for greater disclosure and also to satisfy accountability requirements.

If any such modification has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and where practicable, the resulting financial effect is disclosed in individual notes to these financial statements.

(b) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AAS 29 as modified by Treasurer's Instruction 1101A (where Australian Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views are modified by Treasurer's instructions, any material or significant financial effects resulting are quantified where practicable and disclosed by way of note).

The statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, with the exception that certain non-current physical assets have been revalued from time to time, as stated in the Notes to these statements. Additions to non-current physical assets since valuation are stated at cost.

(c) Amounts received from appropriations

Appropriations in the nature of revenue, whether recurrent or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Department's bank account.

(d) Operating accounts

Amounts appropriated are deposited into the account and any revenues which are the subject of net appropriation determination are also deposited into the account. Revenues not subject to net appropriation determination are credited to the Consolidated Fund. All payments of the Department are made from the operating account.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(e) Non-current assets and depreciation

Items have been included as non-current assets if the purchase cost is \$1,000 or more or the written down value is more than \$1,000 and the economic life is expected to be two (2) years or more (except for works of art).

All non-current assets, with the exception of works of art, having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated to reflect the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Depreciation has been charged on a straight line basis using the following average lives:

- Information Technology Equipment = 3 years
- Other Equipment = 8 years
- Motor Vehicles = 8 years

Works of art controlled by the Department are classified as heritage assets. They are anticipated to have very long and indeterminate useful lives. The service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period. As such no amount for depreciation has been recognised in respect of them.

(f) Employee entitlements

Annual and long service leave

Annual leave entitlement is calculated at current remuneration rates and is measured at the amount unpaid at the reporting date in respect to employees' service up to that date.

A liability for long service leave is recognised and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given, when assessing expected future payments, to expected future wage and salary levels including relevant on costs, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using interest rates to obtain the estimated future cash outflows.

This method of measurement of the liability is consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards AAS 30 "Accounting for Employee Entitlements".

Superannuation

Staff contribute to the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act Scheme, a pension scheme now closed to new members, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme, a lump sum benefit scheme now also closed to new members, which are both defined benefits schemes. Staff who do not contribute to either scheme are non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme, an accumulation fund complying with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. The employer's portion of liability under all these schemes is assumed by the Treasurer.

The superannuation expense is comprised of the following elements:

- change in the unfunded employer's liability in respect of current employees who are members of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act Scheme and current employees who accrue a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme;
- notional employer contributions which would have been paid to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme if the Department had made concurrent employer contributions to that scheme; and
- notional employer contributions which would have been paid to the West State Superannuation Scheme if the Department had made concurrent employer contributions to that Scheme.

(The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the cost of services provided by the Department in the current year).

(g) Leases

The Department has entered into a number of operating lease arrangements for the rent of the office building where the lessor effectively retains all of the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the items held under the operating leases. Equal instalments of the lease payments are charged to the operating statement over the lease term as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA) Accounts

The Aboriginal Affairs Department was established on 1 November 1994, at which time it took over the operations of its originating agencies, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, the Department of Aboriginal Sites (Aboriginal Materials Preservation Fund), and the Office of Traditional Land Use.

The originating agencies were abolished as Departments with effect from 31 October 1994, however the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 provides for the continued existence of the AAPA as an Authority. This arrangement gives rise to a continuing requirement for separate preparation of financial statements for the AAPA despite the fact it no longer employs staff.

(i) Reporting of land values

The operations of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA), the Department of Aboriginal Sites (Aboriginal Materials Preservation Fund) and the Office of Traditional Land Use were effectively amalgamated on November 1, 1994 to form the Aboriginal Affairs Department (AAD). As at this date, assets (including land and buildings) and liabilities of the originating agencies were assumed by the new department and as a consequence were reported on by AAD.

A review of the relationship between the various agencies has determined that the AAPA (by virtue of its relationship with the Aboriginal Lands Trust, a body established under the AAPA Act 1972 and which is the effective decision making body in respect of Aboriginal property) should more appropriately report on property holdings. Accordingly, since 1995/96, values in respect of property have been reported on by the AAPA.

(j) Support provided to AAPA/Aboriginal Lands Trust

Decision making authority in respect of the Aboriginal land estate effectively resides with the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT), a body established under the auspices of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972.

When the Aboriginal Affairs Department (AAD) was established on 1 November 1994 it effectively took over the operations of its originating agencies, including the

Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA). Staff previously employed by the AAPA at that time were transferred to the AAD. As a consequence, administrative support for the AAPA and the ALT was provided by staff employed by the AAD. During 2000/01, this support has been estimated at approximately \$270,000 for the ALT but minimal for the AAPA.

(k) Receivables, Payables and Accrued Salaries

Accounts receivable are recognised at the amounts receivable as they are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of accounts receivable is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised where some doubts as to collection exists and particularly where the debt is more than 60 days overdue.

Accrued salaries suspense account consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account held at the Treasury, over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur in that year instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

Accounts Payable, including accruals not yet billed, are recognised when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Accounts Payable are generally settled within 30 days.

Accrued salaries represents the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the end of the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year.

(l) Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are not traded in an organised financial market – carrying amounts of debtors, accounts payable, and accruals approximate net fair value.

(m) Resources Received Free of Charge or For Nominal Value

Resources received free of charge or for nominal value which can be reliably measured are recognised as revenues and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(n) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the rendering of services, is recognised when the Department has passed control of the goods or other assets or delivery of the service to the customer.

(o) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified so as to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

3. ACTIVITIES/OUTPUTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Budget for 2000/01 was framed in terms of activities/outputs, consequently financial reporting for the year is also analysed in terms of activities/outputs.

Information about the Department's activities/outputs, and the expenses and revenues which are reliably attributable to those activities/outputs is set out in the Activities/Outputs Schedule. The Department has no administered expenses and revenues.

The identity and purpose of each major activity undertaken by the Department is set out in the "Chief Executive Officer's Overview" in the Report on Operations. The Department's outputs are given below.

OUTCOME: Better social, cultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities

Output 1: Information, facilitation and advice to Aboriginal people

Aboriginal people receive information, advice and facilitation to enable easier access to, and equitable outcomes from, existing services. Aboriginal communities and organisations obtain information, advice and assistance to develop and implement a variety of community and capacity building initiatives.

Output 2: Information, facilitation and advice to Government and others

Government and service providers receive information and advice to coordinate the delivery of across-government services, making them more appropriate to the needs of Aboriginal people.

They also receive information and advice gained from extensive consultation with a broad range of local representative groups including elders, regional councils and local forums.

Output 3: Assistance to Aboriginal community-based patrols, wardens and town reserves

Aboriginal organisations receive grants and management assistance to provide warden and patrol schemes; services, which assist the maintenance of civil order and divert Aboriginal people from harm or minimise harm. Aboriginal town reserves obtain management assistance to ensure better community and asset management.

Output 4: Promotion and protection of sites, heritage, culture and family history

The people of Western Australia have Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites and material recorded, preserved and protected in line with Aboriginal Heritage legislation. The public are made aware of Aboriginal culture and issues. Aboriginal people receive a family history service.

Output 5: Management and transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate

Management of land held in trust by the Aboriginal Lands Trust. Progressive transfer of the Trust's land to local Aboriginal organisations.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
4. EMPLOYEE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	7,751	6,705
Superannuation (Refer Note 12)	959	221
Other staffing costs	1,188	1,307
Change in annual and long service leave entitlements	(9)	90
	9,888	8,323
5. DEPRECIATION		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	441	350
6. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Expenses incurred during the year		
Communication	527	651
Services and contracts	2,928	3,400
Other	2,242	2,678
Resources received free of charge	40	46
	5,737	6,774
7. ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES		
Expenses incurred during the year	1,242	1,112
Resources received free of charge	24	17
	1,266	1,129
8. GRANTS		
Grants to non-government agencies	2,226	2,592
Transfers/contributions to other agencies	503	1,714
	2,729	4,306
9. NET LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Sale of IT equipment		
IT Equipment Written Down Value	1	11
Proceeds from sale	3	20
Gain on Sale of IT equipment	1	8
Sale of Office Equipment		
Office Equipment Written Down Value	9	9
Proceeds from sale	0	0
Loss on sale of office equipment	(9)	(9)
Net Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets	(8)	(1)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
10. REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
These consist of:		
Commonwealth Grants	55	17
Government Vehicle Scheme	32	23
Miscellaneous Revenue	94	55
Other	10	52
	191	147
11. AMOUNTS RECEIVED FROM APPROPRIATIONS		
Consolidated Fund		
Recurrent	17,409	17,085
Amount Authorised By Other Statutes	362	222
Capital		450
	17,771	17,757
12. LIABILITIES ASSUMED BY THE TREASURER		
Superannuation	959	221
13. RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Administration Expenses	40	45
Accommodation expenses	24	17
Information Technology Equipment	–	3
	64	65
<p>Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies. AAD accepts these estimates as reasonable for the services being provided.</p>		
Office of the Auditor General		
– external audit services	40	40
Government Property Office		
– property management services	24	17
Crown Solicitor's Office		
– various legal advice	–	4
State Supply Commission		
– transfer of information technology equipment	–	3
Department of Land Administration		
– land registration, land information and DOLA products	–	1
	64	65
14. CASH ASSETS		
Operating Account	25	1,523
Accrued Salaries Suspense Account	207	182
Cash on Hand	3	3
GEHA – Employee contribution	–	4
	235	1,712

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
15. RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade debtors	88	85
Provision for doubtful debts	(2)	–
GST receivable	127	16
	213	101
16. OTHER ASSETS		
Amount prepaid in respect of accommodation	111	72
Amount prepaid in respect of salary	–	5
Amounts prepaid in respect of administrative costs	98	96
Amounts prepaid in respect of grants	31	–
	240	173
17. PROPERTY, PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES		
Vehicles		
At cost	66	55
Accumulated depreciation	46	38
	20	17
Plant and equipment		
At valuation	147	151
At cost	205	155
Sub-total	352	306
Accumulated depreciation	145	106
	207	200
Information Technology Equipment		
At valuation	353	396
At cost	1,251	1,113
Sub-total	1,604	1,509
Accumulated depreciation	1,072	724
	532	784
Total property, plant, equipment and vehicles	759	1,001

Land and building values in respect of Aboriginal land have been reported on by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (refer Note 2(h) above). Plant and Equipment and Information Technology Equipment stated at valuation is the result of a change in the capitalisation policy together with a management evaluation of asset values effective 30 June 1997. At that time, these items were included as non-current items if their written down value or valuation was \$1,000 or more.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

17. PROPERTY, PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES (CON'T)

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant, equipment and vehicles at the beginning and end of the current financial year is set out below:

	Vehicles \$000	Plant & equipment \$000	Information Technology Equipment \$000	Total \$000
2000/01				
Carrying amount at start of year	17	200	784	1,001
Additions	11	58	141	210
Disposals	0	(13)	(45)	(58)
Revaluation increments	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	(8)	(38)	(349)	(395)
Carrying amount at end of year	20	207	532	759

	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
18. WORKS OF ART		
At valuation	189	181
At cost	14	–
	204	181

Works of art were revalued in accordance with an independent valuation which was undertaken by Gregsons Flanagan on the basis of current market value as at 30 June 2000.

19. PAYABLES

Accrued expenses	8	17
Amounts payable for goods and services received	284	704
Grants	–	5
Accrued salaries	160	172
	452	898

20. PROVISIONS

Current liabilities:		
Liability for annual leave	417	422
Liability for long service leave	353	477
	770	899
Non-current liabilities:		
Liability for long service leave	546	435

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
21. OTHER LIABILITIES		
Unclaimed monies	21	20
Account payable to AAPA	19	–
	40	20
22. EQUITY		
<p>Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department. The Government holds the equity interest in the Department on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.</p>		
Reserves		
Asset revaluation reserve		
Opening balance	64	–
Net revaluation increments:		
Works of art	12	64
Closing balance	76	64
Accumulated surplus/(deficiency)		
Opening balance	851	3,544
Change in net assets resulting from operations	(1,084)	(2,694)
Closing balance	(233)	851
23. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
<p>For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, 'cash' has been deemed to include cash on hand and amounts in suspense. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:</p>		
Cash assets	235	1,712

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	2000/01 (\$'000)	1999/00 (\$'000)
23. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)		
(b) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(19,005)	(19,408)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	(441)	(350)
Liability assumed by Treasurer	(959)	(221)
Resources received free of charge	(64)	(65)
Loss on disposal of non-current asset	(8)	(1)
Increase/(decrease) in assets:		
Current receivables	111	67
Other current assets	66	(44)
(Increase)/decrease in liabilities:		
Current payables	445	(485)
Current and non-current provisions	17	(200)
Other current liabilities	20	–
Leave liability receipt relating to prior year	(60)	(30)
Net cost of services	<u>(19,878)</u>	<u>(20,737)</u>

24. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Department does not have any finance lease commitments.

At the reporting date, the Department had the following obligations under non-cancellable operating leases (these obligations are not recognised as liabilities):

Not later than one year	1,667	1,811
Later than one year and not later than two years	1,391	1,410
Later than two years and not later than five years	1,322	3,491
Later than five years	3,219	2,530

25. OTHER COMMITMENTS

There were no other material commitments as at 30 June 2001.

26. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Department had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2001.

27. EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

No information has become apparent since balance date which materially affect the Financial Statements.



28. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Summary of Consolidated Funds Appropriation Compliance and Revenue Estimates discloses appropriations and other statutes expenditure estimates, the actual expenditures made and revenue estimates and payments into Consolidated Fund, all on a cash basis.

(A) Significant variations where actual revenues exceeded or were less than a revenue item, or exceeded or were less than other statutes estimated for the financial year.

STATUTE: Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 (\$202K Favourable).

Additional funds to facilitate contract expiry.

(B) Significant variations where actual expenditures exceeded or were less than budget estimates.

Salaries (\$732K Unfavourable) Estimate \$7,010,000

2000/01 expenditure reflects the full year effect of additional regional based staff.

Superannuation (\$339K Unfavourable) Estimate \$620,000

Additional charges for 1999/00 \$260k, adjusted this year together with higher staffing numbers in regional offices.

Depreciation (\$75K Unfavourable) Estimate \$366,000

Additional asset purchases during the year mainly for new regional offices.

Services and contracts (\$1,677K Favourable) Estimate \$4,605,000

Reduced expenses for contract staff due to appointment of permanent staff; reduced costs for consultants following rationalisation of programs and consequent increased use of permanent staff.

Other administration expenses (\$764 Unfavourable) Estimate \$3,256,000

Additional costs for new office rentals, costs for advertising for regional positions due to higher than expected turnover, increased costs for communication for regional offices and additional costs for vehicles to comply with OHS standards.

Grants and subsidy payments (\$1,029K Unfavourable) Estimate \$1,700,000

Grant to the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley of \$1.0m for the Derby Recreation Centre was expended in 2000/01 against budgeted payment in June 2000.

(C) Significant variations between actual outcomes for the financial year and outcomes for the immediate preceding financial year.

Employee expenses (\$1,566K Unfavourable)

Additional permanent staff employed following the expansion of the Department's regional office network.

Administration expenses (\$1,038K Favourable)

Reduced costs for consultants and contract staff.

Grants and subsidies (\$1,577K Favourable)

General reduction in grant funding including the effect of the transfer, from 1st July 2000, of the Town Reserves Program to the Ministry of Housing and the Wardens Scheme to the WA Police Service.

Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer (\$738K Unfavourable)

Additional superannuation charges for 1999/00 \$260k, adjusted this year together with higher staffing numbers in regional offices.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

29. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCLOSURES

2000/01

Interest rate risk exposure

The Department's exposure to interest rate risk, repricing maturities and the effective interest rate on financial instruments are:

30 June 2001	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate maturities			Non interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
			1 year or less \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000		
ASSETS							
Cash resources						235	235
Restricted cash resources							
Accounts receivable						213	213
Investments							
Total financial assets						448	448
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable						292	292
Accrued salaries						160	160
Borrowings from WATC							
Lease liabilities							
Employee entitlements						1,316	1,316
Total financial liabilities						1,768	1,768
Net financial assets/(liabilities)						(1,320)	(1,320)

Credit Risk Exposure

Amounts owing by other government agencies are guaranteed and therefore no credit risk exists in respect of those amounts. In respect of other financial assets the carrying amounts represent the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to those assets.

The following is an analysis of amounts owing by other government agencies:

	\$'000
Western Australian Government agencies	70

The credit exposure of forward foreign exchange contracts is represented by the net fair values of the contracts. At balance date, the Department had no foreign exchange contracts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

29. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCLOSURES (CONTINUED)

1999/00

Interest rate risk exposure

The Department's exposure to interest rate risk, repricing maturities and the effective interest rate on financial instruments are:

30 June 2000	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate maturities			Non interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
			1 year or less \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000		
ASSETS							
Cash resources						1,711	1,711
Restricted cash resources							
Accounts receivable						101	101
Investments							
Total financial assets						1,812	1,812
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable						726	726
Accrued salaries						172	172
Borrowings from WATC							
Lease liabilities							
Employee entitlements						1,334	1,334
Total financial liabilities						2,232	2,232
Net financial assets/(liabilities)						(420)	(420)

Credit Risk Exposure

Amounts owing by other government agencies are guaranteed and therefore no credit risk exists in respect of those amounts. In respect of other financial assets the carrying amounts represent the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to those assets.

The following is an analysis of amounts owing by other government agencies:

	\$'000
Western Australian Government agencies	60
Government agencies of other jurisdictions	—
Total	60

The credit exposure of forward foreign exchange contracts is represented by the net fair values of the contracts. At balance date, the Department had no foreign exchange contracts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	2000/01	1999/00
30. REMUNERATION AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF SENIOR OFFICERS		
Remuneration		
The number of Senior Officers whose total of fees, salaries and other benefits received, or due and receivable, for the financial year, who fall within the following bands is:	4	6
\$		
10,001 to 20,000	–	1
60,001 to 70,000	–	1
80,001 to 90,000	–	1
100,001 to 110,000	1	1
120,001 to 130,000	1	–
130,001 to 140,000	–	1
140,001 to 150,000	1	–
230,001 to 240,000	–	1
250,001 to 260,000	1	–
	2000/01	1999/00
	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
The total remuneration of senior officers is:	634	640
Retirement Benefits		
The following amounts in respect of retirement benefits for senior officers were paid or became payable for the financial year:		
1. Redundancy payments	107	–
2. Notional contributions to Gold State Superannuation Scheme Act	40	37
Four senior officers are members of the Gold State Superannuation Scheme.		
31. AFFILIATED BODIES		
During the course of the year the Department provided funding to various Government and non-Government agencies. Of the non-government organisations, it may have occurred during the financial year, that some of them would be defined affiliated bodies under the terms of Treasurer's Instruction 951. Due to regulations imposed on grant recipients, financial acquittals are by the provision of a financial statement detailing expenditure of that particular grant only. The statement provided does not always disclose other income sources, and therefore the Department is not in a position to accurately determine which of the grant recipients are classified as an affiliated body.		
32. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION		
<u>Write-offs</u>		
Approved by Chief Executive Officer		
Salary Overpayment	7	–
Other administrative items	–	3
	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001**



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Annual Report

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning authority was abolished on 31 October 1994 to make way for the new Aboriginal Affairs Department.

The operation of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 provides for the continued existence of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority as a body corporate which the Minister alone constitutes and produces a requirement for an annual report.

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority ceased to employ staff with effect from 1 November 1994, and tasks and activities relevant to its charter are performed by staff of the then new Aboriginal Affairs Department, which was established on that date.

In view of the above, a report on operations and performance indicators have not been produced for the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority. For information in relation to these aspects, reference should be made to the Aboriginal Affairs Department's Annual Report.

Financial transactions through the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority's accounts were minimal in nature and are appended.

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

The accompanying financial statements of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2001 and the financial position as at 30 June 2001.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Richard Curry
Acting Commissioner for
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority
31 August 2001

Stan Stylianou
Principal Accounting Officer
31 August 2001

OPINION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL



AUDITOR GENERAL

To the Parliament of Western Australia

THE ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS PLANNING AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

Scope

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority for the year ended June 30, 2001 under the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Authority is responsible for keeping proper accounts and maintaining adequate systems of internal control, preparing and presenting the financial statements, and complying with the Act and other relevant written law. The primary responsibility for the detection, investigation and prevention of irregularities rests with the Authority.

My audit was performed in accordance with section 79 of the Act to form an opinion based on a reasonable level of assurance. The audit procedures included examining, on a test basis, the controls exercised by the Authority to ensure financial regularity in accordance with legislative provisions, evidence to provide reasonable assurance that the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements are free of material misstatement and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Treasurer's Instructions so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed below has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows and the Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Authority at June 30, 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
October 31, 2001

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Restricted Cash Assets	10, 15(a)	938,158	843,427
Cash Assets	10, 15(a)	185,952	607,396
Receivables	11	20,567	–
Other Assets	12	5,221	–
Total Current Assets		<u>1,149,898</u>	<u>1,450,823</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	13	<u>42,616,243</u>	<u>43,282,402</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>42,616,243</u>	<u>43,282,402</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>43,766,141</u>	<u>44,733,225</u>
Equity			
Reserves	14	42,819,238	43,673,404
Accumulated Surplus		946,903	1,059,821
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>43,766,141</u>	<u>44,733,225</u>

The Statement of Financial Position must be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses from Ordinary Activities			
Supplies and services	2	3,509	–
Depreciation expense	3	317,856	330,204
Administration expenses	4	13,447	11,140
Accommodation	5	7,478	3,806
Grants and subsidies		–	31,350
Net Loss on Disposal of non-current assets	1 e (ii), 6	77,000	1,967,696
Other expenses on ordinary activities	7	130,733	634,306
Total Cost of Services		550,023	2,978,502
Revenue from Ordinary Activities			
Interest Income		28,108	54,373
Mining Royalties		91,127	210,325
Intestate Monies		24,768	42,691
Other Income		26,751	22,634
Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities		170,754	330,023
NET COST OF SERVICES	15(b)	(379,269)	(2,648,479)
REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT			
Transfers from Other Organisations	8	250,000	–
Resources Received Free of Charge	9	16,351	87,900
Total Revenue from Government		266,351	87,900
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
Net (decrease)/increase in asset revaluation reserve	14	(854,166)	3,756,703
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		(854,166)	3,756,703
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS			
		(967,084)	1,196,124

The Statement of Financial Performance must be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT			
Grant from Aboriginal Affairs Department	8	250,000	–
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Payments to suppliers		(33,210)	(9,767)
Transfer to other organisations	7	(100,000)	–
Payments for grants and subsidies		–	(634,300)
Intestate disbursements		(30,733)	(32,967)
Other payments		(40)	(6)
		(163,983)	(677,040)
Receipts			
Royalties		91,127	210,325
Mining rents		1,347	–
Interest received		22,887	54,373
Intestate monies received		24,768	42,691
Rent received		24,004	22,632
		164,133	330,021
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	15(b)	150	(347,019)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of non-current assets		(576,863)	–
Net cash used in investing activities		(576,863)	–
Net decrease in cash held		(326,713)	(347,019)
Cash assets at the beginning of the financial year		1,450,823	1,797,842
CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	10, 15(a)	1,124,110	1,450,823

The Statement of Cash Flows must be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements. Unless otherwise stated, these policies are consistent with those adopted in the previous year.

a) General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format, and wording. The Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views. The modifications are intended to fulfil the requirements of general application to the public sector together with the need for greater disclosure and also to satisfy accountability requirements.

If any such modification has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and where practicable, the resulting financial effect, are disclosed in individual notes to these financial statements.

The statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, with the exception of certain non-current assets which have been stated at valuation as provided by the Valuer General's Office.

b) Grants and Other Contributions Revenue

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon their receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value.

Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

c) Acquisition of Non-Current Assets

i) Revaluation Policy

It is the intention of the Authority to revalue property at regular intervals on an on-going basis in conjunction with the Valuer General's Office. Revaluation increments are credited directly to an asset revaluation reserve. Where the carrying amount of an individual asset is greater than its recoverable amount, the asset is revalued to its recoverable amount. To the extent that a revaluation increment previously credited to, and is still included in the balance of the asset revaluation reserve, the decrement is debited directly to that reserve, otherwise the decrement is recognised as an expense in the income and expenditure account. The Land Register of the Authority was reconciled during 2000/01 to the Government Property Register.

Specific valuation methodologies in respect of various classes of assets are detailed below.

ii) Land and Buildings

Land (including Reserves, Pastoral Leases and Freehold) and Buildings and capital improvements were valued by the Valuer General's Office based on a current fair market value as at June 2001. A small number of properties are currently valued as of July 1998 and July 1999.

d) Depreciation of non-current assets

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is provided for on the straight line basis, using rates which are reviewed annually.

Rates used are:

Buildings 2% per annum.

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

e) (i) Property Holdings – Aboriginal Lands Trust

The operations of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA), the Aboriginal Materials Preservation Fund and the Office of Traditional Land Use were effectively amalgamated on 1 November 1994 to form the Aboriginal Affairs Department (AAD). As at this date, assets (including land and buildings) and liabilities of the originating agencies were assumed by the new department and as a consequence were reported on by AAD.

A review of the relationship between the various agencies has determined that the AAPA (by virtue of its relationship with the Aboriginal Lands Trust, a body established under the AAPA Act 1972 and which is the effective decision making body in respect of Aboriginal property) should more appropriately report on property holdings. Accordingly, 2000/01 values in respect of property have been reported on by the AAPA.

(ii) Net Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets

The program of handing land back to its original holders was begun in 1999/00. During the year properties administered by the Aboriginal Lands Trust were transferred to the Aboriginal communities for no consideration. The land hand back process is expected to continue for the next five to seven years.

f) Resources Received Free of Charge or For Nominal Value

Resources received free of charge or for nominal value which can be reliably measured are recognised as revenues and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value.

The AAPA Act allows for the acquisition of unvested land where it has been shown to have been used by Aboriginal people. The land is transferred to the ALT free of charge and becomes part of the land transfer program. These transactions are of an adhoc nature and vary from year to year.

g) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the rendering of services, is recognised when the Authority has passed control of the goods or other assets or delivery of the service to the customer.

h) Expenditure on Restricted Assets

A portion of the funds held in the Mining Rents and Royalties Account were transferred to Aboriginal communities upon whose land mining activities had taken place. The transfer process began in 1999/00 and is expected to continue on an ongoing basis whenever rents or royalties are received by the Authority.

i) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified so as to be comparable with the figures presented in the financial year.



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
2 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES			
Contractors		3,509	–
3 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE			
Buildings		317,856	330,204
4 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Other costs		13,447	11,140
5 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES			
Maintenance		7,478	3,806
6 LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
2000/01 – Certificate of Title Volume 1565 Folio 459 Boulder Lot 3048 to Eastern Goldfields Aboriginal Corporation Resource Agency		77,000	1,967,696
1999/00 – Various properties			
7 OTHER EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Transfer to Agriculture Western Australia (see Note 16)		100,000	–
Other expenses		30,733	634,306
		130,733	634,306
8 TRANSFERS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS			
State Government Transfer			
– Aboriginal Affairs Department		250,000	–
9 RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE			
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:			
Office of the Auditor General (Audit fees)		7,000	6,000
Aboriginal Affairs Department (Transfer)		6,000	–
DOLA – (Transfer of land and buildings)		3,351	81,900
		16,351	87,900
10 RESTRICTED CASH ASSETS AND CASH AT BANK			
Restricted cash assets		938,158	843,427
Funds – Cash at Bank		185,952	607,396
		1,124,110	1,450,823
11 RECEIVABLES			
Current Debtors		20,853	–
GST Receivable		(286)	–
		20,567	–
12 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS			
Accrued interest income		5,221	–
		5,221	–

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	1(c)		
Land			
Freehold land held by the Authority		7,063,600	6,571,652
Reserves under the control of the Authority		19,710,500	20,574,350
Pastoral leases held by the Authority		147,200	174,900
Other leases held by the Authority		446,200	301,400
At fair value (1)		27,367,500	27,622,302
Buildings			
At fair value (1)		15,892,800	15,986,302
Accumulated depreciation		(644,057)	(326,201)
		15,248,743	15,660,101
		42,616,243	43,282,403

(1) The revaluation of the majority of land and buildings was performed in June 2001 in accordance with an independent valuation by the Valuer General's Office. Fair value has been determined on the basis of current market buying values. The valuation was made in accordance with a regular policy of annual revaluation.

Reconciliation:

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year is set out below.

2000/01	Freehold Land \$	Reserves \$	Pastoral Leases \$	Other Leases \$	Buildings \$	Total \$
Carrying amount at start of year	6,571,652	20,574,350	174,900	301,400	15,660,101	43,282,403
Additions	500,000	6,250	–	–	76,863	583,113
Disposals	(77,000)	–	–	–	–	(77,000)
Revaluation changes	68,948	(870,100)	(27,700)	144,800	(170,365)	(854,417)
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	(317,856)	(317,856)
Carrying amount at end of year	7,063,600	19,710,500	147,200	446,200	15,248,743	42,616,243

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
14 EQUITY			
Reserves			
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Opening balance		43,673,404	39,916,701
Net revaluation (decrements)/increments:			
Land		(683,801)	647,901
Buildings		(170,365)	3,108,802
Closing balance		42,819,238	43,673,404
Accumulated Surplus			
Opening balance		1,059,821	3,620,401
Change in net assets		(112,918)	(2,560,579)
Closing balance		946,903	1,059,821

15 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows :

Restricted cash	938,158	843,427
Funds – Cash at Bank	185,952	607,396
Cash Assets per Statement of Cash Flows	1,124,110	1,450,823

(b) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating

Net Cost of Services (Statement of Financial Performance)	(379,269)	(2,648,479)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	317,856	330,204
Resources Received Free of Charge (net)	10,351	6,000
Net Loss on Sale of Assets, etc.	77,000	1,967,696
(Increase)/decrease in assets:		
Debtors	(20,853)	–
GST Payable	286	–
Accrued Income	(5,221)	–
Increase/(Decrease) in liabilities:	–	(2,440)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	150	(347,019)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

16 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Authority receives no appropriations from the Consolidated Fund and therefore comparison to Estimates is not applicable.

Net Loss on disposal of Non-Current Assets

The program of handing land back to its original holders began in 1999/00. During the year, properties administered by the Aboriginals Lands Trust were transferred to Aboriginal communities for no consideration. The land hand back process is expected to continue for the next five to seven years.

Expenditure on Restricted Assets (see also Note 7)

A portion of the funds held in the Mining Rents and Royalties Account were transferred to Aboriginal communities upon whose land mining activities had taken place. The transfer process began in 1999/00. In 2000/01, the Authority transferred \$100,000 to Agriculture WA for community-based landcare projects. Payments from the account will continue for community projects.

Other Expenses from Ordinary Activities \$130,733 (99/00 – \$634,306)

The decrease in expenditure in this category is attributable to reduced grant payments on restricted assets as detailed in the above note.

Resources Received Free of Charge \$16,351 (99/00 – \$87,900)

The AAPA Act allows for the acquisition of unvested land where it has been shown to have been used by Aboriginal people. The land is transferred to the ALT free of charge and becomes part of the land transfer program. These transactions are of an ad-hoc nature and vary from year to year.

17 INTEREST RATE RISK EXPOSURE

2000/01

The Authority's exposure to interest rate risk, re-pricing maturities and the effective interest rates on financial instruments are:

30 June 2001	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate maturities			Non interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
			1 year or less \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000		
ASSETS							
Cash resources	5.66%	186					186
Restricted cash resources	5.66%	938					938
Accounts receivable							
Investments							
Total financial assets		1,124					1,124
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable							
Net financial assets/(liabilities)		1,124					1,124

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

17 INTEREST RATE RISK EXPOSURE (CONT'D)

1999/00

The Authority's exposure to interest rate risk, re-pricing maturities and the effective interest rates on financial instruments are:

30 June 2000	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate maturities			Non interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
			1 year or less \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000		
ASSETS							
Cash resources						605	605
Restricted cash resources	4.8		55			791	846
Accounts receivable							
Investments							
Total financial assets			55			1,396	1,451
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable							
Net financial assets/(liabilities)			55			1,396	1,451

Credit risk exposure

All financial assets are unsecured.

Amounts owing by other government agencies are guaranteed and therefore no credit risk exists in respect of those amounts. In respect of other financial assets the carrying amounts represent the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to those assets.

18 CONTINGENT LIABILITY

The Department is liaising with the Department of Environmental Protection to identify the extent of the liability and responsibility for remedial action with respect to pollution on land holdings of the Aboriginal Lands Trust at Cullacabardee and Gngangara.

19 RELATED BODY

The Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) was deemed a related body by the Treasurer by virtue of Section 3(b) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985. The revenue and expenditures and assets and liabilities of the ALT have been included within the financial statements of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

20 C L JOHNSON BEQUEST TRUST ACCOUNT

Purpose

To hold funds for the purpose of enabling the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority to administer in accordance with the bequest of the late Christian Larsen Johnson to the Department of Native Welfare (now abolished) for the benefit of Aboriginal Missionaries in Western Australia during illness.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2001

Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
Opening balance	1,939	1,937
Receipts: Interest	1	2
Total receipts	1	2
Closing balance	1,940	1,939

Balance of funds are held in a savings account with the Commonwealth Bank.

21 HENRIETTA DRAKE-BROCKMAN TRUST ACCOUNT

Purpose

To hold funds for the purpose of enabling the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority to administer in accordance with the bequest of the late Henrietta Drake-Brockman, a prize annually in the form of books, apparatus, equipment, etc to the Aboriginal student (boy or girl) who achieves the highest Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE) aggregate results in Western Australia.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2001

Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
Opening balance	2,752	2,752
Less payments	9	—
Total payments	9	—
Closing balance	2,743	2,752

Balance of funds are held in a savings account with the Challenge (Westpac) Bank.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

22 MINING RENTS AND ROYALTIES TRUST ACCOUNT

Purpose

This account was established at the discretion of the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) to collect revenues from mining companies as compensation for mining activities on Aboriginal Lands. Funds are disbursed in accordance with ALT resolutions and must be expended on land related matters.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
Opening balance		786,167	1,155,779
Receipts:			
Interest		11,860	54,369
Royalties		91,127	210,325
Mining Rents		1,347	–
Total receipts		104,334	264,694
Less payments			
Bank fees		–	6
Grants		–	634,300
Total payments		–	634,306
Closing balance		890,501	786,167

These funds are held in Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Operating account with the Commonwealth Bank.

23 INTESTATE TRUST ACCOUNT

Purpose

To hold intestate funds for the purpose of enabling the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority to administer pursuant with section 35 of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2001

	Note	2000/01 \$	1999/00 \$
Opening balance		52,565	42,844
Receipts:			
Interest		2,727	2,601
Intestate Revenue		24,768	40,090
Total receipts		27,495	42,691
Less payments			
Intestate Disbursements		37,086	32,970
Closing balance		42,974	52,565

These funds are held in Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Operating account with the Commonwealth Bank.

24 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A total of \$Nil (1999/00 – nil) being debts due to the State or assets belonging to the State, were written off by the Commissioner of Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

a) Losses Written Off

There were no losses written off by the Authority during the 2000/01 financial year (1999/00 – nil).

b) Gifts of Public Property

There were no gifts of public property provided by the Authority during the 2000/01 financial year (1999/00 – nil).

c) Consolidated Fund Revenues Due and Uncollected

As at 30 June 2001 there were no revenues due and uncollected.

d) Expenditure Commitments

There are no outstanding expenditure commitments against the Consolidated Fund as at 30 June 2001 (30 June 2000 – nil).

e) Events Occurring After Balance Date

There have been no material events occurring after 30 June 2001 as defined in Australian Accounting Standard No. 8.

