

TITLE: A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE AIATSIS LANGUAGE PROGRAM
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Abstract

AIATSIS is developing a strategic vision and plan for its language program for the next ten years. In this paper I present some of our preliminary plans for the future of the AIATSIS Language Program, and seek the input of the Australian linguistics community during this planning phase.

We seek to position ourselves as a national program for research and resources on Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, operating in a nexus between communities, researchers, FATSIL and regional language centres, State and Federal Governments and the wider Australian public.

Our priorities include facilitating access to existing archived materials; engaging communities and other stakeholders in language research and development; improving government policies relating to Indigenous languages; and, raising the profile and status of Indigenous languages.

We aim to achieve these priorities with activities in five key areas:

1. Language Documentation and Research
2. Language Policy Research
3. Community Development and Language
4. Language Tools and Resources
5. Communicating about Languages

I present preliminary project proposals for each of these activity areas, and welcome suggestions from the Australian linguistics community.

Keywords AIATSIS, Government, FATSIL, community development, language policy

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