



NTRB LEGAL WORKSHOP 2019

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Over fifty lawyers from various Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers (NTRB/SPs) gathered at the Mercure in Sydney on 20-22 February 2019, to share and develop their knowledge of contemporary native title legal issues. The product of a partnership between AIATSIS and the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at UTS, the legal workshop ran for three days and featured presentations by lawyers on specific issues related to native title, facilitated open discussions, and advocacy training.

In attendance were legal professionals from Carpentaria Land Council, Central Desert Native Title Services, First Nations Legal & Research Services, Goldfields Land and Sea Council, Kimberley Land Council, National Native Title Council, North Queensland Land Council, Northern Land Council, NTS Corp,

Queensland South Native Title Services, South Australian Native Title Services and members of the Bar.

Day one of the workshop included presentations on exclusive possession native title, the regulation of legal practitioners in native title, limiting the liability of PBCs, working with PBCs and traditional owner engagement in Victoria. Legal research fellow at AIATSIS Cedric Hassing presented along with Cleonie Quayle from CIRCA Research on intergenerational and vicarious trauma, the racialised context of native title law and the need for trauma-informed practice in native title which seeks to support and empower clients. This presentation in particular received much positive feedback as an important and engaging topic, with many commenting that they would like to see extended sessions on this in future workshops.

Day two included presentations on the *Tjunggarrayi v Western Australia*; *KN (Deceased) v Western Australia* High Court appeal, alternative dispute resolution models, the Victorian treaty process, compensation in native title claims post *Commonwealth v Griffiths*, and compromise in the recognition of native title. Dr Lisa Strelein, Executive Director of Research and Education at AIATSIS presented on the intersection of native title, treaty and sovereignty.

Day three included advocacy training by Rob Blowes SC and Susan Phillips. This also received much positive feedback.

Overall, the workshop provided a unique and valuable opportunity for skilled native title legal professionals to share their own experiences and insights, as well as learn from and engage with others to broaden their knowledge of contemporary native title issues.