



PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS TO GUIDE RESEARCH INTO INDIGENOUS CULTURAL MATERIALS HELD IN THE NFSA INDIGENOUS COLLECTIONS

INDIGENOUSCOLLECTIONS FACT SHEET 1

May 2009

PRINCIPLE 1 PRIOR AND FULLY INFORMED CONSENT

1. Research into materials within the NFSA Indigenous Collections will only occur with the prior and fully informed consent of the Indigenous peoples whose cultural heritage is represented within the materials researched and published.
2. The researcher will develop a formal agreement in negotiation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, outlining the intentions, aims, methods and outcomes of the research and identify the use of and the access to the research results.
3. All research practices and publications will maintain consistency with the cultural protocols of the Indigenous peoples whose audiovisual cultural heritage is subject to the research.
4. Research into and publication of materials representing the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in the Indigenous Collections will provide benefit to the Indigenous peoples whose people, country or cultural heritage is represented by the research.
5. The on-going involvement and exchange between the researcher and the Indigenous peoples whose culture heritage is represented within the research will occur within all phases of the research project.

PRINCIPLE 2 RESPECT FOR THE CUSTODIANSHIP OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE

1. The NFSA acknowledges the unique status maintained by a diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. The researcher will respect the custodial rights and obligations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their cultural heritage represented in the Indigenous Collections.
2. Research into the NFSA Indigenous Collections will respect the cultural and intellectual property rights of Indigenous cultural custodians.
3. The NFSA will develop and maintain special measures to achieve equity within the *Scholars and Artists in Residence Fellowship* and *NFSA Internship Programs* by supporting and resourcing Indigenous people's research into the NFSA Indigenous Collections. The Indigenous Collections Branch (ICB) will provide added support for Indigenous researchers.

For further information on the NFSA Collection Policy – September 2006, and the Indigenous Collection Policy, visit www.nfsa.gov.au and click on the 'The Collection'.

PRINCIPLE 3 PROTECTION OF CULTURALLY RESTRICTED MATERIALS

1. Culturally restricted materials remain restricted from public access and must be accessed at the originating institution. If this is not possible, access requests to this material must be made to the Curator of Indigenous Collections who will consider them on a case by case basis in conjunction with Indigenous permissions and protocols.
2. In the event of a researcher discovering materials that may be culturally restricted, the audiovisual recording should be stopped and in the case of a document or artefact the object should be covered immediately. The researcher should then contact the ICB and an ICB staff member will retrieve the item for assessment.
3. Researchers will be provided with a fact sheet to assist them in the early identification of potential culturally restricted materials that they may discover in the NFSA collection and a step by step guide to how they should respond to such a discovery.

Images: *My Brother Vinnie* (Documentary Steve McGregor) and *Radiance* (Blackfella Films), artwork by Liz McNiven