



Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Library

Papers of David Morrissey

MS 4083

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Title:	Papers of David Morrissey
Collection no:	MS 4083
Date range:	1934, 1961-1984
Extent:	0.36 metres(2 boxes) + 1 folio box
Repository	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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Exception: Series 14, Item 1 requires the Principal's permission for reading and copying. [Access code R2b C3]

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Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Papers of David Morrissey, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 4083, Series [no.], Folder or Item [no.]

Inter-Library Loan

Manuscripts are not available on Inter-Library loan.

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and content note

These papers relate to Aboriginal land rights, mainly in New South Wales, and include those of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group. There are also papers on land rights in other states, including papers on land rights and mining, mainly relating to the Noonkanbah/Yungngora community in Western Australia.

Other papers include a small series on the Towri Aboriginal Corporation and on an Inquiry into the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Affairs in 1982. There is also a miscellaneous series of papers on various subjects, including papers relating to Constable Clifford and the death of Johnny Ross Jabanardi.

Provenance

This collection of handwritten, typescript, roneoed and photocopied papers was transferred to the AIATSIS Library by David Morrissey in May 2005

Material separated from collection

Journals, newsletters etc received with this collection have been placed in the AIATSIS Library's Serials and Rare Serials collections. A list of these titles can be found in Series 15.

Related material

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

For a complete listing of works by [Morrissey](#) held by the Institute, and for other related material, consult [Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue](#).

The Library also holds selected papers of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (1976-1981) at [MS 2053](#) and papers of the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group at [MS 2538](#).

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David Morrissey (born in 1951) holds formal qualifications in management, marketing and education and was on the judging panel of the Australian Financial Review Magazine Corporate Partnership Awards.

Morrissey worked at the Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College, a residential college located in Sydney, which supports Aboriginal community development. He was involved in the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group, a group of non Indigenous Australians set up to support Aboriginal land rights claims.

Morrissey was the Director and co-founder of ARTD Management Research Pty Ltd, which provided consulting services in the health, human services and environmental fields. In 2001, he co-founded the Australian Benchmarking Group with The National Centre for Citizenship's CEO, Marie Fox.

References:

AGB (Australian Benchmarking Group) home page [no longer available]

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 New South Wales Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon Aborigines, 1979-82

This series consists of submissions, correspondence, media releases and other papers relating to the New South Wales Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon Aborigines. The Committee's reports were issued between 1980 and 1981.

Folder

- 1 Papers relating to the Committee, including submissions from the N.S.W. Trade Union Committee on Aboriginal Rights, the Socialist Party of Australia, the N.S.W. Branch of the Australian Labor Party, and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
- 2 Papers, including
 - 'An initial critique of the Select Committee report' (2 copies), notes on the report and a submission to the Committee
 - Open letter to the New South Wales Select Committee upon Aborigines from the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group (3 copies) and accompanying media release (3 copies). [Letter also held by Library at pABOR]
 - Letter to the General Secretary of Tranby College relating to land rights from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, New South Wales
 - Advertisement (3 copies) and media release (3 copies) for applications for Field Force Consultants to facilitate discussions with Aboriginal communities
 - Handwritten notes on the report
 - Message about the report from the Premier of New South Wales (2 copies)
 - Notice for a paper on land rights with reference to the Committee's report to be given by Morrissey at a Customary Law Group of Australia meeting
 - Photocopy from New South Wales Parliament *Hansard* of an answer by Premier Wran regarding a commitment to the principle of land rights for the Aboriginal people of New South Wales
 - 'Demand from representatives of several Aboriginal organisations that the Committee's report be debated by Parliament within 21 sitting days'; and a draft of the 'Government's report on land rights'
- 3 Papers, including
 - 'Statement of concern made by South Coast Aboriginal Tribal Elders...' to the Committee (1979)
 - 'Statement by the Western Division Group of the Shires Association in relation to the reports & recommendations by the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon Aborigines' (1982) and accompanying letter. Also a letter from the Council of the Shire of Bourke on the reports

Folder

- Correspondence with the Premier of New South Wales from a South Coast delegation, and two letters from the Australian Labor Party (N.S.W) Aboriginal Affairs Committee
 - Two letters to Premier of New South Wales from Guboo Ted Thomas, Tribal Elder, and Max Harrison and Mervyn Charles Penrith, Community Organizers. One letter relates to the Ministerial Committee of Review to examine and report on the Select Committee's report and the other relates to correspondence not reaching the Premier (1980)
 - Letter relating to making land claims and a list of addresses to which the letter was to be sent
- 4
- 'Submission on Aboriginal Land Rights to the N.S.W Parliamentary Select Committee upon Aborigines', by the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group, 1979. [Held in folio box]

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Series 2 Land rights – New South Wales, 1934; 1961-83

This series contains papers relating to Aboriginal land rights in New South Wales. It consists of land claims, correspondence, maps and newspaper clippings, photocopies of Crown Grants and handwritten notes.

Folder

- 1
- Land claims 1961-82. Includes photocopies of Crown Grant certificates, a newsletter from the Western Regional Land Council (1982), handwritten note and draft letter, hand drawn map of New South Wales Aboriginal areas (3 copies) and
- Land claim from the Aboriginal people of Brewarrina
 - 'La Perouse land claim' and 'Some demographic and cultural characteristics of the La Perouse Aborigines', by J.H. Bell, *Mankind*, vol. 5, no. 10, June 1961. [Also held in Library at S 57/13]
 - 'Ngemba Land Claim of tribal land' map
 - Letter to Premier of New South Wales regarding Mumbulla Mountain (2 roneoed copies of the original) and photocopies of newspaper clippings relating to the Mountain. Also 'Comments on *Mumbulla Mountain: an anthropological and archaeological investigation*', by Brian J. Egloff, [also held by Library at B E318.18/M1], submitted to the Minister for Planning and Environment by the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group and 'Land rights and Mumbulla Mountain', by George Petersen
 - Letter to the Premier of New South Wales from the Aboriginal people of Bodalla and the surrounding district of the South Coast of New South Wales claiming land in the Bodalla region
 - Claim regarding land at Cow Creek, north of Nambucca Heads, claimed by Neville Buchannan and Eileen Marshall (1982), 'The Stuarts Island Tribal Elders descendants land claim' and related papers
 - 'Land rights denied: sacred sites to be auctioned'. New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council flyer seeking support to prevent the sale of land at Terry Hie Hie

Folder

- Letter to Minister for Youth and Community Services regarding New South Wales Labor Party policy and particular land claims, from O. Cruse
 - 'Some Wiradjuri words and meanings' [also held by Library at PMS 2922] and map 'Aboriginal tribes of New South Wales'
- 2 Warangesda/Darlington Point land claim, including edited 'Outline of a first draft of a Warangesda Land Claim'; 'Warangesda Land Claim' (2 copies); 'The Warangesda Mission'; and four papers on various aspects of the history of Darlington Point and district
- 3 Papers, 1970-83, including
- 'Aboriginal land rights in N.S.W: demands, law and policy', Peter Tobin (North Melbourne, Abschol, 1972). [Also held by Library at pTOB]
 - 'New South Wales Aboriginal land rights: suggestions for action', by Chris Kirkbright
 - 'Analysis of N.S.W. *Aboriginal Land Rights Bill*', by Chris Kirkbright
 - 'Aboriginal Land Rights for N.S.W: land rights legislation proposed by Mr Frank Walker, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs – the main questions answered'
 - 'Report on proposed land rights legislation in N.S.W', given to Southern Aboriginal Regional Land Council at Cobargo, 16th Jan. 1983', by Mervyn Penrith
 - 'Rough criticisms of draft Aboriginal land rights'. Handwritten. Headed 'Peter Thompson', 12.1.1983'
 - 'The proposed land rights law'
 - 'Brief three on the Green Paper – claimable crown lands: section 36'
 - 'Green paper on land rights in New South Wales: a summary of the main proposals with notes on the problems with them', New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, with assistance from the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group, 1983 (3 copies)
 - 'NSW land rights 'Green paper''
 - 'Draft Land Rights Bill for New South Wales'
 - 'Summary: Is it a 'land rights' Act or not?' Handwritten
 - 'The Aboriginal Lands Trust of New South Wales and its present position in relation to Aborigines and land in New South Wales', a background paper, by O. Cruse. Annotated 'reprint of 1977-78 report!'
 - 'Fringe dwelling rural Aborigines and the law in N.S.W.', by Peter Tobin, *Smoke Signals*, vol. 8, no. 3, March 1970, pp. 43-48

Folder

4 Legislation, 1934; 1966-83

- Crown Lands (Validation of Revocations) Bill, 1983
- *Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983, no. 42 (NSW)*, May 4, 1983
- *New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983, no. 42*
- *New South Wales Pastures Protection Act 1934, no. 35*, reprinted 1982
- *New South Wales Aborigines Act 1969, no. 7*, reprinted 1978
- *New South Wales. Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1936, amendments and annotations to 31 December 1966*, and handwritten notes

5-6 Newspaper clippings, 1980-83 [Item 6 in folio box]

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Series 3 New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, 1977-82

The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council was formed in 1977 when over 200 Aboriginal Community representatives and individuals met for three days to discuss land rights. The Council campaigned as a voluntary group until the New South Wales *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* was passed in 1983.

This series consists of a small number of records of the Council, such as minutes of meetings, a report on a trip to Wilcannia suggested at a Land Council meeting on 1 November 1980, and a background briefing prepared by the Council for a Seminar on Land Rights.

Selected papers of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (1979-1981) are also held in the Library at [MS 2053](#).

Papers in this series include

- Minutes of 1 November 1980 meeting
- Agenda for 6 March 1981 meeting
- Minutes of 10 - 1 October 1981 meeting (3 copies)
- Notice of meeting (3 copies), minutes and motions from 13-14 February 1982 meeting
- Minutes and notes of 31 July - 1 August 1982 meeting
- 'Aims of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council as adopted at the Land Rights Conference, October 1-3, 1977 at the Black Theatre, Redfern' (3 copies)
- Advertising flyer for the Council
- Copy of form letter seeking support for land rights for Aboriginal people in New South Wales
- 'Report on Wilcannia trip made by Ted Thomas, Jack Campbell, Max Harrison, Terry Fox,

27.11.1980 - 6.12.1980'

- 'A background brief for A.I.A.S. Seminar on Land Rights, May 1980', New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

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Series 4 Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group, 1979-82

This series consists of correspondence, including a form letter, signed by Anne Laffan and David Morrissey on behalf of the Group, to members and supporters (1982) and also copies of a form letter sent to the New South Wales Premier and other Ministers, with some letters of reply (1982). There is a list of names and addresses of members of the Aboriginal Rights Network, a meeting agenda, publicity material, extract from a speech by Neville Wran (opening of Murawina, 17 October 1980), and a flag design. There is a paper on the Group's application for funding (poor photocopy) and a 'Land Rights Lobby Kit', prepared by various organizations associated with the land rights campaign, and a 'Land rights resource list', produced by the Group (March 1979, 2 copies)

There is also a publicity flyer, 'The Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group is a voluntary group of white people who support Aboriginal people in their struggle for Land Rights throughout Australia'.

Other papers of the Group are held by the Library at [MS 2538](#). An incomplete set of their newsletters is held at RS 26.1/1. There are also papers from the Group elsewhere in this Collection, for example, in [Series 1](#) there is a submission by the Group to the New South Wales Parliamentary Select Committee upon Aborigines.

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Series 5 Land rights – Northern Territory, 1978?–81

This is a small series of papers relating to land claims and leases in the Northern Territory. There is also a paper about the Yipirinya School.

Folder

- 1 'Boorooloola land claim: report', a report by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Mr. Justice Toohey to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and to the Minister for the Northern Territory, 1978? [Also held by Library at MS 1224 and B A 927.36/B1]
- 2 Papers, including copies of Central Land Council correspondence, 'Aboriginal sacred sites and the Sabadeen industrial subdivision – a brief history' and 'Yipirinya School today', 24 February and 27 May 1981. [May issue also held by Library at RS 37.7/26]
- 3 Angangu Pitjantjatjaraku Inc. A collection of papers, including media releases, correspondence and photocopies of press articles, relating to land rights to Uluru and the surrounding area, sent by the Corporation Administrator to Morrissey. Also 'A Bill for an Act to provide for the vesting of title to certain lands in the people known as Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku and for other purposes', prepared by the Parliamentary Counsel, 1980

Folder

- 4 'Land rights under attack...' poster appealing for support in opposing amendments to the Northern Territory *Land Rights Act*. [Held in folio box]

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Series 6 Land Rights – South Australia – Pitjantjatjara, 1982

This is a small series of papers relating to the Pitjantjatjara land rights and the Maralinga lands. Included are

- 'South Australian Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act compared to the Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act', a paper prepared by the Law and Government Group, Parliament of Australia Parliamentary Library Legislative Research Service, 9 July 1982
- Papers relating to the transfer of the Maralinga lands to the Yalata Community

1 folder

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Series 7 Land rights – Western Australia

This series contains a small number of papers relating to land rights in Western Australia. Included are

- Two Worra Worra newsletters. The Marra Morra Worra is a group for all communities around Fitzroy Crossing. The two page newsletters cover a range of issues affecting the Communities, including land rights.
- Submission of the Kimberley Land Council on the recommendations of the System 7 report to the Environmental Protection Authority and accompanying letter
- Summary of Paul Seaman's report *The Aboriginal Land Inquiry*, prepared by an officer of the Western Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet, 1984. [Seaman's report held by Library at B W520.15/R1]
- 'Aboriginal Land Rights: a document prepared by Aboriginal people as the basis for an approach to Sir Charles Court', in *Current Affairs Bulletin*, vol. 55, no. 9, February, 1979, pp. 4-9

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Series 8 Land rights – Queensland, 1979-82

This is a small series consisting of 'Uneven development: a case study from the first world – Cape York Peninsula', by Richie Howitt (1979) and a press release from Queensland Association of Professional Anthropologists and Archaeologists on Queensland's Aboriginal reserves and people (3 March 1982)

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Series 9 Land rights – Tasmania

This series contains 'History of land claims by Tasmanian Aborigines', a background paper by M. Mansell [no date].

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Series 10 Land rights and mining, 1978-82

This series contains papers on Aboriginal land rights and mining, and in particular mining at Noonkanbah/Yungngora.

Folder

- 1 Papers, 1978-82, including
 - Aboriginal Land Rights Information Group (Eltham, Vic.), *A look at the Ranger Agreement* (Fitzroy, Vic., 1978)
 - *Land rights & uranium: uranium mining as it affects Aborigines in the Northern Territory*, compiled by P. Coleing for Friends of the Earth and Movement Against Uranium Mining
 - Articles on Aboriginal land rights, mineral exploration and the mining industry in the Northern Territory. Photocopies of articles from *Mining Review*, April 1978, pp. 15-20. Also copy of contents page.
 - 'Brief one on the Green Paper: the mining provisions sections 45 and 46', by Meredith Wilkie
 - 'Friends of Aurukun & Mornington Island action notes... March 1979' and press release from the Friends, 14 March 1979. [Also held by Library at pFRI]
 - 'Oil exploration/seismic Survey Approval Programme', Memo # 1
 - 'Special report, 1982 Minerals Outlook Seminar – Aboriginal land rights: significant changes seen in next decade', *Mining Review*, June 1982
 - 'Special interview with Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Chairman of the Northern Land Council', *Time and Energy: National Energy News Service*, no. 3, July 1978, p.15-18
 - 'Uranium mining on Aboriginal land', compiled by Gerry and Helene Van Klinken, with compliments slip with note that the report has been adopted by the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia
 - *New Journalist*, no. 30, April 1978, an issue entitled 'The uranium issue'
 - 'Background paper – Seminar on Mining and Aboriginal Land'

Folder

- Noonkanbah: press release and letter from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; two publicity leaflets asking for support for the Noonkanbah/Yungngora people; and letter to Sir Charles Court from the Yungngora Community, Noonkanbah Station (12 July 1980)
- 'Discussion paper: mining and indigenous land – some issues and concerns', Meredith Wilkie. Annotated
- 'Northern Territory: uranium and responsibility', by Mark Dreyfus in *Legal Service Bulletin*, vol. 7, no. 4, 1982, pp. 179-182. [Also held by Library at S 34/3]
- 'A history of mining at Aurukun', by Richie Howitt and Jim Thomson
- 'Aboriginal gains jeopardized by attacks on land rights laws'. Publicity flyer issued by Campaign Against Mining Aboriginal Land, raising concerns about land rights and mining
- Press release regarding demonstration in support of Noonkanbah/Yungngora Aborigines' opposition to oil exploration on their land (14 March 1980)
- Photocopied extracts from Acts

2-3 Newspaper clippings, mainly on Noonkanbah/Yungngora. [Folder 3 held in folio box]

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Series 11 Land rights – Miscellaneous, 1979-82

In this series are some general papers on Aboriginal land rights. Included are

- 'Aboriginal land rights', paper to be presented by Pat O'Shane to the SAANZ Conference, University of New South Wales, 26 August 1982
- 'Aboriginal land rights in Australia: beyond the legislative limits?' by Bryan Keon-Cohen, 1979, [also held in Library at pKEO], a pre-publication manuscript and accompanying letter to the Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group, 1979
- 'Aboriginal Land Rights Teach-In March 17 & 18 '79'. Papers by H.C. Coombs, Maurie Keane, Pat O'Shane, Tom Williams, Ted Thomas, Mick Miller, Kevin Gilbert, Delia Lowe, Steven Albert and Laurence Dugong
- Publicity material relating to Aboriginal land rights protests, concert, public forum etc.

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Series 12 Towri Aboriginal Corporation, 1981

The Towri Aboriginal Corporation, located in Bathurst, N.S.W., was incorporated in July 1981 with a primary focus on improving Aboriginal education. Its objectives covered a variety of issues, such as accommodation for students, information and resources, scholarships, assistance with nutrition and liaison with the parents of students, giving assistance to overcome any obstacles. It

also had an objective to help Aboriginal people with housing.

This series consists of photocopies of the Towri Aboriginal Corporation Certificate of Incorporation of an Aboriginal Association (8 July 1981) and rules of the Corporation. Also a photocopy of Bimbadeen *Prayer and News Bulletin*, annotated 'This book belongs to Towri's Committee', and a letter from the Corporation to the Commissioner, New South Wales Education Committee regarding a telephone conversation about a proposed Aboriginal Culture Centre, Bathurst.

There are also photocopies of newspaper articles on Aboriginal issues, two handwritten notes and a leaflet on 'Aboriginal students at Mitchell C[ollege of] A[dvanced]E[ducation]'.

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Series 13 Inquiry into the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1982

This series consists of an Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group letter regarding a submission to the Inquiry, (4 February 1982, 3 copies) and a follow up letter regarding their submission (3 March 1982). Also a New South Wales Land Council submission to the Inquiry, February 1982, (3 copies); and 'Proposed NSW Land Council submission to Inquiry on AIAS' (annotated).

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Series 14 Other papers, 1969-83

This series contains a miscellaneous collection of papers, including papers which are not related to Aboriginal issues or people.

Folder

- 1 Constable Laurence Richard Clifford, 1981
 - 'Statement of findings of facts in relation to the allegation of possible charges in respect of indictable offences from evidence arising from the inquest: question of murder/manslaughter by Constable Clifford'
 - 'Northern Territory of Australia Coroners Court in the matter of an inquest into the death of Johnny Ross Jabanardi: reasons for decision'.
 - Annotated covering letter for the above documents sent to Morrissey from Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (15 December 1981)

Closed access: Series 14, Item 1 requires the Principal's permission for reading and copying. [Access code R2b C3]

- 2-4 Papers, 1969-83. Handwritten notes, correspondence, press clippings, book advertisements, course outlines for university courses (for example in economics); papers relating to Aboriginal art, newspaper clippings and other papers including
 - 'On academic Marxists', by Teresa Brennan
 - 'Essays of passion, imagination and striving: Aboriginal responses to the anthropological enterprise', by Daniel A. Vachon. Draft of paper for ANZAAS, Perth, 1983

Folder

- 'Aborigines and Islanders', annotated 'Current Federal Policy (Nov. '80)'
- 'The culture industry: enlightenment as mass deception' in Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (1944)
- *Aggression by the rich countries against the poor: what has UNCTAD IV achieved?* Debesh Bhattacharya, Brickfield Hill, NSW, 1976 (2 copies)
- 'Structural and eclectic revisions of Marxist strategy: a cultural materialist critique', *Current Anthropology*, vol. 17, no. 2, June 1976, p.290-305
- 'Paradigms: scientific and social', by S. B. Barnes, *Man*, 1969, vol. 4, no. 1. [Poor photocopy]
- National Aboriginal Conference leaflet on Makarrata (3 copies)
- Publicity leaflet for Tugar, a group of trade unionists concerned about Aboriginal rights
- Peterson, Nicolas, *Change and the Aboriginal* (Canberra, 1975). [Also held by Library at pPET]
- Jaensch, Dean, 'Politics of the Northern Territory', in *Current Affairs Bulletin*, vol. 56, no. 5, October, 1979, p.12-21
- Watson, Len, *From the very depth...: a black view of white racism* (Surrey Hills, 1973). [Also held by Library at pWAT]
- *Why racist jokes aren't funny*, issued by Aboriginal Legal Service, Redfern, N.S.W. 1980. [Also held by Library at pABOR]

5 Newspaper clippings on Aboriginal issues

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Series 15 Published material – Journals, newsletters, etc., 1979-81

This series contains of list of journals, newsletters etc. received with this collection but housed in the AIATSIS Library's Serial and Rare Serial collections. Search [Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue](#) to find the location of this material.

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4		1
5	1	1
5	2-3	2
5	4	3 (Folio box)
6		2
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10	1-2	2
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Finding aid compiled by J. Churches, March 2006

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