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Children from Wandalgu School at Tardin performing at the opening ceremony of the 2002 Native Title Conference.

Native Title Conference 2002

In September 2002, AIATSIS and the Yamatji Land and Sea Council hosted the annual native title conference in Geraldton Western Australia. The conference, titled *Outcomes and Possibilities,* looked at the past outcomes of native title since the Mabo decision 10 years ago and the possible directions for native title in the future. Nearly 400 delegates attended the three-day conference including representatives from Land Councils, Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB's), the Federal and State Government, native title claimants, government agencies, practitioners, academics, and the media. The local community was very supportive of the conference and welcomed many guests to Geraldton from all over Australia. The local community also provided the entertainment for the opening ceremony with performances by Michael Mitchell, the Burringurrah children, and the Tardin children that was enjoyed by all. The papers given at the conference looked at issues such as governance, agreement making, future Acts, PBCS and recent High Court cases. Speakers included Geoff Clark, Mick Dodson, Darryl Williams, Carmen Lawrence, Jerald Gomez (Speaker from Malaysia), Giselle Byrnes (Speaker from New Zealand), and Justice Robert French, a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia. ATSIC provided major sponsorship and government and private industries also provided substantial sponsorship support.