Nyangumarta: Traditional Society & Contact History

Western Australia

October 2002
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TITLE: National Native Title Tribunal Research Report Bibliographies
Introduction

The Tribunal’s Research Unit prepares bibliographies as a ready reference for anyone wanting to locate readily available, published material about Indigenous Australian people within a particular region or locality. The bibliographies are produced for general library use from reports prepared by the Tribunal for parties to native title mediations. The bibliographies are not exhaustive reference lists about any particular Indigenous group, nor is the published material necessarily an accurate or insightful report of Indigenous society. The Research Unit may update bibliographies from time to time, usually because a new research report has been reproduced for parties to mediation.

It should be noted that the contents and production of these reports are governed by time and resource constraints. They are often prepared in four to eight weeks by a single research officer with some input from a research assistant and Tribunal librarian. Generally most of the references sought for these reports are available only from the AIATSIS library, which in turn has limited resources available to supply material. Therefore care is taken to request only that material which appears relevant to the scope of a particular report.

Disclaimer: The bibliographies are a list of materials that have been used by the Research Unit of the Tribunal to provide background information for native title mediations. The Tribunal forms no view on the accuracy, completeness, or relevance of the reference material cited in these bibliographies. Most of this material is held at libraries and is available to the public. The Tribunal library may be able to assist in locating items.

Nyangumarta: Traditional Society and Contact History Report

This Report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of the Nyangumarta People's native title claim (WC98/65). It is based on publicly and readily available information relevant to the traditional society of the Nyangumarta People, as well as the Aboriginal and European contact history within or adjacent to the claim area. The Report should be read in conjunction with the previously prepared report summarising accounts of the traditional location of Nyangumarta.

Research Method

The research material used for this report is based largely on a search of the AIATSIS online catalogue supplemented by relevant references found in Tindale's (1974) Aboriginal Tribes of Australia under the heading 'Nyangumarta'. The following general references were also used:

- Tindale 1974, Aboriginal Tribes of Australia;
- Stannage 1981, A New History of Western Australia;
- Biskup 1973, not slaves not citizens
- Battye 1915, The History of the North West of Australia
A search was made of the 'print collection' of the AIATSIS on-line catalogue since sound tapes, film sources and material on microfilm are difficult to process within the time and resource constraints. The AIATSIS catalogue displayed 209 titles using 'Nyangumarta' as a key word. The Environment Australia catalogue displayed 56 records using 'Pilbara' as a keyword. Materials with access restrictions were omitted from the list of items requested as were foreign language materials, obvious duplications, microforms and material that appeared to deal with technical aspects of language or education curricula.

Of the material which arrived within the time constraints, some was not cited in the report because it was not specifically relevant to the location of the group. The final bibliography is attached as 'Bibliography'.

A search of the LISWA catalogue was also made for Njangamada, Nyangumarda and Nyangumarta, and this resulted in a list of films from Anna Plains Station referring to Nyangumarda people.

In addition, to compile the contact history, a search was made of the Tribunal's library holdings for material relevant to the region. These items have been listed in the bibliography.

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Nyungumarta: Traditional Society and Contact History

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