



**ACT**  
Government  
Community Services

---

**Date** 11 December 2013

---

**To** Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

- Director-General
- Deputy Director-General *se 16/12/13*

---

**cc** Executive Director Policy and Organisational Services

---

**From** Director Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

---

**File no** M13/2267

---

**Subject** Recognition of Traditional Custodians

---

### **Kwok Report – 2012**

Dr Natalie Kwok was contracted in 2012 by the ACT Government following the genealogy study, to conduct a desktop analysis of available historical, linguistic and ethnographic material on the ACT regional Aboriginal affiliation.

This report has demonstrated that the broader ACT region traditionally fell within a broad Aboriginal sociocultural bloc extending from at least Bulli to Cape Howe encompassing the coastal Yuin groups and the groups occupying the adjacent hinterland region including the southern highlands, southern tablelands and the alpine country of south-eastern NSW.

She stated that Tindale's map of tribal territories for the region shows three groups converging on Canberra. Following the works of R.H. Mathews, he places the southern boundary of the Ngunawal at or just south of Canberra itself. To the south, again based on Mathews' testimony, the Ngarigo are depicted as laying claim to the corridor of lowland extending up from the Monaro. To the west, the Wolgal (or Wolgalu) are depicted after A.W. Howitt (1904) as occupying the high country extending west to Tumut.

Dr Kwok has suggested that an anthropological investigation of the contemporary principles upon which those claiming interests in the broader Canberra area, as well as detailed genealogical analysis, may add light to understandings of traditional configurations.

Robyn Forester  
Director  
Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Brian Wilson  
x52507

AGREED/ NOT AGREED/ NOTED/ PLEASE DISCUSS

December 2013  
Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs