

CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET DECISION

No. 4207

Submission No.: 3597

Title: THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL AUTHORITY, NORTHERN
TERRITORY COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM: AN ABORIGINAL
PHARMACOPOEIA

Cabinet:

- (a) approved the Commemorative Program Project: "An
Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia" for submission to the
Commonwealth Government;
- and
- (b) approved allocation of \$233,000 to the project
from "reserve funds" held for the involvement
of Aboriginal Australians and/or other projects
of a Commemorative nature.



R. A. HANRAHAN, M.L.A.
Secretary to Cabinet.

11 July 1985

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No:3597.....

Title:	The Australian Bicentennial Authority, Northern Territory Commemorative Program: An Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia.
Minister	The Chief Minister.
Purpose:	To seek Cabinet approval to include the preparation of an Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia, in the Northern Territory Bicentenary Commemorative Program.
Relation to existing policy:	The recommendation is consistent with Cabinet Decision No.3961 of 19 February 1985, and policy on Aboriginal health.
Timing/ legislative priority:	Commencement should be at the earliest possible time to ensure completion during 1988.
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	The entire Northern Territory Commemorative Program should be settled prior to public announcement.
Action re- quired before announcement:	Commonwealth Government agreement to the proposal.
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	The project entails the employment of three full-time and five part-time personnel and many Aboriginal informants, required from time, to time. Staffing costs, estimated over four financial years, total \$391,000.
Total cost:	\$466,000 comprising Northern Territory funding of \$233,000 and matching Commonwealth contribution on a \$ for \$ basis.

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Department/Authority PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

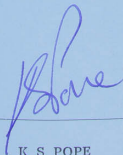
TITLE: THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL AUTHORITY, NORTHERN TERRITORY
..... COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM: AN ABORIGINAL PHARMOCOPOEIA
.....

COMMENTS:

This Office supports the submission in principle.

It is recommended that the costing be revised as the stated estimates are based on April 1983.

The staffing costs are significant at a time of restriction in expenditure.



K S POPE

Public Service Commissioner

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SIGNED:

DESIGNATION:

DATE:

4 July 1985

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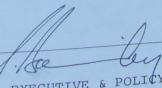
Department/Authority LAW

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL AUTHORITY, NORTHERN TERRITORY
..... COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM: AN ABORIGINAL PHARMOCOPHOEIA

COMMENTS:

There are no constitutional or legal barriers to the
proposal.

SIGNED: S.R. BAILEY 
DESIGNATION: DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE & POLICY UNIT
DATE: 5 JULY 1985

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Department/~~Authority~~.....OF HEALTH.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: AN ABORIGINAL PHARMACOPOEIA THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL
..... AUTHORITY, NORTHERN TERRITORY COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM.....
.....

COMMENTS:

STRONGLY SUPPORTED.

SIGNED: _____

DESIGNATION: A/SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

DATE: 4 JULY 1985

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Department/Authority.....TREASURY.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL AUTHORITY, NORTHERN TERRITORY.....
.....COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM : AN ABORIGINAL PHARMOCOPHOEIA.....

COMMENTS:

Treasury supports this submission. The following points have been noted by Treasury :

1. There is currently no provision for this project in the 1985/86 Budget.
2. The development of funding priorities for Bicentennial projects would be facilitated by the presentation to Cabinet of a coordinated list of project options.

SIGNED:

R.C. MADDEN

DESIGNATION: UNDER TREASURER

DATE:

8 July, 1985

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THE ISSUE

1. To seek Cabinet approval of the Northern Territory Council of the Australian Bicentennial Authority recommendation that the proposed project:

'An Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia: A Gift From Australian Aboriginals to all Australians for the Bicentenary 1988'

be included in the Commonwealth/Northern Territory Commemorative Program.

BACKGROUND

2. Cabinet Decision 3961 of 19 February 1985 provided that:

'A reserve allocation of \$855,000 be held for a period of twelve months against projects for the involvement of Aboriginal Australians and/or other projects of a commemorative nature which come to hand.'

3. A grant of \$10,000 was provided by the Northern Territory Government in 1983/84 for a researcher to compile the necessary database for the development of the project proposal.

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CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

4. The stated aims of the proposed project are to:
- (i) Safeguard traditional knowledge against permanent loss to future Australians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.
 - (ii) Evaluate and document Aboriginal traditional medicine and assess its use in modern programs of health care by Aboriginal Health Workers and the wider Australian community.
 - (iii) Strengthen the place of Aboriginal traditional medicine in the training of Aboriginal Health Workers.

A description of the proposed project is set out in Attachment 1.

5. Many plants are still used by Northern Territory Aborigines in traditional medical treatment. It is proposed to document plants known to have been, or still, in use for therapeutic purposes. As most of this knowledge in southern Australia has been irretrievably lost, documentation will draw on resources within the Northern Territory and areas adjacent to its western and southern borders.
6. All data will be of Aboriginal origin to be obtained through ngunkaris and other medicine

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men/women or through library search. It is proposed that identification of ngunkaris will precede the examination of plants, their habitat, preparation and indications for use, techniques for the analysis of plant materials and identification of active principles.

7. The Northern Territory Council of The Australian Bicentennial Authority recommends this project for consideration as it fulfils the guidelines for the Northern Territory Commemorative Program. In particular, the interests of Aboriginal Australians and scope for their active participation, is addressed, and the entire Northern Territory is covered by the project.

OPTIONS

8. The options are:
- (i) Approve the project,
 - (ii) Reject the project.
- Option 1 is the preferred option.

PUBLIC IMPACT

9. The proposal is consistent with the requirement to create something of lasting value as a commemoration of 1988, and should be well received by the general public.

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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. The Northern Territory Contribution under Commonwealth/Northern Territory Counterpart funding arrangements for the Commemorative Program will total \$233,000 over the four year period to 1988/89.

EMPLOYMENT AND STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

11. The implementation of the proposed project would entail the employment of the following personnel:
- (i) Aboriginal editorial panel and Aboriginal informants on a part-time basis - members of this group to be drawn from all areas of the Northern Territory.
 - (ii) Three full-time administrative/research staff.
 - (iii) Two Master of Science degree students on research grants to assist with the project.
 - (iv) One local part-time botanic artist and one Chinese botanic artist.
- The People's Republic of China has offered the skills of its botanic artists and botanists to assist this Bicentennial project and, as a gesture of goodwill, has confirmed its willingness to part subsidise the costs involved.

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COMMONWEALTH/STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

12. The Commemorative Program entails joint funding arrangements and project approvals are necessary from The Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments.

COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

13. The Departments of Law, Treasury, and Health have been consulted regarding the submission.

LEGISLATION

14. There are no legislative requirements.

PUBLICITY

15. The entire Northern Territory Commemorative Program should be settled before any public announcement of the Program.

TIMING

16. The Commonwealth Government has requested State/Territory Government expedite the forwarding of their Commemorative Program. Projects need to be commenced in sufficient time to ensure completion before or during 1988.

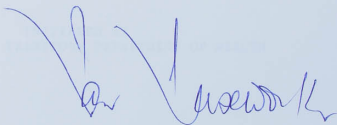
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RECOMMENDATIONS

17. It is recommended that Cabinet approve:
- (i) the Commemorative Program Project: "An Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia" for submission to the Commonwealth Government;
 - (ii) allocation of \$233,000 to the project from "reserve funds" held for the involvement of Aboriginal Australians and/or other projects of a Commemorative nature.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Tuxworth', is written over a faint, illegible stamp.

DATED

IAN TUXWORTH

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24 May 1985

AN ABORIGINAL PHARMACOPOEIA

A NORTHERN TERRITORY BICENTENNIAL PROJECT
SUBMITTED TO THE NT ABA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

INITIATED BY
THE NORTHERN TERRITORY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Action Officer: Dr Ella Stack, Northern Territory
Department of Health

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DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

- TITLE:** "An Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia"
- A gift from Australian Aborigines to all Australians for the Bicentenary 1988
- AIMS:**
- To safeguard traditional knowledge against permanent loss to future Australians - both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal.
 - To evaluate and document Aboriginal traditional medicine and assess its use in modern programmes of health care by Aboriginal Health Workers and the wider Australian community.
 - To strengthen the place of Aboriginal traditional medicine in the training of Aboriginal Health Workers.

SCOPE

The indigenous people of all countries each possess their own herbal lore - in Australia much of this has been forgotten or lost. We possess a flora different from much of the rest of the world. Many of our plants are still used by N.T. Aborigines in traditional medical treatment.

Lack of a documented Aboriginal pharmacopoeia was due initially to the absence of a written Aboriginal language and subsequently to the disinterest of later Australians.

The Northern Territory Aboriginal health workers, other staff of the Northern Territory Department of Health and national/international experts propose to remedy this situation by verified documentation of plants known to have been or are being used for therapeutic purposes. As most of this knowledge in southern Australia has been irretrievably lost, this document will draw on resources related to the Northern Territory and areas adjacent to its western and southern borders.

All data will be of aboriginal origin - either recent through nungkaris and other medicine men/women or remote through library search. It is proposed that:

- (i) Identification of nungkaris will precede the examination of
- (ii) Plants - their habitat, preparation and indications for use.
- (iii) Analytical techniques for the analysis of plant materials and identification of active principles will be applied.

- (iv) Botanic artists will illustrate each plant. As a gesture of co-operation to the Northern Territory Government, the Government of the People's Republic of China has offered the world renowned skills of their botanic artists and botanists to assist in this most important bicentennial project.

The Northern Territory will be divided into five areas delineated by tribal groups and botanic habitat. (See page 8).

Contact with Aboriginal health workers and medicine men and women will commence in February 1986 and continue until completion of the project in 1989. These Aboriginal informants will make up the editorial panel responsible for accuracy of data for publication. (See page 6).

It is proposed that a chief co-ordinator will be appointed in February 1986. One assistant co-ordinator and secretarial support will complete this administrative unit. The Chinese artist and botanist are due to commence in April 1986 and will remain for twelve months and three months respectively.

A Master of Science degree student will be responsible for literature research to collate information on plants that have already been phytochemically analysed and to co-ordinate further analyses. A Master of Science degree student in Botany will also be associated with the project for plant identification.

The Co-ordinating Committee will comprise a small group of Territorians. Throughout the Northern Territory botanists, pharmacists, doctors and many others have agreed to co-operate in the project (See page 5.)

Local and interstate academics have agreed to provide facilities and expertise in phytochemistry, plant botany and ethnobotany, pharmacy, pharmacology, pharmacognosy and other associated disciplines. (See page 7.)

Dr Geoffrey Vaughan, Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, has offered to approach the Trustees of the Wellcome Foundation in England in late 1985 to ascertain their willingness to be involved in publication costs. It is proposed that the final publication will be of the highest quality, but hopefully available at relatively low cost, through the support and subsidy of publication costs.

A preliminary budget of estimated costs is at page 9.

	85/86	86/87	87/88	88/89	Grand Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total	49,000	147,000	129,000	95,000	420,000
Health	24,500	73,500	64,500	47,500	210,000
Contribution					

HOW THIS PROJECT LINES UP WITH COMMONWEALTH/STATE
BICENTENNIAL GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS

GUIDELINES

- i. Generator of employment -
 - Aboriginal editorial panel and Aboriginal informants
 - part time - members of this group to be drawn from all areas of the Northern Territory
 - 3 office staff - full time
 - 2 Master of Science degree students and 2 Botanic artists.
- ii. - A grant of \$10,000 was provided by the Northern Territory Government in 1983/84 to compile the necessary base data for the development of this project.

CONDITIONS

- i. The project:
 - (a) "is to be of lasting nature" - a reference book is everlasting.
 - (b) most appropriate to the Bicentennial
 - (c) expected to be in place in 1986 and the first volume (Regional) published by 31/12/88.
 - (d) will be usable and appreciated by a broad cross section within both the Australian and the international community.
 - (e) most certainly recognises the sensitivities of all cultural and racial groups in the Australian community.
- ii. Commonwealth/State will share equally the cost of the project on the basis that the Commonwealth contribution will not exceed the contribution of the State/Territory.
- iii. There will be no recurring expenditure after completion of the project.
- iv. Projects proposed will be subject to Commonwealth agreement.
- v. Proposed expenditure and audited statements of expenditure in a form approved by the Commonwealth Minister for Finance will be provided annually.
- vi. Prominent notice will be displayed of the Commonwealth's contribution and that the project is a Bicentennial project.

CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Stack, Dr Ella | - Assistant Secretary, Aboriginal and Community Health, N.T. Department of Health |
| Ridpath, Dr Michael | - CSIRO, Darwin |
| Chaloupka, George | - Museum of Arts & Sciences |
| Saville, Syd | - Secretary, N.T. Department of Primary Production |
| Lee Koo, Gordon | - Assistant Secretary, Management, N.T. Department of Health |
| Dixon, Brian | - Co-ordinator, Aboriginal Health Branch, N.T. Department of Health |

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barr, Andy | - Regional Pharmacist, A/S Region |
| Stefanska, Alison | - Pharmacist, Katherine Hospital |

GENERAL ADVISORS

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Fleming, Dr K. | - Secretary, N.T. Department of Health |
| Mathews, Prof. J. | - Director, Menzies School of Health Research |

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Gordon Lee Koo | - Assistant Secretary, Management Services, N.T. Department of Health |
| Syd Saville | - Secretary, N.T. Department of Primary Production |

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED:

Menzies School of Health Research
 Northern Territory Museum of Arts and Sciences
 CSIRO, Darwin.
 Northern Territory Department of Health
 Northern Territory Conservation Commission
 Northern Territory Department of Primary Production

SUPPORT/ADVICE TO BE SOUGHT FROM:

Sir Robert Price, formerly, Chairman, CSIRO.
 Professor A.J. Birch - President, Australian Academy of Sciences
 (Professor J. Morrison to contact)
 Potter Foundation
 Wellcome Foundation
 Institute of Aboriginal Studies

SUPERVISORY AND EDITORIAL PANEL OF
 ABORIGINAL PRACTITIONERS OF THE ART OF HEALING
 WHO ARE CURRENTLY PRACTICING THEIR ART
 (Incomplete)

ASSOCIATES

Johnny Briscoe (AHW) Apatula.
 Billy Campbell (AHW) Yarralin.
 Jack Little (AHW) Bulla Camp.
 Jimmy Tipungwuti, (AHW) Tiwi.
 Maypilama Yunupingu,
 Wesley Lhanupuy
 Gatjil Djerrkura
 Barayuwa Mununggurr (AHW) Yirrkalā
 Warren Beikali, (AHW) Umbakumba
 Bandiyal Mununggurr (AHW) Yirrkalā
 Jangi Numbulwar
 Lindsay Joshua Numbulwar
 George Milpururra, Ramingining
 Mandarg, Cadell River
 Bill Parry, Daly River

SUPERVISORS (N.T.)

Wilmot, Dr Eric	- Assistant Secretary, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, (1986 Professor of Education - James Cook University)
Hargrave, Dr John	- Consultant, Aboriginal Health Branch.
Devanesen, Dr D.	- Director, Aboriginal Health Branch.
Dixon, Brian	- Co-ordinator, Aboriginal Branch.
Stack, Dr E.M.	- Assistant Secretary, Aboriginal and Community Health Division.

EXPERT ADVISORS

BOTANY

Kearns, Allan

Dunlop, Clyde

Henshaw, Tom

Ridpath, Dr Michael

Webb, Dr Len

Werner, Prof. Patricia

MSc. Botany Student

- BSc. Ag Environmental Chemist/Ethnobotanist
C/o Dames and Moore - Darwin.
- Herbarium, Conservation Commission, Darwin
- Conservation Commission, Alice Springs
- Ecologist/tropical Botanist, CSIRO, Darwin
- Griffith University, Brisbane Qld -
Involved in writing a history of
Australian phytochemistry headed by Sir
Robert Price, formerly Chairman of CSIRO.
- Professor of Botany, Michigan State
University - CSIRO, Darwin (Sept. 1985)
- To work in conjunction with MSHR & CSIRO.

ETHNOBOTANY

Latz, Peter -

Chaloupka, George -

Giuliani, Pina -

- Ethnobotanist, Conservation Commission,
Alice Springs.
- Northern Territory Museum of Arts and
Sciences, Darwin.
- Northern Territory Museum of Arts and
Sciences, Darwin

PHARMACEUTICS

Wu, Prof. Cheng shun -

Stefanska, Alison -

Barr, Andy -

Watson, Professor Tom

- Director, Laboratory of
Phytochemistry Institute of Botany,
Academia Sinica, Beijing, China.
- Pharmacist, Katherine Hospital
- Regional Pharmacist, Alice Springs
- Dean of Pharmacy, University of Sydney

BOTANIC ARTISTS

- one Chinese (Chinese Academy of Science)
- one Northern Territory trainee/assistant
Judy Church - Tennant Creek.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

- Chromatography mass spectrometry,
nuclear magnetic resonance, chemical
structure determination.

Morrison, Professor Jim - Professor of Physical Chemistry
La Trobe University.

Vaughan, Dr Geoffrey

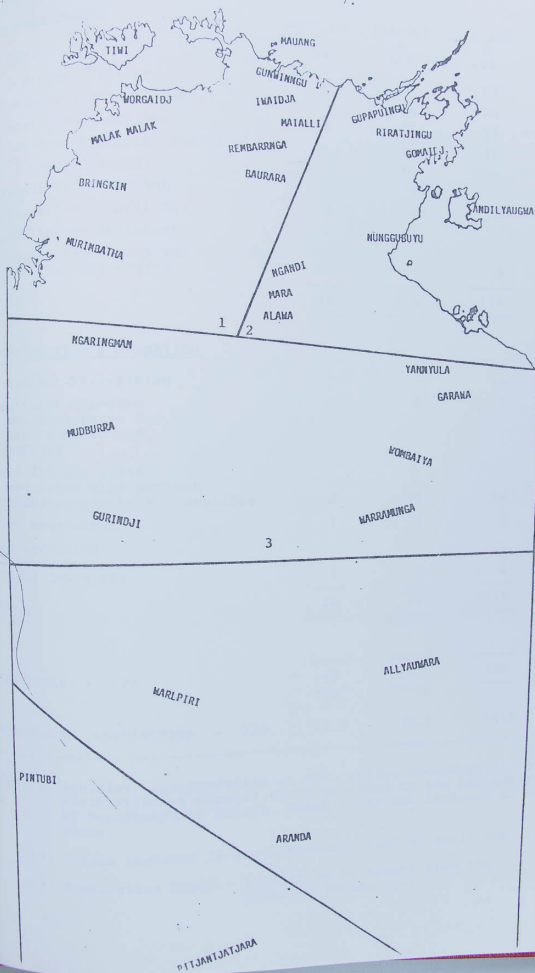
- Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy,
Melbourne.

MSc. student

- Analysis of plants and literature research
for those already analysed.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

7.



ESTIMATED BUDGET

	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
<u>SALARIES</u>				
Chief Project Officer	20	45	45	45
Assistant Project Officer	-	25	25	25
Secretary/Admin Officer	8	18	18	18
M.SC Student (Chemical Analysis)	-	10	10	-
M.SC Student (Botany)	-	10	10	-
Professor Wu Cheng-Shun	-	3	-	-
Chinese Artist (April 86)	3	7	-	-
Trainee Artist Assistant	-	4	-	-
Aboriginal Informants and Editorial Assistants	-	3	3	4
TOTAL	31	125	111	88
<u>ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION</u>				
Recruitment Advertising	2	-	-	-
Recruitment Expenses Including fares for Chinese staff and students	6	3	3	-
Travel for all staff associated with project including charters - vehicles	2	16	12	5
Office Requisites	7	1	1	1
Other including: Library Searches Legal Costs etc	1	2	2	1
TOTAL	18	22	18	7
 GRAND TOTAL = 420	 49	 147	 129	 95
 COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION = 210	 24.5	 73.5	 64.5	 47.5

NOTES (1) Vehicles, accommodation at RDH, office accommodation and administrative support to be provided to the project by NT Department of Health. These costs not included in the above.

(2) Prices included in estimates are based on April 1983 rates.

(3) Publication Costs - support to be sought from the Wellcome Foundation.