

Spearthrower with brown and white stripes

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Physical description

A wooden spear thrower featuring a rounded wooden handle which tapers to the other end where a wooden peg was attached with natural fibre string and resin which has broken off. The spear thrower is pigmented brown with white patches or stripes.

Statement of significance

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Art collection comprises 2050 artworks and other objects. The artworks - which numerically dominate the collection - were produced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia. The accumulation of these artworks into a single collection has resulted from the choices and selections made during a 38 year period by a variety of staff working for the Council for Aboriginal Affairs (CAA), the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA), the Aboriginal Development Commission (ADC) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) at the national, regional and local levels.

The collection spans the years following the 1967 referendum, when dramatic changes in the governance of Aboriginal people took place, up to 2005 when the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission was dissolved. It provides a snapshot of the diversity and changes in Indigenous art and its representation which occurred during the period of its formation. The small number of 'non-art' objects in the collection is also significant in providing insights into the working of the various Commonwealth bodies involved in Indigenous affairs. As well as the significance of many of the individual pieces, the collection is also significant as a whole, as a complex artefact stemming from Australia's history of governance of Australian Indigenous peoples.

Object information

What

Type [Spearthrowers](#)

Collection [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Art \(ATSIAA\) collection](#)

Dimensions L 1110mm x W 68mm x H 15mm

Material [Wood.](#)
[Resin - non specific.](#)
[Plant fibre](#)

Who

Owner
[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission](#)

Where

Place collected
[Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia](#)
ATSIC branch office



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