



Policy and Protocol for Use of *palawa kani* Aboriginal Language

palawa kani is the revived form of the original Tasmanian Aboriginal languages. It incorporates authentic elements of the original languages remembered by Tasmanian Aborigines from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. It also draws on an extensive body of historical and linguistic research. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre is acknowledged both within and outside the Aboriginal community as the body with responsibility for that work.

Policies determining Aboriginal language use are based on the principle of Aboriginal control. These policies are set by the Aboriginal community through the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Protocols for gaining permission to use Tasmanian Aboriginal language are as follows:

1. There is no need for any Tasmanian Aboriginal person to seek permission to use Tasmanian Aboriginal language for their own purpose. *palawa kani* Language Program can advise and assist Aborigines with their language use.
2. Any non-Aboriginal person, group or organisation wishing to use Aboriginal language for any purpose must make formal application in writing to:
The Administrator, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, PO Box 569, Hobart, 7001.
The application must state the purpose for which the language is to be used, and by whom.
3. Aboriginal people seeking language for the use of their non-Aboriginal employer or a non-Aboriginal organisation, are not seeking language for their own purpose.

Since the language is to be used for the purpose of the non-Aboriginal employer or organisation, the Aboriginal person or any committee or any other body of which they are a part, should advise the employer/organisation to make written application as in 2 above.

4. *palawa kani* Language Use Policy allows some categories of language to be made available to non-Aborigines on application as above. These categories are words for geographical features and places in the natural landscape, and natural objects such as flora and fauna.

Approval will depend on the context of the proposed use: eg. words for landscape features and places which are significant to Aborigines may be approved. However words intended to be used for man-made structures such as farms, office buildings, educational facilities, homes, streets etc which have no connection to collective Aboriginal values will not be granted approval.

5. Once the written application has been assessed, applicants will be notified of the decision in writing.

November 2005