Western Australia

March 2002
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.

Wajarri Report

The Wajarri report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of the Wajarri Elders’ (WC01/3), the Ngoonooru Wadjari’s (WC00/12) and the Mullewa Wadjari Community’s (WC96/93) native title applications. It was based on publicly and readily available information relevant to the traditional location of the Wajarri people.

Research Method

A search was made of the ‘print collection’ of the AIATSIS online catalogue, *Mura*, since sound tapes, film sources and material on microfilm are difficult to process within the time and resource constraints. 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.

The material generated by these searches was supplemented by relevant material and further references found in Tindale’s 1974 text *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits, and Proper Names*, Thieberger’s web site *Handbook of Western Australian Languages South of the Kimberley Region* and Horton’s 1994 text *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*, although not all references were obtainable at the time of writing. Material from relevant references from previous Tribunal research reports was also included. Additional material concerning the location
of the Wajarri people was found in the following ‘general’ references and was included in this report:

- Craig, 1969, *Central Australian and Western Desert Regions: an annotated bibliography*;
- Davidson, 1938, *A Preliminary Register of Australian Tribes and Hordes*;
- Donohue, 1991, ‘AIATSIS Library Language Names and Community/Established Language Names’;
- O’Grady, Wurm and Hale, 1966, *Aboriginal Languages of Australia: A Preliminary Classification*;
- Tindale, 1940, ‘Distribution of Australian Aboriginal tribes: a field survey’; and
- Tindale, 1974, *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*.

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Connelly, J.F. 1932, ‘Distribution of tribes in Western Australia’, *Mankind*, vol. 1, no. 5.


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O’Grady, G.N. 1959, Significance of the circumcision boundary in Western Australia, BA thesis, University of Sydney.


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