



ORIC Oracle

ORIC—the regulator of choice

Which legislation is the best fit for your corporation? Whether you are starting out with a new corporation, are incorporated under state or territory legislation or are already registered with ORIC, you may be asking yourself this question right now.

Here at ORIC, we believe the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* or the CATSI Act, is the best legislation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and organisations. And this is why we think so.

All ORIC staff:

- **believe** in providing high-quality and culturally appropriate services
- **respond** to the needs of our corporations while keeping the requirements of the CATSI Act in mind
- **respect** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and use this to guide how we do business—inside the office and out in the field
- **undertake** cultural competency training to help us understand the traditions and circumstances that face our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.



ORIC's regional officers: Caroline Joske, Roseanne Mirto, Pam Collier, Chris Jones and Christian Lugnan

What's in it for you?

ORIC has several services that are specific to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations. We want to see healthy corporations that make a difference in their communities. Because we know that the right governance processes are important to help corporations do well, ORIC has developed a suite of training programs to help corporations set themselves up.

But we don't stop there. We also offer:

- help with recruitment (see our article on Recruitment made easy)
- hands-on help and advice with registering corporations
- LawHelp—a pro bono (free) legal service for not-for-profit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- a dispute management service
- fact sheets and newsletters with helpful information for corporations.

Go to www.oric.gov.au for a look at what we offer.

Have your say about our services!

ORIC launched an online client survey on 1 July. This means that you now have the opportunity to rate ORIC's services. The survey will be available online until 30 September 2011.

We want to know what you think of our training programs, our dispute management services, our publications, our website and all our other services. We want to do the very best we can for our corporations. So hop online and have your say.

Who can fill out the survey?

All directors, officers and members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations who have used ORIC services in the last 12 months (between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011) should fill in the survey. Anyone who has helped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations with their reporting requirements should also feel free to take the online survey.

Go to our website, www.oric.gov.au. On the homepage you will find the 'ORIC client survey', click on the link: 'Fill out the survey'.

I want feedback on the services that my office provides to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations. All information will be treated with confidence. Let's hear your suggestions on how we can improve our services to you.

Anthony Beven, Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

Recruitment made easy

Did you know that ORIC has a service that can help you with every step of the recruitment process? It is called ORIC recruitment assistance or ORA for short.

ORA can help corporations to:

- develop a job package
- advertise the position
- evaluate applicants
- set up the interview process
- prepare the selection report.

The South-West Aboriginal Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation (SWAMS) was one of the first corporations to make use of ORA. Here is their story.

SWAMS story

In April SWAMS applied to ORIC for assistance to recruit a new CEO. Tom McDonald, the corporation's contact person was largely responsible for the smooth process. Gloria Jackson and Roseanne Mirto (ORIC staff) travelled to Bunbury in June to provide secretariat and scribing services during the interviews.

The result was a thorough and transparent recruitment process with all the relevant documentation in place. SWAMS have appointed Dr Glen Power to the position of CEO. A good outcome for the corporation in finding the best person for the job.



Bunbury, WA

Please have a look on our website's front page and click on this icon



This link will take you to the current jobs advertised. If you look at the menu on the left-hand side, you will see a lot of useful information. There are example ads and selection criteria, recruitment guides, employment guides and template contracts. There is also information that will tell you more about what ORA is, who can apply and how to apply.

Template employment contracts grouped according to state and territory



It is important for corporations to have the right people in the right positions. Use the tools on the ORIC website to help you make the right decisions.



South-West Aboriginal Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation. Front row: Gloria Khan (Chair), Dean Colbung (Director). Back Row: Grace Ley (Regional Director WA Country Health Services), Gloria Jackson (ORIC)

Reporting time—again?

Yes, it's a bit like Christmas. Before you know it, it's that time again—time for your 2010–11 reports to be lodged.

2010–11 reports can now be lodged

Send them to ORIC or click here to lodge online.

All corporations must lodge reports with the Registrar every year, between 1 July and 31 December. Corporations that don't lodge their 2010–11 reports by 31 December 2011 could face prosecution, along with secretaries of large corporations. The maximum penalty for each report not lodged is \$13 750 for corporations and \$550 for secretaries. The reports for each corporation will vary. Have a look at our website for the reporting requirements for all corporations.

Let's face it; it's a relief to get those reports lodged in time. Don't delay, do it now. Try ORIC's simple online lodgment service.



Going the extra mile

ORIC staff often get the chance to go out into communities and work with corporations. Sometimes it is to deliver training workshops and sometimes to help corporations with their rule books or their money matters. These opportunities are always highly valued by ORIC staff. Making face-to-face contact with the directors, staff and members of our corporations is an important part of our work.

In May this year, the senior management of ORIC took the opportunity to volunteer their time at a few of our corporations.

Here is a selection of photographs and thoughts from the time they spent with the corporations.

Anthony Beven, Registrar, volunteered at the Mimili Maku Store Aboriginal Corporation in the APY lands, South Australia. He spent his time helping the staff with the usual day-to-day running of the store, which included dealing with a mice plague that was sweeping central Australia.



'My experience at Mimili was hard work, but a very worthwhile experience. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in contributing to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Volunteering with an ORIC corporation is a great way to do it.'

Joe Mastrolembo, Deputy Registrar, volunteered at the Waringarri Arts Aboriginal Corporation in Kununurra.



'What came through loud and clear was the important role and future priority of the art centre in maintaining and preserving the culture of the local people and the ability to continue to conduct its business in a cultural and traditional way.'

Maureen Colley, Director of Training volunteered at the high-performing Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation in Smithton, Tasmania.



'The time spent at CHAC was invaluable to me. It gave me a look into the day-to-day issues that our corporations face. All but one of the board members has undertaken the ORIC Introduction to Corporate Governance training and three have completed the Cert IV in Business (Governance). The chairperson stated that the Cert IV has given him the confidence and skills to do his role.'

Peter Armstrong, Director of Regulation worked at the Gudhuga Employment & Training Aboriginal Corporation in Moruya, NSW.



'I think the secondment provided me with a unique opportunity to work with a corporation that is trying to recover

from a period of poor governance and management practices. Its new directors were committed to getting the corporation's affairs back in order. It won't be an easy task; there is a lot of work to be done. I have remained in close contact with the directors since the secondment.'

Brendan Moyle, acting Branch Manager, Governance, visited the Many Rivers Regional Housing Management Services Aboriginal Corporation in Kempsey, NSW.



'My time with the Many Rivers staff and directors gave me a unique opportunity to get out and work in community again. It reinforced for me that even strong corporations with committed directors and staff face challenges in changing environments. I have kept in touch with the directors since the secondment and I look forward to seeing the corporation grow.'



Anthony Beven and Joe Campbell at Mimili Maku Store



Chris Griffiths and Joe Mastrolembo outside Waringarri Arts



Annerieke Hams, Andrew Kilpatrick, Anthony Beven and Joe Campbell at Mimili Maku Store



Lee-Anne Parsons, Georgina Parsons (seated) and Violet Carriage from Gudhuga



Andrew Hegedus, the former CEO of Many Rivers with Brendan Moyle



Brendan Moyle with Deleila Roberts, Marc Daley, Karen Bradshaw and Uncle Garry Morris at Many Rivers