

About the Authors

William (Sam) Jeffries is a proud Moorawoori man, born and raised in Brewarrina as the youngest of seven children. He has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs since leaving school. Sam spent twenty years in Lightning Ridge in far north western NSW establishing the CDEP project and purchased other commercial businesses there to give the community an economic platform.

Sam has held a range of senior positions including: Walgett Shire Councillor from 1999 to 2003, ATSIC Councillor from 1990 to 2005, Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council from 1996 to 2005, Board member of the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office from 1998 to 2005, and Chairperson of the NSW ATSIC State Council from 2002 to 2005.

Current appointments include: Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, Deputy Chairperson Indigenous Land Corporation ILC, Board Member of the Western Catchment Management Authority, Panel Member of the NSW Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme, and Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Sports Corporation Australia NASCA

Sam was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 for services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Murdi Paaki Region. His interests lie in building the capacity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a priority on governance, leadership and empowerment

George Menham is a former senior public servant with 20 years experience in managing Indigenous programs. His public service background included senior positions in a number of government Departments, and Senior Private Secretary to two Ministers. For the last 10 years he has undertaken consulting assignments in communications, mediation and public policy specialising in Indigenous issues with a particular focus on Indigenous governance institutions and their interface with Government.

He was a General Manager from its inauguration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. In this role, he headed a number of strategic policy, programming and planning divisions and was responsible for arrangements leading to the establishment of the Torres Strait Regional Authority and, at the request of the Torres Strait leadership, was its first General Manager.

His consultancy assignments have included the development of proposals for greater autonomy in the Torres Strait, the development of a system of regional local government for the Tiwi Islands, and more recently he has worked continuously with the Murdi Paaki Regional Council and Regional Assembly in the development of regional governance arrangements in western New South Wales.

He has had a number of Ministerial appointments as mediator and report writer under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

He is a graduate of the Australian National University with first class honours in History. As a Press Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, in 1988 he studied cross cultural policy communication.