



National cultural institutions, such as the National Museum of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the National Archives of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive, all play an important role in collecting, recording and preserving cultural heritage and is actively engaged in identifying and documenting Australia's intangible culture and promoting the role of intangible culture in the identification and celebration of significant places, objects and events.

The most recent report on the situation of Indigenous languages in Australia, the National Indigenous Languages Survey Report 2005, found that the situation of Australia's Indigenous languages is grave and requires action. Of an original number of over 250 known Indigenous languages at the time of European settlement, only about 145 Indigenous languages are still spoken.

Disclaimer notice

This map indicates only the general location of larger groupings of people, which may include smaller groups such as clans, dialects or individual languages or groups. Boundaries are not intended to be exact. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and not those of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. For more detailed information about the groups of people in a particular region, contact the relevant land councils.

NOT SUITABLE FOR USE IN NATIVE TITLE AND OTHER LAND CLAIMS

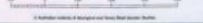


ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA

Names and regions as used in the *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia* (3 volumes, General Editor, published in 1984 by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Aboriginal Studies Press).
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-  Tribal language group name
-  Region name
-  No published information available

SCALE 1:4 700 000



0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 Kilometres

Map of Australia showing the location of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. The map is published by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. For more detailed information about the groups of people in a particular region, contact the relevant land councils.

Positive effort is underway in government and in Indigenous communities across the country and there is great enthusiasm to save this unique part of our culture, a part both ancient and contemporary at the same time.

A coordinated approach in support for Indigenous languages includes a network of community based language centres, state and national Indigenous languages bodies, education and research institutions, collecting and cultural institutions, and agencies from all levels of government – national, state and local.



Government support

- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations: Indigenous Language Education in Schools, Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language for Indigenous Language Speaking Students, Training and Skills Recognition for Interpreters and Translators
- Attorney-General's Department: Interpreting services in the justice system. Diversionary sentencing, circle sentencing.
- Department of Health and Ageing: Interpreting and translation in health and provision of culturally appropriate health care.

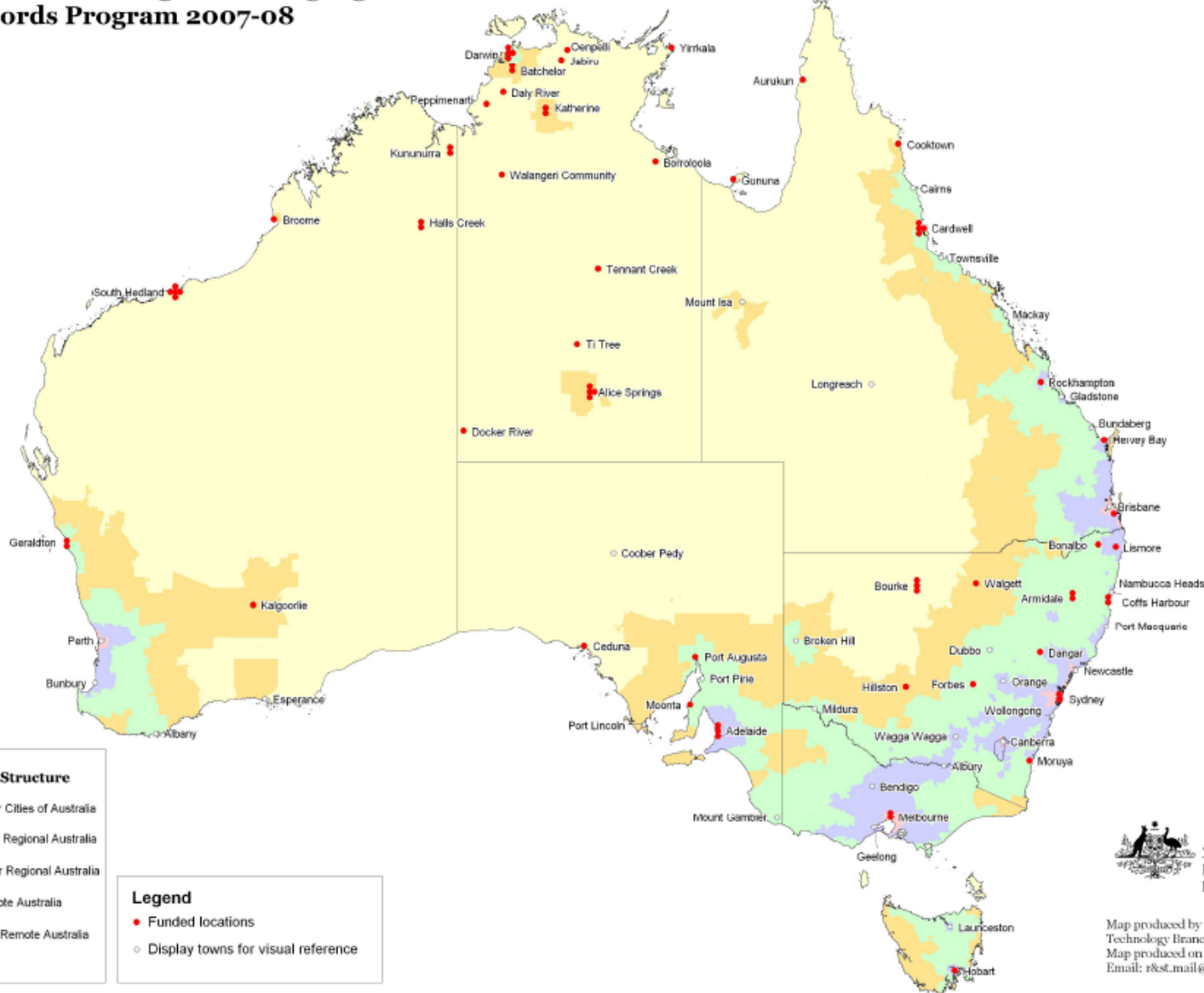
Government support

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: Provision of a repository for Indigenous language recordings. Premier research facility for Indigenous language issues.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics: Collection of data and mapping of trends regarding Indigenous language speaking populations.
- State and Territory Governments: Policy development regarding Indigenous languages varies around the country. Some states have developed specific Indigenous language policies and service delivery frameworks (see NSW and SA)

The Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records (MILR) program supports the maintenance and revival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages as living systems of knowledge shared by communities and passed down from generation to generation.

The emphasis of the program is on supporting community based projects by language groups, language research, the development and coordination of language resources, and coordination and cooperation between language organisations.

Funded Locations Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records Program 2007-08



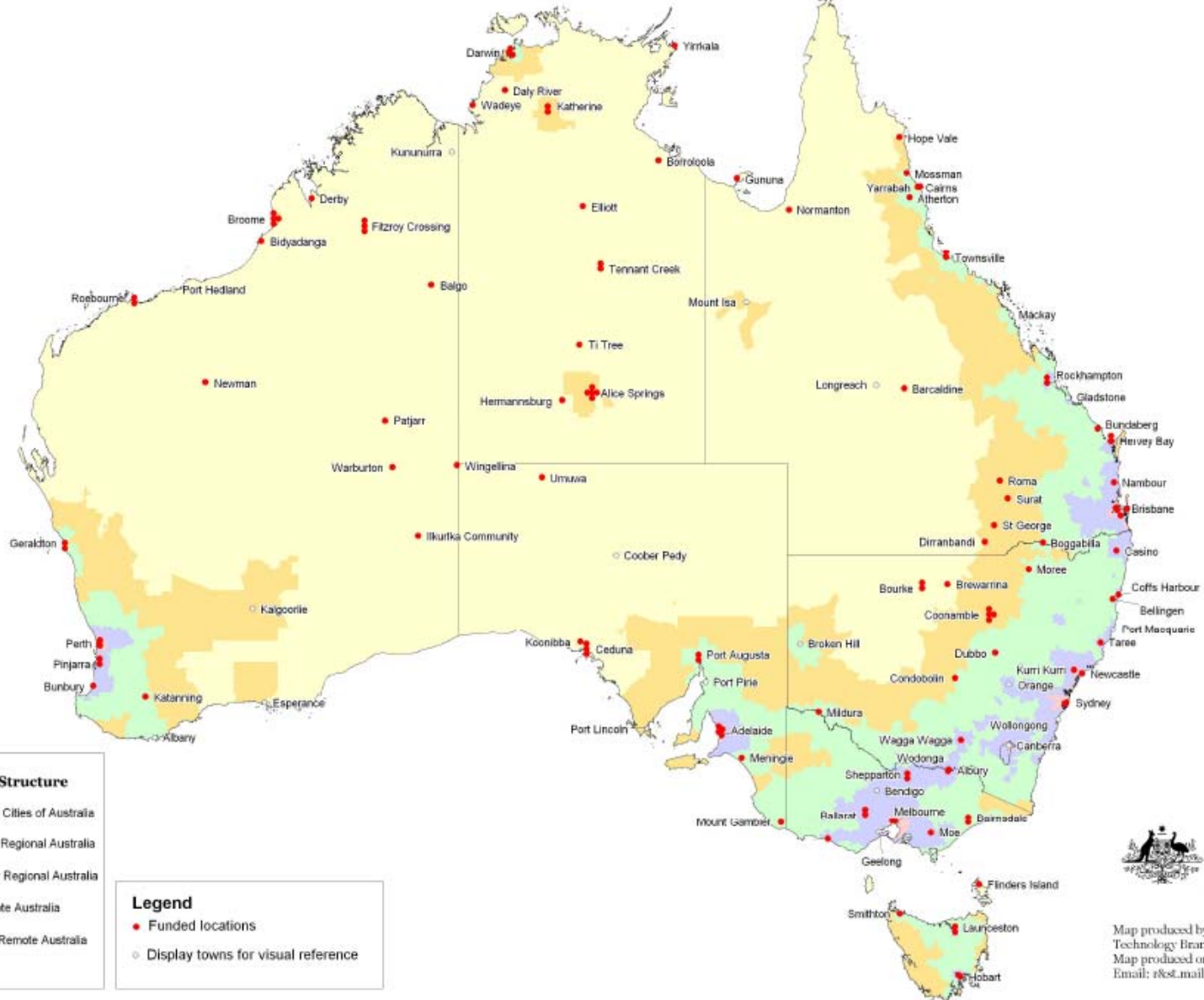
Australian Government
**Department of Communications,
 Information Technology and the Arts**

Map produced by the Research, Statistics and
 Technology Branch, based on data provided by DCTTA.
 Map produced on 30/11/2007.
 Email: r&st.mail@dcita.gov.au

The Indigenous Culture Support program provides support for the maintenance and development of Indigenous cultures in communities. The emphasis is on participation by members of Indigenous communities in cultural activities and transmission of knowledge and skills across age groups to build sustainable communities.

ICS also supports new forms of cultural expression and cultural exchange and projects to increase public awareness of Indigenous culture. Projects include Indigenous music, dance, theatre, multi-media, festivals and community-based arts and craft activity.

Funded Locations Indigenous Cultural Support Program 2007-08



Remoteness Structure

- Major Cities of Australia
- Inner Regional Australia
- Outer Regional Australia
- Remote Australia
- Very Remote Australia

Legend

- Funded locations
- Display towns for visual reference


Australian Government
 Department of Communications,
 Information Technology and the Arts

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 Technology Branch, based on data provided by DCTTA.
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 Email: r1&t1.mail@delta.gov.au



Strong culture in Indigenous communities contributes to broader social outcomes in very concrete ways:

- Building self esteem
- Developing a stronger sense of community
- Developing skills and capabilities
- Providing positive activities as an alternative to negative social behaviour
- Helping to generate income in communities.

