

PO BOX 162 KUNUNURRA WA 6743 TEL: 08 9169 3161 FAX: 08 9168 2639,
PO BOX 3599 BROOME WA 6725 TEL: 9192 3981 MOBILE: 0439 943 612 FAX: 9192 3982
EMAIL: kis@wn.com.au WEBSITE: www.wn.com.au/mirima

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Kimberley Interpreting Service is now entering its third year of operations, and as 2003 begins it is a good time to reflect on our achievements so far, and to examine the future directions of the service.

KIS has firmly established itself as the only provider of accredited Aboriginal language interpreters in Western Australia, and on top of regular bookings in the Kimberley region, particularly from the Ministry of Justice and Kimberley Land Council, KIS has also arranged for interpreters in Kalgoorlie and Perth.

We have interpreters registered in several Kimberley languages and are supporting the ongoing professional development of accredited interpreters, and the training and accreditation of new interpreters.

Work still needs to be done raising awareness of the need for interpreters amongst professionals working in the Kimberley region, and KIS coordinator Lesley Baxter, is working towards this in the new year.

One of the most exciting developments has been the establishment of the KIS Steering

Committee made up of representatives from Kimberley Language Resource Centre and Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring, Language and Culture Centre. KIS now operates under the expert guidance of June Oscar and David Newry with input from linguists Siobhan Casson and Keeley Palmer. The Steering Committee hopes to also have interpreter representatives on board, to ensure KIS is meeting interpreters' needs.

Funding of course is still a major concern for KIS, and the next six months will see continued lobbying of all levels of government in an attempt to secure an ongoing commitment to the service. Whilst KIS has the ability to generate a small amount of income, there is still a need for funding to ensure an efficient and effective administration, ongoing professional development for interpreters and users of the service, and training.

Now that KIS has demonstrated that interpreters can improve service delivery to Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, it is up to government to ensure the service not only continues to exist, but expands and improves.