

Kimberley Interpreting Service

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NAATI Interpreters for Aboriginal Languages

Tel: 08 9169 3161

Issue 5

January 2002

KIS seeks funding

Kis has approached the Attorney General for funding

The Kimberley Interpreting Service is currently funded by the Western Australian Department of Employment and Training. The funding is part of the Enterprising Options Program and has enabled KIS to establish itself as an important service for indigenous language speakers in the Kimberley. KIS is now trying to secure funding to ensure the service continues into the future.

In December 2001, KIS handed a joint submission for funding to the Federal Attorney General's Department in Canberra and the Attorney General's Office in Perth. The submission is now being handled by the Ministry of Justice (Aboriginal Policies & Services) and KIS Project Officer Tea Dietterich travelled to Perth in December to meet with General Manager Hilary McWilliam and Project Officer Robert Mills to discuss the submission.

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Diploma of Interpreting in Broome

Broome has its own Diploma of Interpreting Course! Starting late February, Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education is offering the formal training to become an accredited Interpreter. Please call 91693191 for further information.

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Broome Interpreter Workshop

KIS holds Interpreter Workshop & Presentation in Broome

Representatives of government agencies and community organisations gathered at the Mamabulanjin Resource Agency on Tuesday, 13 November, for the first Aboriginal Interpreter Service Presentation and Workshop in Broome. They all had one thing in common: the desire to improve understanding between our Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.



KIS Co-ordinator Tea Dietterich (centre) with KIS interpreters Olive Knight (left) and Gail Smiler at Broome Workshop

The workshop was organised by the Kimberley Interpreting Service (KIS). The Kimberley Interpreting Service provides accredited Aboriginal language interpreters for use in a wide range of contexts, including legal, medical, and welfare. There are over twenty accredited interpreters across the Kimberley and KIS provides a central booking service, matching clients to interpreters. So far, interpreters have worked in Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Kununurra, Argyle Diamond Mine and remote areas in the North Kimberley and have been used in a Supreme Court trial in Darwin. Balgo, Broome and Halls Creek interpreters travel across the Kimberley or to Darwin for interpreting assignments on a regular basis.

Broome is the only Kimberley town without any resident (NAATI) accredited Indigenous interpreters.

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Broome Workshop - Continuation from Page 1

KIS has been working with Kimberley College of TAFE and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to organise an Aboriginal training course in Broome early 2002. (NAATI = National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters.)

After an introduction of the workshop participants and a presentation about KIS, guest speaker Colleen Rosas from the Darwin based NT Aboriginal Interpreter Service gave a presentation about the background, achievements and activities of the NT Aboriginal Interpreter Service.



Accredited senior interpreters Olive Knight and Gail Smiler travelled from Fitzroy Crossing to Broome to assist KIS in the workshop. They gave the audience a live sample of "Interpreters in Action" by doing a role-play imitating an interpreter situation with an English speaking doctor and a Walmajarri speaking patient.



From right to left: KIS interpreters Gail Smiler & Olive Knight, Margaret Ugle (ALS) and Leah Dolby (Marnja Jarndu Outreach Service)

Among other topics discussed, were training opportunities in Broome as well as how to work with interpreters and their Code of Ethics.

A lunch finalised the event with networking opportunities between the representatives from a range of different organisations such as Broome Health Services, Kimberley Land Council, Aboriginal Legal Service, WA Legal Aid, Kimberley Language Resource Centre, Department of Health and Aged Care, Kimberley Division of General Practice, TAFE and others.



Paul Chapman & Lynette Dias from Legal Aid Broome with guest speaker Colleen Rosas from the NT Aboriginal Interpreters Service Darwin.

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KIS seeks funding

The joint submission is based on the funding model of the NT Aboriginal Interpreter Service, which is jointly funded by the NT Government and the Federal Attorney General's Department in Canberra.

Aboriginal Policies & Services (Ministry of Justice, WA) have funded training for interpreters within WA in the past.

KIS hopes that training will continue but stresses that an Interpreting Service is needed to ensure qualified interpreters find employment.

KIS also emphasizes that any funding structure should take into account that it is imperative for an Indigenous Interpreter Service to be connected to local Language Centres. Only that can ensure that suitable interpreter candidates are identified and the needs of language speakers met.

KIS is an initiative of the Mirima Dawang Woollabgering Language and Culture Centre and the Kimberley Language Resource Centre.

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KIS going state wide: Interpreter bookings for Kalgoorlie

KIS organises interpreters for District Court in Kalgoorlie

District Court in Perth has been booking KIS interpreters on a regular basis in the last 14 months.

Now the bookings are not only limited to the Kimberley Region. KIS has been asked to organise interpreters for other parts of WA, such as Kalgoorlie.

KIS is working closely with the Wangkanyi Ngurra Tjurtja Aboriginal Corporation (Language Centre) in Kalgoorlie who have been helpful in identifying suitable interpreters for the assignments.

Ron Harrington Smith from Kalgoorlie is a NAATI accredited paraprofessional interpreter who will take on the next court interpreting assignment in Kalgoorlie.

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Diploma of Interpreting in Broome

Lecturer in Interpreting, Mary Coley, will start the first workshop on 18 February 2002. The Diploma of Interpreting will be carried out in 4 x 2 week blocks. The course goes from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Mary has been extremely popular with her current interpreting students from Fitzroy Crossing. Patsy Bedford, Grace Mulligan, Topsy Chestnut and Doreen Street are currently completing their Diploma of Interpreting in Kriol, Goonyiandi, Bunuba and Nyikina. They report the workshops to be wonderful: a lot of fun with heaps of laughter and a great way to learn about important things."

These are the tentative dates for the Broome Course:

18 Feb – 22 Feb	25 Feb – 1 March
25 – 29 March	1 – 5 April
20 – 24 May	27 – 31 May
24 – 28 June	1 – 5 July

These dates are flexible and may change. We are actively looking for more students. Please call 91693161!!

Aboriginal Interpreters in Broome Wanted!!!

If you are from the Broome Area, Dampier Peninsula or surrounds and you speak an Aboriginal language, why not become an interpreter?

Find out more and call KIS on 91693161!!

KIS approached for Harmony Day in Perth

Mary Gurgone from the WA Branch of AUSIT (Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters Inc.) approached KIS to involve an Indigenous Interpreter into the Harmony Day celebrations in Perth on 21 March 2002.

Gail Smiler, new AUSIT member and senior court interpreter from Fitzroy Crossing has expressed her willingness to travel to Perth to be involved in the Official Lunchtime Launch. Prior to the Harmony Day celebrations, it is planned that Gail is part of another meeting at TAFE. Using an Indigenous interpreter at the Harmony Day celebrations highlights that Indigenous people are part of the multicultural society in Australia just as all other people from migrant nations and that Indigenous interpreters are just as needed as Vietnamese or Persian interpreters. It is also an excellent opportunity for KIS to gain exposure outside the Kimberley Region.

Gail is looking forward to her trip and the contribution she can make. We will report about this event in our next newsletter.

WHY CELEBRATE HARMONY DAY

Our community is made up from many different cultures. With 27.7% of Western Australians born overseas, Western Australia's population is the most culturally diverse in Australia. This makes us one of the most multicultural communities in the world and brings great challenges and opportunities.

Australia's rich cultural diversity can be celebrated on Harmony Day by encouraging community harmony, active citizenship and having a strong stance against racism.

ABOUT HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day was pioneered here in Western Australia. It was adopted by the entire nation in 1999, when celebrations of the first National Harmony Day were held on 21 March. Harmony Day is also the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Day in WA is organised through the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI). As well as co-ordinating awareness raising exercises, OMI organises community events and celebrations on Harmony Day. We also provide grants for community groups, schools and local governments to hold Harmony Day events.

As well as promoting harmony, March 21 is about saying "no" to racism and discrimination.

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LAUGHS HELP TO KEEP KIJA STRONG

The new Kija phrasebook, *Yuwurriyngem Kijam*, launched in Halls Creek in December was greeted with appreciative laughter from the Kija elders. Laughter has been a common feature of the work sessions of Kija speakers with linguist Joseph Blythe throughout the four years' production of this language learning resource.

The humour lies in the gutsy real-life content, unusual in a phrasebook of this kind. Chapter headings include 'The Party', 'Jealousing, Fighting and Humbug', 'Love', as well as more conventional topics.

The content has been chosen to appeal to young Kija speakers, but for those who want a more academic understanding of the language, there is a section on grammar, simplified for the non-linguist. The Kija phrasebook is presented in a case with six audio cassettes.

Josie Farrer launched the phrasebook for the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. Joseph Blythe reminisced about his early attempts to learn the Kija language and people's urgent requests for him to 'put it in the computer and make a book'. He reminded the Kija contributors of the fun they had teaching him and giving him expressions for the phrasebook. His speech was made entirely in Kija, to demonstrate how well they had taught him.

Felicity Smith, the book's main artist, then gave a moving speech, in which she expressed her thanks to the old people for their efforts in passing on the language, and to Joe for 'making our dreams come true'.

Many of the people who had worked with Joe took turns to tell the gathering about some of the more memorable highlights of the project.

Yuwurriyngem Kija: a phrasebook of the Kija language will retail for \$66.00 but is available for a special launch price of \$55.00 for orders received until 31 January 2002 from the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. Tel: 08 9168 9168 6005.

Industry Developments Update:

AUSIT:

AUSIT is the professional association for interpreters and translators in Australia. A recent AUSIT initiative has been to find out what AUSIT can offer and do for Aboriginal Interpreters in Australia. It was decided that to start with, they need to find out more *about* Aboriginal Interpreters and KIS and AUSIT have been starting to work on this.

In order to show AUSIT's wish to integrate Aboriginal interpreters, some AUSIT members suggested to offer donations destined to pay for the membership for Aboriginal interpreters. KIS was thrilled about this generous proposition and discussed the suggestion with a range of its interpreters.

The reaction was very positive on this and Gail Smiler (see below) was confident, they "*were able to give something back for that*". KIS and all interpreters would like to thank AUSIT and its members for this generous initiative and currently Ms Smiler's membership has been paid with these donations.

New AUSIT Member: Gail Smiler

Gail Smiler is becoming the latest Indigenous AUSIT member.

After KIS interpreter Annette Chunama joined AUSIT last year, Ms Smiler is the next one and plans are already under way for a third KIS interpreter to join. Gail Smiler is a NAATI accredited, paraprofessional interpreter for Kriol and Walmajarri (West Kimberley language). She is an experienced Court Interpreter but has also experience in interpreting at Native Title negotiations, community meetings, in medical matters and other legal topics.

Gail is particularly interested in meeting with "ethnic" AUSIT interpreters, sharing experiences in interpreting and learning from each other.

She looks forward to be actively involved in AUSIT events, such as the proposed AGM in Perth and the current AUSIT review of what AUSIT can offer to Aboriginal interpreters.

Gail can be contacted through KIS.

New KIS Brochures and Videos

Our colour brochures have been very popular. Please let us know if you need brochures and we will send you some straight away. Simply call us on 91693161 or send an email to:

kis@wn.com.au