



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Indigenous Affairs**



# **Department of Indigenous Affairs Annual Report 2008/09**

## **DISCLAIMER**

Department of Indigenous Affairs  
1st Floor, Governor Stirling Tower  
197 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH Western Australia 6000

PO Box 7770 Cloisters Square  
PERTH Western Australia 6850

ISSN 1441-6409

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Further information:

Telephone: +61 8 9235 8000

Website: [www.dia.wa.gov.au](http://www.dia.wa.gov.au)

Email: [info@dia.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dia.wa.gov.au)



## Contents

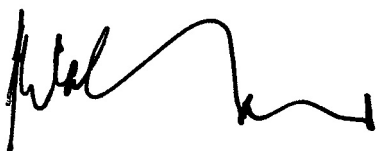
Statement of compliance .....	4
Overview .....	5
Operational structure .....	7
Performance Management Framework .....	11
Shared responsibilities with other agencies .....	11
Governance Disclosures .....	13
Agency Performance – Report on Operations .....	13
Directorate overview Policy .....	18
Directorate overview Land, Heritage and Culture .....	26
Directorate overview Regional Outcomes .....	33
Directorate overview Corporate Services .....	38
Employment and Industrial Relations .....	38
Key Performance Indicators .....	40
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Key Performance Indicators .....	46
Significant Issues and Trends .....	49
Disclosures and legal compliance .....	52
Financial statements .....	55
Certification of financial statements .....	56
Income statement .....	58
Balance sheet .....	59
Statement of changes in equity .....	60
Cash flow statement .....	61
Schedule of income and expenses by service .....	62
Schedule of assets and liabilities by service .....	63
Summary of consolidated account appropriations and income estimates .....	64
Index of Notes to the Financial Statements .....	65
Notes to the financial statements .....	65
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Financial statements .....	97
Cash flow statement .....	97
Key Performance Indicators .....	45
Certification of financial statements .....	96
Income statement .....	99
Balance sheet .....	100
Statement of changes in equity .....	101
Cash flow statement .....	102
Notes to financial statements .....	103
Ministerial Directives .....	128
Pricing Policies of Services Provided .....	128
Capital Works .....	128
Other Legal Requirements .....	128
Government Policy Requirements .....	133

# STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

**Dr Kim Hames, MLA**  
**Minister for Indigenous Affairs**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs for information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Reports for the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

These Annual Reports have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick Walker  
Director General  
30 June 2009



## Overview

Strengthening heritage, culture and reconciliation continues to be a Government priority and is carried out alongside the critical work of improving living conditions, services, facilities and economic participation opportunities for Indigenous people. The Department of Indigenous Affairs is committed to the protection and promotion of Western Australia's unique Indigenous cultural heritage.

In 2008/09, the Department of Indigenous Affairs worked hard, both on the ground and within Government, to strategically reform and redesign organisational structures in Indigenous Affairs to these ends.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs established the nine-member Indigenous Implementation Board, chaired by Lt Gen John Sanderson (rtd), during 2008/09. The Department is charged with providing executive support to the Board as it engages stakeholders in considering and addressing the structural underpinnings of Indigenous disadvantage.

In addition, the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee was re-established as required under Section 19 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*. Chaired by the Director General of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Committee comprises Directors General from the Departments of Education and Training, Health, Child Protection, Housing, Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance and the Western Australian Police.

From the outset, the Directors General agreed that the Committee's focus should be on improved and innovative service delivery and greater collaboration between State Government agencies.

One of the Committee's first decisions has been to establish the position of Chief Operating Officer, with responsibility for overall service delivery coordination to three specified areas – Oombulgurri, Armadale and Roebourne. This appointment will be followed in the year ahead with other initiatives to renew the Department's efforts to improve its regional effectiveness and enhance its capacity to listen to and address local opportunities and concerns and effect appropriate solutions to specific issues.

During the year the Department also continued to provide executive support to enable the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, to lead the collective strength of Indigenous Affairs Ministers across Australia.

The Department also worked hard in 2008/09 on the new COAG InterGovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations and the COAG reforms aimed at reforming Government service delivery. These Agreements and Inter-Governmental Partnerships identify specific Indigenous outcome targets and emphasise the responsibility of mainstream agencies to deliver equitable outcomes for Indigenous people. They provide a significant opportunity to improve social and economic outcomes for all Indigenous Western Australians.

In undertaking this work, the Department partnered with Federal and State agencies to provide the over-arching coordination necessary to develop and implement the COAG reforms in Western Australia. It has been charged by Government with responsibility for leading the Remote Service Delivery and Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnerships and for coordinating the Indigenous aspects of all National Partnership Agreements. It is only through an effective partnership that we can address Indigenous disadvantage, avoid service duplication and maximise opportunities for Aboriginal people.

More than 170 years after his death, the Department has formed a partnership with the City of Swan and Derbarl Yerrigen Committee to rebury Yagan's Kaat (head) and build the Yagan Memorial Park. Yagan's head will be laid to rest with his other bodily remains on land in Middle Swan. Yagan was a leader, a warrior and a man of his people. He is honoured as a hero not only by the Noongar people but by all of the Indigenous nations in Western Australia.

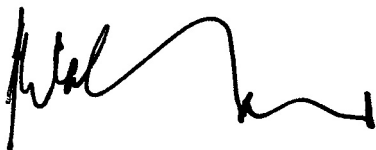
Priority heritage preservation initiatives include the Burrup Peninsula and the Canning stock route, natural resource management projects and work to improve the availability of family history research services, particularly in the regions.

An identified priority of Indigenous Western Australians and other stakeholders is that of seeking a much stronger, pro-active and efficient heritage management, advisory and compliance service. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, the Department has responsibilities in relation to site assessment, consultation, minimising the impacts of development and heritage preservation. Strengthening its processes will aid the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee in its decision-making and work has been undertaken in 2008/09 to improve processes associated with Section 18 resource development approvals.

Departmental staff have also worked hard to improve the resolution of land tenure, native title, heritage and planning issues that are critical to ensuring that the pre-conditions for investment, sustainable land use, potential home ownership and development opportunities in Indigenous communities are optimised.

As a priority the Department is working on establishing a state position on Indigenous Land Use Agreements. Balance is needed to accommodate tenure for infrastructure investment for COAG and public works and the establishment of a new framework for managing the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate to address future strategic and operational requirements.

Following a rigorous and competitive recruitment process during the latter part of 2008/09, a new Executive team is now in place. I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to thank the Minister for his guidance and all staff for their passionate and ongoing commitment during a time of transition and change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Walker', with a stylized, flowing script.

Patrick Walker  
Director General



## Operational structure

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is a Western Australian State Government agency established pursuant to the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (Western Australia).

In 1995, when the Department was created, it brought together the Department of Aboriginal Sites, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and a specialist land office in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Today, the Department's role still reflects the work of these three bodies.

Under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*, the Department is responsible for advising Government on the adequacy, implementation and coordination of services to Indigenous people in Western Australia. It leads policy development on key issues affecting the lives of Indigenous Western Australians and across-Government strategies to improve program planning and coordination. It engages with the Indigenous community to ensure Indigenous people play a key role in policy development. The Department's seven regional offices are the front line of this community collaboration process.

Additionally, under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*, the Department supports the work of the Aboriginal Lands Trust, a body comprising Indigenous people, that holds about 11 per cent of the State in trust for Indigenous Western Australians. As well as its ongoing responsibility to return the land to Indigenous people and groups, the Aboriginal Lands Trust manages the physical and built environment of the estate, which is home to more than 15,000 Indigenous Western Australians.

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, the Department works with Indigenous people to protect and manage places of significance. The Department also provides advice to the public and private sectors and the community about Indigenous heritage management and maintains a Register of Aboriginal Sites. It also assists Indigenous families and native title parties to access information that may assist them in reuniting families or demonstrating their connections to country.

As part of the State's project approvals system, the Department of Indigenous Affairs works with developers to ensure that Indigenous heritage and engagement with Indigenous people is built into development planning processes wherever required. The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee provides advice to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on the management of sites of significance in the development process.

## Establishing authority

The operation of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* provides for the existence of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority. It was abolished on 31 October 1994 to make way for the then-Aboriginal Affairs Department. The Department was renamed the Department of Indigenous Affairs, effective on 1 July 2001.

## Administered legislation

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is responsible for administering the following legislation that affects the well-being of Indigenous people:

The *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* deals with the consultation, planning and coordination of services to Indigenous people and the adequacy of those services. It also establishes the Aboriginal Lands Trust, which has operational functions related to land.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* details specific responsibilities relating to the management and protection of heritage sites.

The *Aboriginal Communities Act 1979* enables Indigenous people to establish by-laws that govern conduct on and access to community lands.

Other key legislation having an impact on the Department of Indigenous Affairs' activities:

- *Auditor General Act 2006*;
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*;
- *Disability Services Act 1993*;
- *Electoral Act 1907*;
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*;
- *Financial Management Act 2006*;
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*;
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*;
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*;
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*;
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*;
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*;
- *State Records Act 2000*;
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*;
- *Native Title Act 1993*;
- *Mining Act 1979*;
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*;
- *Workplace Relations Act 2005*;
- *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*;
- *Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000*;
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
- *Swan River and Canning Rivers Management Act 2004*;
- *Cemeteries Act 1986*;
- *Public Disclosures Act 2003*;
- *Crime and Corruption Commission Act 2003*;
- *Coroner's Act 1996*;
- *Criminal Procedures Act 2004*;
- *Criminal Investigations Act 2006*;
- *Western Australian Interpretation Act 1984*;
- *Protection of Removable Cultural Heritage Act 1986* ;
- *Land Administration Act 1997*; and
- *Legal Profession Act 2008*.



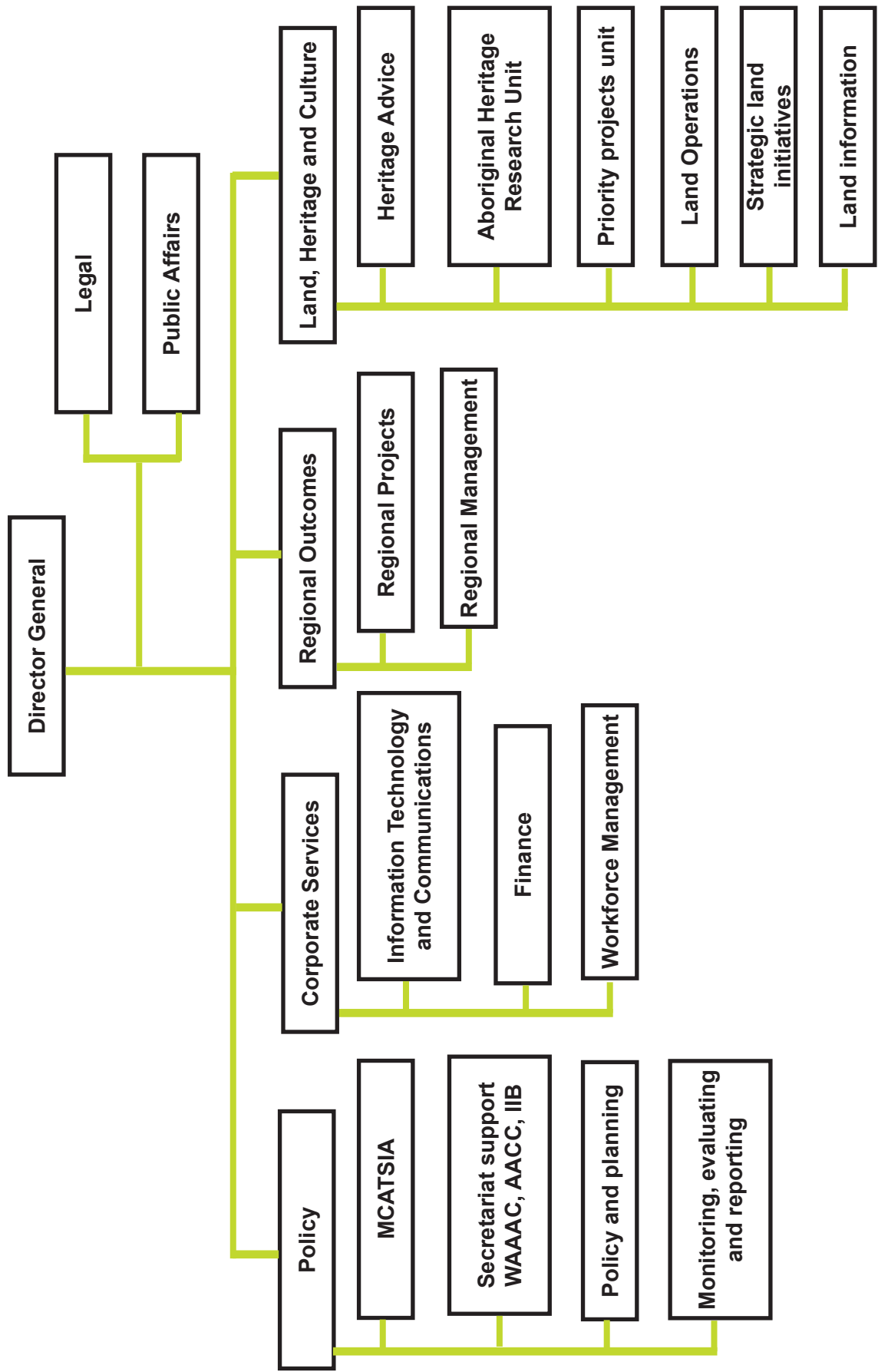
## **Key clients**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs' key clients are Western Australia's 77,709 Indigenous people (according to Australian Bureau of Statistics information), comprising three per cent of the State's population. There are about 29,000 Indigenous people living in the Perth metropolitan area and another 17,000 who live among the State's 286 regional and remote communities.

The Department's key stakeholders include:

- Western Australian Indigenous people;
- State Government agencies;
- Commonwealth Government agencies;
- Local Governments;
- Indigenous organisations and communities;
- Industry, business and research bodies;
- Native Title Representative Bodies;
- Tertiary and other educational bodies; and
- Non-Government and voluntary organisations.

# Organisational chart



# Performance management framework

## Outcome-based management framework

The Department of Indigenous Affairs works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Local, State and Commonwealth Government agencies to progress sustainable improvement in social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people. The Department conducts its business within the context of two generic services:

- it works in partnership with key stakeholders undertaking initiatives that provide agreed outcomes for Aboriginal communities. For example, the Department provides Government Service Coordinators to coordinate services across agencies to meet the needs of Aboriginal communities; and
- it provides information and advice on Indigenous policy, resource developments, land management and social issues (among others) to Government, Indigenous people, industry, and other key stakeholders. For example, the Department provides advice to Government through statutory boards and committees such as the Aboriginal Lands Trust, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee, Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council and the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee.

The Department does not directly provide and is not accountable for services such as housing, education, electricity, health, water and so on.

Government goal	Desired outcome	Service
Outcomes-based service delivery  Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians	Sustainable improvement in social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people	1. Support to partnerships, partnering initiatives  2. Information and advice

## Changes to outcome-based management framework

There are no changes to the outcome-based management framework.

## Shared responsibilities with other agencies

The Department of Indigenous Affairs has no shared responsibilities with other agencies.



## Agency performance – report on operations

### Corporate governance

In 2008/09, the Department of Indigenous Affairs continued to play a pivotal role in the support of a range of important Indigenous-related statutory and other bodies.

### Indigenous Implementation Board

In 2008/09, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs appointed an Indigenous Implementation Board. The purpose of this Board is to build stakeholder participation and recommend to Government ways of addressing Aboriginal disadvantage. The Board is chaired by Lt Gen Sanderson and comprises nine members with extensive knowledge and experience working with Aboriginal people.

Its terms of reference are to:

- develop a framework to use to collaborate and focus resources for future agreements with the Commonwealth, Local Governments and other key stakeholders working with Indigenous Western Australians;
- establish accountability mechanisms to monitor achievement against agreed targets and focus resources to maximise positive outcomes for Indigenous Western Australians;
- deliver a bi-annual report to Cabinet on progress in the Indigenous Affairs portfolio in Western Australia;
- drive fundamental policy shifts through stronger and more accountable Government governance, building trust through consistency and commitment;
- build effective participation of Indigenous people, and the broader Western Australian leadership, supporting effective community governance, leadership and structures necessary to engage with Government; and
- provide advice on human and financial resources required for Indigenous people to participate in decision-making that affects community lives and the way services are provided.

The Indigenous Implementation Board began meeting early in 2009. The Department of Indigenous Affairs provides all secretariat support for the Board, including the preparation of policy advice and the undertaking of evidence-based research.

Its members are:

- Lt Gen John Sanderson, Chairperson;
- Dr Mark Bin Bakar;
- Mr Kim Bridge;
- Ms Ricky Burges;
- Dr Sue Gordon;
- Mr Brendan Hammond;
- Dr Helen Milroy;
- Ms Dawn Wallam; and
- Prof Fiona Stanley.

## **Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee**

As part of the State Government's drive to deliver more effective and efficient services to Aboriginal people in Western Australia, the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee was re-established in 2008/09.

Established under Section 19 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* the Committee's role is to effectively coordinate the activities of all persons and bodies, corporate or otherwise, providing or proposing to provide service and assistance to Aboriginal persons. It has been meeting on a monthly basis since March 2009.

The Committee brings together the expertise and knowledge of key Government departments working with Aboriginal people. Its membership comprises the Directors General from the following key State Government agencies: the Departments of Indigenous Affairs (Chair), Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance, Health, Child Protection, Education and Training, Housing and Western Australia Police. The Committee has the capacity to bring additional expertise from other agencies in order to address issues when required.

The Directors General agreed that the Committee will concentrate on improved and innovative service delivery. In 2008/09, its key actions included:

- initially working with three Aboriginal communities and developing service models which are practical and mitigate ongoing systemic issues - the process will include engagement with State, Commonwealth and the not-for-profit sector, philanthropic organisations and the private sector;
- jointly funding a Chief Operating Officer to coordinate and manage delivery of specified, measurable outcomes for the three key communities; and
- beginning the mapping of the investment by Governments, the not-for-profit sector and other organisations in providing services to Aboriginal people in various locations in Western Australia.

The knowledge gained by working with the three communities to develop innovative service delivery models will form the basis for working with other Aboriginal communities across the State.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs provides all the executive support for the Committee.


## **Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs hosts the Secretariat for the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs – a forum of Commonwealth, State and Territory Indigenous Affairs Ministers. The Secretariat provides administrative support to the Council and its Standing Committee and offers assistance and advice on policy issues and projects of national significance.

The Council provides whole-of-Government policy leadership on Indigenous affairs. It achieves this by:

- working to shape the Indigenous policy environment;
- assisting and informing COAG in relation to its framework priorities; and
- identifying and responding to emerging issues.

In 2008/09 the Council continued its support of the Population Projects, a three-year project of strategic applied research being undertaken by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. The project explores the dynamics and regional geography of Indigenous



population and socio-economic change. A series of working papers setting out research findings is being released and is available from the centre's website: [www.anu.edu.au/caepr/projects/mcatsia.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/projects/mcatsia.php).

The Council has also been working to ensure its agenda and work plan is aligned with the COAG reform agenda and has provided advice to COAG's Working Group on Indigenous Reform on Indigenous governance. Implications from the Population Projects research are also relevant to the COAG reforms.

Since September 2008 the Council Chair is the Western Australian Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Dr Kim Hames MLA. The Standing Committee Chair is the Department of Indigenous Affairs' Director General.

### **Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee**

The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee is the specialist heritage advisory body to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs established under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. Its functions include evaluating (on behalf of the community) the importance of places and objects that may be associated with Indigenous people and providing advice to the Minister and the other stakeholders on all State Indigenous heritage matters.

The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee held 15 meetings in 2008/09. In September 2008 it spent two days in the Geraldton area visiting sites and holding information sessions with local community groups and industry representatives.

Over the 12-month period the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee dealt with approximately 103 Section 18 Notices. Under Section 16 of the Act, the Committee considered four applications for purposes of research and investigation in consultation with local Indigenous community groups.

In 2008/09 its membership comprised:

- Mr Ken Ninnette – Chairperson (to June 2009);
- Mr Haydn Lowe – Chairperson (from May 2009);
- Mr Michael Robinson, Specialist Anthropologist (to May 2009);
- Ms Violet Drury (to February 2009);
- Ms Jean Boladeras (to April 2009);
- Mr Alec Tucker (to September 2008);
- Ms Pearl Gordon (to February 2009);
- Mr Peter Francis (to December 2008);
- Mr Bill Bennell (from May 2009);
- Mr Quinton Tucker (from May 2009); and
- Ms Louise Austen (from May 2009).

At 30 June 2009 an appointment of a Specialist Anthropologist was under consideration by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

Ex-officio membership of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee includes the Director General of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Australian Museum and an authorised Land Officer within the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs provides executive advice and support for the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee.

## **Aboriginal Lands Trust**

The Aboriginal Lands Trust is established under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*. It is a body comprised of Aboriginal people who are appointed by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority holds 81 reserves and nine freehold blocks. The proclaimed reserves are subject to special protection under Part III of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*.

Under Section 31 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*, it is an offence for a person to enter a proclaimed reserve without an entry permit. The permit system acts to preserve the privacy of Indigenous communities and the heritage and cultural values of the land, to safeguard the natural environment and to enhance visitors' safety. In practice, tourists and visitors seek permits for recreational purposes and mining and exploration companies seek permits for exploration and related purposes. Indigenous people, Members of Parliament and Government officers on official business do not require entry permits.

Under Section 24 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*, the daily control and management of Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority-held lands has been conferred on the Aboriginal Lands Trust, although the reserves remain vested in the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, under Section 27 of the Act.

The Aboriginal Lands Trust's primary function is to acquire and hold land to use and manage it for the benefit of Indigenous people, in accordance with their wishes.


The Aboriginal Lands Trust estate (which includes the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority holdings) comprises 331 properties with different tenures, including 256 Crown Reserves, 60 freehold blocks, nine special purpose leases and six pastoral properties. Most Western Australian Indigenous communities reside on the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate.

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority also holds limited funds from exploration and mining activities on proclaimed reserves, which are a percentage of mining rents and royalties collected by the State Government. This money is used to fund projects that contribute to increased and secure Indigenous land ownership, sustainable economic independence and development, the preservation of culture and tradition and/or social and environmental stability and well-being for Indigenous communities across the State. In 2008/09 the Aboriginal Lands Trust recommended approval of expenditure of \$80,800 from the Mining Rents and Royalties General Account for two projects.

The 2008/09 Aboriginal Lands Trust members are:

- Mr Ron (Doc) Reynolds, Chairperson;
- Ms Gail Beck;
- Mr Gordon Cole;
- Mr Kevin Giles; (resigned January 2009);
- Ms Betty Logan;
- Mr Joe Ross;
- Mr Preston Thomas; and
- Ms Dorothy Tucker.

In 2008/09 the Aboriginal Lands Trust held six full meetings, three of which were regional. It considered and made 106 resolutions about the use, management and divestment of trust-held lands. These included approvals for leases, land transfers, land use and development, mining entry permits and grant funding.





In April 2009, the Aboriginal Lands Trust endorsed its Strategic Plan for 2009-2012. The plan identifies seven key result areas:

- develop a realistic and achievable land transfer program;
- develop a comprehensive policy framework;
- contribute to legislative reform to equip the Trust with the necessary authority to do its job;
- gain access to resources necessary to fulfil its responsibilities;
- strengthen the governance capacity of the Trust;
- build a public profile that can give voice to community land issues and concerns within Government; and
- support the social and economic development of the estate.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs provides executive advice and support for the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

### **Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council**

During 2008/09 the Department of Indigenous Affairs undertook extensive consultations with Aboriginal people across the State to establish the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council.

The Council will provide leadership, advice and direction to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs on:

- Indigenous needs and aspirations on priority issues and interests and
- the necessary performance/outcome targets required to realise these aspirations.

The Chairperson of the Council will also be a member of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee. It is anticipated its first meeting will be held in September 2009.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs will be responsible for its executive support.

## The Department's operations in 2008/09

The Department of Indigenous Affairs made progress in 2008/09 in addressing the many challenges faced by the Indigenous community in Western Australia.

The Department's achievements were delivered through its four directorates:

- the Policy Directorate – which leads policy and reforms across Government by developing strategic policy and providing information and advice that promotes the economic, social and cultural needs of Aboriginal people;
- the Land, Heritage and Culture Directorate – which provides advice and services on Indigenous land issues and works to protect, preserve and promote Aboriginal heritage and culture;
- the Regional Outcomes Directorate – which develops local partnerships and projects in seven regions that directly address the needs of Indigenous people; and
- the Corporate Services Directorate – which supports the Department's outcomes by facilitating development of strategic direction, resource and asset management and leading the financial management framework in accordance with Government policy and industry best practice.

### Directorate overview – Policy

The Policy Directorate leads strategic policy and reform, across Government driven by a mandate to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

The Directorate undertakes these responsibilities by:

- developing strategic policy to better shape the decision making frameworks to improve the lives of Indigenous people;
- providing information and advice that promotes the economic, social and cultural needs of Aboriginal people; and
- monitoring the effectiveness of State Government initiatives to ensure that sustainable outcomes are achieved for Aboriginal people and communities.

An important focus during the last year has been the Directorate's contribution to developing the new Council of Australian Government (COAG) Agreement - specifically the National Partnerships for Remote Service Delivery and Economic Participation.

The Directorate's program focused on two areas for advancing the interests of Indigenous Western Australians:

- Working with other Governments to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage
- Improving State Government coordination of services.

## Working with other Governments to Close the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage

### Council of Australian Governments Indigenous reform

This year marked a turning point in the commitment of the Commonwealth and State Governments to making a difference in the lives of Indigenous people. For the first time, ambitious targets have been set to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. Most significantly, Governments have committed to closing the wide gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people within a generation. Closing the gap in life expectancy is supported by other targets in infant mortality, early childhood development, numeracy and literacy, Year 12 attainment and employment.

This invigorated commitment is backed by reforms in the way Commonwealth and State

Governments work together through a framework of mainstream and Indigenous-specific National Agreements and National Partnerships that clearly identify measurable Indigenous outcomes. These agreements bring to the fore the responsibility of mainstream service delivery to achieve equitable outcomes for Indigenous people and its central role in closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

COAG agreed to investments of \$4.6 billion of Commonwealth and States/Territories funding in Indigenous-specific National Partnerships to accelerate reforms in early childhood, housing, health, economic participation and remote service delivery.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs contributed to the development of National Partnerships, including the:

- National Indigenous Reform Agreement;
- Remote Service Delivery National Partnership;
- Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnership;
- Integrated Strategy for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage;
- Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy;
- Performance indicators and strategies to address the gaps in data sources; and
- National Indigenous Clearinghouse.

### **National Indigenous Reform Agreement**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs led Western Australia's contribution to the development of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, which is the overarching framework for closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The framework coordinates the objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance indicators and performance benchmarks agreed by COAG in National Agreements and Partnerships.

The agreement commits Governments to improving outcomes in seven areas to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The seven areas are:

- early childhood;
- schooling;
- health;
- economic participation;
- healthy homes;
- safe communities; and
- governance and leadership.

The Agreement includes service delivery principles to guide the design and delivery of mainstream and Indigenous specific programs and services provided to Indigenous people and national principles for investments in remote Indigenous locations.

### **Remote Service Delivery National Partnership**

The Remote Service Delivery National Partnership reforms the way Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments work together to better engage Aboriginal communities in partnership in delivering services. It will initially be rolled out to 26 priority locations nationally, three of which will be in Western Australia – Halls Creek as the hub servicing surrounding communities, Fitzroy Crossing as the hub servicing surrounding communities and the Dampier Peninsula with a focus on Beagle Bay and Ardyaloon.

The Western Australian Government has allocated \$12.1 million over five years towards implementing the partnership in Western Australia. The Commonwealth has committed \$187.7 million nationally.

Central to Remote Service Delivery Reform is the commitment to local implementation plans agreed between Government and local communities as the basis for service delivery. This is supported by the establishment of integrated planning and service delivery mechanisms and an interactive single Government interface to support communities and all Government agencies in the service planning and delivery cycle. The Remote Service Delivery National Partnership also provides funding and support for building community governance capacity, land tenure and translation and interpreting services.

Western Australia's input – through the Department of Indigenous Affairs' leadership – shaped the core reforms in the Partnership. The Department also led the development and negotiation of the Bilateral Implementation Plan agreed between the Commonwealth and Western Australia to implement these reforms in the State.

### **Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnership**

The Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnership commits Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments to complementary investments to improve opportunities for Indigenous people to engage in private and public sector jobs through:

- creating real sustainable employment in areas of Government service delivery that have previously relied on subsidisation through the Community Development Employment Projects program;
- strengthening Government procurement policies to maximise Indigenous employment;
- incorporating Indigenous workforce strategies into major COAG reforms; and
- increasing Indigenous employment in the Public Sector to reflect the national Indigenous working age population share by 2015.

Joint funding of \$228.8 million over five years has been committed, of which the Western Australian Government has committed \$26.4 million.


The Department of Indigenous Affairs led the development and negotiation of a Bilateral Implementation Plan and will lead the implementation of the Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnership in Western Australia. The Department led the identification and conversion of Community Development Employment Project positions into sustainable jobs for Aboriginal people. The Department also worked with relevant Commonwealth and State agencies to deliver the initial tranche of this reform and will continue to work with relevant agencies to deliver on the full partnership commitments in the next four years.

### **National Integrated Strategy for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs led Western Australia's contribution to the development of the National Integrated Strategy for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage. The Strategy:

- articulates the broad agenda for closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage;
- sets out how COAG reform initiatives contribute to meeting the Closing the Gap targets;
- establishes the frameworks for accountability and performance reporting; and
- signals future work to be undertaken in the areas of food security, community safety, welfare reform and economic development.

The integrated strategy highlights the critical importance of engagement with Indigenous people, the need for continued, wider action to promote reconciliation and cultural awareness and the important role of the private and community sectors in meeting the closing the gap targets. It also includes examples of best practice from Commonwealth, States and Territories.



## **National Urban and Regional Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians**

The Urban and Regional Service Delivery strategy was agreed at the July 2009 COAG meeting. COAG's agreement to the strategy recognises the critical need to address Indigenous disadvantage in urban and regional areas to make inroads towards achieving its targets. While most Indigenous communities are scattered across the vast remote areas in Western Australia, the majority (57 per cent) of the Indigenous population lives in urban and regional areas.

The Urban and Regional Service Delivery strategy provides a framework through which investments already committed in mainstream and Indigenous-specific COAG agreements can be harnessed to improve Indigenous outcomes in urban and regional areas. It provides a number of action areas where practical actions are needed to complement the investments in current COAG reforms. The action areas are:

- integrating governance that commits Governments to take a much more transparent and systematic approach to coordinating services;
- reforming service delivery systems to ensure the engagement of Indigenous people and their take-up of services;
- focusing on local need/place-based approaches as a practical way to implement initiatives that are responsive to local needs;
- strengthening Indigenous capacity engagement and participation to provide opportunities for developing responses that are driven by both community and Government; and
- building effective accountability and sustainability to ensure continuous improvement in performance.

As part of the strategy, Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments committed to reporting back to COAG late in 2009 on how investments in existing agreements were being used to improve Indigenous outcomes in urban and regional areas.

Western Australia's contribution to the development of the Urban and Regional Service Delivery strategy was led by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. The Department will also lead the implementation of the Urban and Regional Service Delivery strategy in the State and will report back to COAG towards the end of 2009.

## **Performance indicators and strategies to address the gaps in data sources**

Measuring progress in the quality of Indigenous life and living standards is critical to improving outcomes. The Department contributed to three projects that monitor and measure Indigenous indicators:

- National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance indicators;
- addressing data gaps; and
- a Western Australian baseline report on closing the gap in Indigenous life outcomes.

### **National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance indicators**

Commitment to COAG targets requires performance measures and forecast trajectories of progress towards achieving these targets. A set of indicators was developed to assist Governments in planning and measuring the effect of policies and programs in achieving the six COAG outcomes. A total of 27 performance indicators were identified and included in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

In addition to contributing to this work, the Department provides input into the development of technical specifications and the resolution of data issues relevant to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance indicators.

### **Addressing data gaps**

The quality and timeliness of data is important in providing sound analysis to develop the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. COAG assessed the data requirements and deficiencies to progress the National Indigenous Reform Agreement performance indicators.

As a result, \$46.4 million has been allocated by the Commonwealth Government to address the data gaps identified. A large proportion of this funding is for improving the estimates of Indigenous population, particularly in census collections and new data collections. Funding will also be directed to improving data collection and data linkage in administrative data bases including better identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### **Western Australian Baseline Report on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Life Outcomes**

The Department produced a baseline report on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement indicators to provide the Western Australian Government with better information on which to base decisions on policy and programs required to achieve COAG targets in Western Australia.

The report provides a snapshot of the State's current position and the size of the gap for each of the performance indicators relevant to the targets. The report also identifies key policy issues and challenges in achieving these targets and highlights where action should be taken to ensure that the challenges can be overcome. Examples of initiatives where progress is being made are also included.

The Western Australian Baseline Report will be made available on the Department's website.

### **National Indigenous Clearinghouse**

COAG agreed to establish a jointly funded National Indigenous Clearinghouse to gather, assess and disseminate evidence and information about best practice and success factors for closing the gap in Indigenous life outcomes. The Clearinghouse will provide information on successful initiatives that can inform policy processes and Government interventions related to COAGs' Indigenous reform targets and work program.

The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare was awarded a five-year contract through an open tender process to develop the Clearinghouse.



The initial priority of the Clearinghouse is on areas where there is insufficient information and which are believed to have a significant impact on COAG targets. These are school readiness, early literacy and numeracy, school attendance and retention, participation in the labour force (urban/regional/remote) and community safety.

The Department contributed to the development of the Clearinghouse concept and will manage and coordinate Western Australia's contribution to and participation in its activities.

### **Western Australia Indicators Framework System**

In recognition of the importance of data analysis in securing improved outcomes for Indigenous people, the Department developed a Western Australia Indicators Framework System. The System is a web-based system that enables easy desktop access by State Government officers to a multitude of data on social and economic performance measures used across State Government. It has the potential to be an effective tool for planning, monitoring and evaluation particularly in areas where a number of Government agencies need to work together.

The Western Australia Indicators Framework System will assist the Department in regularly updating, accessing and disseminating information in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Framework in an efficient and timely manner.

The system may also facilitate the provision of information to monitor and report on outcomes under the various COAG National Agreements and National Partnerships.

The Department also developed a business case for the adaptation of the Western Australia Indicators Framework System prototype as a whole-of-Government facility. The business case makes recommendations regarding the governance, systems ownership and operational positioning of the system. The business case will form the basis of a submission to the Treasurer's Economic Audit Committee, exploring the Western Australia Indicators Framework System as a public sector efficiency and cost-saving initiative.

### **Improving State Government coordination of services**

Improving the coordination of Government services is important in providing positive and sustainable changes that benefit Aboriginal people.

The Department contributed to a range of initiatives across State, Commonwealth and Local Governments and the not-for-profit sector, including:

- improving municipal and essential services in remote communities;
- developing alcohol management planning in Aboriginal communities;
- addressing Aboriginal health issues including access to services;
- promoting human rights;
- mapping and gap analysis in partnership with regions;
- advocating taxation reform that encourages Aboriginal economic participation and wealth creation;
- improving community stores;
- delivering seamless services to Aboriginal people with a particular focus on children and young people; and
- promoting art and culture.

During 2008/09 there were several significant achievements including:

### **Western Australian Aboriginal Languages policy**

The Department is leading the development of the Western Australian Aboriginal Languages Policy which aims to provide an overarching framework upon which new

initiatives and those underway can be coordinated and supported to maintain, preserve and revitalise Aboriginal Languages, including Aboriginal English and Kriol.

The Western Australian Aboriginal Languages Policy aims to achieve equality of outcomes for Aboriginal people by ensuring good quality and culturally appropriate interpreting and translating services are available to Aboriginal people when they access Government and not-for-profit services.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs has completed a draft Aboriginal Languages Policy for Western Australia. The policy was prepared following a discussion paper developed by Associate Professor Graham McKay, of Edith Cowan University and discussions at a consultation forum held in Perth in June 2008. This policy clarifies the Government's commitment to supporting the recognition, preservation and maintenance of Indigenous languages in Western Australia.

### **Remote Aboriginal Communities Policy framework**

The Department is leading the development of the Remote Aboriginal Communities policy. The policy will develop a process for consolidating Government policies, processes and investments into a single coordinated framework, through which investment priorities can then be determined. It advocates Government to work in partnership with Aboriginal people throughout the process – from the analysis of risks and assets to the formulation of investment priorities and strategies.

An initial discussion paper was developed by the Department in 2008 and circulated to a working group comprising representatives from the Western Australian Government and the Western Australian Local Government Association. A draft policy document was developed and will be presented to Government.

### **Evaluation of Balgo Community capacity building**

The Department recognises the importance of strong and effective governance within Aboriginal communities as a key factor that impacts on all aspects of Aboriginal people's lives. While there is substantial research regarding the factors that influence positive governance, little work has occurred within a Western Australian context to understand how capacity building models successfully operate. The Department is leading planning for the evaluation of the Community Capacity Builder model used by the Balgo Community.

Between January 2008 and June 2009, the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs contributed funding to employ a community capacity builder at Balgo in the East Kimberley. The position was created to assist the Balgo community to establish a functional and sustainable community council in the wake of five years of administration.

Feedback received from the community has indicated that there have been significant improvements in the governance capacity within Balgo. The Department is working with the Balgo community to evaluate its experience of strengthening community governance to understand how this approach can assist other communities to build and maintain strong Aboriginal governance capacity.





## **Office of the Register of Indigenous Corporations governance training**

To improve opportunities for the development of strong leadership and governance in Western Australian communities, the Department worked with the Commonwealth Office of the Register of Indigenous Corporations and the Western Australian Department of Commerce to deliver corporate governance training to Aboriginal organisations in Western Australia.

A trial governance training program was offered at several locations across the State and made available to Aboriginal organisations registered under either State or Commonwealth legislation.

An aspiration of Aboriginal people is to be involved in the decision-making processes as part of self-determination. This project, in particular the governance training, will assist Aboriginal people to achieve this objective by setting their own goals and priorities.

In June 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Office of the Register of Indigenous Corporations and the Department of Commerce to cover the trial period of the program in Western Australia. An evaluation of the program is expected to be conducted later this year.

Work has commenced on the development of an evaluation plan which will be finalised in 2009/10 and the Department will then oversee the evaluation and production of the subsequent report.

## **Stolen Wages**

The Department led the Stolen Wages Taskforce which completed extensive research in 2007/08. The work involved wide consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across all regions of the State as well as comprehensive research of archival files and records.

A large number of submissions were made to the taskforce reflecting the substantial impact this matter had on Aboriginal people, especially older members of the community.

The final report was submitted to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs for endorsement in June 2008, in preparation for its presentation to the State Government for consideration. In September 2008, a new State Government was elected and the Stolen Wages Report was resubmitted.

The Department continues to provide information and support to many of the Aboriginal people and families who were involved in the taskforce's consultations.

## **Environmental Health Needs Report**

In 2008/09 the Department of Indigenous Affairs worked in partnership with the Department of Health to produce the Western Australian Environmental Health Needs Survey Report.

More than 300 Aboriginal communities across the State were surveyed on environmental health needs, such as waste management, power, water, dust control and housing.

The survey data is being analysed by an external consultancy group, which is working with the Department.

The Report will help guide Government agencies in planning and delivery of services to improve environmental health on Aboriginal communities. It will also provide base-line data which will be used in the new COAG reporting arrangements. The report will be released in September 2009.

## Directorate Overview – Land, Heritage and Culture

The Land Heritage and Culture Directorate provides advice and services on Indigenous land issues and works to protect, preserve and promote Aboriginal heritage and culture. This includes promotion, reconciliation and respect for Indigenous history, heritage and culture; the management of and protection of places of significance to Indigenous people in Western Australia; and the management and transfer of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate.

The core business of the Directorate focuses on three areas:

- support for statutory boards, including the Aboriginal Lands Trust and the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee so they can exercise their statutory responsibilities and provide leadership in Indigenous land, heritage and cultural matters;
- Indigenous land management and transfer to assist Indigenous Western Australians and other stakeholders to address land issues and realise opportunities through the transfer of land and management programs; and
- advancement of Indigenous heritage and culture through the administration of legislative responsibilities and working with Indigenous Western Australians to maintain their heritage and culture.

The Directorate achieves these objectives through its two branches: the Land Branch and the Heritage and Culture Branch.

### Land Branch overview

Land is fundamental to Indigenous identity and underpins the cultural and spiritual life of Indigenous people. Through the control, management and use of land and sea, Indigenous people can enhance potential for the development of enterprise opportunities and the creation of wealth.

The Department works with Indigenous people, Government agencies, local councils, native title representative bodies and community organisations to facilitate the divestment of control and management of land held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust to Indigenous Western Australians.


### Estate management

The Land Branch provides advice to Government agencies, Ministers and community members on a broad range of Aboriginal Lands Trust estate management matters.

It administers the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate in accordance with its policies and statutory requirements and in cooperation with other Government agencies and stakeholders. This includes paying statutory fees, meeting Local Government requirements such as firebreaks and vermin/pest control and complying with legislation such as the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.

The Land Branch identified, prioritised and addressed risks across the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate. These included the removal of dangerous buildings, infrastructure and materials; and responses to issues concerning the delivery of Government services. Through its residual capital works funding, the Department of Indigenous Affairs arranged for the provision of fencing for security and stock control.

In 2008/09 the Department of Indigenous Affairs issued 3611 transit permits for access to the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate.



## **Capacity development**

The Land Branch provided advice on and approved 16 land use and development applications for telecommunications and essential services infrastructure, community and staff housing, community facilities and Government service infrastructure for Indigenous communities.

Large community maps incorporating aerial photography background were prepared and distributed to most of the larger Aboriginal communities to assist in planning and in formulating community-based decisions.

The Land Branch provided support to Aboriginal Corporations involved in pastoral enterprise on Aboriginal Lands Trust properties, particularly in areas of corporate governance.

## **Land acquisition and transfer**

The Aboriginal Lands Trust transferred a rural block near Esperance to the Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation, recognising its traditional ownership of this land. Negotiations over several other properties are at an advanced stage towards transfer to Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate, including two lots in Kununurra and Mt Anderson Station (south of Derby).

## **Major projects**

The Land Branch was also engaged in the following major initiatives:

### **Kimberley Ranger initiative**

In partnership with the Kimberley Land Council, the Department secured \$2.3 million funding from the Commonwealth Working on Country program to support 14 Walmajarri Rangers in their employment and training through a partnership with Job Futures and TAFE. An additional \$2.7 million has been secured from the Indigenous Land Corporation to support ongoing employment and development of ranger groups across the Kimberley Region.

### **Maku Stadium, Kalgoorlie**

Repairs to the stadium were completed and a resident caretaker has been appointed. The Department is assisting the Goldfields Land and Sea Council with a business plan for the future management and operations of the stadium.

### **Indigenous Land Use Agreements**

The Department, in partnership with the State Solicitors Office, the Office of Native Title, the Department of Housing, the Department for Building Management and Works and the Department for Regional Development and Lands developed a template Indigenous Land Use Agreement to expedite the construction of housing and essential infrastructure in Aboriginal communities. The Department has also engaged in the negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in a number of Aboriginal communities such as Bidiyadanga and Berkley River.

## Heritage and Culture Branch overview

A key responsibility of the Department of Indigenous Affairs is the protection, preservation, promotion and management of Aboriginal heritage and culture. The Department's Heritage and Culture branch undertakes this responsibility through administration of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, including:

- the Application to use land assessment and approval process under Section 18;
- a monitoring and compliance system on conditional consents issued under Section 18;
- an investigation, monitoring and compliance system for reported allegations of site disturbances under Section 17;
- undertaking the functions of the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites;
- secretariat support for the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee; and
- operation of the Aboriginal History Research Unit.

During 2008/09, the Heritage and Culture branch completed a draft administrative policy and procedures guideline. The guideline aims to provide greater clarity and transparency of Departmental advice and Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee decision-making, including a set of policy position statements on a range of issues.

The guideline and policy position statements address issues relating to:

- the purpose of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*;
- the application of Regulation 10 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974 and more generally applications to use land;
- the Section 18 application assessment process, particularly addressing time limits, completeness and operation of Departmental stop-the-clock process;
- site assessments, particularly the Section 5C assessments;
- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee consent decisions;
- consultation, including on matters relating to the *Native Title Act 1993* and Native Title claimant groups;
- empowering Aboriginal people in the development approvals process;
- Ministerial delegations; and
- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee members, Departmental staff, subcontractors and agents.


As part of the Government's improvements to the approvals process system across a number of agencies, the Department of Indigenous Affairs worked with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to develop and disseminate legal interpretation of the above areas of interest in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

## Major projects

The Heritage and Culture Branch initiated, developed and participated in a large number of major projects in 2008/09.

### Aboriginal heritage e-lodgment project

The Department's Corporate Executive and the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee endorsed the prototype for an e-lodgment application web interface, known as AHELP, with built-in workflow process and reporting systems. This online service for lodging Section 18 applications incorporates process, standards and data quality improvements. It is being developed as part of the project to improve the approvals process during 2009.



### **Canning Stock Route Aboriginal sites research project**

The Department is partnered with the Australian National University, Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation, the Kimberley Land Council, the Department of Environment and Conservation, Landgate, nationally renowned archaeological consultants and a range of Indigenous groups in a significant project focusing on the management and interpretation of Aboriginal sites and related dreaming (the Jukurrpa) along the Canning Stock Route. This three-year project involves the development of a management plan to protect the cultural and environmental Aboriginal values along the stock route and to educate the public about these values. More field work is planned for the project.

### **Heritage training**

Staff delivered training and education programs throughout the South-West and Mid-West of the State to various community and Government stakeholders during the year. Training included site identification, recording and management techniques. The branch also ran a three-day workshop to develop the capacity of the Department's regional staff to improve the quality of heritage protection in the regions. It involved fieldwork as well as information sessions in head office.

### **Stakeholder management project**

As part of the Stakeholder Workshops Project, a series of four one-day heritage workshops were coordinated and hosted by the Heritage and Culture branch. The workshops were held at Challenge Stadium in April and May 2009 to provide a forum for communication and interaction between the Department and external stakeholders on heritage management principles and approaches to statutory applications under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The four workshops attracted 180 people, with individual workshops structured according to the needs of the stakeholder audience being targeted. The workshops were very positively received and for the majority of the workshops, demand exceeded places.

### **Dealing with skeletal/ancestral remains workshop**

In recent years the discovery of skeletal remains has involved the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Coroner's Office, the Western Australian Police and a range of Aboriginal community groups. There has been no clear understanding of roles and responsibilities to these discoveries. In the Murchison Gascoyne region the Geraldton Regional Office and the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation have been discussing ways to improve the management of skeletal remains when they are discovered.

Senior Heritage Officers led a workshop for two days in Geraldton which:

- developed a positive relationship with the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation;
- formalised procedures, responsibilities and timeframes for dealing with skeletal remains in this region; and
- developed a prototype for similar situations in other regions.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding, protocol and checklist were developed at the workshop and this has been endorsed by the Department. The draft Memorandum of Understanding is in the final stages of negotiation with Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and the Western Australian Police.

### **Wardarnji Aboriginal Cultural Festival 2008**

Several staff members ran an archaeological dig activity at the Wardarnji Aboriginal Cultural Festival. It involved participants, mostly children, running through all the steps to undertake archaeological work including obtaining approvals and processes for working a site.

## **Working with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council**

Staff from the Heritage and Culture Branch attended meetings and fora with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council held to reform heritage processes and improve their consistency with the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council met with a number of consultants to discuss their proposals and the likely impact on their contractual arrangements.

## **Burrup and Maitland Industrial Areas surveys**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs provides heritage advice to the Department of State Development and support with surveys such as those done for the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi and Yaburarra and Mardudhunera groups over several affected areas. The reports consist of site recording forms and specific reports. Results will be submitted before the end of 2009.

## **Heritage inventory methodology report**

The Department is leading a project that recommends recording sites over a 20 per cent sample of the Dampier Archipelago National Heritage Listed area to provide better information to manage Aboriginal heritage. The report will contribute to the Department's objective of building heritage surveys of non-industrial land in the area.

The report was commissioned by the Department and a final draft completed in November 2008. In December 2008 the report was sent out for comment to relevant Aboriginal organisations, Government stakeholders and Indigenous heritage professionals. The report will be released to the public in late 2009 after any amendments are made in light of the Deep Gorge survey, which trialled the methodology of the Heritage Inventory Methodology Report.

## **Deep Gorge heritage survey report**


The Department is managing a Deep Gorge heritage survey report into the most-visited national heritage-listed area of the Dampier Archipelago to better manage the Aboriginal heritage on the land. The survey included input from Aboriginal custodians regarding its management. This survey contributes to the Departmental objective of collecting heritage surveys of the non-industrial land in the area.

The report was commissioned by the Department and a draft report completed in June 2009. The Deep Gorge heritage survey trialled the methodology recommended in the Heritage Inventory Methodology Report. The results of further Aboriginal consultation will be added into the report, which will be finalised in late 2009. The management recommendations in the report may be used by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Murujuga Park Council in management planning for the area.

## **Graffiti management**

The Department is leading the development of graffiti management techniques and is engaged in assessing graffiti on the Burrup Peninsula.

Staff have received training on graffiti issues and management and honorary wardens will be trained following consultation with Aboriginal groups about techniques and specific projects.





### **CEMEX Nickol Bay Quarry disturbance investigation**

The Department carried out investigations into an encroachment by blasting and earthmoving machinery into a National Heritage Place by CEMEX Pty Ltd at its Nickol Bay Quarry on the Burrup Peninsula. Investigations were carried out in association with the Commonwealth Department for Water, Heritage and the Arts and fulfil the Department's legislative function under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972*.

A constructive relationship has been established between the Department and CEMEX and there is scope for the development of a cultural heritage mitigation and management project in association with Traditional Owners, the Commonwealth Department for Water, Heritage and the Arts and CEMEX.

### **Western Australian Museum Reserve 4193**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs played a facilitating role in the management of the museum reserve, known as the Hearson Cove Compound. The engraved boulders are highly significant to Aboriginal people in the area. The Department funded and facilitated maintenance work at the compound and has agreed to assist and support the Museum to undertake community consultation in Roebourne on the development of management strategies for the site.

### **Connection to Country**

The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation is leading a project, in partnership with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Environment and Conservation, to enable Ngarluma Elders to contribute management recommendations for areas that are being impacted by recreational users in the Dampier Archipelago and to re-familiarise themselves with the heritage in the area and will record any stories and knowledge of the area. This work will also contribute to the management of the national heritage-listed area of the Dampier Archipelago.

With \$350,000 project funding obtained from the Rock Art Foundation Committee to be administered by the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation, a project agreement was signed by the corporation, the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Indigenous Affairs. The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation has employed a project manager and six three-day trips out to country will take place in 2009/10.

### **Advice relating to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972***

The Department of Indigenous Affairs provides advice in relation to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, particularly applications under Section 18 of this Act.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* was developed for the protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage and culture and it is important that the Aboriginal community see the Department implement its functions under this Act and provide sound advice toward expediting the approvals process.

Heritage staff provided advice to more than 40 State and Commonwealth agencies and authorities, 42 Local Government agencies, more than 70 mining companies, 32 other commercial entities (including land developers and construction contractors), 16 Native Title representative bodies and 54 heritage and other consultants.

## **Aboriginal History Research Unit**

The Aboriginal History Research Unit assists Aboriginal people to locate and trace their family history. Operating under a newly developed streamlined system, it has processed and responded to more than 350 applications for family history. A policy has been developed on how to access restricted information and a detailed procedures manual.

Officers scanned 3527 family history cards into a central database to enable easy access of personal information for clients and information is added on a daily basis.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is in the process of re-negotiating the agreement with the South Australian Museum in relation to access to the Norman B Tindale materials.

## **Provision of Heritage Information**

The Heritage Information Team is responsible for providing access to the Register of Aboriginal Sites and dealing with clients who apply for access to heritage information.

During 2008/09:

- 315 clients physically accessed the register;
- 1767 new site recording forms were lodged with the Department;
- 14,692 site information queries were processed;
- 1249 internal site searches and 37293 internet searches were undertaken;
- 2103 sites were captured; and
- 249 Program of Works applications were processed.

To assist in the reporting and streamlining of applications, the Program of Works process has been incorporated into the Aboriginal Heritage Management System. This allows Departmental staff to enter Program of Works applications into the system and obtain statistical data.





## Directorate overview – Regional Outcomes

The Regional Outcomes Directorate consists of a network of seven regional offices based at Kununurra, Broome, South Hedland, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Midland, and Albany, supported by a team of specialist staff based at the Perth office.

Regional managers and their staff have a strong track record in developing local partnerships and projects that address the needs of Indigenous people in their region. Regionally based officers also work with community organisations, other Government agencies and industry to ensure that the Government's policies and services regarding Indigenous affairs are responsive to local circumstances and issues.

The Regional Operations Directorate was actively engaged in an extensive and wide-ranging number of projects throughout the State.

### Community Patrols

The Western Australian Government established Aboriginal Community Patrols in response to the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1992). The Department of Indigenous Affairs is the lead agency in the management of Community Patrols.

Patrols are also an integral component of the implementation of the Government's response to the Gordon Inquiry. The Gordon Inquiry heard evidence from Aboriginal communities indicating that Patrols were essential to the operation of the communities. The Patrols help by providing early warning signs of family and domestic violence and help police to overcome barriers in linking with Indigenous communities on child abuse.

During 2008/09, 18 Patrols operated in Western Australia. In some locations new service providers were engaged to meet community needs. The discontinuation of the Community Development Employment Program has removed income support for a number of Patrols with other Patrols to be affected from June 2011. These measures combined with funding limitations have affected the ability of Patrols to operate to full capacity.

New models for reporting and data collection were distributed to monitor performance against service agreements and Patrol intervention with clients. LotteryWest continued to support the program by funding new Patrol vehicles.

## **East Kimberley Substance Abuse (Petrol Sniffing) Strategy Implementation Plan**

The East Kimberley Petrol Sniffing Strategy Implementation Plan contributes to alleviating the negative impacts of substance abuse and misuse. It involves an eight-point plan aimed at addressing supply, trafficking, prevention, early intervention and treatment for responding to sniffing incidents and preventing substance and other drug (including alcohol) misuse. The Plan contributes to alleviating the negative impacts of substance abuse and misuse. It involves an eight-point plan aimed at addressing supply, trafficking, prevention, early intervention and treatment for responding to sniffing incidents and preventing substance and other drug (including alcohol) misuse.

The East Kimberley Petrol Sniffing Strategy is a commitment by stakeholders to jointly and collaboratively facilitate and implement harm-reduction strategies and activities for East Kimberley's youth.

The Department co-chairs implementation committee meetings and is actively involved in the key objectives, including:

- the development of shared service provider protocols for responding to substance abuse incidents;
- regular assessment of youth service provision (Government and community);
- determining solutions in partnership with the working group to fill gaps in core services to children and young people in East Kimberley; and
- the development of monitoring and evaluation tools within the East Kimberley Petrol Sniffing Strategy to meet Government evidence-based framework and to produce robust data to facilitate funding of additional services.

The Kimberley Interagency Working Group endorsed the East Kimberley Petrol Sniffing Strategy Implementation Strategy and the distribution of rapid response protocols to each agency and Indigenous community for the immediate coordination of essential services when a substance abuse incident occurs.

East Kimberley Petrol Sniffing Strategy funding was used to create two youth hubs run by a coordinator in the Shire of Halls Creek and Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley to increase the coordination of youth services in the East Kimberley.

## **Kalumburu Community Development Strategy**

The Department is leading the development of a broadly based community development strategy that will provide a comprehensive coordinated approach to meeting the needs of the residents of Kalumburu, one of Western Australia's most isolated communities.

An analysis of the community conducted by the Department late in 2008 identified the need to develop and implement a much broader strategic approach to address the many complex, deep-seated issues affecting the community. In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, the Department of Indigenous Affairs has funded a review of governance, administration and service-delivery involving the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation. It has also assisted in the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer who commenced work in April 2009.

The Kalumburu Community Development Strategy and its associated action plan will broaden the response by Government and non-Government agencies and include community-based initiatives that fall within the responsibility of the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation, the community council and the community itself.

The Department has assisted the community to secure a grant of \$540,000 to fund two Youth and Community Development Officers over two years to implement youth diversion strategies and other aspects of the Community Development Strategy.

## **Oombulgurri Recovery Plan**

The 2008 coronial inquest into the deaths of five people at Oombulgurri highlighted a dysfunctional community prone to alcohol abuse, violence, sexual assault and child neglect. The inquest identified dysfunctional and corrupt governance, as well as inadequate and/or inefficient Government service provision as contributing factors. Subsequent to the release of the coronial report and in accordance with the Coroner's recommendations the Department has instituted a number of initiatives designed to progress service delivery, increase safety and security, and enhance the lives of residents.

Imposition of a total alcohol ban at Oombulgurri in November 2008 has had a significant positive effect on the community and enabled the Department and other agencies to improve service delivery; increase safety and security; improve housing, building maintenance and infrastructure; and implement community projects.

The Department, in partnership with other State and Commonwealth Government agencies, funded a Government Services Manager to provide on-the-ground coordination and management of Government programs, including environmental health, municipal services, Community Development Employment Projects and housing. Following the termination of the Government Services Manager contract in April 2008, the Department stationed a Regional Project Officer at Oombulgurri to assist the community, to coordinate Government services and facilitate the development and implementation of community and economic development initiatives.

The Department has overseen the conduct of elections for a new community council and board of directors, which is part of a review of governance arrangements, administration and service delivery. The Department will also develop a broad-based community development strategy designed to build on the work carried out under the Safer Communities Safer Children Strategy, address the causal effects of disadvantage and dysfunction and build social and economic sustainability.

## **Regional Partnership Agreements**

Regional Partnerships between industry, the Aboriginal community and Government to encourage Aboriginal inclusion into education/training, employment and economic opportunities continue to be supported by the Department. The Department supports eight Regional Partnership Agreements in varying stages of implementation.

### **Port Hedland Regional Partnership Agreement**

The Port Hedland Regional Partnership Agreement was the first such agreement signed by the State in Western Australia in 2006 under the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding between the Minerals Council of Australia and the Commonwealth Government.

Under the agreement significant numbers of Aboriginal people have been placed into employment. The Agreement's original target was 90 persons per year, however in the past 12 months, 200 Indigenous people were made work-ready and placed into work.

Under the agreement, a Work Coach Program through the Port Hedland Sobering-Up Centre was launched. It uses a case management mentoring approach to help 35 Indigenous people with substance abuse issues to improve their lives to a standard that allows them to be placed in employment.

### **Yagan Memorial Park**

Partnerships with the Derbarl Yerrigen Committee for the Reburial of Yagan's Kaat and City of Swan have seen significant progress in the past 12 months with statutory compliance and approvals granted and funding for the capital works at Yagan Memorial Park secured. The project is entering into the final stages and it is envisaged that the reburial of Yagan will occur with a Noongar ceremony and formal public opening of the Memorial Park by July 2010.

## **Oyster Harbour Fish Traps**

In conjunction with the National Trust of Australia (WA) Inc, the Department transferred custodianship of the Oyster Harbour Fish Traps to the Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation. The fish traps were documented before European settlement, being noted by Captain George Vancouver who visited King George Sound in 1791 as part of an exploration expedition. The fish traps consist of eight weirs that extend along the north end of Oyster Harbour. This nine hectare site has been under the custodianship of the National Trust since 1966 when the area was under threat of development. The National Trust has since worked with local community groups to encourage research of the site and to gain funding to develop conservation and management plans.

## **Regularisation of municipal services – town-based communities**

Consistent with implementation of the Bi-lateral Agreement on Town-Based Communities, the Department has engaged with community leaders and service providers to assist in the regularisation of services such as housing, electricity, water and sewerage in the Goldfields communities of Iragul (Norseman), Ninga Mia (Kalgoorlie), Nambi Road (Leonora), Wongatha Village (Laverton), Bondini (Wiluna) and Marmion Village (Menzies).

The Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation has been engaged to manage community housing, including rental collection and maintenance. Key performance indicators include:

- commencement of Regularisation Program to Communities;
- upgrade to housing stock;
- repairs to community facilities; and
- community development processes introduced (in-home support).

## **Midwest Gascoyne Human Services regional managers group**


The Midwest Gascoyne Human Services Regional Managers Group, comprising Regional Managers and Directors from the three tiers of Government, undertook a comprehensive three year strategic planning process. The Department Chairs and provides executive officer support to the Group.

The group has begun developing a Regional Alcohol Management Strategy and Plan in consultation with the Drug and Alcohol Office and plans to support local interagency forums and liaise with the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee for support and advice. There is now a better working relationship between agencies to address regional issues as they arise and develop collaborative responses.

## **Kimberley Interagency Working Group**

The Kimberley Interagency Working Group is a mechanism for promoting greater awareness in Government of the critical issues affecting Indigenous life in the Kimberley. The working group's members include District Directors and Regional Managers of agencies from the three tiers of Government and it meets bi-monthly. The Department continues to evaluate the mandate for the working group with a renewed strategic focus in line with COAG objectives. This included a Hot Topics approach to urgent emergency issues to ensure a coordinated rapid approach to achieving results is obtained.

The Department reviewed previous years' challenges and achievements of the Kimberley Interagency Working Group and adapted a more strategic, place-based approach in alignment with COAGs' strategies and benchmarks. As part of the renewed commitment by the Department, the Director General attended a meeting and endorsed the strategic focus being adopted.



## **Reconciliation Action Plans**

The Department worked with more than 50 Government agencies to provide assistance in formulating and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans. It is also working with various Local Government offices to assist in writing and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans.

## **Multi Function Police Facilities**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs are co-signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at improving policing in very remote areas of Western Australia.

This Memorandum of Understanding, signed in September 2007, commits \$20 million of Australian Government funding to construct Multi Function Police Facilities at Burringurrah, Looma, Jigalong and Blackstone, along with visiting officers' accommodation at each of these sites and at Bidyadanga. The Western Australian Government will provide the balance of capital funding for the projects and will meet the substantial recurrent costs of operating the facilities.

As Program Manager for the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the State Government, the Department of Indigenous Affairs has ensured the progress of the projects in partnership with Western Australian Police and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

At June 2009, the Blackstone facility was operating at full capacity. Construction at the other sites was well advanced and it is expected that these facilities will be fully operational early in 2010.

## **Western Australia Strategic Interventions Package**

In October 2007 the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs entered into a funding agreement providing \$51 million over the three years to June 2011, for nine separate projects collectively known as the Western Australian Strategic Interventions Package.

The package provides for new housing, employment and training facilities and associated accommodation for residents at selected Western Australian remote Indigenous communities and town-based reserves.

The Department is responsible for the overall management of the strategic interventions package. From 1 July 2009, six of the nine projects in the strategic interventions package will be transferred into new arrangements under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. The remaining three projects are well advanced and will be completed during the 2009/10 financial year. These projects are an upgrade and extension of the Ngnowar Aerwah Alcohol Rehabilitation Service in Wyndham, improvements to water supplies at 11 selected remote Indigenous communities; and construction and operation of a new TAFE training facility in Wiluna.

## **Alcohol management planning**

The Department, in collaboration with the Drug and Alcohol Office, took a lead role in working with communities, families and Government, to develop a number of alcohol management plans and strategies across the State. Outcomes progressed include a Kimberley Alcohol Management Plan, a Pilbara Alcohol Management Plan and there has been significant progress towards implementing a similar plan in the Midwest, Murchison-Gascoyne region.



## Directorate overview – Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Directorate supports the Department's outcomes by facilitating development of strategic direction, resource and asset management and leading the financial management framework in accordance with Government policy and industry best practice.

The Directorate also ensures the availability of information management systems and resources, manages facilities, ensures compliance with records management and provides human resource services.

### **Strategic and business planning**

During the year, the Department began the development of a new strategic plan for the agency. The planning process uses planning methodology designed to maximise stakeholder involvement and engagement.

The Department commenced a program to rebuild internal management and operational capacity and a recruitment strategy to attract people with new skills and abilities. Also, it began a communication strategy to engage key stakeholders.

### **Finance and Administration branch**

The Finance and Administration branch guides the Department's strategic financial management and budget requirements. In 2008/09, the branch provided advice to Corporate Executive on financial performance and budgetary management.

Other significant activities undertaken during the year included:

- meeting the Auditor General's end-of-year audit of financial statements;
- completion of compliance audits; and
- completion of internal audit reviews.

### **Workforce Management**

The 2008/09 year saw a significant shift in workforce management within the agency.


From the beginning of 2009, a shift in the broader labour market saw markedly increased candidate response levels for Departmental recruitment initiatives. Staff retention, while continuing to be a factor, was offset by stronger candidate pools and an increased presence in the market for the agency.

Successful negotiation and implementation of the Public Service General Agreement 4 provided a more competitive base for public sector employees post-global financial crisis and this is reflected in a lowering of resignation rates in the second half of the year.

The Department has been successful in securing permanent appointments in key executive leadership roles after an extended period of instability during which functional and structural reviews were carried out. This has enabled the Department to progressively make permanent appointments.

The Department has also effectively worked with the Community and Public Sector Union to negotiate arrangements around the use of fixed-term contract employment through a period of transition and significant change in regional operations.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs continues to work within the framework of the Standards for Human Resource Management in the Public Sector and adopts a continuous improvement philosophy to maintain compatibility between Departmental practice and external standards.



Key workforce management initiatives such as the training and development and employee wellbeing programs continue to be supported across the Department and are extended to metropolitan and regional staff.

Graduate recruitment and Indigenous traineeships have been deferred over the year, given a significant period of organisational change, with the Department focusing more on the provision of short-term cadetship opportunities better aligned to Departmental work priorities and measurable outcomes.

### **Information Management**

The Information Management Branch ensures appropriate information services and resources are available to support the Department's business needs.

To achieve this the branch plans and provides:

- records management;
- information technology equipment, infrastructure and security; and
- business information systems (development and support) including Departmental websites, intranet and geographic information systems.

During the year the branch provided high quality services to staff and customers. Key achievements included:

- improvements to information management systems used for tracking heritage sites information and applications to use the land under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*;
- rationalising geographic information systems to reduce systems support costs;
- addressed approximately 3,214 information technology service requests (down from last year's 3,700);
- deployed Voice over Internet Protocol phone technology in the Perth head office and introduced BlackBerry Personal Digital Assistants to support the mobility requirements of senior staff;
- improved security with a firewall upgrade, the addition of a second server for redundancy and a new spam filter; and
- Internet Security and Acceleration server upgrade from 2000 to 2006; Exchange 2007 cluster; Agency rollout of MS Office 2007.

### **Records Management**

The *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, which came into effect on 1 November 1993, created a general right of access to documents held by State and Local Government agencies. The Information Statement is available on the Department's website. The Department's aim is to make information available promptly, for the least possible cost and wherever possible documents are provided outside the Freedom of Information process.

### **Freedom of Information**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs received 13 applications for access to agency records under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The applications were processed as required under the provisions of the Act.

### **Electronic records keeping**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs operates two document management systems for corporate electronic documents, the TRIM electronic document and records management system and an internally developed internal document management system.

The Department's electronic document and records management system is the primary document store for all incoming correspondence and all Departmental officers have access to it. Induction of new staff includes an introduction to the electronic document and records management system and the agency's information technology system.

The Department's policies, procedures and guidelines for electronic information management were most recently reviewed in May 2009.

## Key Performance Indicators

The Department of Indigenous Affairs' desired outcome in 2008/09 was to improve the social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

The Department provided two main services to achieve this:

- 1) partnerships with key stakeholders; and
- 2) information and advice on Indigenous matters.

The Department's effectiveness was measured by its partnering initiatives (service 1) and its provision of information and advice (service 2).

### Method used to determine outcome effectiveness

The Department commissioned an independent research company to evaluate its performance in 2008/09. In June 2009, a telephone survey was conducted, using the same survey instrument as was used in previous years. The survey contained nine quantitative questions, aligned to the Department's performance indicators, as well as provision for respondents to provide qualitative feedback. The census population was comprised of the Department's key project partners. In all, 261 responses were obtained from a database of 402 partners, yielding a response rate of 64.9 per cent.

## Effectiveness Indicators

### Service 1

**Support to partnerships, partnering initiatives** is the provision of support to partnerships involving Indigenous individuals, families, communities and representatives participating with Government, the private sector, community groups and others to achieve agreed outcomes. These partnerships vary from formal arrangements to immediate responses and from small to large bodies of work that contribute to improved social and economic outcomes.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs has worked in partnership with selected non-Government Indigenous organisations, to help them coordinate and deliver work readiness training that equips Indigenous people to take up employment. Regional Partnership Agreements that began in 2007/08 and which have continued throughout 2008/09 illustrate how the Department has worked in partnership to improve economic and social outcomes for Indigenous people.

These Regional Partnership Agreements include:

- the **Port Hedland Regional Partnership Agreement**, where 147 Indigenous people were trained and placed in employment in 2007/08; and in 2008/09, 35 Indigenous people have been supported in employment through intensive case management;
- the **Ashburton/Roebourne Regional Partnership Agreement** supported two organisations to establish appropriate office and training accommodation to assist its work readiness training and placement of 101 Indigenous people in jobs - support was also provided in Roebourne to train and place approximately 30 Indigenous people in work;
- the **East Kimberley Regional Partnership Agreement** is a partnership with the Wunan Foundation to: (i) deliver tools to Indigenous building trades apprentices and trainees, on work sites around Kununurra; (ii) plan and fit out office and training accommodation; and (iii) to set up, in remote communities, the Work Away Program which takes groups of Indigenous people who had not worked before to work locations elsewhere; and
- under the agreement, the Wunan Foundation developed a training manual for Indigenous organisations undertaking work-readiness training.



**Indicator:** The extent to which parties in a sample of partnering arrangements indicate they have been assisted to achieve agreed outcomes, which contribute to Government objectives.

Target	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Percentage of sample reporting "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" (average responses)	63.5%	43.3%	58.2%	60.2% (Target 60%)
Number of respondents (including "don't know" "not relevant")	188	196	213	261
Relevant client population for Indicator	354	313	322	402
Response rate	53.1%	62.6%	66.1%	64.9%

The 2008/09 survey result shows a continued modest increase in the proportion of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that the Department of Indigenous Affairs assisted them in achieving the outcomes of their partnering agreements. This is consistent with the Department's continued operations in the regions and the land and heritage programs.

## Service 2

**Information and advice** is the provision of information and strategic policy advice to Government, private sector companies, community organisations and individuals to enable them to deal more effectively with Indigenous matters. The information and advice may include Government Indigenous policy, planning, land permits, site searches, population information and family history.

Information provision generally relates to the provision of operational information such as family history information, land transit permits and electronic information (site searches) through the Department's public website.

Advice includes on-going policy and strategy development in collaboration with partners. For example, in 2008/09, the Department completed a review of the existing Bilateral Agreement on Indigenous Affairs and incorporated new developments in Commonwealth/State arrangements, including those flowing from COAG. The COAG Closing the Gap reforms are now the key driver in bilateral arrangements in Indigenous affairs.

As well, Western Australia's approach to family and community safety was prepared for the Premier's presentation to the COAG meeting on 2 July 2009. Consultation to develop an Aboriginal Languages Policy for Western Australia took place in 2008-09 and a draft policy has been written.

This service reflects the Department's provision of Indigenous specific information and advice to Government, business and the community to support and advise them in improving the social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

This indicator measures the extent to which Indigenous and Government client groups are satisfied with the information and advice provided by the Department.

**Indicator:** The extent to which users indicated the policy and or advice assisted their decision-making.

Target	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Percentage of sample reporting "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" (average responses)	57.4%	47.7%	62.9%	55.2% (Target 60%)
Number of respondents (including "don't know" "not relevant")	188	196	213	261
Relevant client population for Indicator	354	313	322	402
Response rate	53.1%	62.6%	66.1%	64.9%

After a significant increase in effectiveness in 2007/08, there has been a decrease in the extent to which users considered the Department's policy or advice assisted their decision making.

There has been a hiatus in policy direction and advice during the transition of Government and the Department's reform and re-structure process. The need for improved policy development and responses has been recognised and the Department is moving to take a more strategic approach to policy development and coordination across the public sector.

Strategic management committees have been re-established to improve policy coordination and engagement with the Indigenous community and as part of the Departmental restructure and reform the policy arm of the Department has been strengthened.

Survey respondents indicated that they thought the Department of Indigenous Affairs was effective because of the quality of Departmental staff; its regional presence; its partnership and interagency roles; and its ability to provide information and expertise. They also indicated that the Department could be more effective if it were: clearer about its role; had a larger regional presence; more resources; developed more interagency co-operation; and consulted at a community level.

## Efficiency Indicators

The cost efficiency indicators reported here relate to the average cost per unit of each service. All figures below are based on accrual costing.

### **Service 1:** Support to partnerships, partnering initiatives

- 1.1 Aboriginal Lands Trust and other Indigenous land partnering and project initiatives
- 1.2 Heritage and Culture partnerships and project initiatives
- 1.3 Coordinating, cooperating, collaborating partnership and project initiatives

### **Service 2:** Information and advice

- 2.1 Strategic and tactical policy advice
- 2.2 Formal requests from Government, Cabinet and the Minister for information and policy advice, including resolutions of statutory land and sites committees
- 2.3 Requests for information met through data systems

It should be noted that indicator targets in the tables below were determined on the basis that \$4.928m of re-structure monies held in an administered appropriation would be released to the Department during the financial year. However, this funding did not occur. Consequently, the targets no longer provide a reasonable comparison against the actual results.

<b>Service 1</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>Target</b>
<p>Service 1.1 Aboriginal Lands Trust and other Indigenous land partnering and project initiatives</p> <p>Average cost per land partnering and project initiative.</p>	<b>\$68,460</b>	<b>\$84,744</b>	<b>\$69,952</b>	<b>\$63,449</b>	<b>\$72,127</b>
	<p>This indicator measures the average cost of outputs within land related partnerships such as those associated with maintaining the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate, developing land use agreements, deriving economic and social benefit from the estate and working with organisations to transfer land.</p> <p>The modest average cost reduction reflects lower spending on priority land management projects.</p>				
<p>Service 1.2 Heritage and Culture partnerships and project initiatives</p> <p>Average cost per heritage and culture partnership and project initiative.</p>	<b>\$49,802</b>	<b>\$37,283</b>	<b>\$52,230</b>	<b>\$70,132</b>	<b>\$83,888</b>
	<p>This indicator measures the average cost of outputs within heritage related partnerships such as regional heritage protection projects, cultural activities and promotion, resource development approvals and the s18 process improvements.</p> <p>Two countering factors are at play in this indicator. Firstly, the 2008/09 budget target included administered appropriation funding for a new compliance unit and this is reflected in the reduced actual in comparison to the target.</p> <p>Secondly, the actual average cost of the Heritage and Culture partnerships is increasing due to the increasing complexity of section 18 development applications over the 2006/07 to 2008/09 period and allowance for significant one-off heritage projects (such as the Yagan Memorial Park).</p>				
<p>Service 1.3 Coordinating, cooperating, collaborating partnership and project initiatives</p> <p>Average cost per coordinating, cooperating and collaborating partnership and project initiative.</p>	<b>\$70,244</b>	<b>\$123,739</b>	<b>\$97,210</b>	<b>\$89,019</b>	<b>\$91,574</b>
	<p>This indicator measures the average cost of outputs within regional partnerships (such as Community Patrols, priority location matters, local project initiatives, service coordination across Government agencies).</p> <p>Average costs of this output vary from year to year according to the nature of the matters being coordinated and the extent of grants provided.</p> <p>The figures are consistent with expectations.</p>				

<b>Service 2</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>Target</b>
<p>Service 2.1 Strategic and Tactical Policy advice</p> <p>Average cost per unit of advice offered.</p>	<b>\$70,114</b>	<b>\$54,576</b>	<b>\$72,057</b>	<b>\$47,264</b>	<b>\$50,017</b>
<p>This indicator measures the average cost of units of strategic and tactical policy advice offered to Government and agencies. Examples of this type of advice include items such as languages policy, Regional Partnership Agreements, remote service delivery, (among many others).</p> <p>Average costs of this output vary from year to year according to the complexity and size of the individual policy matters being addressed.</p> <p>Reduced average costs in 2008/09 resulted from reduced project, salaries and overhead costs associated with projects which finished in 2007/08.</p>					
<p>Service 2.2 Formal requests from Government, Cabinet and Minister for information and policy advice, including resolutions of statutory land and sites committees (Aboriginal Lands Trust, Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee)</p> <p>Average cost per request answered / recommendation made.</p>	<b>\$1,570</b>	<b>\$1,670</b>	<b>\$1,829</b>	<b>\$2,645</b>	<b>\$1,897</b>
<p>This indicator measures the average cost of information requests from Government, Cabinet and Minister for information and policy advice, including resolutions of statutory land and sites committees (Aboriginal Lands Trust, Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee).</p> <p>This service is subject to a range of variables - the number and nature of requests and policy advice – which in 2008/09 included those generated by the accession of a new State Government and considerably more work on COAG Closing the Gap reforms.</p>					
<p>Service 2.3 Requests for information met through data systems</p> <p>Average cost per unit of information supplied</p>	<b>\$64</b>	<b>\$43</b>	<b>\$44</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$53</b>
<p>This indicator measures the average cost of requests for operational information services, such as land permits, family history, native title searches, archive access and site searches.</p> <p>The average cost of requests varies according to the demand for services. This year has seen a 23% reduction in the number of site searches which results in an increased average cost.</p>					

# Department of Indigenous Affairs

## **Certification of performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2009**

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Indigenous Affairs' performance and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Indigenous Affairs for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.



Patrick Walker  
Director General  
Department of Indigenous Affairs

14 September 2009

# Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

## Performance Indicators

### Outcome

The use and management of the land held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust, or for which the Aboriginal Lands Trust is in any manner responsible, accords with the wishes of the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area so far as that can be ascertained and is practicable.

### Indicator:

Proportion of Aboriginal Organisations who are involved in Land Management who found the Authority's management of the land on their behalf satisfactory.

### Method used to determine outcome effectiveness

An independent research consultancy was commissioned to evaluate the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority performance by conducting a survey of 2008/09 client organisations. The 2008/09 survey comprised 22 organisations representing the recipients of the Authority's administered grants and services for that year. A telephone survey was conducted between 1 and 19 July 2009 and from a total of 22 clients, 22 interviews were conducted, giving an overall response rate of 100 per cent.

In 2006/07 and 2007/08, the survey had comprised 20 Aboriginal communities and organisations who were recipients of the Looking after Country grants. As these grants were discontinued at the end of 2007/08, this group could not be surveyed to evaluate the authority's performance in 2008/09.

The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority does not publish budget papers and thus no target is provided for 2008/09.

Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual
Proportion of Aboriginal organisations who are involved in land management who found the Authority's management of the land on their behalf satisfactory.	73%	79%	72.7%
Number of respondents (including "don't know" "not relevant")	20	19	32
Relevant client population for Indicator	20	20	33
Response rate	100%	95%	100%

### Comment on Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority effectiveness indicator results

As stated above, the result for 2008/09 came from a different group, who indicated the following responses: highly effective (22.7 per cent); effective (18.2 per cent); and somewhat effective (31.8 per cent). Also, the consensus of the respondents was: 'anything that engages traditional owners with the land has enormous benefits for their community, as it instils a sense of pride and self determination'.

A proportion of respondents (27.3 per cent) found the Authority's management not effective at all. Several respondents raised concern that the devolution of land was hampered by encumbrances such as large debts and sub standard housing. Another concern was that the Authority only had funds sufficient for small projects and this limited outcomes and effectiveness, accordingly.

## Efficiency Indicators – Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

Efficiency Indicators	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Service 1.1 Estate management Average cost per hectare.	\$0.130	\$0.239	\$0.106

### Comment on efficiency indicators results

This efficiency indicator measures the average cost per hectare spent managing and maintaining the estate. Costs include services received free-of-charge from the Department of Indigenous Affairs for administration of the estate and spending on maintenance of the estate.


The large increase in cost per hectare in 2007/08 is attributable to a once-off accrual provision for contaminated sites of \$3.438 million. The 0.024 per cent variation between 2006/07 and 2008/09 is mainly attributable to a reduction in the services provided free-of-charge by the Department to the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.



# Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

## **Certification of performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2009.**

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority's performance and fairly represent the performance of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick Walker  
Director General  
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

14 September 2009



## Significant issues and trends

### Issues

During 2008/09 there has been a fundamental change in the way Indigenous issues and opportunities are being addressed in Western Australia. At the heart of this change is a strong commitment by Government to better engage with and empower Aboriginal people through its policy development and decision-making in Western Australia. The Department of Indigenous Affairs now has a strong mandate to drive, through its strategic partnerships and new initiatives, the reforms required to overcome Aboriginal disadvantage.

As part of this change process, the Department's governance has been strengthened.

### Indigenous Implementation Board

One of the State Government's first actions was to establish the Indigenous Implementation Board. The Board is an important part of the State Government's commitment to the advancement of Indigenous Western Australians. Its general purpose is to deliver a paradigm shift that will see strong engagement and involvement of all stakeholders to collectively consider and address the structural underpinnings of Aboriginal disadvantage.

The Board is working towards developing a proposal for a regionally based reform agenda that can be considered by the COAG with a view to it being modelled federally.

The Indigenous Implementation Board will report directly to Government on the progress of its work, making recommendations about the reforms required to overcome Aboriginal disadvantage.

### Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee

Another important initiative is the re-establishment of the legislatively required Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee. The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee is a high-powered body comprising the leaders of seven key State Government agencies – Treasury and Finance, Premier and Cabinet, Housing, Health, Child Protection, Education and Training and Western Australian Police. Chaired by the Director General of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Committee is focusing on sustainable improvement of service delivery and support to Aboriginal people across the State. It will be accountable for achieving specific measurable outcomes.

A key focus of its work will be to develop innovative service delivery that makes a difference. To this end the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee has already appointed a Chief Operating Officer to work closely with Aboriginal people and service providers on the ground in metropolitan and country communities.

### Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council

The Government has also moved to re-establish the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council, as required under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*. The Council will serve as a logical and legitimate communication channel between the State Government and Indigenous Western Australians. It will provide a mechanism to identify key issues and priorities and provide advice on matters relating to the interests and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. After several years in abeyance, the Council will bring the voice of Aboriginal people back to the negotiating table.

## **Council of Australian Governments**

The COAG InterGovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations incorporates six National Agreements and various National Partnerships aimed at reforming Government service delivery and provides significant opportunity to improve social and economic outcomes for all Aboriginal Western Australians.

These National Agreements and Partnerships contain some specific Indigenous performance targets and measures aimed at producing more efficient and effective service delivery outcomes.

New processes for engaging with Indigenous people to achieve tangible outcomes are being established and mechanisms developed to:

- tailor investment and services to meet priority needs in regional and remote areas; and
- measure and report the improvements in Aboriginal social and economic outcomes.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is the lead State Government agency for the National Partnerships on Remote Service Delivery and Economic Participation and is contributing to other critical COAG initiatives. Implementation planning is well advanced and the new ways of working aim to achieve targets that close the gap between Aboriginal people and other citizens.

Concerns have been raised about the impact of Commonwealth changes to the Community Development Employment Projects program especially in rural and remote communities. The changes began on 1 July 2009 and the State will actively work with the Commonwealth to address any adverse impact for Aboriginal people.

## **Land tenure**

The resolution of land tenure, native title, heritage, and planning issues are critical to ensuring that the pre-conditions for investment, sustainable land use and development opportunities in Indigenous communities are optimised.

During 2008/09, the Department of Indigenous Affairs was the State Government's lead agency for progressing land tenure reforms that aim to secure Government investment and economic development opportunities in remote Aboriginal communities.

These reforms are a joint commitment of the Australian and Western Australian Governments. From 1 July 2009, these matters will form part of the COAG's National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

Under this arrangement, Department of Housing will become the lead agency for the State. Department of Indigenous Affairs will continue to provide legal and policy advice, particularly regarding lands held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

These reforms are a joint commitment of the Australian and Western Australian Governments. From 1 July 2009, these matters will form part of COAGs' National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. Under this arrangement, the Department of Housing will become the lead agency for the State.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs will continue to provide legal and policy advice, particularly regarding lands held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust. During 2008/09 reviewing the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*, in conjunction with other relevant legislation, commenced so that tenancy management on Aboriginal lands can be improved. It is planned that during 2009/10 legislative amendments will be progressed for Government's consideration.

## **Trends**

During 2008/09 the Department of Indigenous Affairs has responded to a range of emerging and ongoing trends which have built momentum during the year. Aboriginal people are vigorously and dynamically driving our responses to these local, regional and Statewide issues, which include:

- Maximising the benefits for Aboriginal people arising from major resource development projects and other business opportunities. There are incredible opportunities to increase the economic opportunities for Aboriginal people through these initiatives. The Department is working closely with stakeholders to achieve the best outcomes possible;
- Supporting community-driven alcohol restrictions. The Department is working in partnership with Aboriginal people, organisations and communities across most regions to develop and implement responsive strategies that help create safer places for people to live;
- Responding to the tragedy of Aboriginal suicides which have occurred in clusters across our State. The profound impact that the deaths of so many Aboriginal people has led to an urgent call to action within many communities to address the underlying issues contributing to the despair and hopelessness experienced by many Aboriginal people;
- Working with Aboriginal town-based reserves to normalise municipal services so that the quality of Aboriginal people's lives in these locations is improved;
- Supporting the heritage and cultural aspirations of Aboriginal people through local and regional projects such as the Yagan Project.; and
- Ongoing negotiations with agencies to ensure the requirements of Aboriginal people are included in the development of agency strategies and frameworks both at a State and National level, which deal with primary and secondary services.

## Disclosures and Legal Compliance

### Equal Employment Opportunities Act outcomes

The Department has continued to build on its workforce diversity initiatives, delivering some significant outcomes in terms of representation across different employee groupings in 2008/09.

Indigenous employment has decreased marginally to 33.13 per cent of the Department's workforce, far in excess of the Western Australian public sector benchmark of 3.2 per cent.

The number of persons employed from a culturally diverse background increased substantially from approximately 8 per cent of the workforce to 12.5 per cent.

The youth cohort remains the most problematic equity target for the agency, with the number of employees aged 25 or less falling again as per previous years – this may be impacted by the organisational structure which has very few entry level positions.

Other significant achievements for the year include:

- Successful completion and the retention of one of the participating trainees under Indigenous Traineeship intake from the previous year; and
- Executive commitment to the progressing of the recruitment of an Indigenous graduate under the Graduate Recruitment Program (subject to the Department effectively operating under a revised structure and service delivery model – post 'Functional Review').

The Department is committed to meeting the objectives and targets of the Department of Indigenous Affairs Strategic Workforce Plan (2006-2011) to ensure sustained improvement in equity and diversity outcomes for the organisation and the broader community.

### Staffing

Staffing Indicators	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Number of Staff Employed*	146	163	176	164
Number of Staff on secondment from DIA	7	6	9	1
Number of staff on secondment to DIA	2	7	11	7
Percentage of staff of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background	30.82%	33.74%	34.87%	33.13%
Number of staff who have a disability	7	6	6	5
Number of staff from culturally different backgrounds**	16	16	14	20
Number of staff < than 25 years of age (youth)	4	14	6	4

Note: Approved Full Time Equivalent for the Department is 156. Fluctuations relate to temporary contract positions for specific short-term projects.

\* This figure (for 2008/09) is based on actual headcount of employees, as opposed to the number of Full Time Equivalent staff.

\*\* People born in countries other than those categorised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as Main English-speaking countries (i.e. Australia, UK, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Ireland and USA).

## Occupational Safety and Health

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is committed to the provision of a working environment that is safe from injuries and risks to the health of its employees and visitors. The Department has targets of:

- 0 fatalities,
- 0 lost time injury/disease incidence rate,
- 0 lost time injury severity rate.

The Department maintains formal mechanisms designed to ensure consultation with employees on occupational safety and health matters via:

- clearly outlining the responsibilities for occupational safety and health to all employees and visitors – all new staff are involved in an occupational safety and health induction;
- the Occupational Safety and Health Planning and Advisory Group which is a forum for consultation and cooperation between staff at all levels on occupational safety and health;
- a complete set of policies and procedures (including relevant forms) available on the agency's intranet;
- provision of Senior First Aid training for Occupational Safety and Health Planning and Advisory Group members and fire wardens; and
- an annual wellness program.

In the event of injury or illness occurring, the Department is committed to injury management in accordance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

Due to high staff turnover and a number of changes in the occupancy of leadership roles, the Department has a less than optimal number of occupational safety and health staff both at head office and the regions. As a result the occupational safety and health management system has not been fully implemented and a complete self-evaluation was not conducted in this financial year.

The staff turnover has also affected the number of managers who have received training in their responsibilities for occupational safety and health management.

It is expected that with a stabilised workforce and re-formation of the Occupational Safety and Health Planning and Advisory Group, the Department will be fully compliant in 2009/10.

Indicator	Target 2008/09	Actual 2008/09
Number of fatalities	nil (0)	nil (0)
Lost time injury/disease incidence rate	nil (0)	One (1)
Lost time injury severity rate	nil (0)	One hundred (100)
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 28 weeks	One hundred (100)	nil (0)
Percentage of managers trained in OSH management responsibilities	Greater than or equal to 50%	nil (0)



## Record keeping plan

The Department of Indigenous Affairs' record keeping plan acts as a guideline to staff about which records are to be created by the organisation and how it is to keep these records. The plan comprises documents which, when assessed as a whole, provide an accurate reflection of the record-keeping program within the Department – this is for both electronic and hard copy records. Documents referenced in the Department's record keeping plan comprise the Departmental record disposal authority and its record keeping policies and procedures.

The Department has had both a revised record keeping plan and a Retention and Disposal Schedule reviewed by the State Record Commission in 2009. Both documents have been endorsed by the commission and will become the directing force behind Departmental record-keeping and archiving practices once they have received approval from the Director General.

Records management training is undertaken as part of the induction of new employees and record-keeping information is included in the Department of Indigenous Affairs induction manual. Also, the Department's Coordinator of Corporate Information conducts records-management training for new employees and as required for other employees.

Individual inductees are required to complete an evaluation of the induction program, including the records-management training. The evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of Department of Indigenous Affairs record-keeping training programs has been reviewed as part of the revised record keeping plan.

## Compliance with *Public Sector Management Act Section 31(1)*

In the administration of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, I have complied with the;

- (1) Public Sector Standards in human resource management; the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics; and the Department of Indigenous Affairs Code of Conduct.
- (2) I have put in place procedures designed to ensure such compliance and conducted appropriate internal assessments to satisfy myself that the statement made in (1) is correct.
- (3) The applications made for breach of standards review and the corresponding outcomes for the reporting period are:

Number lodged:	1
Number of breaches found, including details of multiple breaches per application:	0
Number still under review	1

## Financial Statements

### **Department of Indigenous Affairs Certification of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009**

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Indigenous Affairs have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2009 and the financial position as at 30 June 2009.

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



George Kessar  
Chief Finance Officer  
14 September 2009



Patrick Walker  
Director General  
14 September 2009



## Auditor General

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

#### **DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

#### **Director General's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators**

The Director General is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

#### **Summary of my Role**

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer [www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/AuditPracStatement\\_Feb09.pdf](http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/AuditPracStatement_Feb09.pdf).

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

**Department of Indigenous Affairs**  
**Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Department of Indigenous Affairs at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Department are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2009.



COLIN MURPHY  
AUDITOR GENERAL  
17 September 2009

## Income statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense	6	14,522	14,209
Supplies and services	7	4,843	6,079
Depreciation expense	8	133	218
Accommodation expenses	9	1,709	1,638
Grants and subsidies	10	3,268	5,405
Other expenses	11	482	480
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>24,957</b>	<b>28,029</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Commonwealth grants and contributions	12	125	245
Other Revenue	13	981	892
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,137</b>
<b>Total income other than income from state Government</b>		<b>1,106</b>	
<b>1,137</b>			
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>23,851</b>	<b>26,892</b>
<b>INCOME FROM STATE Government</b>			
Service appropriations	14	23,007	24,678
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	14	-	572
Resources received free of charge	14	262	204
<b>Total income from State Government</b>		<b>23,269</b>	<b>25,454</b>
<b>SURPLUS /(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>(582)</b>	<b>(1,438)</b>

See also the schedule of income and expenses by Service at page 62.

The income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Balance sheet as at 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	25	7	46
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	15	751	780
Receivables	16	363	815
Amounts receivable for services	17	357	230
Other current assets	18	103	137
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,581</b>	<b>2,008</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	15	245	200
Receivables	16	50	-
Amounts receivable for services	17	148	158
Plant and equipment	19	524	504
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>967</b>	<b>862</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,548</b>	<b>2,870</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	21	440	451
Provisions	22	1,990	1,851
Other current liabilities	23	50	42
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,480</b>	<b>2,344</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	22	698	574
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>698</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,178</b>	<b>2,918</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>(630)</b>	<b>(48)</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	24	1,181	1,181
Reserves	24	184	184
Accumulated surplus/(deficiency)	24	(1,995)	(1,413)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>(630)</b>	<b>(48)</b>

See also the schedule of assets and liabilities by Service at page 63.

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Balance of Equity at start of period</b>		<b>(48)</b>	<b>1,696</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>	24		
Balance at start of period		1,181	1,169
Capital Contribution		-	12
Balance at end of period		1,181	1,181
<b>RESERVES</b>	24		
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>			
Balance at start of period		184	184
Balance at end of period		184	184
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY)</b>	24		
Balance at start of period		(1,413)	343
Changes in accounting policy		-	(317)
Restated balance at start of period		(1,413)	26
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		(582)	(1,439)
Balance at end of period		(1,995)	(1,413)
<b>Balance of equity at end of period</b>		<b>(630)</b>	<b>(48)</b>
Total income and expense for the period (a)		(582)	(1,439)

- (a) The aggregate net amount attributable to each category of equity is: deficit \$582,000 (2008: deficit \$1,439,000).

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Cash flow statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE Government</b>			
Service Appropriations		22,660	24,310
Capital Contributions		-	12
Holding Account Drawdowns		230	418
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>		<b>22,890</b>	<b>24,740</b>
 <b>Utilised as follows:</b>			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee Benefits		(14,345)	(13,353)
Supplies and Services		(4,771)	(5,983)
Grants and subsidies		(3,268)	(5,404)
Accommodation		(1,669)	(1,470)
GST payments on purchases		(1,043)	(1,399)
GST payments to taxation authority		(190)	(735)
Other payments		(429)	(420)
 <b>Receipts</b>			
Grants and contributions		1,352	1,295
GST receipts on sales		157	156
GST receipts from taxation authority		1,446	2,270
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	25	<b>(22,760)</b>	<b>(25,043)</b>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of non-current physical assets (b)		(153)	(237)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(153)</b>	<b>(237)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(23)</b>	<b>(540)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		1,026	1,566
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	25	<b>1,003</b>	<b>1,026</b>

The cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Schedule of income and expenses by service for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Support to partnerships, partnering initiatives		Information and advice		Total	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>						
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee benefits expense	7,951	8,289	6,571	5,920	14,522	14,209
Supplies and Services	2,652	3,546	2,191	2,533	4,843	6,079
Depreciation expense	73	127	60	91	133	218
Accommodation expenses	936	956	773	682	1,709	1,638
Grants and subsidies	1,789	3,153	1,479	2,252	3,268	5,405
Other expenses	264	280	218	200	482	480
Total cost of services	13,665	16,351	11,292	11,678	24,957	28,029
<b>Income</b>						
Commonwealth grants and contributions	68	143	57	102	125	245
Other Revenue	537	520	444	372	981	892
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,137</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>13,060</b>	<b>15,688</b>	<b>10,791</b>	<b>11,204</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>26,892</b>
<b>INCOME FROM STATE Government</b>						
Service appropriations	12,596	4,396	10,411	10,282	23,007	24,678
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	334	-	238	-	572
Resources received free of charge	143	119	119	85	262	204
<b>Total income from State Government</b>	<b>12,739</b>	<b>14,849</b>	<b>10,530</b>	<b>10,605</b>	<b>23,269</b>	<b>25,454</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>(321)</b>	<b>839)</b>	<b>(261)</b>	<b>(599)</b>	<b>(582)</b>	<b>(1,438)</b>

The schedule of income and expenses by service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Schedule of assets and liabilities by service as at 30 June 2009

	Support to partnerships, partnering initiatives Total		Information and advice		Total	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>						
Current assets	866	1,171	715	837	1,581	2,008
Non-current assets	529	503	438	359	967	862
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>2,548</b>	<b>2,870</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Current liabilities	1,358	1,367	1,122	977	2,480	2,344
Non-current liabilities	382	335	316	239	698	574
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>2,918</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>(345)</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(285)</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>(630)</b>	<b>(48)</b>

The schedule of assets and liabilities by service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Summary of consolidated account appropriations and income estimates for the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 Estimate \$'000	2009 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000		2009 Actual \$'000	2008 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
<b>DELIVERY OF SERVICES</b>							
Item 76 Net amount provided to deliver services	22,826	22,826	-		22,826	24,505	( 1,679)
Amount authorised by other statutes							
- <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	178	181	3		181	173	8
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>23,004</b>	<b>23,007</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>23,007</b>	<b>24,678</b>	<b>(1,671)</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>							
Capital Contribution	-	-	-		-	12	(12)
<b>Total capital contribution</b>						<b>12</b>	<b>(12)</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>23,004</b>	<b>23,007</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>23,007</b>	<b>24,690</b>	<b>(1,683)</b>
<b>Details of expenses by service</b>							
Support to Partnerships,							
Partnering Initiatives	19,075	13,665	(5,410)		13,665	16,351	(2,686)
Information and Advice	10,140	11,292	1,152		11,292	11,678	(386)
Total Cost of Services	29,215	24,957	(4,258)		24,957	28,029	3,072
Less total income	(1,354)	(1,106)	248		(1,106)	(1,137)	31
Net Cost of Services	27,861	23,851	(4,010)		23,851	26,892	3,103
Adjustments (a)	(4,857)	(769)	4,088		(769)	(2,202)	1,433
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>23,004</b>	<b>23,082</b>	<b>78</b>		<b>23,082</b>	<b>24,690</b>	<b>4,536</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>							
Purchase of non-current physical assets	2,660	(153)	(2,813)		(153)	237	(390)
Adjustments for other funding sources	(2,660)	153	2,813		153	(225)	378
<b>Capital contribution (appropriation)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>(12)</b>

Adjustments comprise movements in cash balances and other accrual items such as receivables, payables and superannuation.

Note 30 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2009 and between the actual results for 2008 and 2009.

- (a) The adjustment amount of \$4,857,000 includes the non-receipt of Administered Appropriation held by the Department of Treasury and Finance pending approval from Government.

## Index of notes to the financial statements

1	Departmental mission and funding.. . . . .	65
2	Australian equivalents to international financial reporting .. . . .	65
3	Summary of significant accounting policies. . . . .	65
4	Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies	75
5	Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates . . . . .	77
6	Employee benefits expense .. . . .	77
7	Supplies and services . . . . .	77
8	Depreciation expense.. . . .	77
9	Accommodation expenses . . . . .	77
10	Grants and subsidies . . . . .	78
11	Other expenses . . . . .	78
12	Commonwealth grants and contributions .. . . .	79
13	Other revenue . . . . .	79
14	Income from State Government . . . . .	80
15	Restricted cash and cash equivalents.. . . .	81
16	Receivables.. . . .	82
17	Amounts receivable for services . . . . .	82
18	Other assets . . . . .	82
19	Plant and equipment . . . . .	83
20	Impairments of assets . . . . .	84
21	Payables.. . . .	84
22	Provisions . . . . .	84
23	Other liabilities . . . . .	85
24	Equity . . . . .	86
25	Notes to the cash flow statement. . . . .	87
26	Resources provided free of charge . . . . .	87
27	Commitments . . . . .	88
28	Contingent liabilities and contingent assets . . . . .	88
29	Events occurring after the balance sheet date. . . . .	88
30	Explanatory statement. . . . .	89
31	Financial instruments . . . . .	89
32	Remuneration of senior officers . . . . .	91
33	Remuneration of auditor . . . . .	94
34	Affiliated bodies . . . . .	94
35	Supplementary financial information . . . . .	95



# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 1 Departmental mission and funding

The Department's mission is: "To close the gap between the social, cultural and economic well-being of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through strategic leadership of land, heritage and culture, and whole of Government coordination of Indigenous issues."

The Department is mainly funded by Parliamentary appropriation.

## 2 Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting

### General

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements the Department has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised Standards and Interpretations from their operative dates as issued by the AASB and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

### Early adoption of standards

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2009.

### Going Concern

Notwithstanding the Department's net assets deficiency, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis because the Department is a State Government agency which is funded by Parliamentary appropriation from the Consolidated Account.

## 3 Summary of significant accounting policies

### (a) General statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The *Financial Management Act* and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over the Accounting Standards, the framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

**(b) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of works of art which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying the Department's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are disclosed at note 4 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies'.

**(c) Reporting Entity**

The reporting entity comprises of the Department only.

**(d) Contributed Equity**

AASB Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities', requires transfers other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners by (TI) 955 'Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

**(e) Income**

**Revenue recognition**

Revenue is measured at fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

*Sale of Goods*

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership control transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

*Rendering of Services*

Revenue is recognised upon delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

*Interest*

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

### *Service Appropriations*

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Department's bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury. See Note 14 'Income from State Government' for further detail.

### *Net Appropriation Determination*

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of the Department. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2008-2009 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$1.106 million in 2009 (\$1.137 million in 2008) from the following:

- grants and subsidies; and
- other Departmental revenue
- GST input credits

### *Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions*

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions which is usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

### **Gains**

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

## **(f) Plant and equipment**

### *Capitalisation / expensing of assets*

Items of plant and equipment costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of plant and equipment and works of art costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

### *Initial recognition and measurement*

All items of plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

For items of plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

### *Subsequent measurement*

After recognition as an asset, the Department uses the revaluation model for the measurement of works of art and the cost model for all other plant and equipment. Works of art are carried at fair value. All other items of plant and equipment are carried at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

The Department revalues its works of art every three years by a specialist in the valuation of Aboriginal art. The valuation determined at this time is the fair value of the works of art. Any additional purchases between revaluations are recognised at purchase cost.

#### *Derecognition*

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of plant and equipment or works of art, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation reserve.

#### *Asset Revaluation Reserve*

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in note 19 'plant and equipment'.

#### *Depreciation*

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Plant and equipment (excluding Leasehold Improvements) -	8 years
Leasehold Improvements -	Over the remaining term of lease
Office Equipment -	3 - 5 years
Motor vehicles -	3 to 7 years

Works of art controlled by the Department are classified as property, plant and equipment. They are anticipated to have very long and indefinite useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period and so no depreciation has been recognised.

### **(g) Intangible Assets**

#### *Capitalisation/expensing of assets*

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful life. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the income statement.

All acquired and internally developed intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

#### *Computer Software*

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

#### *Web site costs*

Web site costs are charged as expenses when they are incurred unless they relate to the acquisition or development of an asset when they may be capitalised and amortised. Generally, costs in relation to feasibility studies during the planning phase of a web site, and ongoing costs of maintenance during the operating phase are expensed. Costs incurred in building or enhancing a web site, to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits that can be reliably measured, are capitalised.

#### **(h) Impairment of assets**

Plant and equipment are tested for any indication of impairment at each balance sheet date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As the Department is a not-for-profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's fair value less cost to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated or where replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in the useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value as determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at each balance sheet date.

#### **(i) Leases**

The Department holds operating leases for head office and a number of branch office buildings. Lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased properties.



**(j) Financial Instruments**

In addition to cash, the Department has two categories of financial instruments:

- Loans and Receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

These have been disaggregated into the following classes:

**Financial Assets**

- Cash and cash equivalents.
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables
- Amounts receivable for services.

**Financial Liabilities**

- Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

**(k) Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents includes restricted cash and cash equivalents. These are comprised of cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

**(l) Accrued salaries**

The accrued salaries suspense account (see note 15 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur in that year instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

Accrued salaries (refer note 21 'Payables') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not normally coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

**(m) Amounts receivable for services (holding account)**

The Department receives appropriation funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement. See also note 14 'Income from State Government' and note 17 'Amounts receivable for services'.



**(n) Receivables**

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Department will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See note 3(j) 'Financial Instruments' and note 16 'Receivables'.

**(o) Payables**

Payables are recognised when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. See note 3 (j) 'Financial Instruments' and note 21 'Payables'.

**(p) Provisions**

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing and amount and are recognised where there is a present legal, equitable or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet reporting date. See note 22 'Provisions'.

**(i) Provisions - employee benefits**

*Annual Leave and Long Service Leave*

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual and long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after the balance sheet date is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance sheet date.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions. In addition, the long service leave liability also considers the experience of employee departures and periods of service.

The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the balance sheet date on national Government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

All annual leave and unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Department does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

*Purchased leave*

The provision for purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self fund up to an additional four weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave.



### *Superannuation*

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers the following superannuation schemes.

Employees may contribute to the pension scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members. The Department has no liabilities for superannuation charges under the pension or the GSS Schemes as the liability has been assumed by the Treasurer.

The authority has no liabilities under the pension or the GSS Schemes. The liabilities for the unfunded pension scheme and the unfunded GSS Scheme transfer benefits due to members who transferred from the pension scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS Scheme obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the authority to the GESB. The concurrently funded part of the GSS Scheme is a defined contribution scheme as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the concurrently funded GSS Scheme obligations.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who are not members of either the pension or the GSS Schemes become non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. The Department makes concurrent contributions to GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act, 1992*. These contributions extinguish the liability for superannuation charges in respect of the WSS and GESB Schemes.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the pension and GSS Schemes, and is recouped by the Treasurer for the employer's share.

See also note 3(q) 'Superannuation Expense'.

**(ii) Provisions - other**  
Employment On-Costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'other expenses' and are not included as part of the Department's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'employment on-costs provision'. Refer to Note 11, 'other expenses' and Note 23, 'provisions'

**(q) Superannuation expense**

The following elements are included in calculating the superannuation expense in the income statement:

- (a) Defined benefit plans - for 2007-08, the change in the unfunded employer's liability (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the pension scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS); and

- (b) Defined contribution plans - employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS).

Defined benefit plans – for 2007-08, the movements (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the pension scheme and the GSS Scheme transfer benefits are recognised as expenses directly in the income statement. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer, (refer note 3(p)(i)), a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense is recognised under Income from State Government in the income statement. See Note 14 'Income from State Government'. Commencing in 2008-09, the reporting of annual movements in these notional liabilities has been discontinued and is no longer recognised in the income statement.

The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the costs of services provided in the current year.

Defined contribution plans – in order to reflect the Department's true cost of services, the Department is funded for the equivalent of employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme (excluding transfer benefits). These contributions were paid to the GESB during the year and placed in a trust account administered by the GESB on behalf of the Treasurer. The GESB subsequently paid these employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme to the consolidated account.

The GSS scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-Government reporting. However, apart from the transfer benefit, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the agency to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

**(r) Resources received free of charge or for nominal value**

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

**(s) Comparative figures**

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

**(t) Support provided to Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority/Aboriginal Lands Trust**

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

When the Aboriginal Affairs Department (now titled the Department of Indigenous Affairs) was established on 1 November 1994 it effectively took over the operations of its originating agencies, including the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority. Staff previously employed by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority at that time were transferred to the Aboriginal Affairs Department. As a consequence, administrative support for the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and the Aboriginal Lands Trust was provided by staff employed by the Aboriginal Affairs Department. See Note 26 'Resources provided free of charge'

#### **4 Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies**

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements include:

##### *Operating lease commitment*

The Department has entered into a commercial lease and has determined that the lessor retains all the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the property. Accordingly, the lease has been classified as an operating expense.

##### *Leasehold improvements*

The Department capitalises leasehold improvements where significant economic benefit is obtained.

#### **5 Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates**

##### **Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard**

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2008 that impacted on the Department:

Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', AAS 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments and AAS 31 Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncements from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31:

AASB 1004 'Contributions'.

AASB 1050 'Administered Items'.

AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads'.

AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures'.

AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 and AASB 137];

Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by owners made to wholly-owned public sector entities'.

The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and revised topic based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. The new and revised standards and interpretation make some modifications to disclosures and provide additional guidance, otherwise there is no financial impact.

## Voluntary changes in accounting policy

Treasurer's Instruction 1101 requires the Department to increase its asset capitalisation threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000 from July 1, 2008. This voluntary change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively by adjusting the opening balance of the accumulated surplus as at July 1, 2007 and the comparative amounts as follows:

	Previously stated 2007 \$'000	Adjustments 2007 \$'000	Restated 2007 \$'000
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
Plant and Equipment	774	(317)	457
Accumulated Surplus	343	(317)	26

The increase in the capitalisation threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000 from July 1, 2008 has resulted in the following adjustments to the income statement. These relate to both the re-stating of asset balances at July 1, 2007 and expensing items previously capitalised in 2008.

	Previously stated 2008 \$'000	Adjustments 2008 \$'000	Restated 2008 \$'000
<b>Income Statement</b>			
Consumables	418	250	668
Depreciation plant and equipment	61	(1)	60
Depreciation IT equipment	181	(23)	158
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	1	(1)	0

## Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Department has not applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued and which may impact the Department but are not yet effective. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply these Standards and Interpretations from their application date:

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This Standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. The Department does not expect any financial impact when the standard is first applied.	1 January 2009
"AASB 2009-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments [AASB 4, AASB 7, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'. This Standard amends AASB 7 and will require enhanced disclosures about fair value measurements and liquidity risk with respect to financial instruments.	1 January 2009

The Department does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied.”

### Changes in accounting estimates

There were no changes in accounting estimates that will have an effect on the current reporting period.

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>6 Employee benefits expense</b>		
Wages and Salaries (a)	12,279	11,742
Superannuation - defined contribution plans (b)	1,089	1,087
Superannuation - defined benefit plans (c) (d)	-	572
Long service leave (e)	155	85
Annual leave (e)	205	171
Other related expenses	794	552
	<b>14,522</b>	<b>14,209</b>

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, GESB and Gold State Super Schemes (contributions paid).

(c) Defined benefit plans include Pension Scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit).

(d) An equivalent notional income is also recognised (see note 14 'Income from State Government').

(e) Includes a superannuation contribution component

Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 11 'Other expenses'. The employment on-costs liability is included at note 22 'Provisions'.

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>7 Supplies and services</b>		
Communications	303	322
Services and contractors	2,606	3,207
Consumables	350	668
Operating leases	507	588
Repairs and maintenance	111	116
Electricity and water	81	61
Travel	746	945
Other	139	172
	<b>4,843</b>	<b>6,079</b>
<b>8 Depreciation expense</b>		
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Plant and equipment	53	60
IT equipment	80	158
	<b>133</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>9 Accommodation expenses</b>		
Lease rentals	1,654	1,564
Repairs and maintenance	8	28
Other	47	46
	<b>1,709</b>	<b>1,638</b>

		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
10	<b>Grants and subsidies</b>		
	<b>Recurrent</b>		
	Grants to non-Government agencies	2,710	4,120
	Transfers/contributions to other state Government agencies		558
1,285		<b>3,268</b>	<b>5,405</b>

Details of grants in excess of \$100,000 are listed below:

**Patrols**

Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation	137	-
Bloodwood Tree Association	23	256
Geraldton Yamatji Patrol	273	109
Halls Creek People's Church	93	136
Mambabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation	-	348
Nooda Ngulegoo Aboriginal Corporation	-	457
Nyoongar Patrol System Incorporated	102	484

**Other Grants**

City of Swan - Yagan Memorial Park	670	110
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - MCATSIA Populations Project	101	202
Kullari Indigenous Womens Aboriginal Corpoaration - Child and family Support	-	176
Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation - Ashburton Roebourne Regional Partnership Agreement	-	225
Marnda Mia CNC Pty Ltd - Upgrade Infrastructure Regional Partnership Agreement	-	170
Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation - Kiwirrkurra Service Workers Accommodation	-	115

**State Government Agencies**

Department of Housing and Works - Aboriginal Town Based Communities	-	1 36
Department of Health - WAEHNS Environmental Survey 2008	149	-
Department of Premier and Cabinet - Appointment of General Sanderson	102	716
Department of Sport and Recreation - Indigenous Sport and Recreation plan	-	130
Equal Opportunity Commission - Public Housing for Aboriginal people	257	248

**11 Other expenses**

Bad Debts	-	4
Doubtful debts expense	10	(2)
Building Maintenance	187	137
Employment on-costs (a)		
See note 6 'Employee benefits expense')	238	296
Other (b)	47	45
	<b>482</b>	<b>480</b>



- (a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 22 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.
- (b) Audit fee, see also note 33 'Remuneration of auditor'.

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>12 Commonwealth grants and contributions</b>		
MCATSIA funding (a)	55	55
Family Violence funding (b)	-	190
Narrogin Crisis Response (c)	70	-
	<b>125</b>	<b>245</b>

- (a) The Department assumed responsibility for the administration of the Ministerial Council of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) during 2003/04. MCATSIA was previously administered, through a secretariat, by the NSW State Government. The funding received during the year was contributions from various States, Territories and the Commonwealth Government for the ongoing operations of the Council. Funds held for MCATSIA form part of restricted cash. A total balance of unspent funds of (\$467,035) Commonwealth and other funding for MCATSIA existed as at 30 June 2009. See also Note 13 Other Revenue and Note 15 Restricted cash and cash equivalents.

	Funds Received \$'000	Funds Expended \$'000	Balance \$'000
(b) Family Violence funding - Grant program within Aboriginal communities.	190	190	0
(c) Narrogin Crisis Response	70	14	56
	260	204	56

*See also Note 15 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents' for more detail.*

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>13 Other revenue</b>		
Contributions from State Government agencies	59	226
Other contributions		
Contributions for special projects	213	213
Miscellaneous Revenue	586	333
Revenues from non-operating activities		
Government Vehicle Scheme	24	25
Staff housing contributions	99	95
	<b>981</b>	<b>892</b>



14	Income from State Government	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
	Appropriations received during the year :		
	Service appropriations (a)	23,007	24,678
		<b>23,007</b>	<b>24,678</b>

The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year

Superannuation (b)	-	5 72
	-	<b>572</b>

Resources received free of charge (c)

Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:

State Solicitor's Office - legal advice	220	175
Department of Treasury & Finance		
- Property Management Services	42	29
	<b>262</b>	<b>204</b>
	<b>23,269</b>	<b>25,454</b>

- (a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.
- (b) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is a notional income to match the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the pension scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Superannuation scheme. (The notional superannuation expense is disclosed at note 6 'Employee benefits expense'). Commencing in 2008/09, the reporting of the notional superannuation expense and equivalent notional income has been discontinued.
- (c) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the Department recognises revenues (except where the contributions of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners in which case the Department shall make a direct adjustment to equity) equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable. Where the contributions of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners, the Department makes an adjustment direct to equity.

15	Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
	<i>Current</i>		
	MCATSIA (a)	467	331
	Western Desert Economic Opportunities (b)	-	4
	PALS (c)	119	114
	Heritage Management (d)	57	112
	WA Indicator Framework System (WAIFS) Website (e)	38	70
	Environmental Health Needs Committee (f)	-	149
	Narrogin Crisis Response (g)	56	-
	Murchison Gascoyne Mapping and Gapping (h)	14	-
	<b>Total current</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>780</b>
	<i>Non-current</i>		
	Accrued salaries suspense account (i)	245	200
	<b>Total Non-current</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>200</b>
		<b>996</b>	<b>980</b>

- (a) Funds held by the Department for the administration of the Ministerial Council of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA). See also note 12, 'Commonwealth grants and contributions'.
- (b) Funds to undertake scoping of employment and economic development opportunities in the Western Desert region.
- (c) Projects involving Indigenous heritage and culture within schools.
- (d) Funding to support various Heritage projects including development of a heritage management system.
- (e) Funding to develop the WAIFS website.
- (f) Funding provided to manage the activities of the Environmental Health Needs Committee.
- (g) Funding provided to respond to the Suicide Crisis in the Narrogin community.
- (h) Funding to support the completion of a process to identify services provided and gaps in the provision of services in the Murchison Gascoyne region.
- (i) Amount held in the suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

<b>16</b>	<b>Receivables</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
	<i>Current</i>		
	Receivables	255	335
	Allowance for impairment of receivables	(10)	-
	GST receivable	118	480
		<b>363</b>	<b>815</b>
	<i>Non-current</i>		
	Loans (a)	50	-
		<b>50</b>	<b>-</b>

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables.

Balance at start of year	-	2
Doubtful debts expense recognised in the income statement	(10)	-
Amounts written off during the year	-	(2)
Amount recovered during the year (b)	-	-
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>-</b>

The Department does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to receivables.

See also note 3(n) 'Receivables' and note 31 'Financial Instruments'.

- Aboriginal
- (a) The Department has made an interest-free loan to Ngarluma Corporation for the purposes of developing a Structure Plan for the Ngarluma Aboriginal Sustainable Housing Project. This loan is repayable in full in June 2012 or upon the sale of the land or any part thereof.
  - (b) For 2008, amounts written off during the year of \$2,000 were incorrectly reported as doubtful debts expense recognised in the income statement. This has been corrected and re-stated in 2009.

## **17 Amounts receivable for services**

Current	357	230
Non-current	148	158
	<b>505</b>	<b>388</b>

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. See note 3(m) 'Amounts receivable for services (holding account)'. It is restricted in that it can be used only for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

## **18 Other assets**

<i>Current</i>		
Prepayments	103	137
	<b>103</b>	<b>137</b>

<b>19</b>	<b>Plant and equipment</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
	Vehicles		
	At cost	53	52
	Accumulated depreciation	(53)	(52)
	<b>Total Vehicles</b>	-	-
	Plant and equipment (a)		
	At cost	338	320
	Accumulated depreciation	(170)	(116)
	<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>204</b>
	Information technology equipment (b)		
	At cost	633	497
	Accumulated depreciation	(431)	(351)
	<b>Total information technology equipment</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>146</b>
	Works of art		
	At fair value	154	154
	<b>Total works of art</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>
		<b>524</b>	<b>504</b>

Works of art carried at value are re-valued every three years by a specialist in the valuation of Aboriginal art. The valuation process is scheduled to be carried out in 2010. See Note 3(f) 'Plant and equipment'

	<b>Works of art</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Plant &amp; equipment</b>	<b>Information technology equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>2009</b>					
Carrying amount at start of year	154	-	204	146	<b>504</b>
Additions	-	-	17	136	<b>153</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	(53)	(80)	<b>(133)</b>
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>524</b>
<b>Works of</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Plant &amp;</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>art</b>	<b>equipment</b>	<b>technology</b>	<b>equipment</b>	
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Carrying amount at start of year	324	-	190	260	<b>774</b>
Voluntary changes in accounting policy	(190)	-	(35)	(80)	<b>(305)</b>
Additions	20	-	-	124	<b>253</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	(60)	(158)	<b>(218)</b>
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>504</b>

## 20 Impairments of assets

There were no indications of impairment to plant and equipment assets at 30 June 2009

The Department held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period and at balance sheet date there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2009 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>21 Payables</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Trade payables	296	344
Accrued Salaries	144	93
Accrued Superannuation	-	14
<b>Total current</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>451</b>

See also note 3(o) 'Payables' and note 31 'Financial Instruments'.

## 22 Provisions

### *Current*

Employee benefits provision

Annual leave (a)	972	863
Long service leave (b)	756	782
Purchased leave ( c )	49	8
	<b>1,777</b>	<b>1,653</b>

Other provisions

Employment on-costs (d)	213	198
	<b>213</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>1,851</b>

### *Non-current*

Employee benefits provision

Long service leave (b)	623	513
	<b>623</b>	<b>513</b>

### *Other provisions*

Employment on-costs (d)	75	61
	<b>75</b>	<b>61</b>

**Total non-current provisions** **698** **574**

**Total provisions** **2,688** **2,425**

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that the actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of reporting date	714	703
More than 12 months after reporting date	258	160
	<b>972</b>	<b>863</b>

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that the actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:		
Within 12 months of reporting date	756	430
More than 12 months after reporting date	623	352
	<b>1,379</b>	<b>782</b>
(c) Purchased leave has been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date. All purchased leave must be settled by 31st December each year or it is automatically paid out.		
Within 12 months of reporting date	49	8
More than 12 months after reporting date	-	-
	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>
(d) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in note 11 'Other expenses'.		

#### **Movements in other provisions**

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits, are set out below:

Employment on-cost provision		
Carrying amount at start of year	260	236
Additional provisions recognised	28	24
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>260</b>

#### **23 Other liabilities**

##### *Current*

Unclaimed monies	2	2
Fringe benefits tax	45	38
Other	3	2
<b>Total current</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>

**Equity**

Liabilities exceed assets for the Department and there is therefore no residual interest in the assets of the Department. The equity deficit arose primarily due to the implementation of Treasurers Instruction 1101, increasing capitalisation threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000 effective 1 July 2008 in the current period being recognised in the balance sheet

**Contributed Equity**

Balance at start of year	1,181	1,169
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**Contributions by owners**

Capital contribution (a)	-	12
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<b>Total contributions by owners</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,181</b>
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- (a) Under the Treasurer's instruction TI 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' Capital Contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities'.

**Reserves**

Asset revaluation reserve

Balance at the start of the year	184	184
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Net revaluation increments/(decrements):

Works of art	-	-
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<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>184</b>
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**Accumulated surplus/(deficit)**

Balance at the start of the year	(1,413)	343
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Changes in accounting policy	-	(317)
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Result for the period (a)	(582)	(1,439)
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<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>(1,995)</b>	<b>(1,413)</b>
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25	Notes to cash flow statement	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
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#### *Reconciliation of cash*

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows :

Cash and cash equivalents	7	46
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (see also Note 15)	996	980
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>1,026</b>

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities

Net cost of services	(23,851)	(26,892)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	133	218
Bad debts expense	-	4
Doubtful debts expense	10	(2)
Superannuation expense	-	572
Resources received free of charge	262	204
(Increase)/decrease in assets:		
Current receivables	80	206
Other current assets	34	110
Non-current receivables	(50)	-
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Current payables	(11)	83
Current provisions	139	162
Other current liabilities	8	(6)
Non-current provisions	124	(10)
Net GST receipts/(payments)	370	292
Change in GST receivables/payables	(8)	16
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>22,760</b>	<b>(25,043)</b>

At the balance sheet date, the Department had fully drawn on all financing facilities, details of which are disclosed in the financial statements.

#### **26 Resources provided free of charge**

During the year the following resources were provided to other agencies free-of-charge for functions outside the normal operations of the Department.

<b>Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>839</b>
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See also note 3(t) Support provided to Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority/ Aboriginal Lands Trust.

27	<b>Commitments</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
		<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>

#### Lease commitments (a) (b)

Commitments in relation to leases contracted for at the balance sheet date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	1,243	1,635
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,931	4,421
Later than 5 years	-	17
	<b>3,174</b>	<b>6,073</b>

Representing:

Non-cancellable operating leases	3,174	6,073
	<b>3,174</b>	<b>6,073</b>

(a) The property leases are non-cancellable leases for periods up to five years with rent payable monthly in advance. Contingent rent provisions within the lease agreements require that the lease payments shall be increased by the CPI or other criteria such as independent valuations or fixed percentages. Options may exist to renew the leases at the end of the lease term.

(b) Motor vehicle leases are non-cancellable leases over a fixed period and/or targeted number of kilometres.

#### Expenditure commitments

The Department has contracted commitments for its Patrols program via service agreements at balance sheet date that are not recognised as liabilities and are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	1,701	2,404
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	311	2,012
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<b>2,012</b>	<b>4,416</b>

#### 28 **Contingent liabilities and contingent assets**

The Department had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2009.

#### 29 **Events occurring after the balance sheet date**

No information has become apparent since balance date which materially affects the financial statements.

### 30 Explanatory statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expenses as presented in the financial statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10 per cent or \$200,000.

#### Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2009

##### *Total appropriation to deliver services*

Although there was no significant variance in the total appropriation, there were significant offsetting variances in the following service expenditures.

	2009 Estimate \$000	2009 Actual \$000	Variation \$000
Support to Partnerships, Partnering Initiatives	19,075	13,665	(5,410)
Information & Advice	10,140	1,292	1,152

##### *Support to partnering initiatives*

The significant reduction is a direct result of the decision by Government to delay the Departmental restructure funding of \$4,925,000 until 2010 and the decision by the Department's management to boost the policy arm of the agency.

##### *Information and advice*

The increase is a direct result of the decision by the Department's management to boost the policy arm of the agency.

#### Significant variances between actuals for 2008 and 2009

##### *Total appropriation to deliver services and total income*

	2009 Estimate \$000	2009 Actual \$000	Variation \$000
Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the year	23,007	4,678	(1,671)
Total income	1,106	1,137	(31)

##### *Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the year*

The variance is due to the cessation of fixed term funding for the Ashburton Roebourne Regional Partnership Agreement, replacement CDEP funding for Patrols and the winding down of the Indigenous Multilateral Pool program.

## Service Expenditure

	2009 Estimate \$000	2009 Actual \$000	Variation \$000
Support to partnerships, partnering initiatives	13,665	16,351	(2,686)
Information & Advice	11,292	11,678	(386)

### *Support to Partnering initiatives*

The significant reduction is primarily a result of the cessation of fixed term funding for the Ashburton Roebourne Regional Partnership Agreement, the winding down of the Multilateral Funding, non-reporting of the Superannuation Liability assumed by the Treasurer in 2008, the drawing down of cash reserves from 2007 and management's decision to boost the policy arm of the Department which led to a transfer of costs to Information and Advice

### *Information and advice*

The significant reduction is primarily a result of the cessation of fixed-term funding for the Ashburton Roebourne Regional Partnership Agreement, the winding down of the Multilateral Funding, non-reporting of the Superannuation Liability assumed by the Treasurer in 2008, the drawing down of cash reserves from 2007 and management's decision to boost the policy arm of the Department which led to a transfer of costs from support to partnering initiatives.

## Significant variances between estimate and actuals for 2008 and 2009

Capital contribution	2009 Estimate \$000	2009 Actual \$000	Variation \$000
Capital Contribution	0	12	(12)

The agency did not receive a capital contribution in 2009.

## Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2009

Authorisation to spend in excess of appropriation - supplementary funding

	2009 Estimate \$000	2009 Actual \$000	Variation \$000
Supplementary Funding	23,004	23,007	3
2008 Salaries & Allowances Tribunal			3
Other net adjustments			(3)
			-

(a) *Financial risk management objectives and policies*

Financial Instruments held by the Department are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. All of the Department's cash is held in the public bank account (non-interest bearing) including restricted cash. The Department has limited exposure to financial risks. The Department's overall risk management program focusses on managing the risks identified below.

*Credit risk*

Credit risk arises when there is a possibility of the Department's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Department.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment, as shown in the table at Note 31(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 16 Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivables are the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than Government, the Department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the balance sheet date there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

The Department monitors receivables on a monthly basis and follows up any that are past due. Debtors are contacted to determine the reason for non-payment via phone and by follow up letters. In instances where this proves unsuccessful and the amount outstanding is considered material, the debt is referred to a debt collector after consideration of the nature of the debt and any impact this would have on our client-base.

*Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk arises when the Department is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Department is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

The Department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cashflows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

*Market risk*

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Department's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Department does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 31(c), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk because apart from minor amounts of restricted cash, all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing and have no borrowings.

(b) *Categories of financial instruments*

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows

**Financial assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	7	46
Restricted cash and cash advances	996	980
Loans and Receivables (a)	305	335

**Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	490	493
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- (a) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

The financial liabilities for 2008 have been re-stated by \$42,000 to include Fringe Benefits Tax payable, unclaimed monies and other liabilities.  
*See note 23, 'Other liabilities'.*

(c) *Financial instrument disclosures*

*Credit risk and interest rate risk exposure*

The following tables disclose the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk, interest rate exposures and the aging analysis of financial assets. The Department's maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Department.

The Department does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

The Department does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

## Interest rate exposures and ageing analysis of financial assets (a)

		Interest rate exposure		Past due but not impaired			
	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount	Non-interest bearing	Up to 3 months	3 – 12 months	1 – 2 years	Impaired financial assets
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets							
2009	-	7	7	-	-	-	-
Cash assets	-	996	996	-	-	-	10
Restricted cash assets	-	305	305	-	-	-	10
Receivables (a)	-	1308	1308	-	-	-	10
2008							
Cash assets	-	46	46	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash assets	-	980	980	-	-	-	-
Receivables (a)	-	335	335	-	-	-	-
		1361	1361	-	-	-	-

- (a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

### Liquidity risk

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities. The contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. The table includes both interest and principal cash flows.

## Interest rate exposures and maturity analysis of financial liabilities

	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Interest rate exposure		Maturity dates		
		Carrying amount	Non- interest bearing	Up to 3 months	3 – 12 months	1 – 2 years
Financial liabilities						
<b>2009</b>						
Payables	-	490	490	490	-	-
		<b>490</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>490</b>	-	-
<b>2008</b>						
Payables	-	493	493	493	-	-
		<b>493</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>493</b>	-	-

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liability.



### *Fair values*

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

		2009	2008
		\$'000	\$'000

## 32 Remuneration of senior officers

### *Remuneration*

The number of senior officers whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits received for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

	\$		
1	to 9,999	2	2
10,001	to 20,000	1	2
20,001	to 30,000	1	-
30,001	to 40,000	1	1
40,001	to 50,000	1	-
60,001	to 70,000	0	1
80,001	to 90,000	0	1
110,001	to 120,000	2	-
120,001	to 130,000	1	-
130,001	to 140,000	3	1
140,001	to 150,000	2	1
170,001	to 180,000	1	-
210,001	to 220,000	0	1
The total remuneration of senior officers is:		1,360	717

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Department in respect of senior officers.

No senior officers are members of the pension scheme.

## 33 Remuneration of auditor

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	44	47
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The expense is included at Note 11 'Other expenses'.

## 34 Affiliated bodies

During the course of the year the Department provided funding to various Government and non-Government agencies. Of the non-Government organisations, it may have occurred during the financial year, that some of them would be defined as affiliated bodies under the terms of Treasurer's Instruction 951. Due to regulations imposed on grant recipients, financial acquittals are by the provision of a financial statement detailing expenditure of that particular grant only. The statement provided does not always disclose other income sources, and therefore the Department is not in a position to accurately determine which of the grant recipients are classified as an affiliated body.

35	Supplementary financial information	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
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*Write-offs*

During the financial year \$0 (2008: \$0) was written off tunder the authority of:

The accountable authority	-	-
The Minister	-	-
Executive Council	-	-
	-	-

*Losses through theft, defaults and other causes*

Losses of public money and public and other property  
through theft or default

3	-
<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

*Gifts of public property*

Gifts of public property provided by the Department

-	-
-	-

# **Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority**

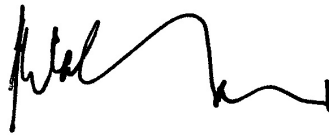
## **Certification of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009**

The accompanying financial statements of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2009 and the financial position as at 30 June 2009.

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



George Kessarlis  
Chief Finance Officer  
14 September 2009



Patrick Walker  
Director General  
14 September 2009





## Auditor General

### **INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION**

**To the Parliament of Western Australia**

#### **THE ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS PLANNING AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

#### **Director General's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators**

The Director General of the Department of Indigenous Affairs is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

#### **Summary of my Role**

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer [www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/AuditPracStatement\\_Feb09.pdf](http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/AuditPracStatement_Feb09.pdf).

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

**The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority**  
**Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Authority provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Authority are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Authority's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2009.



COLIN MURPHY  
AUDITOR GENERAL  
17 September 2009

## Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority income statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Supplies and services	6	2,169	2,276
Depreciation expense	7	563	578
Grants and Subsidies	8	13,168	9,394
Other Expenses	9	103	4,016
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>16,003</b>	<b>16,264</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Commonwealth Grants and Contributions	10	17,500	11,306
Interest Revenue	11	447	742
Other Revenue	12	391	1,213
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>18,338</b>	<b>13,261</b>
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>		<b>18,338</b>	<b>13,261</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>(2,335)</b>	<b>3,003</b>
<b>INCOME FROM STATE Government</b>			
Resources received free of charge	13	2,098	2,175
<b>Total income from State Government</b>		<b>2,098</b>	<b>2,175</b>
<b>SURPLUS /(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>4,433</b>	<b>(828)</b>

The income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority balance sheet as at 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<i>Current Assets</i>			
Cash and cash equivalents	22	177	328
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	14	10,851	4,930
Receivables	15	14	710
Other current assets	16	78	246
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>11,120</b>	<b>6,214</b>
<i>Non-current assets</i>			
Property	17	132,141	109,925
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>132,141</b>	<b>109,925</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>143,261</b>	<b>116,139</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Payables	19	8	98
Provisions	20	3,438	3,438
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>3,446</b>	<b>3,536</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,446</b>	<b>3,536</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>139,815</b>	<b>112,603</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	21	-	86
Reserves	21	134,843	111,109
Accumulated surplus	21	4,972	1,408
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>139,815</b>	<b>112,603</b>

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
Balance of equity at start of period		112,603	90,318
<b>CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>	21		
Balance at start of period		86	1,348
Other contributions by owners		-	245
Distributions to owners		(86)	(1,507)
Balance at end of period		-	86
<b>RESERVES</b>	21		
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>			
Balance at start of period		111,109	86,660
Gains from asset revaluation		23,734	24,449
Balance at end of period		134,843	111,109
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	21		
Balance at start of period		1,408	2,310
Changes in accounting policy		-	(74)
<b>Restated balance at start of period</b>		<b>1,408</b>	<b>2,236</b>
Distribution to owners - clear debit balance contributed equity		(869)	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		4,433	(828)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>4,972</b>	<b>1,408</b>
<b>Balance of equity at end of period</b>		<b>139,815</b>	<b>112,603</b>
Total income and expense for the period (a)		28,167	23,621

- (a) The aggregate net amount attributable to each category of equity is : surplus \$4,433,000 plus gains from asset revaluation of \$23,734,000 (2008: deficit \$828,000 plus gains from asset revaluation of \$24,449,000)

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority cash flow statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Supplies and services		(80)	(115)
Grants and subsidies		(13,168)	(9,394)
GST payments on purchases		(1,334)	(916)
GST payments to taxation authority		(1,269)	(2,260)
Other payments		(183)	(394)
<b>Receipts</b>			
Grants and contributions		17,562	11,505
Interest received		615	540
Rent received		47	46
Other receipts		288	925
GST receipts on sales		1,262	1,155
GST receipts from taxation authority		2,031	1,346
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5,771</b>	<b>2,438</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>5,771</b>	<b>2,438</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		5,257	2,820
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11,028</b>	<b>5,258</b>

The cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

### Index to notes to the financial statements

1	Australian equivalents to international financial reporting standards . . . . .	105
2	Summary of significant accounting practice . . . . .	105
3	Judgments made by management in applying accounting policies . . . . .	111
4	Key sources of estimation uncertainty . . . . .	111
5	Discolosure of changes in accounting policy and estimate . . . . .	111
6	Supplies and services. . . . .	113
7	Depreciation and expense. . . . .	113
8	Grants and subsidies . . . . .	114
9	Other expenses . . . . .	115
10	Commonwealth grants and subsidies. . . . .	115
11	Interest revenue. . . . .	115
12	Other revenue. . . . .	115
13	Income from State Government . . . . .	16
14	Restricted cash and cash equivalents . . . . .	116
15	Receivables . . . . .	118
16	Other current assets . . . . .	118
17	Property . . . . .	118
18	Impairment of assets . . . . .	119
19	Payables . . . . .	120
20	Provisions . . . . .	120
21	Equity. . . . .	120
22	Notes to the statement of cash flows. . . . .	121
23	Contingent liabilities . . . . .	122
24	Events occurring after the balance sheet date . . . . .	122
25	Explanatory statement . . . . .	123
26	Financial instruments . . . . .	1424
27	Remuneration of senior officers . . . . .	127
28	Remuneration of the auditor . . . . .	127
29	Related body. . . . .	128
30	Special purpose accounts . . . . .	128
31	Supplementary financial information . . . . .	128

# Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

## 1 Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

### General

The authority's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements the authority has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised standards and Interpretations for their operative dates as issued by the AASB and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

### Early adoption of standards

The authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the authority for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2009.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

### (a) General statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.


The *Financial Management Act* and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over the Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

### (b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of land and buildings which has been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.



The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying the Authority's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are disclosed at Note 3 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies'.

The key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed at Note 4 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty'.

**(c) Reporting entity**

The reporting entity comprises the Authority and entities listed at note 29 'Related bodies'.

**(d) Contributed equity**

AASB Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners by Treasurer's Instruction (TI) 955 'Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal. See Note 21 'Equity'.

**(e) Income**

**Revenue recognition**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

*Interest*

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

*Grants, contributions and royalties*

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

*Gains*

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

**(f) Property**  
*Capitalisation / expensing of assets*

Items of property costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the income statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

*Initial recognition and measurement*

All items of property are initially recognised at cost.

For items of property acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

*Subsequent measurement*

After recognition as an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land and buildings. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation on buildings and accumulated impairment losses. The authority does not hold any assets other than land and buildings.

Where market-based evidence is available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions. When buildings are revalued by reference to recent market transactions, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Where market evidence is not available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, ie. the depreciated replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is dependent on using the depreciated replacement cost, the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are restated proportionally.

Independent valuations of land and buildings are provided annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the balance sheet date.

The most significant assumptions in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated useful life. Professional judgment by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

Refer to Note 17 'Property' for further information on revaluations.

*Derecognition*

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation reserve.

#### *Asset revaluation reserve*

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in Note 17 'Property'.

#### *Depreciation*

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are :

Buildings	50 years
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#### **(g) Impairment of assets**

Property is tested for any indication of impairment at each balance sheet date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As the Authority is a not-for-profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at each balance sheet date.

Refer to Note 18 'Impairment of assets' for outcome of impairment reviews and testing.



**(h) Financial instruments**

In addition to cash, the authority has two categories of financial instrument:

- Loans and receivables, and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

These have been disaggregated into the following classes

**Financial assets**

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables

**Financial liabilities**

- Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

**(i) Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

**(j) Receivables**

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less any allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the authority will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See Note 2(h) 'Financial instruments' and Note 15 'Receivables'.

**(k) Payables**

Payables are recognised at the amount payable when the authority becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. See Note 2(h) 'Financial Instruments' and Note 19 'Payables'.

**(l) Provisions**

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See Note 20, 'Provisions'.

*Restoration costs*

A provision is recognised where the authority has a legal or constructive obligation to undertake restoration work. Estimates are based on the present value of unexpected future cash outflows.

The authority has a liability under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* to rehabilitate affected parcels of land. Where contaminated sites have been identified and classified as 'contaminated - remediation required' or it is probable that the site will be classified as 'contaminated - remediation' required and a reliable estimate can be made of the cost of remediation of the site, a provision has been made. See Note 20, 'Provisions'.

**(m) Resources received free of charge or for nominal value**

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

**(n) Support from Department of Indigenous Affairs**

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

When the Aboriginal Affairs Department - now titled the Department of Indigenous Affairs - was established on 1 November 1994, it effectively took over the operations of its originating agencies, including the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority. Staff previously employed by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority at that time were transferred to the Aboriginal Affairs Department. As a consequence, administrative support for the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and the Aboriginal Lands Trust is provided by staff employed by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. These expenses were brought to account as Supplies and Services and as Resources Received Free of Charge. See Note 6 'Supplies and services' and Note 13 'Income from State Government'.

**(o) Comparative figures**

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

### 3 Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies

#### *Contaminated sites*

The provision toward restoration costs of contaminated sites are treated as current liabilities as the authority has reported these to the Department of Environment and Conservation in accordance with the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* and has applied to the Contaminated Sites Management Account (CSMS) for funding to complete restoration works. If funds are provided, restoration works can be completed within 12 months from balance sheet date. See Note 20 'Provisions' and Note 23 'Contingent Liabilities'.

### 4 Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements include:

#### *Contaminated sites*

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at reporting date. Because the authority cannot reliably estimate the timing of future cash flows, the provision is based on current costs that are reviewed annually.

### 5 Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

The authority has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2008 that impacted on the authority:

Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', AAS 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments and AAS 31 'Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncements from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31:

AASB 1004 'Contributions'

AASB 1050 'Administered Items'.

AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads'.

AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures'.

AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137]; and

Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities'.

The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and revised topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. AASB 1050, AASB 1051 and AASB 1052 do not apply to Statutory Authorities. The other Standards and Interpretation make some modifications to disclosures and provide additional guidance, otherwise there is no financial impact.

## Voluntary changes in accounting policy

Treasurers Instruction 1101 requires the authority to increase its asset capitalisation threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000 from July 1, 2008. This voluntary change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively by adjusting the opening balance of the accumulated surplus at July 1, 2007 and the comparative amounts are as follows.

	Previously stated 2007 \$'000	Adjustments 2007 \$'000	Restated 2007 \$'000
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
Property	87,390	(74)	87,316

## Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Authority has not applied early the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued and which may impact the authority but are not yet effective. Where applicable, the authority plans to apply these standards and Interpretations from their application date:

### Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after

AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. The authority does not expect any financial impact when the standard is first applied. 1 January 2009

AASB 2008-13 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 - Distribution of Non-cash Assets to Owners [AASB 5 & AASB 110]'. This standard amends AASB 5 'Non-current Assets held for Sale and Discontinued Operations' in respect of the classification, presentation and measurement of non-current assets held for distribution to owners in their capacity of owners. This may impact on the presentation and classification of Crown land held by the Authority where the Crown land is to be sold by the Department of Regional Planning and Lands (formerly Department for Planning and Infrastructure). The authority does not expect any financial impact when the standard is first applied prospectively. 1 July 2009

AASB 2009-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments [AASB 4, AASB 7, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'. This standard amends AASB 7 and will require enhanced disclosures about fair value measurements and liquidity risk with respect to financial instruments. The authority does not expect any financial impact when the standard is first applied. 1 January 2009

*Correction of prior period error*

- (i) Errors were identified in the accounting of depreciation and amortisation expense in the prior year due to an error in depreciation expense for buildings, the treatment of the disposal of property and the non-processing of a disposal. Accordingly, the correction for the prior year error has been made in the year ended 30 June 2008.

The following provides a summary of the effect of this correction.

	<b>Previously stated 2008 \$'000</b>	<b>Adjustments 2008 \$'000</b>	<b>Restated 2009 \$'000</b>
<b>Income statement</b>			
Depreciation expense	68	510	578
Deficiency	(318)	(510)	(828)
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
Property	110,382	(510)	109,872
Contributed Equity	1,593	(1,507)	86
Reserves	109,475	1,634	111,109

<b>6</b>	<b>Supplies and services</b>	<b>2009 \$000</b>	<b>2008 \$000</b>
	Services and contracts		
-	support from Department of Indigenous Affairs (a) (b)	673	839
-	support from Landgate (a)	1,425	1,336
-	other services and contracts	58	82
	Travel	6	14
	Administration	7	5
		<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,276</b>

- (a) See also Notes 2(m) 'Resources received free of charge' and Note 13 'Income from State Government'.

- (b) See also Notes 2(n) 'Support from Department of Indigenous Affairs'.

**7 Depreciation expense**

Buildings	563	578
	<b>563</b>	<b>578</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>Grants and subsidies</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
		<b>\$000</b>	<b>\$000</b>
	Grants to organisations from		
<i>Recurrent funds</i>	- general funds	43	1,280
	- mining rents & royalties funds	214	190
	- intestate funds	6	15
<i>Capital funds</i>	- Commonwealth funding		
	Multifunctional Police Facilities (a)	5,000	7,000
	Strategic Intervention Package (a)	7,905	909
		<b>13,168</b>	<b>9,394</b>

(a) See Note 14 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents' for more detail.

Details of significant grants paid are as follows. (Details of Intestate grants are not provided as each is limited to a maximum of \$500).

#### **General funds**

Kimberley Land Council - Saltwater Country Project	40	70
Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation - Regional partnership grant	-	900
Mowanjum Artists Spirit Of The Wandjina Aboriginal Corporation - Bush Camp publication	-	10

#### **Mining rents and royalties**

Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation - Land care grant	214	-
Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation - Land negotiations	-	300
Mowanjum Artists Spirit Of The Wandjina Aboriginal Corporation - Art and Culture museum	-	99
Kimberley Land Council - Looking after country grant.	-	90

#### **Multifunctional Police Facilities**

Police Service - develop police facilities at 4 remote locations	5,000	7,000
--	-------	-------

#### **Strategic Intervention Package**

Health Department	1,745	909
Department of Education & Training	1,136	-
Department of Housing	5,024	-

<b>9</b>	<b>Other expenses</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
		<b>\$000</b>	<b>\$000</b>
	Doubtful debts	-	74
	Bad debts	-	-
	Building Maintenance	90	493
	Restoration cost of Contaminated Sites	-	3,438
	Other expenses (a)	13	11
		<b>103</b>	<b>4,016</b>

(a) Audit fees, see also note 28, 'Remuneration of auditor'.

**10 Commonwealth grants and contributions**

Multifunctional Police Facilities	10,000	7,000
Strategic Intervention Package	7,500	4,306
	<b>17,500</b>	<b>11,306</b>

Funding for both the Multifunctional Police facilities and the Strategic Intervention Package are conditional in that they are tied to the completion of specific projects. These projects are being completed across Government and are acquitted to the Commonwealth Government on a regular basis. The current funding status of each project is summarised below:

	<b>Funds received</b>	<b>Funds expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Multifunctional Police Facilities	17,000	11,551	5,449
Strategic Intervention Package	11,806	8,440	3,366
	<b>28,806</b>	<b>19,991</b>	<b>8,815</b>

See Note 14 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents' for full details of these projects.

**11 Interest revenue**

Interest revenue	447	742
	<b>447</b>	<b>742</b>

**12 Other revenue**

Other State Government agencies	-	15
Rent	47	30
Intestate receipts	1	75
Royalties received	287	850
Other	56	243
	<b>391</b>	<b>1,213</b>



### 13 Income from State Government

Resources received free of charge (a)

Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by the relevant agencies

- Department of Indigenous Affairs (b)	673	839
- Landgate (Land information and valuation) (c)	1,425	1,336
	<b>2,098</b>	<b>2,175</b>

(a) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the authority recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable. Where the contribution of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners, the authority makes an adjustment direct to equity.


(b) See also Note 2(n) 'Support from Department of Indigenous Affairs'.

(c) The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority manages land and building assets totalling \$132,141,000. Landgate provides land information services for maps and aerial photography, land information enterprises and sale of digital data free of charge.

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>14 Restricted cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Current</i>		
Mining rents and royalties (a)	1,233	,125
Community facilities (b)	97	48
Strategic Intervention Package (c)	3,366	243
Multilateral Police Facilities (d)	5,449	2,810
Regional stores (e)	-	75
Special purpose grants (f)	600	524
Intestate account (g)	102	101
CL Johnson Bequest (h)	2	2
H Drake-Brockman (i)	2	2
	<b>10,851</b>	<b>4,930</b>

Cash in these accounts is only used for

- (a) Mining rents and royalties  
Improvements to land held by the authority, on which mining activity takes place.
- (b) Community facilities  
The provision of facilities, such as swimming pools, in certain regional communities.

- (c) WA Strategic Intervention package  
The Strategic Intervention package is Commonwealth funding provided specifically for the following nine projects.
- 1 Kalumburu Strategic Intervention Package - Project being completed by the Department of Housing.
  - 2 Halls Creek Support Project - Boys Town and east Kimberley housing. Project being completed by the Department of Housing.
  - 3 Halls Creek Treatment Facility - Ngnowar Aerwah Seven Mile Rehabilitation Service. Project being completed by the Drug and Alcohol office of the Health Department.
  - 4 Wiluna Educational and Vocational Training Complex being developed by the Department of Education and Training.
  - 5 Pilbara Transition to work accommodation facilities - Project being completed by the Department of Industry and Resources
  - 6 Mainstreaming East Kimberley Town Based Communities. Project being completed by Department of Housing.
  - 7 Urgent water quality upgrades. Project being completed by the Department of Housing.
  - 8 Home Ownership to create wealth. Project being completed by the Department of Housing.
  - 9 Bidyadanga Strategic Intervention. Project being completed by the Department of Housing.
- (d) Multifunctional police facilities  
Develop police facilities at 4 remote communities - Burringurrah, Looma, Wingellina and Bidyadanga.
- (e) Regional stores strategy  
A project to address the management and operation of regional stores.
- (f) Special purpose grants  
Funds received from outside organisations for defined projects.
- (g) Intestate account  
Funds received from the Public Trustee for intestate estates.
- (h) CL Johnson Bequest  
Assisting Aboriginal missionaries in Western Australia (see also Note 30 'Special purpose accounts').
- (i) H Drake-Brockman  
Awarding a prize each year to the highest achieving Indigenous student (see Note 30 'Special purpose accounts').
- 

15	Receivables	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
	<i>Current</i>		
	Receivables	2	90
	Allowance for impairment of receivables	-	(74)
	Goods and Services Tax (GST) receivable	12	694
		<b>14</b>	<b>710</b>

*Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivable*

Balance at start of year	74	-
Doubtful debts expense recognised in the income statement	-	74
Amounts written off during the year	(74)	-
Amounts recovered during the year	-	-
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74</b>

The authority does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to receivables.

See also Note 2(j) 'Receivables' and Note 26 'Financial instruments'.

**16 Other current assets**

Accrued interest	78	246
	<b>78</b>	<b>246</b>

**17 Property**

<i>Land at fair value (a)</i>		
Freehold land (b)	24,125	23,225
Reserves (c)	72,878	56,636
Pastoral leases (d)	790	789
Other leases (e)	4,353	1,619
	<b>102,146</b>	<b>82,269</b>

<i>Buildings at fair value (a)</i>		
Buildings at fair value	30,825	27,913
Accumulated depreciation of buildings	(830)	(257)
	<b>29,995</b>	<b>27,656</b>

**Total property** **132,141** **109,925**

- (a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2008 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2009 and recognised at 30 June 2009. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land (\$102,146,000) and buildings (\$29,995,000). See Note 2(f) 'Property'.
- (b) Freehold land is land that is alienated (removed) from the Crown Estate and granted to an entity. This may be an individual or an organisation (Government or non-Government).

- (c) Reserve land is Crown Land set aside for public purposes: for example, hospitals, schools, conserving plants and animals, national parks, recreation, and for the use of Aboriginal people. State reserves are created under the *Land Administration Act*.
- (d) Pastoral leases are Crown Land set aside for grazing stock and all purposes connected with that.
- (e) Other leases are Crown Land designated as general or state leases issued for a particular purpose. For the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority a general lease may be for the purpose of the use and benefit of Aboriginal people.

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property at the beginning and end of the current financial year is set out below.

	<b>Freehold land \$'000</b>	<b>Reserves \$'000</b>	<b>Pastoral leases \$'000</b>	<b>Other leases \$'000</b>	<b>Buildings \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
<b>2008</b>						
Carrying amount at start of year	23,225	56,636	789	1,619	27,656	109,925
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(900)	-	-	(55)	(955)
Revaluation increments	900	17,142	1	2,734	2,647	23,424
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	(253)	(253)
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>24,125</b>	<b>72,878</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>29,995</b>	<b>132,141</b>
<b>2009</b>						
Carrying amount at start of year	17,978	41,990	789	1,631	25,002	87,390
Voluntary change in accounting policy	(9)	(59)	-	(4)	(2)	(74)
Additions	-	245	-	-	-	245
Disposals	(730)	(108)	-	-	(669)	(1,507)
Revaluation increments	5,986	14,568	-	(8)	3,582	24,128
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	(257)	(257)
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>23,225</b>	<b>56,636</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>27,656</b>	<b>109,925</b>

## 18 Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property at 30 June 2009.

The authority held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period and at balance sheet date there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

<b>19</b>	<b>Payables</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
		<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
	<i>Current</i>		
	Trade payables	8	98
	Accrued expenses	-	-
		<b>8</b>	<b>98</b>

See also Note 2(k) 'Payables' and Note 26 'Financial instruments'

## 20 Provisions

	<i>Current</i>		
	Contaminated sites (a)	3,438	3,438
		<b>3,438</b>	<b>3,438</b>

- (a) This provision represents liabilities associated with restoration of contaminated land under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*. See Note 2(l) 'Provisions', Note 3 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies' and Note 4 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty'.

	<i>Movement in provisions</i>		
	Carrying amount at start of year	3,438	-
	Additional provisions recognised	-	3,438
	Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefit	-	-
	Unwinding of discount	-	-
	Carrying amount at end of year	<b>3,438</b>	<b>3,438</b>

## 21 Equity

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the authority. The Government holds the equity interest in the authority on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

	<i>Contributed equity</i>		
	Balance at start of year	86	1,348
	<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
	Transfer of net assets from other agencies (b)	-	245
	<i>Distributions to owners</i>		
	Net assets transferred to Government (a) (c)	(86)	(1,507)
	Balance at end of year	-	<b>86</b>

*Transfers of land - no charge. See Note 2(d) 'Contributed Equity'*

### Reserves

	<i>Asset revaluation reserve</i>		
	Balance at start of year	111,109	86,660
	Net revaluation (decrements)/increments:		
	Land	20,777	20,546
	Buildings	2,957	3,903
	Balance at end of year	<b>134,843</b>	<b>111,109</b>

<b>Accumulated surplus</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
Balance at start of year	1,408	2,310
Changes in accounting policy	-	(74)
Distribution to Owners - clear debit balance contributed equity	(869)	-
Result for the period	4,433	(828)
Balance at end of year	<b>4,972</b>	<b>1,408</b>

- (a) In 2008, land and buildings of \$1,124,000 that were transferred to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure were incorrectly reported under reserves. A further disposal of property of \$383,000 was also not identified and has now been corrected. Comparatives have been amended. See note 5 'Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates'.
- (b) Under Treasurer's Instruction 955, (non-discretionary non-reciprocal) transfers of net assets between State Government agencies have been designated as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038, where the transferee agency accounts for a non-discretionary (non-reciprocal) transfer of net assets as a contribution by owners and the transferor agency accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owners.
- (c) Treasurer's Instruction 955 requires non-reciprocal transfers of net assets to Government to be accounted for as distributions to owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038.

## 22 Notes to the statement of cash flows

### Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows :

Cash and cash equivalents	177	328
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (see note 14)	10,851	4,930
	<b>11,028</b>	<b>5,258</b>

### Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities.

Net cost of services	2,335	(3,003)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation	563	578
Doubtful debts expense	-	74
Resources received free of charge	2,098	2,175
<i>(Increase)/decrease in assets:</i>		
Receivables	14	(47)
Other assets	168	(202)

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<i>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:</i>		
Payables	(90)	96
Provisions	-	3,438
Net GST receipts/(payments)	690	(675)
Change in GST receivables/payables	(7)	4
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>5,771</b>	<b>2,438</b>

## 23 Contingent liabilities

In addition to the liabilities included in the financial statements, the authority has the following contingent liabilities:

### *Contaminated sites*

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, the authority is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Environment and Conservation. In accordance with the Act, the Department of Environment and Conservation classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as contaminated - remediation required or possibly contaminated - investigation required, the authority may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses

In addition to the contaminated sites reported at Note 20 'Provisions', during the year the authority reported three suspected contaminated sites ( and two in 2008) to the Department of Environment and Conservation. These have yet to be classified. The authority is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process, and accordingly, it is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows. While there is no possibility of reimbursement of any future expenses that may be incurred in the remediation of these sites, the Authority may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work or to meet remediation costs that may be required.

### *Insurance*

The authority has an insurance policy through Riskcover for some of the buildings on Aboriginal Lands Trust-held land, but it does not include all infrastructure. The value covered by insurance in 2009 was approximately \$28 million. Buildings and infrastructure have been estimated to be worth substantially more than this amount.. This includes assets that have been provided by parties other than state Government. Whilst the Aboriginal Lands Trust does not have legal responsibility, if the assets remain uninsured and are damaged, it does not have the capacity or funding to repair or replace these assets.

Legal advice is that the authority is not obliged to provide insurance cover for fixed assets on Aboriginal Lands Trust land. Once the Government has made a policy decision on insuring buildings within Indigenous communities, the Aboriginal Lands Trust policy would then need to be reviewed and based on providing coverage for those assets for which it has exclusive possession and those for which there are external covenants.

## 24 Events occurring after the balance sheet date

There have been no material events occurring after 30 June 2009.



## 25 Explanatory statement

Significant variations between actual results with the corresponding items of the preceding year are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10 per cent or \$100,000.

### Significant variances between estimated and actual results for 2009

In line with past practice an annual estimate for the authority was not submitted to or requested by the Minister. This inconsistency with the requirements of the *Financial Administration Act 2006* Section 40 and Treasurers Instruction 953 was investigated and discussed with the Office of the Auditor General and Department of Treasury and Finance in July 2009 and it was determined that the authority did not have an exemption from the Treasurer not to prepare annual estimates of the authority's financial operations. As such, comparisons between estimates and actuals cannot be provided. However, it has been noted as an issue to address and rectify for 2010.

### Significant variances between actual results for 2008 and 2009

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	Variance \$'000
<b>Income</b>			
Commonwealth grants and contributions	17,500	11,306	6,194
Interest revenue	447	742	(295)
Other revenue	391	1,213	(822)
<b>Expenses</b>			
Supplies and services	2,169	2,276	(107)
Depreciation expense	563	578	(15)
Grants and Subsidies	13,168	9,394	3,774
Other Expenses	103	4,016	(3,913)
<b>Income from State Government</b>			
Resources received free-of-charge	2,098	2,175	(77)

#### *Commonwealth grants and contributions*

The increase in Commonwealth grants is the full year effect of the Strategic Intervention Package and the Multifunctional Police Facilities. Funding for 2009 was for the full year whereas funding for 2008 was for only part of the year.

#### *Interest revenue*

The decrease in interest reflects the lowering of interest rates as well as a reduction in the average bank account balance. Significant Commonwealth grants remained unspent in the account for eight months in 2008 whereas the increase in the closing bank account balance for 2009 resulted from grants received later in the year.

#### *Other revenue*

The decrease in revenue for 2009 relates to mining rents and royalties income. The receipts in 2008 covered four years for the period 2003 - 2006 whereas the 2009 revenue represented the period ending 31 December 2007. These royalties are now up to date.

#### *Grants and subsidies*

The increase in grants and subsidies payments represents the increased activity associated with the Strategic Intervention Package.

### *Other expenses*

The decrease in expense is reflective of the initial recognition of the expense for Contaminated Sites in 2008 and a decrease in building maintenance as a result of exhausting residual maintenance funding

## **26 Financial instruments**

### **(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies**

Financial instruments held by the authority are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. The authority has limited exposure to financial risks. The authority's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

#### *Credit risk*

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the authority's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the authority.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment as shown in the table following.

Credit risk associated with the authority's financial assets is minimal. For receivables, the authority trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The authority has policies in place to ensure that it trades with organisations with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the authority's exposure to bad debts is minimal.

Provision for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on past experience and current and expected changes in client credit ratings. *Refer note 13 'Receivables'.*

#### *Liquidity risk*

The authority is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risk arises when the authority is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The authority has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows. The authority receives funding from activities on its land and for specific purposes from external organisations and manages forecasts to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

#### *Market risk*

The authority does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. The authority does not borrow money to fund any of its operations. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table following, the authority is not exposed to interest rate risk. All funds held by the authority are in interest-bearing accounts.

**(b) Categories of financial instruments**

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	177	328
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	10,851	4,930
Loans and receivables (a)	80	336
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<b>8</b>	<b>98</b>

- (a) The amount of loans and receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

**(c) Financial instrument disclosures**

*Credit risk and interest rate exposures*

The following table discloses the authority's maximum exposure to credit risk, interest rate exposures and the ageing analysis of financial assets. The authority's maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of the financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the authority.

The authority does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancement relating to the financial assets it holds.

The authority does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

## Interest rate exposures and ageing analysis of financial assets (a)

	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount \$'000	Non- interest bearing \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Up to 3 months \$'000	3 – 12 months \$'000	1 – 2 years \$'000	Impaired financial assets \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>								
<b>2009</b>	-			-		-	-	
Cash assets	4.6-	177	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash assets	4.6	10,851	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables (a)	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Accrued interest		78		78	-	-	-	-
		<b>11,108</b>	<b>11,208</b>	<b>80</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>2008</b>								
Cash assets	4.6-	328	328	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash assets	4.6	4,930	4,930	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables (a)	-	90	-	90	-	-	-	74
Accrued interest		246	-	246	-	-	-	-
		<b>5,594</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>336</b>	-	-	-	<b>74</b>

- (a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

### *Liquidity risk*

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities. The contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. The table includes interest and principal cash flows. An adjustment has been made where material.

## Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial liabilities

	Weighted average effective interest rate	Carrying amount	Variable interest rate	Non- interest bearing	Adjustment for discounting	Total nominal amount	3 – 12 months	1 – 2 years
<i>Financial liabilities</i>	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2009</b>								
Payables	-	8	-	8	-	8	8	-
<b>2008</b>								
Payables	-	98	-	98	-	98	98	-
		<b>98</b>	-	<b>98</b>	-	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	-

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities

### Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the authority's financial assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying amount \$'000	-1% change		+1% change	
		Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000
<b>2009</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	177	(2)	(2)	2	2
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	10,851	(109)	(109)	109	109
		<b>(111)</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>2008</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	328	(3)	(3)	3	3
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,930	(49)	(49)	49	49
		<b>(52)</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>

### Fair values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

## 27 Remuneration of senior officers

There are no senior staff employed by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority. The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority does not employ any staff. The Department of Indigenous Affairs manages the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and the remuneration of senior staff is reported in the Department of Indigenous Affairs' statements. See also Note 2(n) 'Support from Department of Indigenous Affairs'.

## 28 Remuneration of auditor

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General in respect to the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	13	11

The expense is included at Note 9 'Other expenses'.

**29 Related body**

The Aboriginal Lands Trust was deemed a related body by the Treasurer by virtue of Section 3(b) of the *Financial Management Act 2006*. The revenue, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Aboriginal Lands Trust have been included within the financial statements of the authority.

<b>30</b>	<b>Special purpose accounts</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
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Special purpose account section 16(1)(c) *Financial Management Act 2006*

*C L Johnson Bequest trust account*

The purpose of this trust account is to hold funds for the benefit of Aboriginal Missionaries in Western Australia during illness in accordance with the bequest of the late Christian Larsen Johnson to the Department of Native Welfare (now abolished).

Balance at the start of the year	2	2
Receipts	-	-
Payments	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

*Henrietta Drake-Brockman trust account*

The purpose of this trust account is to hold funds to award a prize in the form of books, apparatus, equipment etc to the Aboriginal student who achieves the highest Tertiary Entrance Examination aggregate results in Western Australia in accordance with the bequest of the late Henrietta Drake-Brockman.

Balance at the start of the year	2	2
Receipts	-	-
Payments	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

*Intestate trust account*

The purpose of this trust account is to hold funds received from the Public Trustee two years after the death of an Aboriginal person who dies intestate. These funds are used for the betterment of Aboriginal people.

Balance at the start of the year	101	37
Receipts	8	79
Payments	(7)	(15)
Balance at the end of the year	<b>102</b>	<b>101</b>

**31 Supplementary financial information**

*Write-offs*

Bad debts written off under the authority of the accountable authority.

-	-
-	-

*Losses through theft, defaults and other causes*

Losses of public moneys and, public and other property through theft or default

Amounts recovered	-	-
	-	-

*Gifts of public property*

Gifts of public property provided by the authority

-	-
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## Ministerial directives

There were no ministerial directives during 2008/09.

## Pricing policies of services provided

The Department of Indigenous Affairs does not provide any paid services.

## Capital works

The Department of Indigenous Affairs did not carry out any capital works during the 2008/09 financial year

## Employment and Industrial relations

This is provided under Corporate Services report on operations.

## Other legal requirements

### Advertising

In compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department of Indigenous Affairs is required to report on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

Expenditure with advertising agencies Adcorp & Marketforce express	\$59,778
Expenditure with Market Research Agencies Estill & Associates	\$16,809
Expenditure with Polling Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Direct Mail Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Media Advertising Agencies	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$76,587</b>

### Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

As per legislative requirements, the Department of Indigenous Affairs has begun implementing a disability access and inclusion plan, covering the period 2007-2011. The supporting implementation plan covers a range of strategies to address six key outcomes for public authorities, with progress to date against these outcomes outlined below.

- (i) People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of and any events organised by, a public authority:
- Creation of linkages between the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and other guiding plans for the Department including the sustainability action plan, strategic workforce plan and branch business plans; and Development of links with Disability Services Commission Local Area Coordinators in the regions, to improve access and inclusion.
- (ii) People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority:
- Access audit being undertaken of all the Department's buildings and facilities; and
  - Preparation of a submission to the Corporate Executive to facilitate the rectification of identified barriers.



(iii) People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it:

- Partial progress has been made towards ensuring that all documents carry a notation regarding availability in alternative formats; and
- A review and upgrade of Department of Indigenous Affairs' website is planned to include access improvements for people with disabilities.

(iv) People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority:

- Further disability awareness training for staff in regional offices was not achieved in 2007/08, however this is now planned for 2008/09 and facilitators have been sourced; and
- Work is being done towards the development of visual resources (posters and brochures) promoting the Department's commitment to access and inclusion for display to both staff and clients.

(v) People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority:

- The review of existing complaint mechanisms to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are met has yet to be completed. This will be progressed for the 2008/09 year.

(vi) People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority:

- Maintenance was done on the register of disability organisations, care providers and Departmental staff who identify as having a disability, to advise on strategic issues regarding disability access and inclusion.

### **Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs works within a policy and procedural framework to achieve compliance with the Standards for Human Resource Management in the Public Sector.

All staff in the Workforce Management Branch are conversant with the standards and refresher training is available to ensure the currency of that knowledge – particularly where staff changes have occurred. Workforce Management staff have participated in forums facilitated and presented through the Public Sector Commission and Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner. Resources are made available via the Department's Intranet to support staff across the organisation in working in accordance with the standards.

Policy review is undertaken in response to changes in legislation or other guiding principles, or on a periodic basis to ensure currency of internal policy – a major review of workforce management policy is scheduled for 2009.

The Department has delivered employee education sessions during 2008/09 in the metropolitan offices on Professional Conduct and Acceptable Workplace Behaviour, which incorporated the requirements of the Department of Indigenous Affairs Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, the Principles of Official Conduct and other significant policy and procedures.

## **Record keeping plans**

The Department of Indigenous Affairs' Record Keeping Plan acts as a guideline to staff about which records are to be created by the organisation and how it is to keep these records. The plan comprises documents which, when assessed as a whole, provide an accurate reflection of the record-keeping program within the Department – this is for both electronic and hard copy records. Documents referenced in the Department of Indigenous Affairs Record Keeping Plan comprise the Departmental record disposal authority and its record keeping policies and procedures.

The Department has had both a revised Record Keeping Plan and a Retention and Disposal Schedule reviewed by the State Record Commission in 2009. Both documents have been endorsed by the commission and will become the directing force behind Departmental record keeping and archiving practices once they have received approval from the Director General.

Records management training is undertaken as part of the induction of new employees and record-keeping information is included in the Department of Indigenous Affairs induction manual. Also, the Department's Coordinator of Corporate Information conducts records-management training for new employees and as required for other employees.

Individual inductees are required to complete an evaluation of the induction program, including the records-management training. The evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of Department of Indigenous Affairs record keeping training programs has been reviewed as part of the revised Record Keeping Plan.



## Government Policy Requirements

### Corruption prevention

The Department of Indigenous Affairs has a commitment to the elimination of corruption and misconduct in the workplace and its statement of Departmental standards was an integral and detailed component of the employee induction program provided to all new employees throughout 2008/09.

The Department's Code of Conduct, though included in the induction program, is also provided to all staff as a separate publication suitable for ready access and use as a working document. The code was developed by staff and includes:

- the obligations of the employee to the employer;
- the rights of the employee to be treated fairly and equitably in the workplace;
- strategies for managing conflicts of interest;
- dealing with concerns;
- avenues for resolving complaints or breaches of the code; and
- the legal and ethical obligations of all staff, in accordance with the expressed standards of conduct, integrity and accountability contained in the relevant legislation, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and Departmental policies.

During 2008/09 members of Corporate Executive undertook the Accountability and Ethical Decision Making Training Program. This will be extended to all staff during 2009/10 and the first of these sessions has been booked for September 2009.

Also during 2008/09, procedures and issues relating to the prevention of misconduct and corruption prevention, were further integrated into Departmental business processes.

Departmental standards require staff to recognise and declare potential conflicts of interest, as part of our Managing Conflicts processes, although other strategies may also be required. These strategies are set out in the Department's Code of Conduct; Induction; policy and publications.

### Substantive equality

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is one of six program partners progressing the policy framework on substantive equality across State Government agencies. It developed a report on the implementation of the policy framework for substantive equality and through the various levels of this framework has established a substantive equality structure within the organisation.

The substantive equality framework identifies systemic barriers that may impact on Indigenous people's lives when developing policies, procedures and any major initiatives for Indigenous people. The aim of this policy framework is to minimise the impact of these systemic issues on Indigenous people.

The substantive equality policy enhances the strategic outcomes of both the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the State Government and is closely aligned with the Department's Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Department has completed the five levels of the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality with the Partnership, Acceptance, Learning and Sharing program (PALS).

The Department has developed a draft implementation report on the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality for the Aboriginal Resource History Unit, which was identified as the second service delivery area to progress.

## Occupational health and safety management

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is committed to the provision of a working environment that is safe from injuries and risks to the health of its employees and visitors. The Department has targets of:

- 0 fatalities;
- 0 lost time injury/disease incidence rate; and
- 0 lost time injury severity rate.

The Department maintains formal mechanisms and which are designed to ensure consultation with employees on occupational and health matters via:

- clearly outlining the responsibilities for occupational safety and health to all employees and visitors – all new staff are involved in an occupational safety and health induction;
- the Occupational Safety and Health Planning and Advisory Group which is a forum for consultation and cooperation between staff at all levels on occupational safety and health;
- a complete set of policies and procedures (including relevant forms) available on the agency's intranet;
- provision of Senior First Aid training for Occupational Safety and Health Planning and Advisory Group members and fire wardens; and
- an annual wellness program.

In the event of injury or illness occurring, the Department is committed to injury management in accordance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

Due to high staff turnover and a number of changes in the occupancy of leadership roles, the Department has been unable to fully implement the occupational safety and health management system or conduct a complete self evaluation in this financial year.

Staff turnover has also affected the number of managers who have received training in their responsibilities for occupational safety and health management.

It is expected that with a stabilised workforce and re-formation of the Occupational Safety and Health Planning and Advisory Group, the Department will be fully compliant in 2009/10.

Indicator	Target 2008/09	Actual 2008/09
Number of fatalities	nil	nil
Lost time injury/disease incidence rate	nil	nil
Lost time injury severity rate	nil	1
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 28 weeks	100%	100%
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety and health management responsibilities	Greater than or equal to 50%	nil

## Was this report useful?

The Department of Indigenous Affairs strives to provide information that is clear and helpful. We would appreciate a few minutes of your time to fill out this short questionnaire, the results of which will be used to improve the quality of our reporting next year.

Thank you.

1. Was this report easy to find on our website?      yes ☐      no ☐  
Comments:
  
2. Was the language used clear and unambiguous?      yes ☐      no ☐  
Comments:
  
3. Was it easy to find the information you sought?      yes ☐      no ☐  
Comments:
  
4. Is the information provided adequate to answer your questions about the Department of Indigenous Affairs' operations?      yes ☐      no ☐  
Comments:
  
5. Has the information in this report clarified your understanding of the Department of Indigenous Affairs operations?      yes ☐      no ☐  
Comments:
  
6. Will the information contained in this report influence the way you deal with the Department of Indigenous Affairs?      yes ☐      no ☐  
Comments:

Please fax this form to 9235 8088 or email your answers to [publicaffairs@dia.wa.gov.au](mailto:publicaffairs@dia.wa.gov.au).

