



## New report next week on language learning in Indigenous communities

A new report on language learning in Indigenous communities will be released on **Monday 17 September** at approximately **10.10am** by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

The committee conducted an extensive inquiry lasting over 12 months with a focus on:

- the contribution of Indigenous languages to Closing the Gap and strengthening Indigenous identity and culture
- the potential benefits of including Indigenous languages in early education and measures to improve English competency and education outcomes in Indigenous communities
- the effectiveness of current maintenance and revitalisation programs for Indigenous languages, and
- the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Government Indigenous languages policy in delivering its objectives and relevant policies of other Australian governments.

The committee held public hearings in capital cities, regional and remote locations around Australia including Canberra, Newcastle, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Utopia Homelands, Alice Springs, Broome, Halls Creek and Darwin. The committee received 154 submissions in total.

In travelling to a variety of locations, the committee heard Indigenous languages in daily use and learned that language is inseparable from culture, and is the foundation upon which the capacity to learn and interact productively with other people is built.

The committee's report will make strong recommendations to the Government, charting a new future for Indigenous language policy in Australia.

Embargoed copies of the report will be available to the Press Gallery between 10am – 4pm (EST) today, Friday 14 September. Contact the secretariat for electronic copies only on 6277 4559.

The media conference will be broadcast live from Committee Room 2S2, Parliament House, Canberra from 12:30pm -1pm on **Monday 17 September** via: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

*Video footage of a ATSI committee hearing in the Utopia Homelands, NT, and also of some Indigenous people reading their language-learning books in a bush setting can be made available to the media upon request by contacting Andrew Dawson at the House of Representatives 02-6277 2063*

Information about the inquiry can be found at the inquiry's website: [www.aph.gov.au/languages](http://www.aph.gov.au/languages)  
A video of the committee hearings to Utopia Homelands and Alice Springs is also available at [www.aph.gov.au/ath](http://www.aph.gov.au/ath)

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann on (02) 6277 4755.  
**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or [atsia.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:atsia.reps@aph.gov.au)