ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY

THE ROYAL COMMISSION AND ITS RECORDS, 1987–91

Peter Nagle and Richard Summerrell
This guide is number 2 in the series of Research Guides published by the National Archives. Guides include the material known to be relevant to their subject area but they are not necessarily a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material in the collection.

The National Archives reviews its collection to confirm the value of records for research, evidential and other purposes or to identify, in consultation with agencies, records for destruction. At the time of publication all the records described in this guide were present in the Archives collection. However it is possible that some of the records may be destroyed if they are reviewed and considered not to be of enduring value. If this occurs, the guide will be revised accordingly.

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INTRODUCTION

The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia ensures that full and accurate records documenting Commonwealth government activities are created and kept. From this massive body of information the Archives selects, cares for and makes available to all, those records of continuing value. This collection constitutes the archives of the Commonwealth government – a vast and rich resource for the study of Australian history, Australian society and the Australian people.

The collection spans almost 200 years of Australian history. The main focus of the collection is material which documents Federal government activities since Federation in 1901. There are also significant holdings of nineteenth-century records which relate to functions that were transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth government at the time of Federation and subsequently. The records described in this Guide are a small but significant part of the collection.

Access to the collection is provided free of charge in public reading rooms located in each capital city. Researchers are assisted by specialist reference staff and also have available to them a range of reference tools to help them identify and use the records in the collection. These reference tools include databases, guides, publications and fact sheets. Researchers unable to visit a reading room may seek information and assistance by telephone, mail, facsimile or email.

More information about the Archives, the collection and the services provided to researchers is provided on the Archives’ Internet site. The site contains descriptions of some of the most frequently used records in the collection and includes images of some original documents and photographs. It also provides online access to the Archives’ databases, which you can use to search detailed descriptions of the collections as well as descriptions of over 2 million individual items and many of our photographic collections. A visit to the site will help you determine whether the Archives holds records that may assist with your research. The site also provides links to other archives in Australia. The site is located at www.naa.gov.au.

Using this Guide

This Guide has been produced to assist you to identify and use the records of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).

This description of how the Guide is arranged is followed by background information on the powers and functioning of Royal Commissions to help you understand how Royal Commissions work. Then follows information about the work of the RCIADIC itself, the types of records it created, the way the records are arranged, the Commission’s recommendations on public access to its records, and an explanation of how to seek access to the records.

The main body of the Guide provides descriptive information about the records of the Commission. It is divided into six chapters which deal with: the case records; the underlying issues records; research material; the papers of the Commissioners and staff; the records of legal counsel assisting the Commission; and the Commission’s administrative records.
Within each chapter a description is given of the records created by the Commission, where they are located and the access arrangements that apply to each group of records.

The Guide concludes with several appendixes. These summarise the Commission’s terms of reference; list the names of the deceased persons whose cases were inquired into by the Commission; list relevant acronyms and abbreviations; and suggest further reading and other sources of archival material in the collection relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A list of other guides to records published by the Archives and our contact addresses are provided at the end of the Guide.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

The records described in each of the six chapters of the Guide are listed in numerical order according to their CRS (Commonwealth Record Series) number. The CRS number is derived from the CRS system, which is the main system of arrangement and control used by the Archives to identify and describe Commonwealth records. Under the CRS system, records are described and controlled as series (groups of related record items), with each series being given a unique CRS number, title and description. The CRS number must be cited in any inquiry about the records. It provides a useful shorthand way of referring to a specific series. For example, the group of records identified by the Archives as CRS D4096 is known as ‘Exhibit records, multiple number series, with variable alpha prefix’. This series contains exhibits tendered to the Commission. It may be referred to simply as D4096.

The descriptive information provided about each series includes:

- its CRS (series) number
- its title
- a short description of its contents
- the date range of the records in the series
- the quantity of records in the series in shelf metres
- the office of the National Archives in which the series is located
- some examples of the types of records to be found in the series
- the arrangements governing public access to the individual records in the series.

Many series are located in more than one Archives office. This is in accordance with recommendation 57 of the Commission, which provided that the records should be held in the State or Territory in which they were created or collected by the Commission.

The items in these series are described at both series and item level in RecordSearch, the Archives’ online database. It can be accessed in our reading rooms and on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

Detailed information about how to obtain access to the records is given under ‘Access to the Records’ on page 10.
Royal Commissions

CREATION AND POWERS

Royal Commissions are established for various reasons. Allegations of corruption or impropriety may be made against Government officials which need to be investigated. Commissions can also be formed to determine the cause of disasters, such as the sinking of HMAS Voyager in 1964. When the Government decides to establish a Royal Commission, it advises the Governor-General.

Each Commission is established by ‘Letters Patent’. These are issued and signed by the Governor-General on behalf of the Sovereign. They name the Commissioner(s), set out the terms of reference by which the Commissioner will function, and nominate a date by which the Commissioner is expected to report his/her findings. The terms of reference outline the matters the Commissioner will investigate and often include the means by which the investigation is to be conducted. Copies of the Letters Patent are printed in the Commonwealth Gazette.

Royal Commissions are normally established by one government. There are, however, instances of Commissions established jointly by the Commonwealth and one or more State governments. This can be done in order to investigate matters of concern to the Commonwealth and State governments.

In the course of their operations, Royal Commissions may conduct their own research, commission research, receive written submissions and hold hearings. During these hearings interested persons and organisations can attend and give evidence if they are given leave to do so. Other persons may be called as witnesses. Notification of hearings and requests for submissions will appear in major newspapers soon after a Commission’s establishment. Most proceedings are held in open session, though they can be held ‘in camera’ (not open to the public) should the Commissioner so decide. Royal Commissions have the power to compel witnesses to appear and give evidence, and to produce written evidence that the Commission deems to be of relevance. These powers are held by all Royal Commissions by virtue of the Royal Commissions Act 1902.

STRUCTURE

A secretariat is usually established for a Royal Commission to assist the Commissioner(s) in fulfilling the terms of reference. Staff may include a secretary, legal representatives, research officers, and various administrative support staff. Most staff members join the Commission on a temporary transfer from other Departments and return to those Departments when the Commission’s work has been concluded.

RECORDS

Generally, Royal Commissions create their own records and receive them from other sources. These may include transcripts of hearings, both public and ‘in camera’, submissions from interested groups and individuals, exhibits, administrative correspondence, research and consultants’ reports, interim reports and the final report. The final report, which sets out the Commission’s findings and recommendations, is presented to the Governor-General. The Report is then usually tabled in Parliament by the Prime Minister and subsequently printed in the Parliamentary Papers. Some reports or parts of reports may be made on a confidential
basis and are not tabled or made available to the public. Administrative control of all Commission records once a Royal Commission is completed falls to the Department which currently has responsibility for the Royal Commissions Act 1902. Since 1902 the Act has been administered by the following Departments:

1902–12 Department of External Affairs
1912–71 Prime Minister’s Department
1971–72 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1972–75 Department of the Special Minister of State
1975–77 Department of Administrative Services
1977–present Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

PUBLIC ACCESS TO ROYAL COMMISSION RECORDS

Once a Commission has completed its work its records are transferred to the National Archives. Public access to these records is provided after 30 years in accordance with the provisions of the Archives Act 1983. In some cases Royal Commission records such as transcripts of public hearings and non-confidential submissions may be released before they are 30 years old.

In exceptional circumstances approval may be given to the special or accelerated release of other records from a particular Royal Commission before they are 30 years old.

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

On 10 August 1987 the then Prime Minister, the Honourable R J L Hawke, announced the formation of a Royal Commission to investigate the causes of deaths of Aboriginals while held in State and Territory jails. The Royal Commission was established in response to a growing public concern that deaths in custody of Aboriginal people were too common and poorly explained. This Commonwealth Royal Commission was the 108th since Federation.

The establishment of the Commission and the appointment of the Honourable Mr Justice Muirhead as Royal Commissioner had the support of all State and Territory governments.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION

The Letters Patent formally establishing the Commission were issued by the Governor-General on 16 October 1987. At this stage Justice Muirhead was to look at all deaths in custody since 1 January 1980 and actions taken in respect of those deaths. Similar Letters Patent were issued by the Governors of the States and the Northern Territory. The original Letters Patent required the Commissioner to report his findings and recommendations to the Governor-General by 31 December 1988. A chronology of the issue of the Letters Patent is at Appendix 1.

Advertisements in the press asking for submissions from interested people began on 24 October 1987 and the first hearings were formally opened on 12 November 1987 in Canberra.
THE INVESTIGATION

On 2 February 1988 the Prime Minister announced that a decision had been made to appoint three additional Commissioners to assist with the Commission. Mr Elliot Frank Johnston QC, the Honourable John Halden Wootton QC and Mr Lewis Wyvill QC were named as the additional Commissioners in a statement to the press. It was also stated at this time that the report would be completed by 31 December 1989. Each Commissioner held Letters Patent in his own right and conducted his inquiry independently.

The revised Letters Patent of 6 May 1988 considerably widened the scope of the Commission. Justice Muirhead was now able to take account of social, cultural and legal factors which, in his judgement, appeared to have a bearing on deaths under investigation. This decision led to the establishment of the Aboriginal Issues Units of the Commission in every State and the Northern Territory. The Units were concerned to ensure that the Commission was picking up the Aboriginal concerns and perceptions in these areas.

The revised Letters Patent also meant responsibility for investigations was divided by geographic areas among the Commissioners. Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory were the responsibility of Mr Johnston; New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania were the responsibility of the Hon. Mr Wootton and Queensland was the responsibility of Mr Wyvill. Justice Muirhead had overall responsibility and could refer any specific case.

In November 1988 a fifth Commissioner, the Honourable Daniel John O’Dea, was appointed to carry out inquiries in Western Australia where Justice Muirhead had also been investigating from mid-1988.

In April 1989 Commissioner Muirhead retired. He was replaced as National Commissioner by Commissioner Johnston on 28 April 1989 and Mr Patrick Lionel Dodson was commissioned. Commissioner Dodson worked in Western Australia, primarily on underlying issues. Also in April 1989 it was announced that deaths occurring after 31 May 1989 were to be excluded from the Commission’s inquiry.

The Commission was organised on a regional basis, with offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Broome, Canberra, Darwin and Perth, and sub-offices in Melbourne, Alice Springs and Hobart.

THE REPORTS

The Commission produced a number of reports. Individual reports were produced for each death investigated, and they were presented separately as they were completed.

The Commission also produced an Interim Report, which was presented by Commissioner Muirhead on 21 December 1988.

The final report was signed by Commissioner Johnston on 15 April 1991. This report summarised the findings of the individual reports and discussed underlying issues investigated by the Aboriginal Issues Units. The Commission made 339 recommendations. These largely concentrated on the areas of procedures in custody, liaison with Aboriginal groups, police education and improved accessibility to information.
The full text of the final National Report, the Regional Reports, the Underlying Issues Reports and the Individual Death Reports can be found on the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation’s web site at www.austlit.edu.au/au/special/rsjproject/rsjlibrary/rciadic.

**Records of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody**

**OWNERSHIP OF THE RECORDS**

All the records of the RCIADIC were created under Letters Patent issued by the Governor-General and are therefore Commonwealth records. All of the States and the Northern Territory also issued Letters Patent for those parts of the inquiry directed towards deaths which occurred in custody in their jurisdictions. Certain records are therefore owned jointly by the Commonwealth and either a State government or the Government of the Northern Territory.

Commonwealth records are subject to the provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*. This includes provisions for the ownership, custody and management of access to the records of Royal Commissions. Under these provisions the arrangements for managing the records of an inquiry commissioned by the Commonwealth in conjunction with a State or Territory only apply as determined by agreement between the Commonwealth and State or Territory concerned.

All records of completed Commonwealth Royal Commissions are also subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. If you would like to make a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for any RCIADIC records, you should direct your request to: The FOI Coordinator, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 3–5 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600. There is a $30 application fee and other charges for processing your request may be imposed.

**TYPES OF RECORDS CREATED BY THE COMMISSION**

The Commission created or collected about 200 shelf metres of records and these records fall naturally into a number of main groups. These groups are reflected in the chapter headings of this Guide. While separate record series were created by the Commission in each State, they deal with similar material.

For example, in each State there are ‘case files’, which are specifically related to the individual cases of death in custody investigated by the Commission. Each case of death has a file, or series of files created to record the investigation, exhibits and findings.

A large group of records was also created to control the various types of material raised in the course of investigating the underlying issues. These underlying issues were investigated as the Commission sought to find underlying social, economic or other reasons to explain Aboriginal deaths. Submissions, research papers and other material have been grouped together as series dealing with underlying issues.

As the Commission was a complex and large scale undertaking, a large group of records deals with the administration of the Commission, its staff, travelling arrangements and so on.
FILING SYSTEM USED BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION

The Commission’s records do not have a single or consistent method of numbering. For example, the filing system designed by the Commission for its case files was never fully adopted. It was intended that each case file would include the number of the case being investigated, and a letter to indicate the State. For example N/19/562 would be the nineteenth case in New South Wales and the 562nd file raised. Other exhibits would have another letter to indicate what type of evidence was being examined, for example the ‘G’ in G/22/S12 would indicate a ‘General’ exhibit. This complex system was made even more complicated when the Commission began to consider material that related to the social customs of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal society generally.

The proposed system was never wholly adopted and several different filing systems were used, with differences between individual States. Occasionally a State will include the Commission’s preferred numbering system in the file title, and use a single number sequence to control the files raised. For example, the file that should have the number ‘V/2/26’ under the Commission’s system is controlled as ‘26’ but the title is ‘Victorian Case file–V/2–Exhibits’.

In addition, the Commission dealt with matters governed by State powers and arrangements. Individual State police forces have different systems for recording arrest and custody. This meant that the arrangement of material has on occasion led to a single file having three or more control numbers. These could be, for example, the original State police file number, a number allocated by the original Coroners Inquiry and another number allocated by the Royal Commission.

These inconsistencies in the titling and numbering of the original material are reflected in this Guide. However, items are not difficult to locate because the Archives maintains a computerised item listing of all the Commission’s records which allows item titles to be searched electronically by keyword. Access to this item database is available in our reading rooms.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION

The Commission had different people providing secretariat services in each State. This has led to inconsistencies in abbreviations, use of capitals in titles and other minor differences in style. These differences are reflected in this Guide. A full list of acronyms and abbreviations used by the Commission and in this Guide is at Appendix 3.

Access to the Records

THE ROYAL COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACCESS

Access to records collected or created by government has always been subject to opposing pressures. Access to records is seen as providing a check on arbitrary government power, but privacy considerations and other sensitivities also need to be protected. This dilemma was addressed by the Commission, which consciously tried to balance these often conflicting demands. While the Reports of the Commission were released to the public many of the details of individual cases were not released on the grounds that they were too distressing to the deceased’s family and friends.
In considering future access to the unreleased records the Commission made two important recommendations. Recommendation 57 provided:

That governments agree that:

a. The records of the Commission be held in archives in the capital city of the State in which the inquiry, which gathered those records, occurred; and

b. A relevant Aboriginal body, for example, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority in the case of Western Australia, be given responsibility for determining access to the material jointly with the normal authority for determining such matters.

A further recommendation dealt specifically with access by Aboriginal people themselves to the records. Recommendation 53 provided:

That Commonwealth, State and Territory governments provide access to all Government archival records pertaining to the family and community histories of Aboriginal people so as to assist the process of enabling Aboriginal people to re-establish community and family links with those people from whom they were separated as a result of past policies of government. The Commission recognises that questions of the rights to privacy and questions of confidentiality may arise and recommends that the principles and processes for access to such records should be negotiated between government and appropriate Aboriginal organisations, but such negotiations should proceed on the basis that as a general principle access to such documents should be permitted.

In weighing up the arguments for and against the granting of public access to its records, the Commission decided, on balance, that it would be appropriate for the material it had gathered to be made as accessible as possible to the wider community. It was thought any increase in understanding between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities could not help but benefit both.

In deciding questions of public access, privacy issues and Aboriginal cultural sensitivities would need to be considered. Also, given that many of the records were created by State and local government under State government powers, formal arrangements for the release of the records needed to be made between the Prime Minister, the State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory. The Commission recommended that appropriate Aboriginal organisations should be involved.
The Formal Access Arrangements

The following formal access arrangements determine the extent to which public access will be granted to the Commission’s records.

The arrangements agreed to with the State governments and the Government of the Northern Territory were developed with the aim of dealing with the records in a manner which accords as far as possible with the intentions of the Royal Commissioners and which reflect the standard arrangements for dealing with the records of joint Royal Commissions. In brief, the arrangements as they relate to public access to the records are as follows:

1. Those records which were publicly available at the time that the Royal Commission was in operation, such as transcripts of open hearings and documents circulated by the Royal Commission will continue to be publicly available.

2. Individuals and organisations are able to obtain access to information such as submissions and exhibits which they placed before the Royal Commission, and to related transcripts.

3. Under section 6D(3) of the Royal Commissions Act 1902, a Royal Commissioner can direct that any evidence given before him/her, or the contents of any documents produced at an inquiry shall not be published. Such a direction continues in operation until the records reach the open access period for the purposes of the Archives Act (i.e. until the records reach 30 years of age). During the Royal Commission, Commissioners directed that certain evidence not be published and ordered the suppression of the names of 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose deaths they investigated, at the request of family members, and for cultural reasons. Suppressed names and RCIADIC records covered by non-publication directions will not be considered for public access until they are 30 years old (unless the person requesting the records is also the person who provided the particular evidence covered by the transcript, submission or exhibit).

4. In relation to records that were not originally made public, access will be provided at the discretion of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in consultation with relevant government agencies and Aboriginal organisations. Before release, records will be assessed for possible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural sensitivities, and for possible State or Territory government sensitivities.

5. The arrangements do not extend to the administrative records of the Commission. These will only become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

The formal access arrangements described above are reflected in the access statements that accompany each of the series descriptions provided later in this Guide.

HOW TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE RECORDS

Step 1

Using the series descriptions provided in this Guide, identify which series you are interested in and make a note of their series numbers (these are the numbers which appear on the right-hand side of each series title). Take note of where the records are held and read the arrangements for public access. These will give you some indication of whether access can be granted, how quickly it is likely to be granted, and what delays might be involved in reaching an access decision on your request.
Step 2

You must now identify the individual record items you wish to see. Visit, write or telephone the office of the Archives in the State or Territory where the records are held and ask to speak to a reference officer. You will need to cite the series numbers you identified in Step 1. You may identify the record items in either of two ways, depending on whether you write, telephone or visit.

1. If you visit a reading room ask to see the list of item titles which is available for each of the series listed in this Guide. You can search this list to identify the specific items you wish to see. Take note of their item numbers and their location. Alternatively, you may be able to locate the records you want quickly by searching the Archives’ RecordSearch database which is available online in our reading rooms and on our website at www.naa.gov.au. The database permits ‘keyword’ and other forms of online searching. Please note that some item titles are not available for online searching by the public. Upon request the Archives staff will be happy to undertake a search of the entire database on your behalf and give you the details you need to request access to the items.

Using the series numbers you obtained in Step 1 and the item numbers you identified in Step 2, you can lodge a request for access to the records. Depending upon the location of the records and their access status, staff will advise you what will be involved in reaching an access decision on your request and what delay might be involved. Because most records will need to be examined page by page to determine whether they contain sensitive information (and in some cases will need referral to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet), it will usually not be possible to reach a decision on your request immediately.

Please note that there is no equivalent of the inter-library loan system for archival records. The records are held in the State or Territory in which they were created or collected by the Commission and they are not moved between the Archives offices. Provided your request for access is granted, if you wish to see the original records you will need to visit the relevant public reading room or arrange for a representative to do so, or purchase a photocopy. Archives staff are happy to give photocopy quotes for specific items upon request.

2. If you cannot visit a reading room you can still obtain assistance to identify the record items you wish to see. Telephone or write to any of the Archives’ offices listed in Appendix 8. You will need to have identified which series you are interested in or have a specific subject in mind. Staff will undertake searches of the database for you and will send you at no charge a list of item titles obtained from the database for each series or subject you nominate. This list will show the location of the records and their access status. Once you have identified the specific record items you wish to see you should then telephone or write to the Archives office which holds the records and request access. You will need to give us your name and address and the series and item numbers you want. We will then let you know when we have a decision on your request, and if access is approved, we will tell you how you may examine the records or obtain a copy.

CHARGES

No charges apply to the services described above unless copies of records are requested. Copy charges are set out in Fact Sheet 51.
CITING THE RECORDS

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting them from the Archives and when referring to them in written or published works. The correct method of citation will not only help staff of the Archives to more readily locate the records you are seeking, but will also help other researchers to find the material you have used if they wish to examine it for themselves.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives is expressed as follows: the name National Archives of Australia followed by a colon; the series number followed by a comma; and then the item number. An example is:

National Archives of Australia: D4189, 68

The name ‘National Archives of Australia’ may be abbreviated to ‘NAA’.

WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

If you are unsure what to do to request access to the Commission’s records or if you have other questions about the records we suggest that you contact the Archives office in your State or Territory by mail, telephone, facsimile or email. The address and contact information for each Archives office is given in Appendix 8.
1. INDIVIDUAL CASE RECORDS

The case files are those related to each case of death examined by the Commission. Each of the ninety-nine cases investigated by the Commission had one or more files created. As the later files show, the Commission eventually interpreted its terms of reference in the widest possible manner by including cases which were not deaths in custody. This is shown, for example, by the Commission including cases such as that of David Gundy in NSW who was killed by accident though he was not in custody.

As the Commission often acted in effect as another board of review the amount of documentation varies from case to case. Some were clear cut and take only a few files, such as when a person with a heart problem had an attack of angina in jail and died, despite prompt and appropriate medical care. Other cases, eg suicides, can have not only thousands of pages of transcripts of investigations by the Commission but also thousands of pages from the original Coroners Report and thousands more of the various files collected by the Commission, such as welfare files, Social Security files, material from doctors and hospitals, detoxification centres etc.

Some material in these files will not be publicly available. For example some of the exhibit files include material such as the autopsy reports. Some autopsy material could include, for example, photographs of the deceased person. This photographic material was suppressed by the Commission in order not to cause distress to the relatives of the deceased. Relatives of some of the deceased also requested that their names not be made publicly available. This was respected by the Commission and is observed in the access policies that now apply to the records.

The Commission’s records identified as being case file material or having a close connection with individual cases are:

- Transcript folders – individual case hearings A8570
- Individual case files deemed to be outside the jurisdiction of the Royal Commission A8571
- Individual case files A8574
- General exhibits D4079
- Case files D4091
- Exhibit records D4096
- Final case reports D4156
- Transcripts of proceedings, all States (copies) D4189
- Register – list of cases in the Northern Territory E1167

Some of these series consist of public submissions that have been made previously available and are widely accessible, such as in major public and academic libraries, in printed reports or in Parliamentary collections. Some of the material was released as part of the Individual or Underlying Issues Reports. Other material, such as that associated with individual cases, was not released by the Commission. Requests for access to material that has not yet been released will be subject to the formal access arrangements explained at page 12.

**TRANSCRIPT FOLDERS – INDIVIDUAL CASE HEARINGS, ALPHABETICAL WITH STATE/NAME PREFIX 1987–91**

Quantity: 4.14 metres (Sydney); 1.8 metres (Darwin); 3.42 metres (Brisbane); 1.98 metres (Adelaide); 0.18 metres (Hobart); 0.72 metres (Melbourne); 8.82 metres (Perth)

This series consists of transcripts of hearings before the Royal Commission in various States, covering all the individual cases heard by the Commission. Individuals and groups with information or evidence related to a death attended the hearings and were questioned or gave oral submissions.

The hearings have a wide scope, and include evidence of individuals imprisoned with the deceased, prison officers, medical attendants and family and friends.

**BATES Bobby**

**BONEY Lloyd**

**Yuendumu**

Public access to the records: Those of the documents in this series, or parts of the documents, that were publicly available in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. Any material relating to public hearings to which a Commissioner applied a non-publication order will not be publicly available. When these records reach 30 years of age the Commissioner’s non-publication orders will cease to have effect and the provisions of the Archives Act will determine their access status.

**INDIVIDUAL CASE FILES DEEMED TO BE OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION, ALPHABETICAL SERIES WITH STATE/NAME PREFIX 1987–91**

Quantity: 0.27 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth); 0.18 metres (Sydney); .23 metres (Adelaide); 0.05 metres (Hobart); .18 metres (Melbourne)

This series was raised for individuals whose names were suggested for investigation but who were found not to be covered by the terms of the Commission. There are many reasons for this; individuals may not have died, may not have died in custody or may have died outside the period investigated. In some cases the reasons are provided in detail, and in others there may be only a brief note.

Some of these files also include coroners’ reports and police reports into the death and other material collected to determine
whether a death will be covered by the Commission’s investigations.

**Letter relating to confirmation as to whether Katrina Koko died as a result of being in custody in Ceduna – Geoff Eames**

18/12/1987 – South Australian Secretariat

Queensland Secretariat

Gentle – correspondence file

Public access to the records: None of the material in this series was made public in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence. Archives staff will refer access requests to the Access and Administrative Review Section of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for assessment on the basis of the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**INDIVIDUAL CASE HEARINGS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES WITH STATE/NAME PREFIX, 1987–91**

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney); 0.18 metres (Darwin);
0.36 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Adelaide);
0.05 metres (Hobart); 0.18 metres (Melbourne);
1.08 metres (Perth)

These case files cover general correspondence relating to each case investigated by the Commission but do not cover the hearings or include a transcript of the hearings. The related hearing and transcript material is found with the other series of case files in series D4091.

This series does not include hearings or research material related to the hearings. It consists of press clippings, general correspondence including correspondence to the family of the deceased and general and administrative matters.

- **CARR Thomas** A8574, N/CARR/1
- **BOOTH Robin** A8574, NT/BOOTH/2
- **A man who died at Oodnadatta (name suppressed)** A8574, S/Name Suppressed/1

Public access to the records: The documents in this series were derived from a wide variety of sources. Some documents may have been used in the course of hearings. Any material to which a Commissioner applied a non-publication order will not be available to researchers.

**GENERAL EXHIBITS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ‘G’ PREFIX OR INFIX, 1987–90**

Quantity: 3.96 metres (Adelaide); 0.36 metres (Perth)

These exhibits vary between those that focus on an individual person to those addressing general issues of economic or social problems. The files appear to occupy an interim position, after the Commission had widened the scope of its inquiries but
before a formal policy of determining the underlying issues had been reflected in the recordkeeping system.

While the majority of exhibits relate to general issues a number are submissions directly related to individual cases, which is why the series has been included with the case files.

**Q5 – Pilot case – Brisbane 28/7/88 – Leestma, J E (MD) and Hughes, JR (MD), ‘Sudden epilepsy deaths and the forensic pathologist’**

**GS/6/2 – The man who died at Oodnadatta (name suppressed) – Submission of the SA Police Department and other documents Part C**

**Literacy programs for prisoners**

Public access to the records: Exhibits and submissions from this series which were made public, for example, read aloud or circulated to the public in the hearing room, in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. At the request of the originator, or on the decision of a Commissioner, certain exhibits were protected by non-publication orders. These are not available. Those exhibits which were not explicitly made available or explicitly withheld are subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements.)

**CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH STATE ALPHA PREFIX**

Quantity: 32.4 metres (Sydney); 3.6 metres (Melbourne); 1.26 metres (Hobart); 49.15 metres (Perth); 4.32 metres (Brisbane); 17.46 metres (Adelaide); 16.74 metres (Darwin)

This is the major series of case files raised for individuals who died in custody or were investigated by the Commission even though they did not die in custody. As the Commission often acted as another board of review, the amount of documentation varies from case to case. Some are clear cut and take only a few files, such as when somebody with a heart problem had an attack of angina in jail and died, despite prompt and appropriate medical care.

Other cases, such as suicides, can have not only thousands of pages of transcripts of investigations by the Commission but also thousands of pages from the original Coroners Report and thousands more of the various files collected by the Commission. They may include welfare files, Social Security files, material from doctors and hospitals, detoxification centres etc.

**David John Gundy – Volume XXVI – Transcript Volume 9 – 6/12/90 to 14/12/90**

**WA Case No. 2 – Robert Joseph Walker – Criminal history of witnesses**
Public access to the records: The documents in this series were derived from a wide variety of sources. Any documents that were publicly available during the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. Any material to which a Commissioner applied a non-publication order will not be available to researchers. Those documents which were not explicitly made available or explicitly withheld are subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

EXHIBIT RECORDS, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH VARIABLE ALPHA PREFIX, 1988–90

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Adelaide); 1.26 metres (Perth)
0.18 metres (Sydney); 8.65 metres (Brisbane);
9.27 metres (Darwin)

The majority of exhibits are files of other Federal, State and Territory Departments and authorities. They include community service departments, police and court records, hospital and inquest records, as well as previous police and State inquiry records related to the death.

As well as government records there are records from private organisations such as St John Ambulance and legal aid offices. Some files include physical material from the inquest such as samples of material from clothing and residues from drugs or alcohol testing.

South Australian Exhibits – Stanley Gollan: 26/7/89 – General exhibits, Sansbury Association Submission
D4096, GS/10/1

Northern Territory Exhibits – Jambajimba (name suppressed)– Alice Springs Police Station exhibit book 009294, 009697
D4096, NT/1/89

West Australia Exhibit record – Catholic Education Office – Aboriginal Teaching Assistants Program
D4096, 84/6/E1/R

Public access to the records: Exhibits and submissions from this series which were made public, for example, read aloud or circulated to the public in the hearing room, in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. At the request of the originator, or on the decision of a Commissioner, certain exhibits were protected by non-publication orders. These are not available. Those exhibits which were not explicitly made available or explicitly withheld are subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements.)

FINAL CASE REPORTS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1988–90

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Adelaide); 0.54 metres (Perth)

These are the final reports of the investigations into the ninety-nine cases of Aboriginal deaths in custody investigated by the Commission. The reports are arranged alphabetically except for
those where the name has been suppressed. The reports tend to follow a standard format and include synopsis, history, lifestyle, background information, custody events, post-mortem examinations, police investigation reports and coronial inquiry reports. Normally appendices list witnesses, exhibits and reports. The reports vary slightly depending upon the circumstances of the death and which Commissioner was responsible for preparing the report.

Report of the Inquiry into the Death of – an Aboriginal man at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (name suppressed)  D4156, 1

Public access to the records: These records are publicly available.

**TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS, ALL STATES (COPIES), SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90**

**D4189**

Quantity: 9.72 metres (Adelaide)

These are duplicate copies of the transcripts of the proceedings of the Commission. There is a complete set available in series A8570 which covers the individual case hearings, series A8568 which covers the special hearings and series A8569 which covers the underlying issues hearings. The copies in series D4189 were kept so as to be able to provide a copy of a transcript to a State institution if this became necessary. For this reason there may not be a complete set of transcripts in this series.

Transcripts of proceedings all States: Western Australia – Stanley Brown 3/7/89 to 16/7/89 D4189, 5
Transcripts of proceedings all States: New South Wales – Shane Atkinson 24/7/89 to 2/8/89 D4189, 68

Public access to the records: The documents in this series, or parts of the documents, that were publicly available in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. Any material relating to public hearings to which a Commissioner applied a non-publication order will not be publicly available. When these records reach 30 years of age the Commissioner’s non-publication orders will cease to have effect and the provisions of the Archives Act will determine access status.

**REGISTER – LIST OF CASES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1988–90**

**E1167**

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Darwin)
This is a single item listing all ten cases heard in the Northern Territory. Each is listed under the headings - Name, Age, Date of Case, Location and Cause.

Public access to the records: These records may be made available unless they name a person whose name was suppressed by the Royal Commission.
2. UNDERLYING ISSUES RECORDS

At the outset of the Royal Commission, Commissioner Muirhead, then the sole Commissioner, announced that he saw his job as being not merely to understand how each person died, but to know why that person died. Governments confirmed his view by amendments subsequently made to the Letters Patent whereby it was declared ‘that, for the purpose of reporting on any underlying issues associated with those deaths, you are authorised to take account of social and cultural and legal factors which, in your judgement, appear to have a bearing on those deaths’. ¹

Therefore, after investigating individual deaths the Commission tried to find larger social and economic factors to explain Aboriginal deaths in custody. In order to report on the underlying issues the Commission adopted a number of approaches to gaining information – it publicly invited submissions, it solicited submissions from interested parties, notably Aboriginal organisations, it conducted research through its Criminology Research Unit, it commissioned research on selected topics and it undertook a research program through specially established Aboriginal Issues Units which were set up in each State and the Northern Territory. The Units, which were staffed by Aboriginal people had the task of ascertaining what Aboriginal people, Aboriginal organisations and communities believed were the underlying issues of deaths in custody and the disproportionately high rate of Aboriginal arrests and imprisonments and what they believed the solutions to be.

The Commission noted that Aboriginal people had differences from other groups in Australia. For example, it noted a higher rate of alcoholism, jailing, reproduction and lower than average education. This led to an investigation into the wider issues underlying the differences between Aboriginal people and other groups in Australian society. It involved hearings and submissions from hundreds of concerned organisations and individuals, covering every possibility from genetic differences to allegations of space aliens attacking certain groups. The Commission also hired research organisations and individual experts to do historical, social and economic surveys of Aboriginal people in an attempt to place aspects of Aboriginal society in a perspective that would help explain Aboriginal deaths.

Many of these underlying issues papers have become widely available in one form or another. Others have been used as source material for books, periodical articles or as publications first by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and then by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

The statistics collected have since been the basis of much funding of Aboriginal people and the historical and social material has been used in land claims by various Aboriginal groups. The full text of the Underlying Issues Reports can be found on the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation’s web site at www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/rsjproject/rsjlibrary/rciadic.

This chapter describes the Commission’s records identified as having a connection with the investigation of underlying issues.

Transcript folders – special hearings  A8568
Transcript folders – underlying issues hearings  A8569
General submission files  A8575
Resource information database  A8639
Miscellaneous underlying issues records of the Aboriginal Issues Unit, Alice Springs  D4094
General submissions records, 1988–90  D4104
Miscellaneous underlying issues records  D4106
Miscellaneous underlying issues records, Aboriginal Issues Unit, South Australia  D4108
Miscellaneous underlying issues records of the Aboriginal Issues Unit, Queensland  D4130
Submissions records  D4140

**TRANSCRIPT FOLDERS – SPECIAL HEARINGS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH STATE/SPECIAL PREFIX, 1987–90**

**A8568**

**Quantity:** 0.36 metres (Canberra); 0.72 metres (Sydney); 0.36 metres (Darwin); 0.36 metres (Brisbane); 0.36 metres (Adelaide); 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series consists of transcripts of hearings before the Royal Commission in various States, covering general issues and issues unrelated to individual cases. Individuals and groups with an interest in the work of the Commission attended the hearings and were questioned or gave oral submissions. The hearings could be of individuals or groups who felt they had an interest in the matters raised.

The hearings cover a diversity of material from the Commission’s terms of reference to public relations. Other submissions cover educational and legal areas.

**Dubbo/Wellington conferences 21 and 22 March, 1990**  A8568, NSW/SPECIAL/1

**Educational conference 8 October, 1990**  A8568, NT/SPECIAL/2

**National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service Secretariat application 10 November, 1989**  A8568, Q/SPECIAL/2

Public access to the records: The documents in this series, or parts of the documents, that were publicly available in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. Any material relating to public hearings to which a Commissioner applied a non-publication order will not be publicly available. When these records reach 30 years of age the Commissioner’s non-publication orders will cease to have effect and the provisions of the Archives Act will determine access status.
TRANSCRIPT FOLDERS – UNDERLYING ISSUES HEARINGS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH STATE/UI PREFIX, 1989–90

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Perth); 0.36 metres (Darwin)

This series consists of transcripts of hearings before the Royal Commission in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. These hearings cover general issues and are unrelated to individual cases. Individuals and groups with an interest in the work of the Commission attended the hearings and were questioned or gave oral submissions. These hearings could be attended by individuals or groups who felt they had an interest in the matters raised.

The hearings cover material similar to other underlying issues hearings, for example in series A8568, but this series only covers the work of the Commission in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Broome WA – transcripts – Mary River
Darwin 8 Dec 89 to 26 Mar 90

Broome WA: transcripts Broome

Public access to the records: The documents in this series, or parts of the documents, that were publicly available in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. Any material relating to public hearings to which a Commissioner applied a non-publication order will not be publicly available. When these records reach 30 years of age the Commissioner’s non-publication orders will cease to have effect and the provisions of the Archives Act will determine access status.

GENERAL SUBMISSION FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH G/STATE PREFIX, 1987–91

Quantity: 0.14 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney);
0.09 metres (Darwin); 0.18 metres (Brisbane);
0.11 metres (Adelaide); 0.18 metres (Melbourne);
0.18 metres (Perth)

These files contain submissions relating to the general issue of Aboriginal relations with white society and more specific submissions relating to issues of custody and suicide. There are submissions from medical, legal and religious groups with concerns and also individual submissions. There are some references to specific cases.

The files are arranged by State, with a ‘G’ prefix, and then a single number sequence in each State, for example, G/N/32 is the thirty-second file raised in NSW for a general submission, that is, a submission not considered by the Commission to be related to a specific case.

Canberra office general submissions: Mr G Wyer
Canberra office general submissions: John Short – Co-operative for Aborigines Limited
Canberra office general submissions: submission from Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

Public access to the records: Submissions from this series which were made public, for example, read aloud or circulated to the public in the hearing room, in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. At the request of the originator, or on the decision of a Commissioner, certain submissions were protected by non-publication orders. These are not available. Those submissions which were not explicitly made available or explicitly withheld are subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements.)

RESOURCE INFORMATION DATABASE, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)

The Resource Information database is a ‘dumped’ computer listing of all material collected by the Commission. It lists general submissions, reports, literature, books, audio and video material which was considered as relevant information by officers of the Commission. Each item of data includes bibliographic information including author and title, a brief abstract of the item, and keywords for grouping and retrieving items.

Resource information database

Resource information database

Resource information database

These records are publicly available.

MISCELLANEOUS UNDERLYING ISSUES RECORDS OF THE ABORIGINAL ISSUES UNIT, ALICE SPRINGS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1989–90

Quantity: 2.52 metres (Darwin)

The role of the Aboriginal Issues Unit was to consult with Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations about underlying problems in Aboriginal society and to solicit suggestions about how these problems could be solved.

The series is a collection of papers, audio tapes, videos, reports letters, investigation papers, interview papers and statements covering what the individuals concerned saw as the important issues. The issues identified include coronial systems, alcohol, criminal justice, domestic violence, culture, education and many others.


Cassettes – Ngukurr meeting


Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see
GENERAL SUBMISSIONS RECORDS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHA PREFIX AND INFIX, 1988–90

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Perth)

These files consist mainly of general submissions, that is submissions not connected to a specific case, given to the Western Australia Office of the RCIADIC. There are forty submissions from individuals, religious organisations, government agencies and private companies.

General submissions Perth Western Australia – Mr D W McLeod

General submissions Perth Western Australia – Sister Bernadine Daly

General submissions Perth Western Australia – Murdoch University 27/6/1990

Public access to the records: Submissions from this series which were made public, for example, read aloud or circulated to the public in the hearing room, in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available. At the request of the originator, or on the decision of a Commissioner, certain submissions were protected by non-publication orders. These are not available. Those submissions which were not explicitly made available or explicitly withheld are subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements.)

MISCELLANEOUS UNDERLYING ISSUES RECORDS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90

Quantity: 1.62 metres (Darwin); 5.76 metres (Sydney); 2.7 metres (Brisbane); 0.27 metres (Perth); 0.43 metres (Adelaide)

These records are in a number of different formats including paper, audio tapes and computer disks. They were created in different offices of the Commission and deal with a wide range of topics, including human rights, culture, health, housing, land rights, police and other related matters. A single number system has been imposed by the National Archives to control the items in the series.

Northern Territory: alcohol – various papers including effects of restricted areas legislation, alcohol related matters, etc

Responses NSW, Victoria and Tasmania: register of underlying issues responses

New South Wales – survey of suicide in NSW prisons January to December, 1989

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see
MISCELLANEOUS UNDERLYING ISSUES RECORDS, ABORIGINAL ISSUES UNIT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1989–90  D4108

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Adelaide)

These are mainly paper records held in manilla folders. They were created in the South Australian Office of the Commission and deal with a wide range of topics including human rights, culture, health, housing, land rights, police and other related matters. The series has a single number system, imposed by the National Archives to control the items.

Aboriginal / Alcohol  D4108, 1
Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Land Rights, Law Committee  D4108, 15
Youth  D4108, 40

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

MISCELLANEOUS UNDERLYING ISSUES RECORDS OF THE ABORIGINAL ISSUES UNIT, QUEENSLAND, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4130

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Brisbane)

These are mainly paper records covering a wide range of subjects. They were created in the Queensland Office of the Commission and include reports, interview papers, statements and consultations. Matters covered include human rights, culture, health, housing, land rights, police and related matters. The series has a single number system, imposed by the National Archives to control the items.

Community consultations index: B Lowah, J Cowburn, 'Badu' 22/5/1990  D4130, 1
Community consultations index: C Pryor ‘Charters Towers’ 19/6/1990  D4130, 22
Community consultations index: C Pryor ‘Wujal Wujal’ 21/5/1990  D4130, 48

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

SUBMISSIONS RECORDS, ALPHANUMERIC SERIES WITH ‘S’ PREFIX, 1988–90  D4140

Quantity: 1.8 metres (Adelaide); 0.36 metres (Perth)

This is material sent to the Commission by ‘interested parties’. They include members of the public, organisations (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal), professionals, academics and researchers and covers the whole spectrum of opinions. The
Commission invited submissions from the public and these records show community interest, concern and various suggestions for future progress in Aboriginal reconciliation. Suggested responses range from setting up a separate state for Aboriginals to working to integrate all ethnic groups into a single unified community.

Edward Watson, President Incarcerated Peoples Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Queensland – Budget Items, Cultural Heritage Education Program  
D4140, S0068

J F J Cade MD FANZCP, Paper on ‘Massive thiamine dosage in the treatment of acute alcoholic psychoses’  
D4140, S0079

Broome – Pat Nunn (19/6) – Paper given at the Narrogin Woman’s Refuge Association Workshop, May 1989, called ‘Domestic Violence and the Aboriginal Family in Rural Areas’ – She argues for the seriousness of domestic violence affecting Aboriginal women and for possible solutions using ‘a mix of traditional and Western practice’  
D4140, BB SO 713

Public access to the records: Submissions from this series which were made public, for example, read aloud or circulated to the public in the hearing room, in the course of the Royal Commission’s existence remain publicly available.

At the request of the originator, or on the decision of a Commissioner, certain submissions were protected by non-publication orders. These are not available. Those submissions which were not explicitly made available or explicitly withheld are subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements.)
3. RESEARCH MATERIAL

In order to understand the phenomenon of Aboriginal deaths in custody, original research was necessary. The Deputy Head of the Australian Institute of Criminology was seconded to head the Commission’s Criminology Research Unit, established in the Canberra Office of the Commission. In all, twenty-one research papers were prepared by the unit.

In addition, consultants were engaged on a range of issues to supplement the information and research resources of the Commission. Research was carried out under the direction of individual Commissioners and was coordinated nationally to avoid duplication of effort. A total of forty-six research papers were commissioned.

The Commission’s records identified as research material or records having a close connection with research projects are:

- Non-custodial deaths, research section material A8576
- Suicides – ACT and SA – research section material A8577
- Self-inflicted harm in custody – research section material A8578
- Folders of press clippings and printouts from the research database on reported deaths in custody – research section material A8579
- Survey of arrest, bail and custody, Kalgoorlie and Roebourne, Western Australia – research section material A8581
- Research cases of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody A8582
- Folders of computer printouts of cases concerning Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal deaths in custody A8583
- Police custody survey – research section material A8585
- Research resource material A8586
- Research papers A8617
- Miscellaneous literature records D4112
- South Australian Library research material D4151
- Resource information database information sheets D4152

**NON-CUSTODIAL DEATHS, RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–90**

**A8576**

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series consists of two folders. The first contains a computer printout with statistical details of deaths in Australia and New Zealand. The second is a questionnaire covering details of deaths in Australia of people who had been given an alternative to prison for their sentence.

**Data printouts of non-custodial deaths 1987–1988 for Australia and New Zealand** A8576, 1

**Death at Broome** A8576, 3

**Death at Broome – May 1990** A8576, 5

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see
page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**SUICIDES – ACT AND SA – RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–90**

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Adelaide)

These three binders of material provide selected details of all suicides in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia for the period 1980 to 1988. The series includes the forms on which the information was completed and the computer processing that the information underwent.

**Australian Federal Police suicide records, 1980–1988**

**ACT suicides – data set printouts, data definitions and working papers**

**SA suicides 1/1/1980 to 30/6/1988 – data and printouts**

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**SELF-INFLICTED HARM IN CUSTODY – RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90**

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Canberra)

This series is four folders of material providing details of all 'self-inflicted harm' by persons in custody in Australia. The folders are divided by time period, 1 April 1989 to 30 September 1989, and prior to 1 April 1989. They include the data entry forms on which the information was entered prior to computer processing, and the printouts after processing the information.

**Confidential – attempted suicides in custody data entry forms, 1/4/1989 to 30/9/1989 Australia (by State) 1–395**

**Confidential – dataset printouts of self-harm in custody, 1/4/1989 to 30/9/1989 data definitions completed**


Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**FOLDERS OF PRESS CLIPPINGS AND PRINTOUTS FROM THE RESEARCH DATABASE ON REPORTED DEATHS IN CUSTODY – RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL, 1988–90**

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Canberra)

This series is the database information used by the Commission to produce its figures on Aboriginal people. It includes the original data entry forms and printouts from the database, and is held in four binders. The database provided the information
for the figures given in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Research Paper No. 21 and Chapter Two of the National Report.

Research database by State and Royal Commission case minute 21/6/1989 NT

Research database completed forms by State as at 26/9/1988, press clippings ACT

List of reported Aboriginal deaths in custody and other relevant information for entering into the research database 25/5/1989, press cutting 17/11/1987

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

SURVEY OF ARREST, BAIL AND CUSTODY – KALGOORLIE AND ROEBOURNE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA – RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–90

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Perth)

These five folders cover the Commission’s Research Section survey forms completed on each arrest in Roebourne Police Station between July and November 1987 and Kalgoorlie Police Station between March and April 1990. As well as the original survey forms there are computer printouts giving statistical analysis of the figures.

Roebourne survey forms – 001 to 357

Roebourne survey forms – 358 to 730

Roebourne survey forms – data printout and survey findings

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

RESEARCH CASES OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH STATE PREFIX, 1987–90

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney); 0.36 metres (Brisbane); 0.36 metres (Adelaide); 0.07 metres (Hobart); 0.18 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin); 0.18 metres (Perth)

These five folders contain selected information on each case investigated by the Royal Commission. The information was used for data entry for computer analysis of the figures. Victorian, Tasmanian and Northern Territory cases have been amalgamated in one folder, and New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia each have a separate folder. The folders include computer dataset printouts of the information.

New South Wales – N/1 (Murray) to N/19 (Gundy)
Queensland – QA (Pilot) to QX (Short)  
South Australia – S1 (Dixon) to S12 (Karpany)  

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

FOLDERS OF COMPUTER PRINTOUTS OF CASES CONCERNING ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY – RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL, 1987–90  

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Canberra)

These five folders contain material collected by the Research Section of the Royal Commission covering all deaths in custody, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. The material covers the period from 1980 to 1990. There are various statistical break downs of the figures, such as by year and State. The period 1980 to 1988 is covered in one folder, while 1989 and 1990 each have a separate folder.

NSW/ACT  
NSW/ACT – custody, 1990  

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

POLICE CUSTODY SURVEY – RESEARCH SECTION MATERIAL – SINGLE NUMBER AND CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1987–90  

Quantity: 5.22 metres (Canberra)

These folders contain survey forms and computer printouts of various investigations made by the research section of the Commission into people held in police custody. All cases of police custody during August 1988 throughout Australia were examined as one of the investigations. Other investigations into police custody covered cases of custody for drunkenness and a longer study from July 1986 to August 1987 for the Australian Capital Territory.

Confidential – Dataset printouts for RCIADIC – research paper No. 11 (prison data) – p11 – MSO  
Confidential – Queensland survey forms – 22429 to 25176  
Confidential – Queensland survey forms – 27600 to 28577  

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).
RESEARCH RESOURCE MATERIAL, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1987–90 A8586

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Canberra)

This material was collected by the research section of the Royal Commission with reference to the inquiries and the background issues identified by the Commission. It includes statistical information about causes of death, journal articles about suicides and articles on mental health.

Copies of Australian Bureau of Statistics Census Data (1986) Table CA1 – census categories A8586, 1

Copies of journal articles relating to suicides: Albrecht – Clifford A8586, 3

Copies of journal articles relating to mental health, particularly relating to Aborigines, Copeman – Lickiss A8586, 5

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

RESEARCH PAPERS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–91 A8617

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)

This set of the formal Research Papers was produced and formally released by the Commission. The Research Papers mainly cover statistical analysis of the Aboriginal population and various analyses of custody and deaths in and out of custody. Public access to the records: These records are publicly available.

The Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander population A8617, 2/4

Self-inflicted harm in custody A8617, 2/16

Overview of the research program and abstracts of research papers A8617, 2/22

MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE RECORDS, ALPHANUMERIC SERIES, ‘L’ PREFIX, 1988–90 D4112

Quantity: 3.24 metres (Adelaide)

This series was known as ‘literature records’ because it consisted of material located in other publications and was not commissioned by the Underlying Issues Unit of the Commission. The range and type of material, however, is similar to material investigated or commissioned by the Underlying Issues Unit, covering such issues as land rights, police and detention powers and violence in the community.


South Australian: L00163 – Northern Land Council ‘Research for Sustainable Use of Aboriginal Land’ D4112, 159
South Australian: L00242 – Mugford, E ‘Alcohol in Australian Society : Psychological, Economic and Historical Perspective’

Public access to the records: Many documents in this series were published documents collected by the Commission’s researchers - these are publicly available. Other documents will need assessment subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY RESEARCH MATERIAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90

Quantity: 10.44 metres (Adelaide); 5.58 metres (Perth)

This collection includes books, articles, statements, reports and copies of material related to the work of the Commission. The material was kept in the Commission’s South Australian library.

Folder 2 – Photocopied Acts including Aborigines Protection Act 1909, Native Mission Stations, Aboriginal Land Rights etc

Submission by the Australian Medical Association to the Royal Commission of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Custody, May 1990 (COM/22 Other Regional Material)

Research and investigation staff records (Broome): working papers of Patrick Sullivan including: database information, information memos, WA database printouts and keywords, crime statistics, faxes 1989/1990

Public access to the records: Many documents in this series were published documents collected by the Commission’s researchers - these are publicly available. Other documents will need assessment subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

RESOURCE INFORMATION DATABASE INFORMATION SHEETS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90

Quantity: 1.62 metres (Adelaide); 7.38 metres (Perth)

This is a hard copy printout of information available on the Commission’s database of research material and publications grouped by subject. The subject headings run from Aboriginality to Youth, with an initial group of ‘Miscellaneous’. Major subject headings include Aboriginal, Education and Health. Information noted on the material held includes author, title, abstract, location, source, keywords, date written, identifier number and number of pages.

Miscellaneous papers including Alcohol; Dry Area Legislation; Liquor Commission; Health; Criminal Justice; Prison; Arrest; First Aid; Violence; Culture; Racism; Employment; Burns Evidence (pp. 1227–1268)

Criminology – High Court ruling on the Aboriginal Heritage Act, Western Australia 24 February 1989
Public access to the records: These records are publicly available.
4. BACKGROUND PAPERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

During the life of the Royal Commission the Commissioners and the staff of the Commission created or accumulated a variety of correspondence, working papers and other records relating to their work. Much of this material is more substantial than purely administrative material and some is duplicated in other series.

The Commission’s records identified as being background and working papers of the Commissioners and staff are:

- General correspondence records of Commissioner D J O’Dea D4099
- General correspondence records of Commissioner Muirhead D4101
- General correspondence records of Commissioner J H Wootten D4107
- General correspondence records of Commissioner P L Dodson D4131
- General correspondence records of Commissioner L Wyvill D4132
- General correspondence records of Commissioner E Johnston, QC D4135
- Working papers of Dr A McGrath, Project Coordinator, NSW D4158
- Working papers of J Bathgate, support staff, Victoria D4161
- Miscellaneous records of K Whimp, Research Staff Coordinator, South Australia D4178
- Folders and binders of papers maintained by the Hon. James Muirhead as Commissioner of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody M2777

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONER D J O’DEA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4099

Quantity:  5.58 metres (Perth)

These files consist mainly of correspondence material relating to various matters accumulated or created by Commissioner O’Dea. The records include material relating to policy and procedures, copies of exhibits, indexes, overviews as well as correspondence to individuals and organisations with an interest in the work of the Commission.

- Emergency procedures, Corrective Services D4099, 1
- Copy GO/23 custodial care manual D4099, 119
- Research Paper No. 5 – drug testing in custody February 1989 D4099, 2

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONER MUIRHEAD, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4101

Quantity:  0.36 metres (Perth)

These seven files consist of administrative material accumulated by Commissioner Muirhead during the course of the RCIADIC. This series has material from October 1987 to
April 1989 and includes a notebook kept by Commissioner Muirhead as an index to his correspondence from June 1988 to April 1989.

Folders and binders of papers maintained by Hon. James Muirhead as Commissioner of the Royal Commission – December 1987

Folders and binders of papers maintained by Hon. James Muirhead as Commissioner of the Royal Commission – July to August 1988

Folders and binders of papers maintained by Hon. James Muirhead as Commissioner of the Royal Commission – Nov 1988 to Jan 1989

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONER J H WOOT TEN, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1988–90

Quantity: 3.78 metres (Sydney)

These files consist of material accumulated by Commissioner J Wootten in the New South Wales Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes correspondence by Commissioner Wootten with individuals and organisations and working material such as annotated drafts of the National Report. Other files include terms of reference, procedures, research and notes made by Commissioner Wootten relating to his work with the Commission.

New South Wales – Aboriginal deaths in custody and attempts since 31 May 1989 (up to October 1989)

New South Wales – staff – investigation officer

New South Wales – recommendations

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF COMMISSIONER P L DODSON, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1989–90

Quantity: 3.66 metres (Darwin); 3.24 metres (Perth)

These files consist of general correspondence and working papers of Commissioner Dodson, one of the Commissioners appointed to the Royal Commission on 1 July 1989. This series includes general correspondence dealing with individual cases as well as material relating to discussion papers, reports, legal opinions, submissions and other related matters. Most of this material is duplicated in other series but this series was collected and often includes annotations by Commissioner Dodson.
Full set of Commissions issued since Royal Commission setup  
This item includes material from ‘Aboriginal Law – Consultancy’ to ‘archiving’  

Document containing the following – Letter from Nugget Coombs, general correspondence from Manning Clarke and Dr Ian Gardner, response re – Tambling, Commissioner Wootten’s draft document on underlying issues, media release – Charles Perkins call for review of the work of the Royal Commission  

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought, the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).
Acts and Regulations D4135, 1
Consultations with Peter D’Abbs and Kevin Rae, October 1990 D4135, 50
Commissioners’ meetings 1989 February, March D4135, 80

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

WORKING PAPERS OF DR A MCGRATH, PROJECT COORDINATOR, NEW SOUTH WALES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90 D4158

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney)

These records consist of general working papers of Dr Ann McGrath, History Project Coordinator for the Royal Commission. Her task was to coordinate the work of consultants in each State in writing a national history into Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relationships in Australia. Dr McGrath at this time was working at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. The sixteen files in this series include correspondence with the States and draft chapters and working papers.

Consultants 16/7/1990 D4158, 1
Correspondence out 15/11/1990 D4158, 4
Public conferences July 1990 D4158, 8

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

WORKING PAPERS OF J BATHGATE, SUPPORT STAFF, VICTORIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90 D4161

Quantity: 1.26 metres (Melbourne)

These twenty-four files consist mainly of working papers produced or collected by Jane Bathgate who worked for the Commission initially in Victoria and then South Australia. The files relate to the part of the final report produced by Ms Bathgate, covering health issues and attempted suicides.

Drugs SA resource literature D4161, 1
Health – mental health national report D4161, 4
Health – police training D4161, 8

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).
MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF K WHIMP, RESEARCH STAFF COORDINATOR, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4178

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Adelaide)

This material consists mainly of working papers produced or collected by Kathy Whimp, who worked for the Commission as Research Staff coordinator in South Australia. These thirteen files relate to an unused executive summary, planning for the National Report and coordination of research consultancies.

Executive summary (not used)  D4178, 1
Research master file  D4178, 9
Working papers - resource files re: health, housing, sentencing, prisons, Aboriginal policing  D4178, 13

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

FOLDERS AND BINDERS OF PAPERS MAINTAINED BY THE HON. JAMES MUIRHEAD AS COMMISSIONER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY, 1987–89  M2777

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Canberra)

This material was accumulated by Commissioner Muirhead during the establishment and proceedings of the Commission. The forty folders and binders include correspondence with the general public and Aboriginal organisations. They also include correspondence relating to the establishment of the Commission, appointment of Legal Counsel, as well as correspondence with ministers, judges and premiers. There are also transcripts of hearings, press releases and copies of the Interim Report and related documents.

Royal Commission ‘Establishment’  M2777, 1
JM (12) Research Material/Memoranda (Canberra)  M2777, 15
JM (24) Queensland Hearings (Canberra)  M2777, 25

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).
5. RECORDS OF COUNSEL ASSISTING THE COMMISSION

The inquiries into the individual deaths were conducted under quasi-judicial conditions, with formal hearings at which interested parties (the family of the deceased, the State Government concerned, the Police and/or Prison Officers’ Union and individuals who may have been associated in some way with the death) were represented. In these hearings the individual Commissioner was assisted by Counsel.

As well as assisting with the day-to-day proceedings of the Commission, Counsel assisted with a number of rulings on jurisdiction which arose challenges were made by way of appeal to the Federal Court of Australia. The rulings of the Commissioners during the Commission’s hearings. In most cases jurisdictional rulings of Commissioners were accepted by the parties given leave to appear, but in a number of cases formal legal were upheld in each case.

The Commission’s records identified as those of Counsel Assisting are:

- General correspondence records of M Dodson, Counsel Assisting, Northern Territory D4087
- General correspondence records of G Barbaro, Instructing Solicitor, Northern Territory D4089
- General correspondence records of M Jordan, Instructing Solicitor, Western Australia D4102
- General correspondence records of K O’Brien, Counsel Assisting, Western Australia D4105
- General correspondence records of D Wilson, National Solicitor D4110
- National Solicitor’s files D4111
- Underlying issues response records, National Solicitor D4113
- General correspondence records of C Caruana, Instructing Solicitor, Northern Territory, single number series D4114
- General correspondence records of R Bleechmore, Counsel Assisting, South Australia D4128
- General correspondence records of G Eames, QC, Counsel Assisting, South Australia D4136
- General correspondence Records of D Allen, Instructing Solicitor, Northern Territory D4148
- Miscellaneous research records of D Fyfe, Instructing Solicitor, South Australia D4149

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF M DODSON, COUNSEL ASSISTING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988-90 D4087

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Darwin)

This series consists of original and copied material accumulated by Michael Dodson as Counsel assisting the Royal Commission. All of the files are related to the Northern Territory and include information relating to the education and coronial systems of the Northern Territory and also include
material relating to such things as media, crime, and Commission exhibits and working papers.

‘White Man’s Magic makes Black Deaths in Custody Disappear’ D4087, 1

Economic development in NT Aboriginal communities June 1990 D4087, 11

Information relating to the Human Rights Commission, 1988–89 D4087, 40

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF G BARBARO, INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, NORTHERN TERRITORY, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90 D4089

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Darwin)

This series consists of original and copied material accumulated by Geoffrey Barbaro as an Instructing Solicitor of the Royal Commission. All of the files are related to the Northern Territory and include information relating to resource material and cases in the Northern Territory and also include material relating to such things as meetings, guidelines and procedures.

Resources, addresses, lists etc. D4089, 1

Meetings, discussion papers and reports D4089, 22

Notes of informal meeting at Yuendumu 18/10/1988 D4089, 38

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF M JORDAN, INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90 D4102

Quantity: 1.8 metres (Perth)

These files consist of administrative material accumulated by Margaret Jordan, Instructing Solicitor, during the course of the RCIADIC. They consist mainly of material relating to legal issues and correspondence with other concerned bodies. The files also include some overview issues, as well as material such as reports and administrative minutes.

Overview file D4102, 1

Media D4102, 52

Port Hedland notes D4102, 73

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF K O’BRIEN, COUNSEL ASSISTING, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4105

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Perth)

These eighteen files consist of material accumulated by Ms Kate O’Brien, Counsel Assisting the Commission in the Western Australian Office of the RCIADIC. They include terms of reference, procedures, research and notes made by Ms O’Brien relating to her work with the Commission.

General correspondence records of Kate O’Brien Western Australia – Counsel Assisting notes – delirium tremens by Doctor Hecker  D4105, 1

General correspondence records of Kate O’Brien Western Australia – Counsel Assisting notes – terms of reference Part 2  D4105, 7

General correspondence records of Kate O’Brien Western Australia – Counsel Assisting notes – general (bundle 2) undated  D4105, 11

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF DIGBY WILSON, NATIONAL SOLICITOR, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4110

Quantity: 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

These files consist mainly of working papers of Digby Wilson, National Solicitor of RCIADIC. The series deals with individual cases throughout Australia and includes general material relating to alcohol, violence, legal opinions, submissions and other related matters.

File G Eames Melbourne office – Darwin from 13/12/1988  D4110, 1

Commissioners’ rulings 13/11/1987  D4110, 17

General Correspondence Records of Digby WILSON, National Solicitor: NSW Cases – Rulings on Jurisdiction  D4110, 58

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

NATIONAL SOLICITOR’S FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ‘NS’ PREFIX, 1988–90  D4111

Quantity: 3.96 metres (Adelaide)

These files consist mainly of working papers of Digby Wilson, National Solicitor of RCIADIC. They appear similar to series A4110 except that they were all raised in South Australia and have a different system of control. The series also deals with individual cases throughout Australia as well as general
material relating to alcohol, violence, legal opinions, submissions and other related matters.

**South Australia: correspondence – general**

D4111, NS/1/1

**South Australia: hypercard information – RID database information**

D4111, NS/9/8

**South Australia: Queensland Royal Commission – appeals against rulings – Commissioner Wyvill**

D4111, NS/48

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**UNDERLYING ISSUES RESPONSE RECORDS, NATIONAL SOLICITOR, ALPHANUMERIC SERIES WITH ‘UI’ PREFIX, 1988–90**

D4113

Quantity: 2.52 metres (Adelaide)

This series is correspondence sent to the Commission dealing with underlying issues and the advice from the National Solicitor about what action should be taken. The letters are from a wide range of individuals, organisations and authorities. They are stored in manilla folders and have a title and number recorded on the cover.

2/1 – UI – N Greiner (Premier of NSW) A&B

D4113, 1

4/40 – UI – Nanyetta Community Advancement Co-op Soc Ltd – Confidential

D4113, 71

5/90 – UI – action for world development (Aboriginal Justice Support Group)

D4113, 168

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF C CARUANA, INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, NORTHERN TERRITORY, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES**

D4114

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Darwin)

These twelve files consist mainly of general correspondence and working papers of Catherine Caruana, Instructing Solicitor for the Royal Commission in the Northern Territory. This series includes general material dealing with individual cases as well as material relating to discussion papers, resource material, legal opinions, submissions and other related matters.

**Aboriginal Issues Unit**

D4114, 1

**Case summaries (undated)**

D4114, 4

**Paper ‘Doing Business – Socialisation, Social Relations and Social Control in Aboriginal Societies’ May 1990**

D4114, 12

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see
page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF R BLEECHMORE, COUNSEL ASSISTING, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4128

Quantity:  3.4 metres (Adelaide)

These files consist of general correspondence and working papers of Ralph Bleechmore, Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission in South Australia. This series includes general correspondence dealing with individual cases as well as material relating to discussion papers, South Australian Court Hearings, legal opinions, submissions and other related matters.

Transcripts of proceedings, Coronial Hearing Adelaide – pp. 1 to 129, 130 to 230 8/9/1989  D4128, 1

Session on Coronial matters – rulings as to representation by Counsel  D4128, 36

Draft report Aboriginal Issues Unit June, 1990  D4128, 55

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF G EAMES, QC, COUNSEL ASSISTING, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4136

Quantity:  12.24 metres (Adelaide)

These files consist of general correspondence and working papers of Geoffrey Eames, QC, Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission, South Australia. Mr Eames was based in Adelaide and he concentrated on the South Australian and Northern Territory cases. This series includes general correspondence dealing with analysis of individual cases as well as material relating to discussion papers, reports, procedures, legal opinions, statements and other related matters.

Addresses  D4136, 1

Discussion Dr E Young  D4136, 212

NT Case material – Aboriginal organisations 15/9/1988  D4136, 1

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS OF D ALLEN, INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, NORTHERN TERRITORY, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4148

Quantity:  4.26 metres (Darwin)

These forty files consist mainly of general correspondence and working papers of David Allen, Instructing Solicitor for the Royal Commission in the Northern Territory. The series covers
general correspondence about specific cases as well as material relating to criminal law, resource material, legal opinions, health and other related matters.

**Administration**

**Employment**

**Drafts – For national and regional reports and various papers relating**

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

**MISCELLANEOUS RESEARCH RECORDS OF D FYFE, INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90**

**Quantity:** 2.34 metres (Adelaide)

These files consist mainly of general correspondence and working papers of Deborah Fyfe, Instructing Solicitor for the Royal Commission in the Northern Territory. The fifty files are divided into two main groups: one is regional material covering topics such as alcohol, culture, education, underlying issues and case records; the other material relates to the final reports and includes research information, coroners reports, police and prison material.

**Aboriginal Issues Unit**

**Case material re: summaries, opening address, statements, medical records**

**Interim report – implementation**

Public access to the records: If any material from this series is sought the formal access arrangements must be applied (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).
6. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

Many administrative series were created by the Commission because there were six Commissioners, initially the Hon. James Muirhead, QC, then later the Hon. Elliott Johnston, QC, the Hon. John Wootten, QC, the Hon. Lewis Wyvill, QC, the Hon. Daniel O’Dea and Patrick Dodson. Separate series were also established by a number of Instructing Solicitors, Research Officers and Aboriginal Issues Units. Finally the number of geographical locations visited by the Commissioners and with investigative staff located there led to the need for a number of administrative units. The Commission was organised on a regional basis, with offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Broome, Canberra, Darwin and Perth, and sub-offices in Melbourne, Alice Springs and Hobart.

This chapter describes the Royal Commission’s administrative records.

Administrative files – NSW Office A8572
Perth administration files, Aboriginal Issues Unit A8590
Perth administration files, general A8591
Perth administration files, hearings administration A8592
Administrative and legal files, Queensland A8596
Personnel files A8603
Administrative files of the Royal Commission Secretariat A8604
File register for A8604, administrative files of the Royal Commission Secretariat A8786
General correspondence records Northern Territory Office D4086
General correspondence records, Aboriginal Issues Unit, Alice Springs D4088
Press clippings D4090
General correspondence records, Victorian Office D4097
General correspondence files, Perth Office D4103
General correspondence records, Aboriginal Issues Unit, South Australia D4109
General correspondence files, Adelaide Office D4137
Queensland resource material D4159
South Australian administration files D4173
Administration files D4179
Broome administration records alphabetical order D4587
List of indexable headings for correspondence files E1165

ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH NSW/ADMIN PREFIX
1987–91 A8572
Quantity: 0.72 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the New South Wales Office.
of the RCIADIC. Matters dealt with include staffing, petty cash, fitout of office premises, monthly reports and advertising.

**Administrative files – NSW Office – establishment and fitout of office premises**
A8572, NSW/Admin/2 part 2

**Administrative files – NSW Office – monthly reports**
A8572, NSW/Admin/9

**Administrative files – NSW Office – advertising**
A8572, NSW/Admin/17

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983* apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**PERTH ADMINISTRATION FILES, ABORIGINAL ISSUES UNIT, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–91**
A8590

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Perth)

This series consists of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Aboriginal Issues Unit of the Western Australian Office of the RCIADIC. Matters dealt with include staffing, travel itineraries, regional reports and staff meetings.

**Research Officer applications**
A8590, 2

**Meeting: minutes**
A8590, 47

**Discussion paper**
A8590, 73

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983* apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**PERTH ADMINISTRATION FILES – GENERAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–91**
A8591

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Perth)

This series consists of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Western Australian Office of the RCIADIC. Matters dealt with include staffing, financing, fitout of office premises, monthly reports and hire of motor vehicles.

**Commissioners**
A8591, 2

**General: miscellaneous files and information**
A8591, 11

**General: finance - forward estimates**
A8591, 32

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983* apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.
PERTH ADMINISTRATION FILES – HEARINGS ADMINISTRATION, SINGLE NUMBER, 1987–91 A8592

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Perth)

This series consists of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Western Australian Office of the RCIADIC. Matters dealt with in this series are related to the hearings held in Western Australia, both individual hearings and underlying issues hearings. The twenty-eight files include such things as timing of hearings, witness expenses and a list of people interviewed.

Witness expenses A8592, 1
Broome hearings A8592, 20
Miscellaneous – professional A8592, 28

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

QUEENSLAND ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ‘Q’ PREFIX, 1987–91 A8596

Quantity: 7.38 metres (Brisbane)

This series consists of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Queensland Office of the RCIADIC. Matters dealt with include staffing, petty cash, fitout of office premises, monthly reports and advertising. Material from the Aboriginal Issues Unit has also been included in this series in Queensland and so the series includes any legal opinions requested and correspondence relating to various State and Commonwealth Acts and Regulations.

Accounts General A8596, Q1
Legislation affecting the Commission in Queensland A8596, Q8
Consultancies regional report administration and contacts A8596, Q204

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

PERSONNEL FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–91 A8603

Quantity: 2.88 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth)

These are personnel files for the approximately 300 direct employees of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. People working on contract are not included in this series. Each file contains material relating to aspects of employment by the Commission, typically including material
relating to initial employment, leave provisions, separation from the Commission and any entitlements.

Lindsay Ah-Mat  
Michelle Mullins  
Broome Office – Jackie Oakley

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records - that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**ADMINISTRATIVE FILES OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION SECRETARIAT, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1987–91**

**Quantity:** 15.3 metres (Canberra)

The files are related to the central secretariat of the Commission and are mainly concerned with coordination and checking of the work being done in the State offices. With the State office being largely autonomous the central secretariat was responsible for standardising terminology, filing systems and monitoring progress. Many of the original files in this series have apparently been placed in other State office series during the winding up of the Commission.

**Commission – terms of reference**

**Finance – financial tracking system**

**Meetings and seminars – summary of the commissioners’ meetings**

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**FILE REGISTER FOR A8604, ADMINISTRATIVE FILES OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION SECRETARIAT, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1987–91**

**Quantity:** 0.18 metres (Canberra)

This is a single item, a blue two ring binder containing a list of all files raised by the Commission’s Secretariat. It also includes a list of all the subject headings used. The list includes all file numbers and titles in full.

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS NORTHERN TERRITORY OFFICE, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1988–90**

**Quantity:** 0.90 metres (Darwin)
These eight files consist mainly of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Northern Territory Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes some copies of operational material dealing with cases as well as the normal administrative material dealing with staffing, petty cash, office premises, reports and advertising.

5/2/1988 – 31/3/1989 D4086, 1
Outward 4/7/1990 D4086, 5
General matters (2) – case information (various dates) D4086, 8

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, ABORIGINAL ISSUES UNIT, ALICE SPRINGS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1989–90** D4088

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Darwin)

These 37 files consist mainly of general correspondence material of the Aboriginal Issues Unit in Alice Springs. The Aboriginal Issues Unit consulted with Aboriginal organisations about issues related to deaths in custody. This series includes some material dealing with Aboriginal organisations as well as the normal administrative material dealing with instructions, office premises and reports.

Catalogue of publications and products, 1989 D4088, 10
Press clippings (limited) D4088, 26
Discussion paper ‘Why so many Warlpiri and Annmatyerre Deaths in Custody?’ October 1989 D4088, 37

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1987–90** D4090

Quantity: 2.88 metres (Adelaide); 2.7 metres (Darwin); 2.7 metres (Sydney); 1.08 metres (Perth)

These press clippings are mainly photocopied articles from newspapers relating to all aspects of the Commission and Aboriginal people in Australia. From September 1988 a national service was provided by Monitar Pty Ltd. In November 1990 the South Australian administration of RCIADIC switched to a local service and other regions may also have switched to other commercial services about this time.

This material appears to consist entirely of clippings from newspapers.
South Australian Region – Box 1 – Item 1–8 August 1987 to November 1987  D4090, 1–8
Northern Territory Region – 1/11/1990 to 27/11/1990  D4090, 44
West Australian – 17/8/1990 to 10/10/1990  D4090, 16
Public access to the records: These records are publicly available.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, VICTORIAN OFFICE, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4097

Quantity:  1.26 metres (Melbourne)

These files consist of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Victorian Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes the normal administrative material dealing with staffing, petty cash, office premises, reports and advertising. There are also statistics and general information provided by other State offices.

General correspondence records Victorian Office – City of Swan Hill conferences  D4097, 1
General correspondence records Victorian Office – itinerary Bairnsdale/Morwell/Echuca  D4097, 37
General correspondence records Victorian Office – proposal for the development of an Aboriginal primary health care unit, Monash University, undated  D4097, 135

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, PERTH OFFICE, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90  D4103

Quantity:  4.86 metres (Perth)

These files consist mainly of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Western Australian Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes some copies of operational material dealing with underlying issues as well as the normal administrative material dealing with, for example, staffing, petty cash, office premises, reports and advertising.

24/4/1989 to 31/3/1989  D4103, 1
CDBR [Committee to Defend Black Rights] correspondence file 8/1/1990  D4103, 46
Review – case representation  D4103, 79

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, ABORIGINAL ISSUES UNIT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES 1989–90

D4109

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Adelaide)

These eight files consist of correspondence and administrative material relating to various aspects of the Aboriginal Issues Unit, South Australian Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes some copies of correspondence with various individuals and organisations as well as administrative material dealing with staffing, minutes of meetings and newsletters.

Folder containing employment contracts, vacancies, circulation lists, staff telephone lists, AIU information, minutes of meetings, style sheet, lecture attendances and approvals, Structural Efficiency Information Bulletin D4109, 1

Folder containing chapters for the national report D4109, 4

Folder containing survey papers, list of journal articles and transcripts, Bail Custody and Analysis Review Committee, information relating to identity/kinship, letter from Dennis Walker President Nunukul/Ngugi Cultural Heritage, report from R Bleechmore to R Hammond re: Gary Sutton/ Henry William Carter D4109, 6

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ADELAIDE OFFICE, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90

D4137

Quantity: 2.52 metres (Adelaide)

These sixteen files consist of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the South Australian Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes normal administrative material dealing with staffing, expert evidence, overview of topics and the organisation of reports.

Copies of Department of Aboriginal Affairs files – 87/1134 parts 1 to 4, 87/178 (copy) D4137, 1

Michael Gollan – Royal Commission D4137, 4

Health/resuscitation training – government D4137, 8

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

QUEENSLAND RESOURCE MATERIAL, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1988–90

D4159

Quantity: 1.8 metres (Brisbane)
These files consist of general background material relating to all aspects of the work of the Queensland Office of the RCIADIC. This ‘resource material’ includes annual reports, acts, bibliographies, settlement volumes, general exhibits and submissions. Some of this material relates just to Queensland. Other material is for the Commission throughout Australia.

Queensland: annual reports – The Chief Protector of Aboriginals D4159, 1
Queensland: general bibliography R – ROL D4159, 30
Queensland: Uniting Church documents – Aurukun D4159, 70

Public access to the records: Many documents in this series were published documents collected by the Commission’s researchers – these are publicly available. Other documents will need assessment subject to the formal access arrangements (see page 12 of the Guide for an explanation of the formal access arrangements).

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATION FILES, ALPHANUMERIC SERIES WITH ‘SA’ PREFIX, 1988–90 D4173

Quantity: 2.34 metres (Adelaide)

These files consist mainly of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the South Australian Office of the RCIADIC. The series is divided into a number of major groupings, the largest are – Accommodation, Administration, Equipment, Finance, Travel and Royal Commission matters. Files dealing with personnel have been taken from this series and placed in series A8603, Personnel Files, single number series.

Accommodation – office Adelaide part 1, 2 D4173, SA/1/1
Administration – public relations D4173, SA/2/20
Finance – legal fees D4173, SA/4/7

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

ADMINISTRATION FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ‘NT’ PREFIX, 1988–90 D4179

Quantity: 1.44 metres (Darwin)

These files consist mainly of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Northern Territory Office of the RCIADIC. This series includes material dealing with staffing, petty cash, office premises, reports and advertising.

Administration files Northern Territory – office accommodation D4179, NT/1/1
Administration Files Northern Territory – Court Bookings – Hearings D4179, NT/2/10
Administration files Northern Territory – Aboriginal Issues
Unit – applications (parts 1–2)  D4179, NT/8/3

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

BROOME ADMINISTRATION RECORDS ALPHABETICAL ORDER, 1989–91  D4587

Quantity: 0.72 metres (Perth)

These files consist of administrative material relating to various ‘housekeeping’ matters of the Broome Office of the RCIADIC in Western Australia. This series is held in manilla folders and includes material dealing with staffing, finance, office premises, reports and advertising.

Meetings/conferences – Broome  D4587, 20
Premises  D4587, 30
Miscellaneous photographs of – Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Mary River bush meeting, students at Nulungu College  D4587, 52

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.

LIST OF INDEXABLE HEADINGS FOR CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1989–90  E1165

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Darwin)

This is a printed copy of the list of headings used as a subject index to file and locate material held by the Commission. The list is held on computer. A copy has been printed for reference use.

Public access to the records: This series consists of administrative records of the Royal Commission. The access provisions of the Archives Act 1983 apply to the records – that is, they become eligible for public access when they reach 30 years of age.
APPENDIX 1 THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE


(I) Chronology of the issue of Commonwealth Letters Patent and the effect of each change

16 OCTOBER 1987

The Honourable James Henry Muirhead, QC was appointed to inquire into and report upon

(i) the deaths in Australia since 1 January 1980 of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders whilst in police custody, in prison or in any other place of detention,

(ii) any subsequent action taken in respect of those deaths.

Commissioner Muirhead was requested to report the findings of his inquiry and to make such recommendations as appropriate by 31 December 1988 or such later date as may be fixed. The Letters Patent authorised Commissioner Muirhead to conduct his inquiry in consultation with any Commission issued by Governors of the States.

21 DECEMBER 1987

Commissioner Muirhead was authorised to conduct his inquiry in combination with any Commissions issued under the law of the Northern Territory.

6 MAY 1988

Commissioner Muirhead’s Letters Patent were amended to –

(i) vary the specification of the deaths under inquiry to: the deaths in Australia since 1 January 1980 of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders whilst in police custody, in prison or in any other place of detention, but not including such a death occurring in a hospital, mental institution, infirmary or medical treatment centre unless injuries suffered while in police custody, in prison or in any place of detention caused or contributed to that death,

(ii) authorise him, for the purpose of reporting on any underlying issues associated with the deaths to take account of social, cultural and legal factors which, in his judgment appeared to have a bearing on the deaths,

(iii) authorise him to refer to other Commissioners for inquiry or request another Commissioner not to undertake inquiry into a particular death,

(iv) authorise him to issue guidelines to the Commissioners as to methods and procedures,
(v) authorise him to receive reports from the other Commissioners,
(vi) require him to submit all reports, including those of the other Commissioners, by 31 December 1989 or such later date as may be fixed.

Letters Patent were also issued to three additional Commissioners with responsibility to conduct inquiries in particular States as follows:

- The Honourable Elliott Frank Johnston, QC: Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory
- The Hon. John Halden Wootten, QC: New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania
- Lewis Francis Wyvill, QC: Queensland

The new Commissioners were required to submit their reports to Commissioner Muirhead by 30 June 1989 and thereafter be available to consult with him in the preparation of his report.

27 OCTOBER 1988

Commissioner Muirhead’s final reporting date was amended to 31 December 1990.

The Hon. Daniel John O’Dea was appointed to conduct inquiries in Western Australia.

Commissioner O’Dea was required to submit his reports by 30 September.

The reporting dates of Commissioners Johnston, Wootten and Wyvill were varied to 31 December 1989.

7 DECEMBER 1988

A minor amendment was made to Commissioner O’Dea’s Letters Patent to conform with the specification of location of death contained in the Letters Patent of the other Commissioners.

27 APRIL 1989

Commissioner Muirhead’s Commission was revoked with effect at noon on 28 April 1989.

Commissioner Elliott Frank Johnston was appointed (with bridging provisions) to take over from Commissioner Muirhead (the former’s earlier Commission was revoked).

The specification of deaths to be inquired into was varied in all commissions to exclude any deaths occurring after 31 May 1989.

The reporting dates of Commissioners Wootten and Wyvill were varied to 30 September 1990.
28 JUNE 1989

Patrick Lionel Dodson was appointed to inquire into underlying issues associated with deaths in custody of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Western Australia. Commissioner Dodson was required to submit his report to Commissioner Johnston and to undertake to consult with him in the preparation of his final report. (Commissioner Dodson’s appointment returned the Commission to full strength of five Commissioners, the number of Commissioners having been reduced to four on the departure of Commissioner Muirhead. Because of the workload in Western Australia the inquiry was divided on a functional basis between inquiry into individual deaths (Commissioner O’Dea) and into underlying issues.)

24 SEPTEMBER 1990

Commissioner Johnston’s reporting date was extended to 31 March 1991.

The reporting dates of Commissioners Dodson, O’Dea, Wooten and Wyvill in respect of their regional reports of overall findings were extended to 30 November 1990 (the deadline for reporting on individual cases in respect of Commissioners O’Dea, Wooten and Wyvill remained 30 September 1990).

11 OCTOBER 1990

Commissioner Wooten’s reporting date in respect of his inquiry into individual deaths was extended to 31 December 1990. (This amendment was made so that Commissioner Wooten could conduct an inquiry into the death of David Gundy; his earlier ruling that the death was within his jurisdiction had been challenged and the matter was not resolved in the courts in time for him to complete the inquiry prior to 30 September 1990.)

9 NOVEMBER 1990

Commissioner Wooten’s reporting date in respect of the overall findings of his inquiries was extended to 31 December 1990.

27 MARCH 1990

Commissioner Johnston’s reporting date was extended to 26 April 1991.
(2) Dates of issue of Commonwealth Letters Patent and dates of parallel action* in the States and the Northern Territory

* Letters Patent were issued by Their Excellencies the Governors of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.

His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia issued Commissions.

In the Northern Territory the appointment of Commissioner Muirhead and, upon his departure, of Commissioner Johnston was made under the Commission of Inquiry (Deaths in Custody) Act 1987. His Honour the Administrator issued Letters Patent to Commissioner Johnston before he took over from Commissioner Muirhead as National Commissioner, and to the other Commissioners.

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<th>WA</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>TAS</th>
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<td>10 Nov 87</td>
<td>29 Oct 87</td>
<td>10 Nov 87</td>
<td>10 Nov 87</td>
<td>23 Nov 87</td>
<td>Muirhead</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>7 Dec 88 O’Dea</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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| 28 Jun 89 Dodson | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
|

59
The Commission’s terms of reference

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APPENDIX 2  NAMES OF DECEASED PERSONS

Table 1 lists the names of deceased persons whose deaths were investigated by the Commission. Table 2 lists the names of persons whose cases were inquired into by the Commission but which were found to be outside its jurisdiction. The lists are based on Appendices B(I) and B(II) in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody National Report, Vol 5 (Commissioner Elliott Johnston), AGPS, Canberra 1991.

In some indigenous communities use of the name of a dead person may cause offence and distress. In these instances the Royal Commission ordered the suppression of the name of the deceased at the request of the individual’s family and for cultural reasons. In the tables below these individuals are identified by their place of death and are marked with an asterisk.

Table 1

Deaths inquired into which were found to be within the jurisdiction of the Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Commissioner</th>
<th>Hearing days</th>
<th>Witnesses</th>
<th>Date of death</th>
<th>Place of death</th>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>Wiluna Lockup, WA</td>
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<td>Atkinson, Shane</td>
<td>Wootten</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5/10/86</td>
<td>Griffith Watch-house, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arukun*</td>
<td>Wyvill</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11/4/87</td>
<td>Arukun Watch-house, Qld</td>
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<tr>
<td>BARNES, Faith</td>
<td>O’Dea</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>27/10/82</td>
<td>Royal Perth Hospital, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>BARNEY, Walter</td>
<td>Wyvill</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22/2/81</td>
<td>Townsville Prison, Qld</td>
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<tr>
<td>BATES, Bobby</td>
<td>O’Dea</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/6/86</td>
<td>Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice Hill</td>
<td>O’Dea</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21/9/88</td>
<td>Beatrice Hill Prison Farm, NT</td>
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<td>Prison Farm*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>BETTS, Edward</td>
<td>Johnston</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6/10/87</td>
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<td>BINKS, Muriel</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11/3/89</td>
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<td>Blankett, Nita</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>14/1/82</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6/8/87</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>15/11/88</td>
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<td>Brisbane Prison*</td>
<td>Wyvill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>BROWN, Stanley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Surname</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>DOB</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<td>Burralangi *</td>
<td>Johnston</td>
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<td>BUZZACOTT, Malcolm</td>
<td>Johnston</td>
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<td>19/7/82</td>
<td>en route from place of work back to Port Augusta Gaol, SA</td>
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<td>CAMERON, Edward</td>
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<td>CAMPBELL, Peter</td>
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<td>CARR, Thomas</td>
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<td>Ceduna*</td>
<td>Johnston</td>
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<td>CHATUNALGI, Donald</td>
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<td>Darwin Prison*</td>
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<td>DAY, Harrison</td>
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<td>9/7/87</td>
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<td>DOOLER, Wayne</td>
<td>O’Dea</td>
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<td>DOUGAL, Albert</td>
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<td>O’Dea</td>
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<td>Johnston</td>
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1 Shown as 11 April in the individual case report
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<td>4/1/83</td>
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<td>HYDE, Charlie</td>
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<td>Jabanardi at Ti-Tree*</td>
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<td>7 6</td>
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² Shown as 12 June 1987 in the individual case report
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**Table 2**

Deaths inquired into which were found to be outside the Jurisdiction of the Commission

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<td>Happy Valley, near Coffs Harbour, NSW</td>
<td>Death not caused or contributed to by time spent in custody</td>
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<td>Prince Henry Hospital, NSW</td>
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## APPENDIX 3 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following list includes acronyms and abbreviations used by the Royal Commission as well as those used in this Guide. It is based on the list that appears in the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody National Report*, Vol 5 (Commissioner Elliott Johnston), AGPS, Canberra 1991.

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<tr>
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<td>Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>AATA</td>
<td>Aboriginal Advancement Trust Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Australian Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>ABSEC</td>
<td>Aboriginal Secondary Assistance Scheme (now ABSTUDY Schooling)</td>
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<td>ABSEG</td>
<td>Aboriginal Secondary Education Grant (now ABSTUDY Schooling)</td>
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<td>ABSTUDY</td>
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<td>ABTA</td>
<td>Aboriginals Benefit Trust Account</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Community Affairs Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACC</td>
<td>Aboriginal Coordinating Council</td>
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<td>ADC</td>
<td>Aboriginal Development Commission (now ATSIC)</td>
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<td>ADFA</td>
<td>Alcohol and Drug Foundation Australia (now known as Australian Council of Alcohol and Other Drug Associations)</td>
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<td>AJA</td>
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<td>ATSICDC</td>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commercial Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVS</td>
<td>Aboriginal Visitors Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAMS</td>
<td>Broome Aboriginal Medical Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC</td>
<td>Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAAC</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAALAS</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAAMA</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAE</td>
<td>College of Advanced Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAEPR</td>
<td>Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALM</td>
<td>Conservation and Land Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMS</td>
<td>Carnarvon Aboriginal Medical Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATARAC</td>
<td>Central Area Training Aboriginal Resource Accounting Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCNT</td>
<td>Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBR</td>
<td>Committee to Defend Black Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Commercial Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDEP</td>
<td>Community Development Employment Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEAAC</td>
<td>Catholic Education Aboriginal Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEC</td>
<td>Catholic Education Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEP</td>
<td>Commonwealth Employment Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CES</td>
<td>Commonwealth Employment Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJP</td>
<td>Community Justice Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLC</td>
<td>Central Land Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>Community Release Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>Commonwealth Record Series (National Archives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRU</td>
<td>Criminology Research Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Community Service Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Computerised Tomography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAA</td>
<td>Department of Aboriginal Affairs (now ATSIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS</td>
<td>Department of Aboriginal Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCH</td>
<td>Department of Community Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS (1)</td>
<td>Department of Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS (2)</td>
<td>Department of Corrective Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEET</td>
<td>Department of Employment, Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETAFE</td>
<td>Department of Employment, Technical and Further Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFSAIA</td>
<td>Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOF</td>
<td>Department of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOGIT</td>
<td>Deeds Of Grant In Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOPIE</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industry and Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPP</td>
<td>Director of Public Prosecutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPUD</td>
<td>Department for Planning and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSR</td>
<td>Department of Sport and Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSS</td>
<td>Department of Social Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEA</td>
<td>Enterprise Employment Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEO</td>
<td>Equal Employment Opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>English as a Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESU</td>
<td>Enterprise Support Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACS</td>
<td>Family and Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANZCP</td>
<td>Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCAATSI</td>
<td>Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOI</td>
<td>Freedom of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORWAARD</td>
<td>Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNP</td>
<td>Good Neighbour Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACC</td>
<td>Home and Community Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HALT</td>
<td>Healthy Aboriginal Life Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>Health Department of Western Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOAL</td>
<td>Homes on Aboriginal Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hon.</td>
<td>Honourable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HREOC</td>
<td>Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICD</td>
<td>International Classification of Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPCHAC</td>
<td>Incarcerated Peoples Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP</td>
<td>Justice of the Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>JPA</td>
<td>Justices of Peace Association</td>
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<td>KALCC</td>
<td>Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAMSC</td>
<td>Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLC</td>
<td>Kimberley Land Council</td>
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<td>KRALAS</td>
<td>Katherine Regional Aboriginal Legal Aid Service</td>
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<td>LAC</td>
<td>Legal Aid Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAECG</td>
<td>Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGC</td>
<td>Local Government Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Doctor of medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAANH</td>
<td>Northern Area Aboriginal Neighbourhood House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAC</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACC</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Consultative Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NADU</td>
<td>North Australia Development Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAEC</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Education Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAEP</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Education Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAHSWP</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Health Strategy Working Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIDOC</td>
<td>National Aboriginal and Islander Day Organising Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAISO</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Islander Health Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAILSS</td>
<td>National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARU</td>
<td>North Australia Research Unit</td>
</tr>
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<td>NCADA</td>
<td>National Campaign Against Drug Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Nulungu Catholic College</td>
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<tr>
<td>NESA</td>
<td>National Employment Strategy for Aboriginales</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFLC</td>
<td>National Federation of Land Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>NH&amp;MRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHC</td>
<td>Nganarnpa Health Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTAMS</td>
<td>Northern Territory Aerial Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAA</td>
<td>Office of Aboriginal Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIC</td>
<td>Officer in Charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFANZ</td>
<td>Police Federation of Australia and New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhotoSearch</td>
<td>The National Archives online photographic database.</td>
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<td>PIA</td>
<td>Public Intoxication Act</td>
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<td>PIAC</td>
<td>Public Interest Advocacy Centre</td>
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<td>PMS</td>
<td>Prison Medical Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNLRM</td>
<td>Preferred National Land Rights Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>Public Service Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>QC</td>
<td>Queen’s Counsel</td>
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<td>QCSC</td>
<td>Queensland Corrective Services Commission</td>
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<td>RALC</td>
<td>Regional Aboriginal Land Council</td>
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<td>RATE</td>
<td>Remote Area Teacher Education</td>
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<td>RATEP</td>
<td>Remote Area Teacher Education Program</td>
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<td>RCAGA</td>
<td>Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration</td>
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<td>RCIADIC</td>
<td>Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody</td>
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<tr>
<td>RecordSearch</td>
<td>The National Archives online records database</td>
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<td>RFDS</td>
<td>Royal Flying Doctor Service</td>
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<td>SBS</td>
<td>Special Broadcasting Service</td>
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<td>SCAM</td>
<td>Self Contained Accommodation Modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJAA</td>
<td>St John Ambulance Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMR (1)</td>
<td>Standardised Mortality Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMR (2)</td>
<td>Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAICC</td>
<td>Secretariat National Aboriginal Islander Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPG</td>
<td>Special Purpose Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWOS</td>
<td>Special Weapons and Operations Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWRC</td>
<td>Social Welfare Research Centre (now Social Policy Research Centre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>Technical and Further Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAP</td>
<td>Training for Aboriginals Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCHIP</td>
<td>Town Campers Housing and Infrastructure Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TE</td>
<td>Tertiary Entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEPA</td>
<td>Tertiary Education Program for Aboriginals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRG</td>
<td>Tactical Response Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAM</td>
<td>United Aboriginal Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB</td>
<td>Unemployment Benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPK</td>
<td>Uwankara Palyanyku Kanyintjaku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>VACSAI</td>
<td>Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAEAI</td>
<td>Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAHS</td>
<td>Victorian Aboriginal Health Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALS</td>
<td>Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAMHN</td>
<td>Victorian Aboriginal Mental Health Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAADA</td>
<td>Western Australia Alcohol and Drug Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAAECG</td>
<td>Western Australian Aboriginal Education Consultative Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WACAE</td>
<td>Western Australian College of Advanced Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATC</td>
<td>Western Australian Tourism Commission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4  FURTHER READING

The following is a selection of the many publications and reports that appeared during the course of the Royal Commission or after its final report was presented. Many additional works will be identified by searching online bibliographic databases such as APAIS (Australian Public Affairs Information Service) or ABN (the Australian Bibliographic Network). It is suggested that you ask your librarian to undertake these searches for you.

Government publications

The many government publications include submissions to the Commission, research papers, individual State and Territory government responses to the Commission’s recommendations, and implementation reports:

*Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*, National Report (Commissioner Elliott Johnston), 5 volumes, AGPS, Canberra, 1991


Aboriginal deaths in custody: response by the Tasmanian Government to the Royal Commission, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Hobart, 1992

ATSIC submission to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody on underlying issues and responses to specific questions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Canberra, 1991

Empowerment of Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders in the ACT. Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, 1993–94. ACT Government Implementation Report, Chief Minister’s Department, Canberra, 1995

Final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody South Australian Government response, Aboriginal Affairs Department, Adelaide, 1992


Implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: 1992/93 ACT Government implementation report, Chief Minister’s Department, Canberra, 1994

Justice under scrutiny: report of the inquiry into implementation by Governments of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, AGPS, Canberra, 1994


Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Volume 1, Government of Western Australia implementation report 1995, Aboriginal Affairs Department, Perth, 1995

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: 1993 implementation report, South Australian Government, Aboriginal Affairs Department, 1994
Books and journal articles


Biles, David and McDonald, David (eds), Deaths in custody, Australia, 1980–1989: the research papers of the Criminology Unit of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1992.


Dalton, Vicki and McDonald, David, Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations, 1994–95, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1995.

---, Deaths in Custody, Australia, National Deaths in Custody Monitoring and Research Unit, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1992.

Four studies conducted for the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: user’s guide for four machine-readable data files, Social Science Data Archives, ANU, Canberra, 1991.


**Electronic publications**

Aboriginal Reconciliation Branch, Office of Indigenous Affairs, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Justice and Equity, a 25,000-page electronic library on CD ROM, available free at libraries, universities and legal and community centres.

**Internet sites**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission  www.atsic.gov.au

APPENDIX 5     OTHER RECORDS

Commonwealth records in the collection of the National Archives include much information which is relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Some of it is about day-to-day administration, particular events and people; some of it is about government policy and programs.

All of the National Archives offices hold some material on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but the most extensive holdings are in the Northern Territory, Victorian and National (Canberra) Offices. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers in Darwin, Melbourne and Canberra have relied on the Archives’ holdings for a variety of important research: Land claim and native title research; the preparation of the High Court case (*Kruger and Ors v The Commonwealth*); tracing family and community ties; and preparing submissions to the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal Children from their Families.

Finding the records

There is no single centralised collection of, or index to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander records within the National Archives. Many of the records in the collection are not clearly identifiable as being about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The information can range from record items containing incidental or passing references to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through to detailed case files about individuals. Other information might be contained in records on apparently unrelated subjects and will only be identified by checking the record itself. This is a characteristic of archival records everywhere, and it makes research based on archival sources an analytical and labour intensive process.

Archival research involves the study of unique, original documents. Consequently, the storage areas of the Archives, unlike those of most libraries, may not be browsed by researchers wishing to identify records that might be relevant. This means that researchers are entirely reliant on indexes and guides to locate material of relevance to their research. The Archives’ role is to assist researchers to understand and use the indexes and other reference tools. The Archives does not undertake detailed research on behalf of researchers, nor does it interpret the records.

Finding aids

The databases, indexes, fact sheets and guides created and maintained by the Archives to help researchers identify relevant records are called finding aids. These are available to all in our reading rooms.

Three guides based on the Archives collection are of particular relevance. In 1993 the Archives published the guide compiled by Ros Fraser, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Commonwealth Records: A Guide to Records in the Australian Archives ACT Regional Office*. Also in 1993 the Archives, together with the Public Record Office of Victoria, produced a joint guide to records about Aboriginal people in Victoria titled *My Heart is Breaking*. A third guide, published in 1998, is also of relevance. *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists* contains a chapter on records about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
These guides are invaluable starting points for research, but they can be complex documents to use. Researchers interested in very specific inquiries, for example, about their families or a particular pastoral station or home will not find the ‘answer’ in them.

Three relevant fact sheets have also been issued. These are: *The Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission* (Fact Sheet 112), which provides a summary of the records of the Royal Commission; *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People* (Fact Sheet 113), which gives information about the administration of Aboriginal affairs during the twentieth century, to provide a context for the records held by National Archives; and *Memorandum of Understanding with the NT Aboriginal People* (Fact Sheet 114), which describes the arrangements between the National Archives and Northern Territory Aboriginal groups to assist Aboriginal people obtain access to Commonwealth government records.

**Access to the records**

Given the major role that governments played in the lives of Aboriginal people, the extent and nature of information about Aboriginal people in government records is often highly personal and goes well beyond what was normally recorded about the white community. To release this material under the public access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983* would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of the personal affairs of an individual as provided by section 33(1)(g) of the Act. However, because this is precisely the information which is needed for retracing family and community connections, the Archives acknowledges the need of the individuals concerned, or their representatives, to have unhindered access to these records.

While the Archives has the leading role in regulating access to records over 30 years old, the Archives does not have power to regulate access to records less than 30 years old. Commonwealth records less than 30 years old are known as ‘closed period’ records, reflecting the fact that they are closed to public access under the Archives Act. Access to these records may be sought by approaching the agency which created the records (or its successor) direct under the Freedom of Information Act, or by seeking permission from the agency for the discretionary release of the records.

**Obtaining copies of records**

All offices of the Archives provide a copying service. The copies most frequently provided are photocopies although photographic copies, microform and other copying can be arranged. A fee schedule is available in Fact Sheet 51.

**Further information**

For more information about the Archives’ collection and how to use it we suggest that you contact the office of the Archives in your State or Territory by mail, telephone, facsimile or email. The addresses and contact information for each office of the Archives are given at the end of this Guide.
APPENDIX 6    GLOSSARY OF ARCHIVAL TERMS

archives
There are three different uses of the term ‘archives’:
1. Those non-current records that are identified as having enduring value and so are suitable for permanent retention;
2. The place (building/room/storage area) where archival material is kept. Also referred to as a repository;
3. An organisation (or part of an organisation) responsible for the care and control of archival material.

case file
A file dealing with a specific action, event, person, place, project or other subject.

citation
In the Archives context, the recording of information about records in a standard format – for example, NAA: A461, 1953/221 is the standard format for referring to item 1953/221 of series A461.

closed period
As determined by the Archives Act, Commonwealth records are not made available for public access until 30 years has elapsed since the last day of the year in which they were created. For example, records created in 1968 are available after 31 December 1998 (ie from 1 Jan 1999). The period before they are available is referred to as the closed period. See also open period.

Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System
The Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System is the cataloguing system used to link records with the agencies that created them. A separate registration is prepared for each agency and series and each is given a unique identifying number. These registrations are on the RecordSearch database.

finding aid
Any descriptive media created by an archival institution to assist staff and users to find records and the information within records. Basic finding aids include guides (general, repository, subject or topical), inventories or registers, location registers, card catalogues, special lists, shelf and box lists, indexes, calendars, and for electronic records, software documentation. The National Archives’ primary finding aids are the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases.

guide
A finding aid describing archival holdings relating to a particular subject, period, geographical area, record format, or records created by a particular agency.

item
An item is the smallest discrete unit which has been incorporated into a recordkeeping system and forms part of a series. An item may be a group of folios fastened together, such as a file, or a single volume, card, map, plan, photograph, film, sound recording, computer tape or other document which exists as a discrete entity.

item list
A list of items within a series compiled for the purpose of control and information. It usually contains such information as item number, item title, item date range and occasionally, item size. Also referred to as an ‘inventory’.

**item number**

A control symbol allocated by the creator of the record item, for example, file numbers. As far as possible, the control symbol allocated to an item by an agency is retained for archival purposes. In the absence of original control symbols, they may be allocated by the National Archives to enable retrieval.

**jacket**

Obsolete name for a file.

**National Archives of Australia**

A Commonwealth government organisation established by the *Archives Act 1983*. Its purpose is to preserve for posterity the most important records created by all Commonwealth government administrations.

**open period**

As determined by the Archives Act, Commonwealth records are made available for public access after 30 years has elapsed since the last day of the year in which they were created. The open period (ie available for public access) begins on the first day of the calendar year after they reach the age of 30 years. For example, records created in 1967 came into the open period after 31 December 1997 (ie from 1 January 1998). Also referred to as the open access period. See also *closed period*.

**privacy**

The right of living people to be secure from the unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, information contained in records and archives of a private or confidential nature about themselves or their immediate family.

**public access**

The public right to consult records which are in the open period, ie records more than 30 years old, subject to access examination to identify exempt information.

**quantity**

A measurement of the amount of records. In the National Archives this is a linear measurement expressed as the number of metres of shelving occupied by the records.

**reader’s ticket**

A numbered pass issued to researchers to facilitate access to reading rooms. Researchers’ details are linked to this number, thereby making it possible to create an audit trail and see which records are being used by whom. By signing a reader’s ticket the researcher agrees to abide by reading room rules.

**reading room**

A room or area set aside for the supervised consultation of archives by researchers. In the National Archives there are both public and official reading rooms. Also known as search rooms in other archival institutions.

**RecordSearch**

RecordSearch is an online computer database which contains details of items held by the National Archives and the Australian War Memorial. It contains information on:
• all record series in the National Archives custody and Commonwealth records in the custody of the Australian War Memorial;
• the agencies or persons who created or control those series; and
• records still in agency custody.

reference copy
A microfilm or other copy of a record or series made for reference use. The reasons for this may be to enable several copies to be available in different locations or to protect the original copy from damage.

reference service
The facilities and services that enable researchers to use the archives and its records once access to them is approved. This includes assistance in using finding aids, and the provision of facilities to view and copy records.

research agent
A person employed to do research on behalf of another, usually for a fee.

researcher
A person who consults records held by the archives, usually in a reading room. Also referred to as a user.

series
A series consists of a group of records which have resulted from the same accumulation or filing process (with the same numerical, alphabetical, chronological or other identifiable sequence) or which have a similar format or information content. Records in a series are usually kept together because they result from the same activity. Series may include files, indexes, magnetic recordings, photographs, films, plans etc. The series is the basic unit of control used by the National Archives.

top numbering
The renumbering and intersorting of items into a more recent series or their integration into another agency’s recordkeeping system
APPENDIX 7 OTHER GUIDES TO THE COLLECTION

The Archives creates and maintains guides to records in its collection to help researchers identify and locate records relevant to their research. The guides currently available or in preparation are listed below.

Published research guides


Forthcoming research guides (working titles)

Copyright Collections in the National Archives
Postwar Migration to Australia, Records Held in Melbourne
Northern Territory Land Records
Security Intelligence in Australia, 1946–68
Australia and the Japanese: The First Two Hundred Years
World War II Internment Records
Transcontinental Railway Records

Other published guides


APPENDIX 8 ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES OFFICES

Canberra
Queen Victoria Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6212 3900
Fax: (02) 6212 3999
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 7425
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Sydney
120 Miller Road
Chester Hill NSW 2162
Tel: (02) 9645 0110
Fax: (02) 9645 0108
Email: ref@naa.gov.au
TTY: (02) 9743 8419

Postal address:
Locked Bag 4
Chester Hill NSW 2162

Sydney Records Centre
2 Globe Street
The Rocks

Melbourne Archives Centre
Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9285 7999
Fax: (03) 9285 7979
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 8005
Burwood Heights VIC 3151

Brisbane
996 Wynnum Road
Cannon Hill Qld 4170
Tel: (07) 3249 4226
Fax: (07) 3399 6589
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 552
Cannon Hill Qld 4170

Perth
384 Berwick Street
East Victoria Park WA 6101
Tel: (08) 9470 7500
Fax: (08) 9470 2787
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 1144
East Victoria Park WA 6981

Adelaide
78 Angas Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8409 8400
Fax: (08) 8409 8499
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 6536
Adelaide SA 5000

Hobart
Ground Floor
85 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Tel: (03) 6230 6111
Fax: (03) 6230 6134
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 309
Hobart TAS 7000

Darwin
Kelsey Crescent
Millner NT 0810
Tel: (08) 8985 0300
Fax: (08) 8985 0399
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 24
Nightcliff NT 0810