

Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies has prepared a paper *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies* (May 2000) which provides a guiding framework for teachers and students, especially in relation to local area studies, and consultation with local Indigenous communities. In summary, these guidelines are:

A. Consultation, negotiation and mutual understanding

1. Consultation, negotiation, and free and informed consent are the foundations for research with or about Indigenous peoples.
2. The responsibility for consultation and negotiation is ongoing.
3. Consultation and negotiation should achieve mutual understanding about the proposed research.

B. Respect, recognition and involvement

4. Indigenous knowledge systems and processes must be respected.
5. There must be recognition of the diversity and uniqueness of peoples as well as of individuals.
6. The intellectual and cultural property rights of Indigenous peoples must be respected and preserved.
7. Indigenous researchers, individuals and communities should be involved in research as collaborators.

C. Benefits, outcomes and agreement

8. The use of, and access to, research results should be negotiated.
9. A researched community should benefit from, and not be disadvantaged by, the research project.
10. The negotiation of outcomes should include results specific to the needs of the researched community.
11. Negotiation should result in a formal agreement for the conduct of a research project, based on good faith and free and informed consent.

The complete guidelines are available on the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) website. Go to <www.aiatsis.gov.au> and follow this path: Research > Publications > *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies* (pdf).

