



May 2009

# INDIGENOUS COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES

The NFSA Indigenous Collections holds moving image and sound recordings, depicting Aboriginal peoples and cultures, produced over the past 110 years.

This historic collection documents the development of audiovisual technology from nitrate film and wax cylinders to current technology formats; the scientific thrust to prove the missing link; and the largely non-Indigenous perspective on Aboriginal people's experience of colonialism.

The Indigenous Moving Image Collection includes feature films, documentaries, commercial and community television, ethnographic recordings, and home movies.

The Indigenous Recorded Sound Collection holds ethnographic recordings, commercial recordings, community radio and spoken word performances.

The Indigenous Documents and Artefacts Collection contains posters, scripts, equipment, scrapbooks and photographs.

Aboriginal people's struggle for self-representation in the film and sound industries in the 1960's and 70's gave rise to contemporary Aboriginal filmmakers and commercially recorded sound artists who over the past forty years have made an outstanding contribution to the national record.

1. The NFSA will enable and facilitate Indigenous people's use of the Indigenous Collections to promote Indigenous self-representation and a recontextualisation of the Indigenous Collections from an Indigenous perspective.

2. The NFSA will promote the active participation of Indigenous peoples, filmmakers, recording sound artists and researchers within national and international audiovisual and archive forums and decision-making processes.

3. The NFSA will continue to store and preserve culturally restricted materials for posterity and will direct clients to the source institutions for access. If this is not possible, access requests for this material must be made to the NFSA who will consider them on a case by case basis in conjunction with Indigenous permissions and protocols.

4. The NFSA will note any conditions proposed by cultural custodians regarding the acquisition, preservation or exhibition of their cultural materials. This may include changing of the status of titles within the collection, to either open or restricted, on advice from cultural custodians.

5. Indigenous cultural custodians will provide advice, guidance and direction in the management of their cultural materials within the NFSA Indigenous Collections.

6. The NFSA may consult with the appropriate cultural custodians if a request arises for access to Indigenous cultural materials identified by a cautionary note. An indemnity for the NFSA must be signed when using these materials.

7. The NFSA supports and resources cultural awareness training for all staff.

8. The NFSA promotes and curates access to the Indigenous Collections by Indigenous peoples and the general public to develop understanding, appreciation and insight into this most important historic record.

9. In partnership with the peoples concerned the NFSA will survey the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based archives and provide archival expertise and advice.

10. The NFSA will establish, develop and maintain positive relationships between and with Indigenous cultural custodians, communities, recorded sound artists, academics, filmmakers and researchers.

11. The NFSA will support the increase of Indigenous employment in non-identified positions and support the skills development, education and training requirements of Indigenous staff.

12. The NFSA will continue to work in partnership with other cultural institutions to achieve the common objective of providing for Indigenous access and engagement with their cultural heritage as represented in each collection. This includes opportunities for Indigenous staff of the various institutions to transfer for short periods to other cultural institutions to enable them to gain skills and experience within many of the major national cultural institutions.

13. The NFSA will maintain an Indigenous staff network and support NFSA Indigenous staff networking opportunities with other cultural institutions.

14. The NFSA encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access the collection, attend events and screening and enjoy the NFSA's facilities and services.

Images: *The Djarn Djarns* (RB Productions) and *Didgeridoos in Chromatic Set* (Charlie McMahon), artwork by Liz McNiven