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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MS 5076

Senator Nova Peris OAM Collection

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:	Nova Peris
Title:	Senator Nova Peris OAM Collection
Collection no:	MS 5079
Date range:	2013-2016
Extent:	1 metre
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

It is a condition of use of this finding aid, and of the collection it describes, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This includes:

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Deceased persons

Users of this finding aid should be aware that, in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS [insert number], Series [insert number], Subseries [insert number], Item or Folder [insert number].

For example:

2013/2014 diary, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5076, Series 1, MS 5076/1/3

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

This collection reflects Senator Peris' time and activities while a Senator in the Australian parliament, from 2013 – 2016.

It comprises notebooks with her handwritten notes about people she was meeting, speeches she was planning to make or the work of the various committees of which she was a member; drafts and speaking notes for speeches in the Senate or questions without notice, many of which are annotated, again by hand; speaking notes for public engagements; committee meeting papers; correspondence by email and letter; and items and publications presented to her by various community organisations.

Provenance

The collection was donated to the AIATSIS Collection by Nova Peris on 27th July 2016.

Material separated from the collection

The following material has been removed from MS 5076 and placed in the Print Collection:

- P AUS House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (2013) *Affairs Sport – more than just a game; contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring*, Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia
- P ABOR Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (2012) *A force to be reckoned with 20102-2012; Still standing strong* Collingwood: Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria
- B E965.34/R1 (2012) *Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution; Report of the Expert Panel*, Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia
- S 34.1/15 *Australian Indigenous Law Bulletin* Vol 15 nos 1&2, Vol 16 nos 1&2
- M 1895 Set of four promotional posters for the 2016 Garma Festival

Related material

For a complete list of works about Nova Peris, held in the Collection and for other related material, consult [Mura@](#), the AIATSIS catalogue, [here](#).

For access to holdings about or by Nova Peris in other collections, consult Trove [here](#).

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our [sensitivity message](#).

Archivist's note

Acronyms used in this finding aid:

AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
n.d.	not dated/ no date
NATSIWA	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance
NILN	National Indigenous Labour Network

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Nova Peris, born and raised in Darwin, is a descendant of the Kiga people of the East Kimberley, the Yawuru people of the West Kimberley and the Iwatja people of West Arnhem Land. Her mother, grandmother and grandfather are members of the Stolen Generations; they lived on missions on the Tiwi Islands, Moola Bulla in the East Kimberley and Beagle Bay in the West Kimberley. Her life to date has spanned elite athletics, federal politics and working to address Indigenous disadvantage. She was the Young Australian of the Year in 1997 and was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia (OAM) the same year.

Ms Peris was a member of the Australian Women's hockey team that won gold at the 1996 Summer Olympics. She was the first Indigenous Australian and the first person from the Northern Territory to win gold. In the 1998 Commonwealth Games she participated as a runner, winning gold in the 200 metre sprint and as a member of the 4 x 100 metres relay. She also competed in the 1999 World Athletics Championships and the 2000 Olympics.

In January 2013 Julia Gillard, the Australian Prime Minister, announced that Ms Peris would be invited to join the Australian Labor Party and stand as a Northern Territory candidate for the Senate at the 2013 election. She was the first Indigenous woman elected to the Australian federal parliament. The text of her maiden speech, and an outline of her parliamentary activities, can be read [here](#).

A significant proportion of this collection reflects Senator Peris' position as Deputy Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. She also served on

- the Senate Standing Committee: Regulations and Ordinances,
- the Education and Employment: References Committee,
- the Finance and Public Administration: Legislation and References Committees and
- the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing: Community Affairs: Legislation and References Committees.

During her Parliamentary term, she addressed domestic violence, racial discrimination, inequality in Australia, land rights, and incarceration of Aboriginal people. She made statements and speeches outside parliament, asked questions without notice and made speeches to the Senate about these issues. Her commentary was always forthright, often trenchant and blunt.

Senator Peris resigned before the 2016 general elections and did not re-contest her seat.

References:

Peris, N (2003) *Nova: My story*; the autobiography of Nova Peris, Coolabah Publications: Tamworth

Former Senator Nova Peris OAM,
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian?MPID=CDK

Nova Peris OAM, <http://novaperis.com.au/nova-peris/>

Nova Peris, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nova_Peris

MS 5076/1/19 Senator Nova Peris OAM, *Speeches; Senate Chamber 2013-2016*

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Papers from Senator Peris' parliamentary term

Item

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| MS 5076/1/1 | Parliamentary Education Office and Australian Government Solicitor (2014) Australia's Constitution Pocket Edition; With Overview and Notes by the Australian Government Solicitor. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia |
| MS 5076/1/2 | 2013/2014 diary |
| MS 5076/1/3 | Marbig notebook with black cover
[Missing back cover, n.d.] |
| MS 5076/1/4 | 'Journal' [n.d.] |
| MS 5076/1/5 | A5 notebook, pink cover
[begins with notes for maiden speech, n.d.] |
| MS 5076/1/6 | Notebook, black and red cover
[first pages stapled together, n.d.] |
| MS5076/1/7 | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2013) Diplomatic List and List of Representatives of International Organisations December 2013, Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia |
| MS 5076/1/8 | Event passes; and Senator Peris' business cards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buunyi 2013; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference• The Borella Ride, Feb-Mar 2015 |
| MS 5076/1/9 | Correspondence Sep-Nov 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence to Senator Peris from the Ambassador of the United States of America and the Ambassador of Japan• Printout of photo
[Neville Bonner and Nova Peris-Kneebone, 1998, Constitution Convention proceedings held in Canberra February 2-13, 1998. Also available online :http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-143569469]• Swatch watch promotional card |

MS 5076; Senator Nova Peris OAM Collection

MS 5076/1/10 Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples draft Final Report
[Includes Minutes 13 May 2015, emails and unsigned correspondence]

MS 5076/1/11 Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, papers
[Elements of this item were originally separated by coloured cardboard dividers; these have been replaced by archival card.

To house it safely, this item has been artificially divided into two parts.]

Part 1:

- List of committee members
- Private Meeting 7/44 Papers 27 May 2014
- Attachments A-H
 - A: Minutes of Meeting 5/44 26 Mar 2014
 - B: Private briefing 19 May 2014
 - C: Correspondence from Professor Mick Dodson, AIATSIS Chair, to the Committee
 - D: Correspondence from Mr Paul White to the Committee
 - E: Drafting a Replacement for the Races Power in the Australian Constitution, Rosalind Dixon and George William; article for the Public Law Review
 - Private Meeting 6/44 Agenda
 - F: Correspondence to Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs from the Committee
 - G: Correspondence to the Committee from George Brandis, Attorney General and Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs
 - H: Correspondence from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit to the Committee
- Minutes of Private Meeting 2a/44 21 Feb 2014, Minutes of Private Subcommittee Meeting 1/44 21 March 2014, Private Meeting 5/44 Agenda (annotated), Attachments A – E, Private Meeting 4/44 19 Mar 2014 Agenda, Briefing note 21 Mar 2014, Private briefing 21 Mar 2014 papers: Mr Henry Burmester AO QC, Professor Megan David and Mr Glenn Ferguson, Forward Schedule for Consultation in 2014, Draft options for constitutional change, 'Drafting a Replacement for the Races Power in the Australian Constitution' draft by Rosalind Dixon and George Williams, Ticket 2014 NT Sports Award Gala Event

Part 2

- Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Private briefing 21 February 2014 papers
- Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, annotated by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Canberra
- Article, 'Constitutional Recognition does not foreclose on Aboriginal sovereignty' by Megan Davis
- Private Meeting 2/44 12 Feb 2014 Agenda
- Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples Roundtable discussion 21 Feb 2014, Hansard proof
- Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution – Report of the Expert Panel Recommendations for Changes to the Constitution

MS 5076/1/12 Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples; Final Report
[Front cover and first page (loose) annotated]

MS 5076/1/13 Welcome to Country, 44th Federal Parliament
[Text of welcome given by Mrs Matilda House]

MS 5076/1/14 Working papers 2014-2015

- Statement of registrable interests
- Letter from Brendan MacDowell, Assistant Secretary Parliamentary Experience Branch, to Senators Nova Peris and Joanna Lindgren re Parliamentary Friends of the Close the Gap Campaign
- Annotated speaking notes on a range of issues: alcohol, domestic violence, funding cuts to services, homelessness, mandatory sentencing, housing, gender inequality [these papers are undated]
- Letter from Australian Indigenous Education Foundation re visit with scholarship students
- Statutory declaration re Peris Enterprises business activity
- Letter from Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre re funding; cc of correspondence with Attorney General Senator George Brandis
- Letter from Reparations Tribunal Review Committee
- Letter from APHEDA Union Aid Abroad re membership

MS 5076; Senator Nova Peris OAM Collection

- Letter from Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management re 30th Anniversary 'Handback' Celebrations

MS 5076/1/15

Working papers 2013-2015

[Most of the papers in this item are undated]

- Annotated speeches given in the Senate on a range of issues: human rights, amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act, Close the Gap, social security, the [Northern] Territory Insurance Office, income equality in Australia, the Aboriginal Land Rights Act NT, child protection, Nelson Mandela, Gove, Northern Territory education funding, Roseanne Fulton
- Media releases about Close the Gap and family violence
- Correspondence from Russell Taylor AIATSIS Principal, Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu MLA Member for Arafura, Tony Abbott
- Letter from Senator Peris to Hon Matthew Conlan MLA Minister for Housing
- Ephemera: fridge magnet, parliamentary library card, identification photographs, 'Class of 2015' Senate caricatures, photo printouts
- Senate Chamber Seating Plan

MS 5076/1/16

Travel ephemera, correspondence, Senate questions, legal advice on Constitutional amendment

[Most of these documents are undated]

- Boarding passes
- Handwritten notes on various topics including constitutional recognition
- Note of appreciation from NATSIWA
- Pamphlet, '120 President's Rulings and Senate Practices for All Occasions, October 2014'
- Question from Senator Peris to Senator Brandis [Attorney General] regarding section 18C of the Racial Discriminations Act
- Speaking notes, Lorrkon Ceremony at AIATSIS 25 Mar [2014]
- NILN agenda
- Printout of media reporting of 99 year leases in Borrooloola, Jan 29, 2015
- Speaking notes, funding cuts to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy

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- Speaking notes, Closing the Gap
- AMSANT Briefing Note 1: Aboriginal Primary Health Care in the Northern Territory
- Email, subject: kids in prison, 18 Feb 2015
- AMSANT Indigenous Leadership Program
- Letter from Lunga Kitja Aboriginal Corporation to Senator Peris regarding incorporation
- Cranbrook School Year 9 Program
- Invitation from Senator Peris to Senators, Members of the House of Representatives and staff to the 2014 National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum Event
- 'Opinion on the Effect of Proposed Amendments to the Commonwealth Constitution on Certain Commonwealth Laws' by Stephen Lloyd QC and David Hume, Response to Counsels' Opinion on Constitutional Recognition by Nova Peris
- Articles:
 - Benjamin, Stuart Minor (1996) Equal Protection and the Special Relationship: The Case of native Hawaiians *Yale Law Journal*, vol 106, no 537, pp. 537-612
 - Berger, Bethany R (2010) Reconciling Equal Protection and Federal Indian Law *California Law Review*, vol 98, no 1165, pp. 1165-1198
 - Legal Information Institute, Cornell University Law School (n.d.), Equal Protection: An Overview

MS 5076/1/17

Autographed material

[These documents have been signed by Senator Peris]

- Department of the Senate (2009) 'The Senate'
- Senator Nova Peris OAM [2016] *Committee Hearings*
- Senator Nova Peris OAM [2016] *Speeches; Senate Chamber 2013-2016*

MS 5076/1/18

Sundry printed material

- Event program for the Lorrkkon Ceremony [25 Mar 2014]
- NEMBC *The Ethnic Broadcaster*, Winter 2014
- AMSANT [2014] *Leadership; The AMSANT Aboriginal Leadership Program. Year Eight. Mount Bundy.*

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Series 2 Memorabilia from Senator Peris' parliamentary term

Item

- MS 5076/2/1 His Holiness the Dalai Lama (1997) *The Little Book of Wisdom*, London: Rider
- MS 5076/2/2 China mug, autographed by Senator Peris
- MS 5076/2/3 Round glass plate, engraved:
'With thanks For your support of the National Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum, July 2014'
- MS 5076/2/4 Uluru Bark Petition, framed
Petition from members of the Argan, Arrernte, Bidjara, Biripi, Bundjalung, Bunuba, Dainggatti, Erub, Gidja, Githabul, Gooniyandi, Gumbainggir, Juggera, Jaru, Juru, Kabi-Kabi-Waka-Waka, Kamiloroi, Karajarri, Kaylagal, Koara, Kooma, Luritja, Mamu, Mangala, Mantjintjarra, Mara, Meriam Mir, Munjunjarli, Ngaanyatjarra, Noongar, Nyawaygi, Nyigina, Pitjantjatjara, Wadi-Wadi, Wagilak, Walawurru, Walmatjarri, Wangkumara, Wiradjuri, Wongatha, Wooroora, Wuthathi, Yankuntjatjara, Yiding-Mbabaram, Yidingi-Mullen-Barra. Balardung peoples calling on Senator Peris to reject changed definitions of marriage.

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Finding aid compiled by Fiona Blackburn, November 2016

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