



Institute for Aboriginal
Development

(Aboriginal Corporation)

*“Respecting Our
Ancestors”*

Annual Report

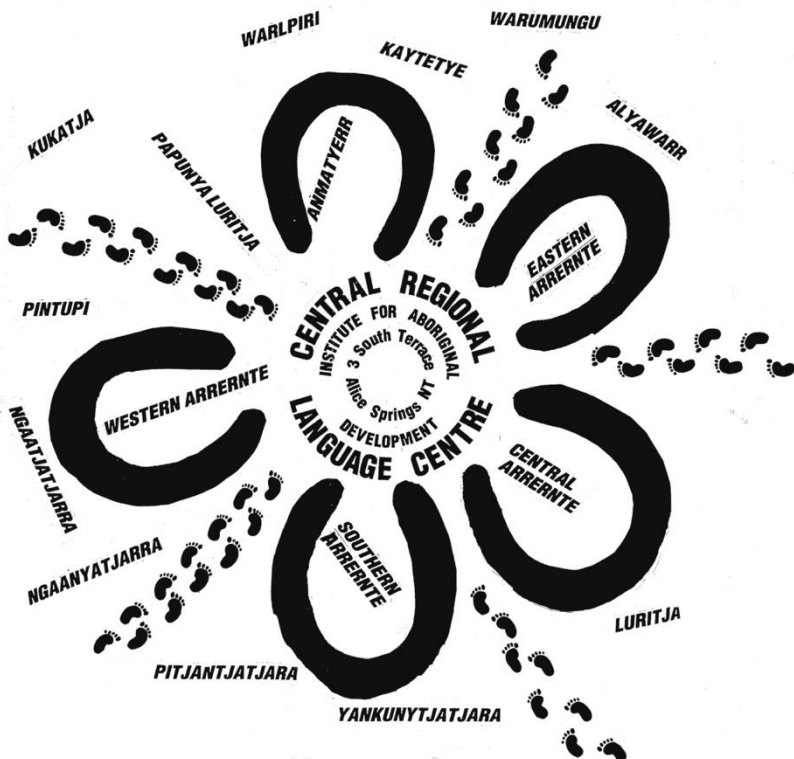
2022-2023



Respecting Our Ancestors' Traditions

For thousands of years, this country has been a place where many paths across Australia met. IAD has always respected that tradition, by creating a welcoming place that was open to everyone.

That is expressed in the logo of IAD and our Language Centre.



IAD’s mission has always been to help people express their language and culture in in all areas of their daily lives.

Our Strategic plan respects our ancestor’s traditions by focusing on our vision:



Goals and Mission

Research, develop and deliver education programs for Aboriginal culture and language to be integrated in schools, workplaces and community.

Collaborate with Aboriginal language groups to provide resources and programs to meet their needs and aspirations



To embed Aboriginal languages and cultures in the life of Central Australia through educational programs and publications



Enable young people to develop cultural knowledge through meaningful livelihoods and active participation in the community

Governance and Management systems are reviewed, improved and accredited



Board of Directors

Ms Karina Lester	2020-current
Ms Brenda Shields	2017-current
Ms Veronica Dobson	2020- May 2023
Ms Angela Ross	2020- May 2023
Mr Kevin Dixon	2020- May 2023
Ms Penca Rafiqi	2022-current
Ms Elaine Peckham	2022-current
Ms Colleen McCormack	2023-current
Ms Elaine Williams	2023-current



Staff

Michael LaFlamme	Manager
Li Ting Lee	Sales/Office/IT Coordinator
Vanessa Ronchetti	Bookkeeping

Chairperson's Letter

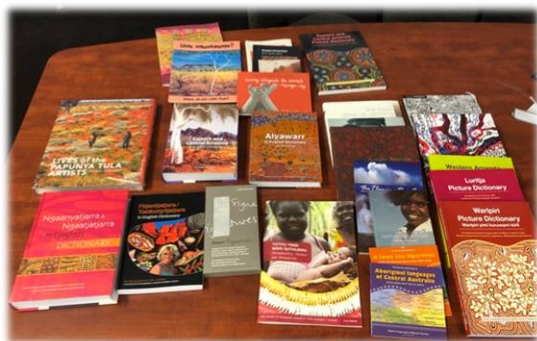
IAD was co-founded in 1969 by my late father, Yami Lester together with the late Rev. Jim Downing of the Uniting Church. As the current chairperson of IAD I strongly believe in its founding vision as an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation focused on language, culture, and education. That Vision is reflected in our Strategic Plan.

IAD was established to serve Aboriginal people of all language groups in Central Australia. As many of us are aware language and culture are at a high risk of being lost forever and needs more support than ever. IAD acknowledges our past and present workers who have shared their knowledge and culture over the many years that set the foundation of our organisation and so IAD can continue to provide its important services to the people of Central Australia.



IAD's main asset is the intellectual property that so many Aboriginal people chose to share with the public through the assistance of editors, linguists, illustrators, designers, researchers, and others. IAD encourages the Aboriginal people who own that IP to take a more central role in directly producing, updating, and communicating their knowledge with others. Increasing Aboriginal control of our IP will be a challenging process for everyone, but over time it will create more opportunities for the broader community.

IAD is on a new journey to recognise, appreciate and value our diverse languages and cultures, and we encourage all to be part of this. We seek the cooperation of other Aboriginal-led organisations, and community members throughout central Australia to work in collaboration with us, and we value and welcome your contribution!



Karina Lester
Chairperson

Respecting Our Ancestors' Languages

Starting in the 1970's, many Aboriginal people worked at IAD to help teach all the languages of central Australia, and develop learning materials.



In 2022-2023, IAD was approved to invite people of all language groups to update our 50-year archive of language learning materials so they are meaningful to the current and next generations.



Gavan Breen: Respecting All Languages

Since the 1980s, Gavan Breen travelled Australia to document languages. He developed ways to write languages and dictionaries. In May, Dr Salisbury from UQ showed him how his fieldwork on the Kungkari language helped him find descendents who could reclaim their identity and their language.



Gavan worked at IAD until 2021.



IAD helped Gavan gather and organise his lifetime of work with proper language speakers, so it could be donated to AIATSIS. IAD then worked with the AIATSIS team to help prepare it for processing in Canberra, and helped Gavan write an agreement for his work in central Australia to be kept on country at the new AIATSIS facility in Alice Springs.



In addition the Alice Springs based linguist, David Moore will use AIATSIS resources in preserving the ancestors full language to communicate important cultural relationships.

We are grateful that Gavan was able to complete this important task before he passed away.

Respecting Our Ancestors' Knowledge

To respect our Ancestors' knowledge, IAD has published over 100 books. In 2023, IAD was approved to reprint our most important language and culture books to make them available again.

We continued to sell books online, at our retail shop, and at Indigenous business Marketplace. We also received a new shipment of journals!





Our shop, stocktake, selling 3558 books and receiving 950 journals.



Respecting our Ancestors' Land

IAD makes its facilities and grounds available to all organisations who benefit Aboriginal people.

When a storm damaged Yipirinya School in November, IAD offered to host several classes for the rest of the year. We enjoyed having the talented teachers and energetic students in our rooms.

We also leased facilities for employment services, family violence prevention, and wellbeing trainings.

Our grounds are maintained by IAD members and the excellent Department of Corrections team.





Respecting Our Ancestors' Ways of Life

To help us continue our ways of life in modern times, IAD became a Registered Training Organisation to teach culturally meaningful ways we can continue to contribute to Australia. In 2023 we will begin an Aboriginal 'training of trainers' to teach a wide range of employment skills.



Past IAD cultural leadership program photo.

IAD co-founded the Alliance of First Nations' Independent Education & Training Providers that in 2023 became a member of the Coalition of Peaks.



afnietp
Alliance of First Nations' Independent
Education & Training Providers



Brenda Shields and Kevin Dixon prepare invitations to the IAD Annual General Meeting.

Manager's Letter

IAD was founded in December, 1969 so everyone could work together to benefit all Aboriginal people in central Australia.

IAD had clear and strong leadership in Jim Downing and Yami Lester. Their vision of a positive partnership was very different from the history of central Australia up to that point.

Their leadership brought together many people to work hard and build IAD. That experience of working together also inspired people to create new organisations.



Li Ting helps mail invitations to the IAD AGM.

Starting in 1981, eight organisations worked together to support IAD as Board members:

1. Legal Aid
2. Tangentyere Council
3. Yipirinya School
4. Central Land Council
5. Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association
6. Pitjantjatjara Council
7. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
8. Uniting Church in Australia

We can learn a lot from the people who first created these partnerships that continue today!



Working together at the IAD Annual General Meeting.

However, much has changed since those early days, in the amount of funding, in fundraising strategies, in organizational structures, in family relations, in the honesty of leaders-- and whether people value money over language and culture.

Those changes have made it very difficult for organizations to work together to benefit all Aboriginal people. However, IAD has remained focused on our original purpose in the face of obstacles from many directions.

IAD is financially viable, and has funding approved to rebuild our language program, our publishing, and our training operations to benefit Aboriginal people in central Australia.



Changing the IAD Rule Book so all language groups are represented equitably on the IAD Board.

All of our strategic plans and projects can be traced back to that original vision established by the ancestors: everyone working together!

We are very grateful for the funding we have received, which will enable us to continue in the direction that was set in 1969, to benefit new generations of people who are committed to their languages and cultures.

Michael LaFlamme,

Manager





Institute for Aboriginal Development
(Aboriginal Corporation)

3 South Terrace
PO Box 2531
Alice Springs
NT 0871 Australia

8951 1311
ceo@iad.edu.au