



Australian Government Action Plan for the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages



Australian Government



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages

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Resurgence

Gilimbaa artist, Rachael Sarra (Goreng Goreng)

Acknowledgement

The Australian Government shows respect by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connections to land, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders past, present and future.

Language statement

We recognise the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living throughout Australia. We have used the words “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples” and “First Australians” to refer to all people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, and “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages” when referring to languages that are indigenous to Australia. We have used “Indigenous languages” when referring to the international context, including languages that are Indigenous to other countries across the world. The exception to this is when listing the title of a program or initiative, such as the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. The collective noun “we” refers to the Australian Government.

Artist's Statement

Resurgence

For our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, languages have been at the heart of our cultures for over 60,000 years. Indigenous languages have been described as the sleeping giant and this year there will be endeavors to wake and ignite language in communities throughout Australia. The cultural pattern is a respectful celebration inspired by the idea of language always being here. It is important to share language with the broader community to create a resurgence of culture and strengthen identity.

Through a past, present and future lens, the logo and cultural pattern explores this narrative from the perspective of Gilimbaa artist Rachael Sarra (Goreng Goreng). The cultural pattern acknowledges the thriving beauty of language as an integral part of culture and identity prior to colonisation. Colours and symbols represent diverse communities including rural, remote, desert, rainforest, urban, coastal and Torres Strait Islanders.

With spoken languages across Australia reducing from 250 to 120 and more still at risk, the cultural pattern respectfully acknowledges the lost and denied languages of that time. This year is an opportunity to celebrate language and create a legacy of cultural preservation throughout Australia.



About the artwork elements

Past, Identity, Always Was, Connection

The past element acknowledges the diverse, rich and beautiful languages freely used prior to colonisation.



Past/Present, Lost/Stolen, Denied/Disconnected

The past/present element represents the trauma of losing languages and being denied the human right to speak traditional languages as a result of colonisation. This element is important in the broader 'truth telling' narrative of Australian history and an integral part of educating the broader community around language.



Present/Future, Celebration, Empowerment, Resurgence, Preservation, Legacy

The present/future element represents the powerful opportunity we have to shift the mindset and direction of Australia as a nation through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The International Year of Indigenous Languages is a powerful platform to ignite an interest in and revival of the diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages of our country.

Above all, it is a celebration of language and a way to strengthen cultural identities and preserve our rich and diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



Additional elements

These additional elements are an extension of the celebration theme. Individually they represent people coming together as part of the broader past, present and future lens of the cultural pattern.



Introduction

The United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IY2019) to raise awareness of the crucial role languages play in people's daily lives.

In 2016, the UN reported that **40 per cent (2,680)** of the estimated **6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing**. Most of these are Indigenous languages, placing the world's cultures and knowledge systems at risk. Australia's languages are some of the most endangered in the world.

Language has complex implications for identity, cultural diversity, spirituality, communication, social cohesion, education and development. The UN recognises that language is a core component of human rights and fundamental freedoms.¹ The IY2019 aims to contribute to the attainment of the goals of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also reinforces goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations system-wide action plan on the rights of Indigenous peoples.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is leading and organising the IY2019. UNESCO worked with governments, Indigenous peoples' organisations, researchers and other stakeholders to create an UNESCO Action Plan that sets out the path to achieving the objectives of the IY2019. It calls for a coherent approach and for joint collaborative action by all stakeholders to achieve maximum positive effect and social change with regard to Indigenous languages and those who speak them.

1 United Nations Economic and Social Council (2018), Action Plan for organising the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, p. 2

UNESCO Objectives

The Australian Government recognises UNESCO's objectives for the IY2019. Through participating in the IY2019, the Australian Government will ultimately contribute to UNESCO's objectives, which include:

- Focusing global attention on the critical risks confronting Indigenous languages and the significance of such risks for sustainable development, reconciliation, good governance and peacebuilding.
- Targeting steps which will lead to improved quality of life, enhanced international cooperation and strengthened intercultural dialogue, and reaffirming cultural and linguistic continuity.
- Delivering increased capacities on the part of all stakeholders to take concrete and sustainable measures at every level to support, access and promote Indigenous languages around the world in accordance with the legitimate rights of Indigenous peoples.

The Australian Government supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and respects our commitments under the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Australian Government Themes

In participating in the IY2019, the Australian Government is committed to undertaking actions in the following thematic areas. These have been adapted from UNESCO's themes, listed in the UNESCO Action Plan.



Support for the revitalisation and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language



Access to education, information and knowledge in and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages



Promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and values

The Australian Government vision

The Australian Government's vision is for an Australia where respect for our rich diversity begins with respect for the world's oldest continuing cultures, that of our First Australians. In partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we commit to strengthening the support for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The Australian Government recognises the many benefits to its citizens when all Australian languages are respected and kept strong. Most critically, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are essential to ensuring the sustainability, vitality and identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The strength of and access to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages has been shown to reap economic, social and intrinsic benefits to individuals and communities. **They enrich Australia's cultural life, make a valuable contribution to our national economy and are seen as a cultural asset internationally.** Languages have been shown to contribute to improvements in the health and wellbeing of Australians, education outcomes, environmental science and management, and economic prosperity.²



2 Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Health, (2017), My Life My Lead - Opportunities for strengthening approaches to the social determinants and cultural determinants of Indigenous health: Report on the national consultations December 2017.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in Australia

Of the estimated 250 original Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in Australia, it was found in 2012 that 120 are still spoken and of these 13 are considered strong in the sense that they are still spoken by all age groups.³

The 13 strongly spoken languages is a decline from the 18 found to be strong in 2004.⁴ Some languages considered to be strong also show signs of declining vitality.⁵

While there are endangered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages across Australia, the number of languages, the number of speakers, and the fluency of these speakers can vary within each community, or language group. There are many factors that can influence the use of language by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and these vary considerably across the country, such as the challenges caused by geography, accessibility or strength of the language.

3 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2014), Community, identity, wellbeing: the report of the Second National Indigenous Language Survey, p. xii

4 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2005), National Indigenous Language Survey Report, p. 77

5 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2014), Community, identity, wellbeing: the report of the Second National Indigenous Language Survey, p. 16



Our commitment to IY2019

The Australian Government is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to preserve and rejuvenate their languages. We will promote opportunities for Australians to participate in a variety of activities for the IY2019. Support will be focused on ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages thrive, are celebrated, and are considered across whole of government services and policies.

Our principles

In line with UNESCO's IY2019 international principles of centrality, compliance, joint action, building strengths, a holistic approach and synergy, the Australian Government is committed to the following principles:

1. The **centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples** to the Australian Government's IY2019 activities, ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are placed at the centre of initiatives and that initiatives are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner.
2. Encouraging and supporting **wide participation in the IY2019** across the Australian Government, ensuring support for activities across sectors is delivered collaboratively, coherently and efficiently.
3. Considering the **legacy of activities** and profile of the IY2019 and integrating this into broader, continuing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
4. **Engaging with the international system** to deliver the Australian Government response to the IY2019, including actively participating in international forums as a member of the International Steering Committee for organising the IY2019, and working with considerations for other United Nations mechanisms.



1. Centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

At an international, national and local level there is a clear commitment to working in partnership with Indigenous peoples.⁶ It is also critical to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians on Indigenous languages.⁷ Outcomes are unlikely to be achieved without collective efforts to build these relationships across all levels of government.

Cultural authority, community control and engagement are paramount to delivering successful outcomes for the IY2019.

The Australian Government will prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in the IY2019, by working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories are told in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways. This can be achieved through:

- Conveying what is important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
- Connecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in a way that is meaningful and true.
- Recognising, celebrating and showcasing work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians on languages.
- Ensuring that all stakeholders incorporate a number of mechanisms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations to engage throughout the IY2019.

Throughout the year, the Australian Government will work to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are central to the IY2019 and its activities and will highlight the importance of this by showcasing best practice examples.

6 United Nations Economic and Social Council (2018), Action Plan for organising the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, p. 5

7 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2018), Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2018, <https://closingthegap.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/ctg-report-2018.pdf> accessed 7 November 2018



2. Wide participation and collaboration

Support for languages must be considered holistically. The Australian Government is taking a multi-stakeholder approach and collaborating with other sectors and jurisdictions to actively prepare a comprehensive strategy to participate in the IY2019. This Action Plan is intended to encourage collaboration between multiple sectors, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' representatives, Government departments, state, territory and local governments, academia, non-government organisations, private sector groups, and other interested organisations.

The declaration of the IY2019 provides an opportunity to realise the benefits that accrue from a coordinated and strategic approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. This is why the Australian Government will come together across portfolios to coordinate our efforts for IY2019.

3. The legacy of IY2019

IY2019 provides an opportunity for the Australian Government to consider long term, sustainable outcomes to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages beyond the window of the IY2019. The IY2019 is not a standalone event, but rather an opportunity to elevate the ongoing conversation about support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through the IY2019 and beyond.

4. Engaging with the international system

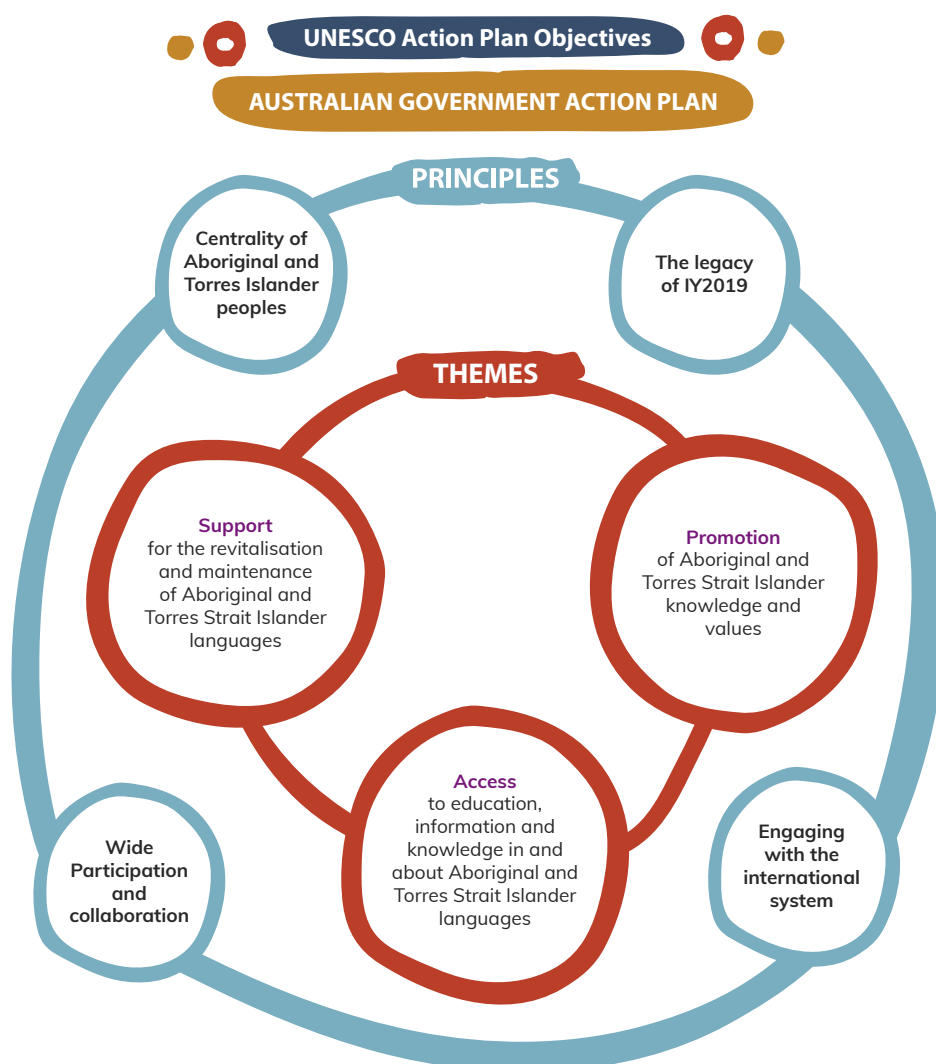
The Australian Government recognises that a significant contributor to the success of the IY2019 is strong contributions from member states to the UNESCO International Steering Committee (ISC) responsible for driving the IY2019. Australia is represented on the ISC by the delegate for the Asia Pacific region, Mr Craig Ritchie, CEO of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). Mr Ritchie is co-chair of the ISC.

Australian Government actions

This Australian Government Action Plan includes actions to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages from across Australian Government departments and agencies. These actions are grouped under the Australian Government's interpretation of the UNESCO IY2019 themes, as listed above (Support for the revitalisation and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages; Access to education, information and knowledge in and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages; and Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and values).

Each of the themes has a set of aims associated with it, along with examples of some of the specific actions that will be undertaken to meet these strategies.

A Calendar of Activities accompanies this Action Plan. It lists specific activities and events that are available to people from particular sectors to attend, as well as to the general public. The associated Calendar of Activities also lists known state and territory activities. The Calendar of Activities is a living document, with contributions from stakeholders continuously added as the IY2019 progresses.



Theme 1: Support for the revitalisation and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are facing critical risks contributing to the loss of knowledge and use.

Many communities are racing against time to record and preserve languages with very few, or in some cases no, speakers left to pass on the knowledge.

Such efforts require specialist attention, particularly when reviving and reconstructing a language. Languages that have reached a point of strength also require sustained support to ensure they are passed on through the generations. The UNESCO Action Plan gives examples of measures seen as necessary for all nations to consider in revitalising and maintaining languages, including support for materials that strengthen language use, a wider range of services, using technology to improve everyday use of language, and encouraging best practice in the use of languages.

The Australian Government has in place strong networks and frameworks to support these international goals. These include initiatives and programs administered through AIATSIS, the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy. They also include funding for Indigenous Languages Centres and projects through the Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) grant program, and projects being undertaken by, or funded by, government agencies around the country. Languages cannot be separated from their complex and interrelated relationships to culture, connection to country, community and family. Therefore, broader government support for the social and emotional well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is also considered as part of these networks and frameworks supporting languages.

During the international year and beyond 2019 we will continue to provide support and services for activities including archives, recordings, online portals, dictionaries, teaching materials, mapping songs, creating interactive games and interpreter services. We will also continue targeted support through the ILA program for innovative digital projects that protect, preserve and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. We will undertake continuous reviews and monitoring of dedicated funding programs, such as ILA and IAS, to reflect the investment and support needs of communities working to revive and maintain their languages. We will also continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasters through the IAS to continue delivering locally relevant and culturally appropriate programming, often in language.

Under the UNESCO framework for the IY2019 the Australian Government will aim to:

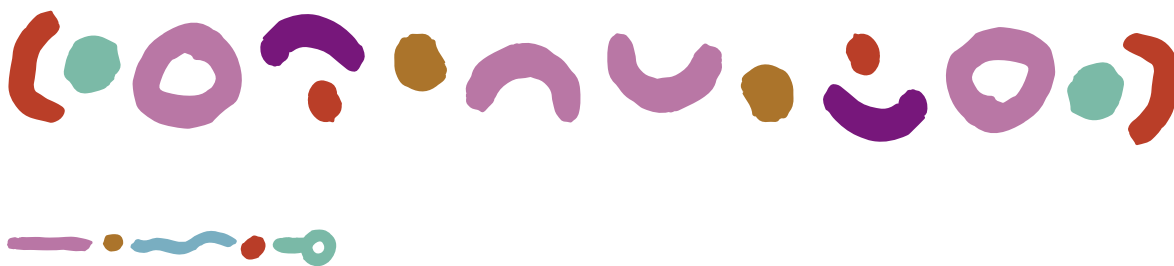
- 1.1 Support the development and maintenance of resources that collate, document and teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- 1.2 Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language hubs to provide expertise, preservation services and resources for the revitalisation and maintenance of languages.
- 1.3 Support and promote innovative teaching and learning platforms for use with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- 1.4 Work with communities to identify more traditional, aural and oral ways of revitalising and maintaining language.



1.1 Support the development and maintenance of resources that collate, document and teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- The Australian Indigenous Languages Online Project conducted by AIATSIS will provide online access to the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Collection that was inscribed to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2009. The Online Project will build on the digitisation of this Collection to progressively publish individual items and expand a project that provides online access.
- A new AUSTLANG platform will be launched: a database of information including documentation, speaker numbers and language surveys, about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian languages with links to other catalogues, community organisations and language centres.
- Provide funding through the IAS for the Indigenous Language Preservation: Dictionaries project. The project, conducted by AIATSIS, is aiming to publish approximately 20 dictionaries in 2019.
- Provide over \$20 million annually through the ILA program, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to express, preserve and maintain their cultures through both language and arts programs, including funding projects that capture, revitalise and maintain Indigenous languages
- Continue to support Australia's national archives and cultural collecting institutions to preserve materials and work with communities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.



1.2 Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language hubs to provide expertise, preservation services and resources for the revitalisation and maintenance of languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Continue to support Australia's primary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language infrastructure: a network of 22 Indigenous Language Centres, each one receiving operational funding annually from the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts program (ILA). The centres play a critical role in preserving, revitalising and maintaining languages, by recording people speaking language and developing resources such as: dictionaries and databases; facilitating training for community based language workers; conducting community workshops; maintaining collections of language materials; acting as a central repository for resources and language data; and the establishment and maintenance of partnerships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other key organisations, such as local schools.
- AIATSIS works as a hub that supports language maintenance and revitalisation programs and linguists, and develops and maintains language resources and archiving.
- Work with the library network, both nationally and in state and territories, to connect and collaborate on their collections of archival and resource material.



1.3 Support and promote innovative teaching and learning platforms for use with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Continue to support joint national collaboration in relation to the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages, developed to support the teaching and learning of Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages across Australia, allowing for flexibility in guiding schools and teachers in developing programs for any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language.
- Continue to support education avenues outside of schools, such as the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) through its dedication to telling stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and contemporary cultures, to enable shared understanding with the wider Australian population.
- Find opportunities to share, develop and implement innovative teaching and learning platforms through existing networks, such as education bodies, the ILA program and programs run by state and territory agencies.
- Provide platforms for showcasing how teachers embed the local language into teaching digital technologies.



1.4 Work with communities to identify other ways of revitalising and maintaining language.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Continue support for a national peak body for first languages, to facilitate and promote communication and collaboration between community, government and key non-government organisations to strategically support the revival and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Continue to build strong relationships and support ILA funding recipients, including through the network of regional program staff.
- Continue to support language events/forums/activities and promote successful language projects through appropriate government and community networks.

Theme 2: Access to education, information and knowledge in and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages

In providing the necessary access to education, information and knowledge in and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, the complex environment for Australia's languages needs to be considered. Specific practices and approaches for language revival and maintenance differ between languages and as such the support provided by government needs to be flexible. There is a wealth of experience in communities and as each community is facing its own set of challenges, sharing these challenges and approaches undertaken can be helpful. The IY2019 offers an opportunity for government to work together to provide a shared and cohesive approach to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The Australian Government will build on research and data around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

In 2019, we will publish the third iteration of the National Indigenous Languages Report (previously known as the National Indigenous Languages Surveys).

In addition, the next iteration of the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 will recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages as an important cultural determinant of health.

Access to services is an important component to the Australian Government's commitment to the IY2019. For some, where English may be the second, third or fourth language spoken (if at all), provision of services in language is essential for daily life. Government offers many services in many languages. This includes interpreting services in some languages for access to Service Centres, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, family and employment services, and the translation of materials into language such as aged care resources or Australian Electoral Commission resources. Through the IAS more than \$6 million annually is provided for the delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interpreting in the Kimberley region of WA, legal interpreting in the NT and cross-border interpreting in NT, SA and WA. However, more can be done to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have access to services in their languages.

The Australian Government will enable and facilitate greater access to language resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The teaching of language is significant. The capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to teach their language is a crucial element to providing communities access to the language.

The IY2019 provides opportunities for the Australian Government to recognise the significance of career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language workers, and to determine ways to improve these pathways, including targeted funding through the ILA program.

The Government will also consider how to utilise platforms and institutions to better inform Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations of opportunities to improve revenue raising for activities.

Under the UNESCO framework for the IY2019 the Australian Government will aim to:

- 2.1 Encourage strengthened networks between Australian language organisations, as well as with government and overseas organisations and experts.
- 2.2 Produce and publish research and data on the state, needs and influence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- 2.3 Improve revenue raising opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations.
- 2.4 Encourage and promote services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- 2.5 Provide opportunities for participation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language teaching and learning.



2.1 Encourage strengthened networks between Australian language organisations, as well as with government and overseas organisations and experts.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Fund representative bodies that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, as well as conferences for community and interested stakeholders to discuss support, maintenance and revitalisation efforts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Investigate linkages between AIATSIS's projects and private sector initiatives to better support the outcomes and impacts of IY2019 projects.
- Establish an expert cultural exchange program between AIATSIS and organisations in Mexico and Peru significantly involved in Indigenous matters relating to cultural preservation and collections, Indigenous languages, Indigenous policy making, research and Indigenous community engagement.
- Explore connections with states and territories through Education Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group.



2.2 Produce and publish research and data on the state, needs and influence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Update the Australian Government's knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through the commissioning of the National Indigenous Languages Report. This report will be produced in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, academia and the private sector to articulate the current state of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, as well as articulate how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages link to individuals and communities' social and economic well-being.
- Consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in strategies to address the cultural determinants of health in the next iteration of the *Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*.
- Undertake research around additional recognition of Traditional Cultural Expressions and the importance of obtaining the consent of Traditional Owners before using words and images in a commercial context.
- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language research through the Australian Research Council.



2.3 Improve revenue raising opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Publicise that eligibility for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status will be extended to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations as of 1 July 2019, which will mean they are eligible to receive tax-deductible donations, broadening their sources of revenue.
- Create awareness of Creative Partnerships Australia's initiatives that are open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations to assist them to learn how to build their revenue base and find alternative sources of revenue, including through the Australian Cultural Fund.
- Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media sector to identify additional revenue raising opportunities for Indigenous media and broadcasting organisations.



2.4 Encourage and promote services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Continue to support and encourage the use of interpreting services so that people who speak in language have equal access to government assistance and opportunities.
- Continue to work with the Indigenous media sector when developing media strategies for Australian Government initiatives, particularly when they are targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in health literacy resources and prevention/education materials (including local materials produced by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services) as appropriate.
- Promote informational videos that illustrate how Government informs communities about environmental impacts of uranium mining.
- Encourage interpreter and translation services to continue working in cooperation, and to work closely together with those providing essential services (such as health, legal, housing and social services), to ensure best practice in service delivery and seek to expand interpreter networks and encourage interpreting as a career choice.





2.5 Provide opportunities for participation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language teaching and learning.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Include a focus on supporting participation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language teaching and learning in the ILA program's 2019-20 funding round.
- Demonstrate how the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Language allows for flexibility in guiding schools and teachers in developing programs for any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language.
- Showcase ACARA's illustrations of practice, which demonstrate how the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority can be implemented in schools.
- Continue to support the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language strategies through key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and experts.
- Continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' access and use of the cultural materials cared for by collecting institutions, including providing access to linguists that can help in navigating archival collections and building linguistic and other skills to use the materials discovered to develop language resources.



Theme 3: Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and values

One of UNESCO's major objectives is to raise awareness of both the risks associated with the loss of language, and how language and knowledge systems could aid in sustainable development, reconciliation, and good governance. Many Australians may not be aware of the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages to Australia's cultural identity, or of the risk associated with their loss. There are many ways we can start to raise this awareness.

As an integral part of cultural expression Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are celebrated through many cultural and creative events across the country. We will put a spotlight on these activities and increase the focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages to not only celebrate them but share the challenges they are facing.

The Australia Council for the Arts is a key provider of funding for arts activities around the nation and it supports a broad range of activities to support First Nations arts and cultural expression, delivered through funding programs, targeted investment, capacity building, and strategic development and research. Screen Australia's Indigenous Department directs funding towards producing versions of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content in language. The IY2019 affords an opportunity for new partnerships between government bodies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups to occur in these arenas and other cultural events. We encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language streams to be incorporated in existing events or conferences and for specific events to be held to draw attention to the year and its significance.

Broadcasters, such as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the SBS, play a crucial role in raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages among all Australians. The ABC launches initiatives through its Indigenous platform and is currently undertaking activities such as This Place and station identifications (known as 'indents') in language on ABC Local Radio. National Indigenous Television (NITV), as part of the SBS network, makes content by, for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and provides drama, documentary, news and current affairs, sport, entertainment, and feature films. In addition, there are 91 long-term and 60 temporary community radio licences representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community interests throughout Australia, with programming in some 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Through the IAS, around \$21 million per year has been allocated across 44 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasting and media organisations (urban, regional and remote) for the delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasting services. The contribution from our national and community broadcasters will continue under the IY2019.



The Australian Government will increase its promotion of activities that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages under the IY2019 by collaborating across government, with non-government bodies and interested stakeholders. We will facilitate the sharing of stories and information on the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages that demonstrate the connection of language to land, culture, history, science, knowledge systems, and wellbeing. This will include a renewed focus on the awareness of tourism experiences or recreational activities that feature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Market research from Tourism Australia found that approximately 15 per cent of our international visitors engage in an Aboriginal tourism experience,⁸ and 60 per cent of international consumers find Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism experiences appealing.⁹

Under the UNESCO framework for the IY2019 the Australian Government will aim to:

- 3.1 Promote initiatives and activities being undertaken to support, celebrate and expand awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- 3.2 Increase knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through the public service.
- 3.3 Encourage leaders in different sectors to champion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- 3.4 Encourage communications and cultural organisations to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations on new initiatives.
- 3.5 Support and conduct unique and special initiatives and events to recognise and promote IY2019 and the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

⁸ Tourism Research Australia (2018), International Visitor Survey, September

⁹ Tourism Australia (2015), Consumer Demand Project



3.1 Promote initiatives and activities being undertaken to support, celebrate and expand awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Showcase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as a strong commitment to preservation of living culture, including language. This includes implementing grants to support cultural preservation and promotion activities by Traditional Owner groups, which may include language recording and promotion, signage in language and intergenerational language transfer.
- Showcase activities Parks Australia may undertake where language is included, such as use of interpreters, translations of legislation, signage, and digital audience resources.
- Encourage the science and technology informal learning sector to explore ways to showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in their science communication activities.
- Promote tourism experiences that highlight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Developing a web resource for local libraries to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and to engage with local language communities.
- Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages within existing government hosted events.
- AIATSIS will dedicate a stream in the AIATSIS National Indigenous Research Conference to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- The ILA grant program will continue to fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language forums, gatherings and events.



3.2 Increase knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through the public service.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Publish and create awareness through Reconciliation Action Plans from Australian Government Departments, signalling an intention to promote an inclusive and diverse culture where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are considered a core component of reconciliation.
- Departments will hold internal activities to promote, recognise and raise awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages to be considered in employee, infrastructure and planning processes, such as schemes to support staff learning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, develop interpreter and translator skills and qualifications and adopt best practice models in use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language in offices and through services and products.



3.3 Encourage leaders in different sectors to champion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander champions in the IY2019 projects and existing initiatives to advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Identify opportunities for artists championing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.



3.4 Encourage communications and cultural organisations to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language organisations on new initiatives.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- Promote events funded under the Australia Council, Festivals Australia and Regional Arts Fund, as part of existing arts and culture festivals, including traditional language and cultural workshops, music events and song writing workshops.
- ABC will undertake a collaborative project with First Languages Australia inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to contribute video stories around place names. ABC will also announce local stations in language, and continue to produce Word Up and the Marrin Gamu competition.
- SBS and ABC will include content to celebrate Indigenous culture and languages in their programming, such as material in or including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Communicate the significance of the IY2019 within government initiatives such as the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program, the Visions of Australia Program, and the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program.



3.5 Support and conduct unique and special initiatives and events to recognise and promote IY2019 and the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Some specific work to support this aim includes:

- The Australian Government will hold an exhibition or launch event to celebrate, honour and generate interest in IY2019.
- Maintain and promote a Calendar of Activities occurring across the country for the IY2019, including government, community and other activities.
- Launch a UNESCO Year of Indigenous Languages Commemorative Coin.
- Encourage organisations to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages as part of NAIDOC week, in recognition of the 2019 theme – **Voice. Treaty. Truth.**





