



Australian Government

**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**

Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program 2008–09

The Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program (MILR) provides funding and support aimed at addressing the steady erosion and loss of Australia's Indigenous languages. These are estimated to have originally numbered some 250.

Many of the projects that the program supports record and document the last remaining speakers, so that a language can be retained and passed on to future generations.

To aid the maintenance and revival of these languages, the program funds community-based projects among language groups, supports research into language, and aids the development and coordination of language resources.

The work being done includes language centres, projects that ensure language is transmitted from generation to generation, production of language materials and resources, language recordings, development of databases, and coordination between language organisations.

Some of the projects are key national pilot programs to build on emerging trends and develop and test new language initiatives.

Demand for MILR funding is very competitive: in the 2008-09 funding round 104 applications sought more than \$18 million in funding, and 66 projects were supported with \$8.8 million. The projects that are funded have been assessed in accordance with the MILR program guidelines.

MILR's contribution to the maintenance of Indigenous languages is helping build a strong and sustainable Indigenous languages environment in Australia.

Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records – Funding 2008–09

Projects approved for funding for 2008–09 by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts as part of the whole of government Indigenous funding round

Location	Organisation	Description	Funding
New South Wales			
Armidale	Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Armidale	Deliver the Yuwaalaraay Language program to young people at St Joseph's primary and community members in Walgett.	\$89,929
Boggabilla	Boggabilla Central School	Re-establish a Gamilaraay Language Program in the Boggabilla Central School.	\$40,600
Bourke	Muda Aboriginal Corporation	Teach the Wangkumarra language and develop language resource materials at the Muda Language Centre.	\$139,562
Bourke	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation	Teach the Yuwaalaraay/Murrawarri languages to students and community members in Goodooga.	\$22,716
Canberra	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)	Continue with the online Language Community Access Pilot project by trialling the use of the Internet to exchange audiovisual documentation of Indigenous languages and cultures between AIATSIS and language speakers and descendants.	\$234,300
Canberra	Rudder, John	Develop a comprehensive grammar of the Wiradjuri language.	\$95,000
Forbes	Yoorana Gunya Family Violence Healing Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Teach Wiradjuri language and produce language resources for school students and community members at Forbes.	\$92,365
Griffith	Griffith Wiradjuri Aboriginal Preschool	Increase the use of Wiradjuri in preschool children and their families and community in the Griffith region.	\$27,779
Lightning Ridge	Barriekneal Housing and Community	Provide support for teaching Gamilaraay-Yuwaalaraay for all K-6 students at Lightning Ridge Central School.	\$39,000
Moruya	Cobowra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Support the Dhurga Language program in the Eurobodalla Shire area.	\$35,100
Nambucca Heads	Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative	Operate a regional language centre that facilitates language revival supporting students, language workers and community members in the Many Rivers Region.	\$249,810
Nambucca Heads	Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative	Revitalise, reclaim and maintain the Aboriginal languages with schools and community groups on the mid north coast and interior of NSW.	\$230,630
Newcastle	Arwarbukarl Cultural Resource Association	Develop innovative IT resources, language materials for organisations and skills of language workers nationally and locally.	\$344,960
Orange	Orange Aboriginal Land Council	Support the community to revive, relearn and maintain the local Wiradjuri language in Orange.	\$35,000
Sydney	Biambul Indigenous Language Business Institute	Maintain core services and operational requirements of the language centre for Indigenous and non Indigenous people in the greater Sydney area.	\$93,949

Sydney	Biambul Indigenous Language Business Institute	Develop and produce programs for airing on Koori Radio on NSW Indigenous Languages for listeners of Greater Sydney.	\$15,100
Walgett	Dharriwaa Elders Group	Increase the use of the Yuwaalaraay/Gamilaraay languages in the Walgett community.	\$96,000
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	Institute for Aboriginal Development	Support IAD Press's publishing contribution to the restoration and maintenance of and promotion and advocacy for Indigenous languages in Australia.	\$103,899
Alice Springs	Institute for Aboriginal Development	Record the languages and produce documents/resources that can assist in maintaining Indigenous languages in the region covering Docker River, Areyonga, Mutitjulu, Willora, Neutral Junction, Haast's Bluff, Ntaria, Utopia, Imanpa, Ltyentye Apurte, Arltarlpilta and Titkikala.	\$127,682
Batchelor	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Develop teaching resources for language preservation and maintenance by the Wadeye community, targeting Marri Amu, Merri Tjevin, Magati Ke, Marri Ngarr, and Murrinh Patha languages.	\$212,246
Borrooloola	Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Centre	Record and document the Garrawar, Yanyula, Mara and Gurdanji languages of the Borrooloola region.	\$147,175
Darwin	East Arnhem Shire Council	Provide a digital cultural archive service and multi-media production centre at Yirrkala, Arnhem Land.	\$50,000
Darwin	Northern Territory Library	Support the maintenance of the Warlpiri and Tiwi Language through the development of appropriate bilingual early literacy resources.	\$69,720
Darwin	West Arnhem Shire Council	Record, document, transcribe, translate and archive and develop publications in the Iwaidja language.	\$157,450
Darwin	West Arnhem Shire Council	Record, document, transcribe, translate and archive the Kunwinjku language.	\$50,851
Katherine	Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal corporation	Support the operations of the Katherine Regional Aboriginal Language Centre to facilitate language maintenance, revitalisation and documenting of activities.	\$292,900
Katherine	Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal corporation	Document and preserve the endangered languages of the Katherine region including the Mara endangered language.	\$242,000
Katherine	Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal Corporation	Conduct a feasibility study in the Victoria River District to scope the potential for language maintenance and revitalisation activities in the Kalkarindji, Daguragu, Yarralin, Pigeon Hole and Timber Creek region.	\$13,500
Nhulunbuy	Yothu Yindi Foundation	Encourage the practice, preservation and maintenance of Yolngu Matha, which incorporates over forty languages spoken by people of Arnhem Land and to share this at the Key Forum at the Garma Festival of Traditional Culture.	\$60,000
Tennant Creek	Papulu Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation	Provide operational funding for maintenance of languages within the Barkly region.	\$310,030
Winnellie	Aboriginal Resource and Development Services	Record and preserve the endangered Dhangu/Djangu language including the dialects of Galpu, Wangurri, Warramirri and clan languages of Golumala, Dativuy, Ngaymil and Rirratjingu.	\$67,925

Winnellie	Aboriginal Resource and Development Services	Revitalise and preserve the critically endangered language of Gurrangay Matha, which is the academic/technical language of the Yolngu clan groups of North East Arnhem Land.	\$70,000
Winnellie	Aboriginal Resource and Development Services	Document and further develop an English to Yolngu Matha (Dhuwal) language electronic dictionary.	\$33,000
Queensland			
Beenleigh	Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture	Document and record Indigenous languages through community language teams in Mitchell, Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi and Yugambah.	\$122,500
Bundaberg	Gidarjil Development Corporation	Establish a Regional Indigenous Languages Centre to coordinate the revival and maintenance of endangered Aboriginal Languages in the Central Queensland region.	\$100,000
Cairns	North Queensland Regional Aboriginal Corporation Languages Centre	Maintain and record community language groups, in the region from Mossman in the north, south to Sarina and west to Richmond.	\$270,500
Cape York	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	Promote and maintain the Mungkan and Thayorre languages of Pormpuraaw and surrounding outstations.	\$32,400
Hervey Bay	Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation	Coordinate the revival and maintenance of the Butchulla Language for students and adults in the Hervey Bay and Fraser Coast areas of Central Queensland.	\$110,000
Mornington Island	Woomera Aboriginal Corporation	Teach and ensure intergenerational transmission of the Lardil and Kaiadilt languages on Mornington Island.	\$53,500
Rockhampton	Saima Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Facilitate and revive Kala Lagua Ya, Meriam Mir, Kala Kawaw Ya, Kriol and Kulkagal dialects through language workshops and classes.	\$41,176
South Brisbane	Library Board of Queensland	Support community language projects and workers through training, resource development and coordination of networking between stakeholders to provide strategic planning for Queensland languages.	\$166,000
South Australia			
Adelaide	Adelaide Research and Innovation	Produce bilingual publications, through working with elders and translated recordings, to assist the maintenance of the Nyangumarta language of the Pilbara region of Western Australia.	\$73,170
Ceduna	Tjutjunaku Worka Tjuta	Facilitate community based activities that focus on the teaching and learning of Indigenous languages pertinent to the West Coast region.	\$44,000
Maitland	Narungga Aboriginal Progress Association	Facilitate community based activities that focus on the teaching and learning of the Narungga language of the Yorke Peninsula region.	\$93,380
Murray Bridge	Department of Employment Training and Further Education	Write and pilot a TAFE-accredited course which trains Indigenous adults to teach their language to others in family, community and school situations.	\$87,200

Port Augusta	Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association	Promote awareness and use of twenty key Aboriginal languages of northern SA through weekly radio broadcasts in language prepared with community speakers.	\$27,500
Yalata	Yalata Community Incorporated	Increase the use and importance of Pitjantjatjara in Yalata community by providing a structured language course and training in Pitjantjatjara literacy.	\$30,603
Tasmania			
Hobart	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	Revive, record, maintain and promote Tasmanian Aboriginal languages, in particular Palawa Kani.	\$290,000
Victoria			
Melbourne	Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages	Provide support for Indigenous languages nationally to facilitate the revival and maintenance of Indigenous languages in Australia.	\$361,899
Melbourne	Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages	Conduct state wide and community- based Indigenous language programs in Victoria which retrieve, document and revive Victorian Indigenous languages.	\$532,840
Western Australia			
Batchelor	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Support the Noongar language revival and retrieval in the region by collecting, collating and publishing Noongar language resources.	\$299,000
Broome	Madjulla Incorporated	Continue support for the Nyikina language in the Derby region.	\$50,750
Geraldton	Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation	Provide a regional language service to assist the revitalisation, renewal and maintenance of Indigenous languages in the Midwest, Murchison and Gascoyne regions.	\$253,445
Geraldton	Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation	A project specialising in the endangered languages of the Midwest, Murchison and Gascoyne regions.	\$125,665
Halls Creek	Kimberley Language Resource Centre	Maintain an Indigenous Language Program in the Kimberley Region in Halls Creek.	\$440,358
Halls Creek	Kimberley Language Resource Centre	A project in the Halls Creek community that supports intergenerational transfer of ethnobiological knowledge in language.	\$70,000
Kununurra	Mirima Council Aboriginal Corporation	Deliver language maintenance services to Miriwoong and Gajirrawoong people across the Kununurra region in the East Kimberley.	\$186,373
Kununurra	Mirima Council Aboriginal Corporation	Further develop the Miriwoong dictionary through community involvement of Miriwoong speaking people from the East Kimberley region.	\$40,508
Newman	Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation	Support the Martu language revival and retrieval in the region by collecting, collating and publishing Martu language resources.	\$66,800
Roebourne	Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation	Document and record the Yindibarndi language, and generate materials for teaching the language to Yindibarndi people in the Pilbara.	\$70,000

South Port Hedland	Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Record and archive the Kurama, Tharrkari and Nhuwala languages of the Pilbara region.	\$197,740
South Port Hedland	Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Conduct a state conference for Indigenous Language Centres throughout Western Australia to facilitate sharing of knowledge and best practices.	\$45,000
South Port Hedland	Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Support the operations of an Aboriginal Language Centre at South Hedland for the benefit of Indigenous people in the Pilbara region.	\$286,559
South Port Hedland	Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Provide language services to the people of Nullagine, Punmu and Parngurr Aboriginal communities in the Western Desert region.	\$147,500
South Port Hedland	Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Record and revitalise the Ngarluma language of the Pilbara region, through the production of a series of short films.	\$15,000
South Port Hedland	Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Preserve the Aboriginal languages of the Goldfields, Central and Western Desert regions.	\$144,456