



ORIC Oracle

WORKING TOGETHER

March 2012



Photos: ORIC

Each year the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) conducts a range of corporate governance training courses across metropolitan, regional and remote Australia.

Courses are tailored to the requirements of participants. In remote communities where English may be a second or third language great respect is paid to different cultural values and care is taken in explaining unfamiliar concepts. Depending on what corporations want ORIC courses can be accredited or non-accredited, residential or community-based, corporation specific or general.

'We usually tell corporation members and directors that the best place to start is with our Introduction to Corporate Governance workshop—or what we call an ICG,' says Russell Styche from ORIC's training team. 'By the end of an ICG workshop participants have picked up what governance really means in the practical, day-to-day sense of running a corporation.'

As the ICG is non-accredited it is open to all levels of experience and educational attainment. Typically ORIC runs the workshop over three days which allows participants time to adjust to the training and each other.

'We must bear in mind people travel in from different places, some from very remote locations,' says Russell Styche. 'It's important to allow time for settling in. We want everyone to feel comfortable and have a bit of fun along the way.'

Interaction between participants and trainers is positively encouraged and activities are carefully selected to suit the interests and understanding of individual groups.

'In many ways an ICG is the foundation stone of corporate governance,' says

the Registrar, Anthony Beven. 'It's not uncommon for people who complete our ICG to move on to the nationally-recognised Certificate IV in Business (Governance) which we also offer to our corporations.'

Information on upcoming training courses offered by ORIC can be found on our website at www.oric.gov.au.

Photos from ICG workshop, Port Augusta, WA

Top left: Mr Ian Crombie, a director of Antakarinja Matu—Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, enjoyed the level of involvement required at the workshop.

Top right: Role play—a favourite activity—teases out some of the challenges directors face in the daily business of running a corporation.

Bottom right: Mr Kym Dodd (left), a director from Pika Wiya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation and Mr Malcolm McKenzie from Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation work out a budget.



Freecall: 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles)
Email: info@oric.gov.au Website: www.oric.gov.au



LawHelp

Need a lawyer?
Try LawHelp



ORIC SERVICES

recognise the cultural values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and meet the special needs of their corporations

Reporting

As part of an annual rolling program ORIC staff visit corporations to help build good relationships and to offer assistance with reporting obligations. Informal one-on-one settings allow you to ask questions freely and discuss any potential concerns.

LawHelp

Our free legal service includes some of Australia's leading law firms.

Call centre

Anyone can ring ORIC's call centre for advice or support.

Training

We run a range of accredited and non-accredited governance training courses across the country.

Special administration

Under a unique measure in the CATSI Act the Registrar is able to appoint a special administrator to help corporations fix their problems.

Recruitment assistance

It's often difficult to find the right person for the job, especially in remote Australia. ORIC can help with the process and the paperwork.

Publications

From rule books to fact sheets to newsletters ORIC produces a variety of publications designed to better understand the legislation and to help with regulatory matters. They're available from the ORIC website or you can order copies from publications@oric.gov.au.

Regional officers

Our outposted officers provide a reassuring local presence and are available for on-the-spot assistance.



Background image:
Peter Minygululu
Ramininging, Central Arnhem Land, Northern Territory
Bula'bula Arts Aboriginal Corporation
Untitled - 2008 (Earth pigments on canvas)
© Peter Minygululu/Licensed by Viscopy, 2012

Client survey results

Last year we invited corporations to comment on ORIC's services.

You'll remember we sent out an ORIC client survey. A very big thank you to all who took part—and that's a great many of you! We appreciate your time and the quality of your feedback.

ORIC is listening and learning

Training: You called for greater coverage of the 'roles and duties of directors and CEOs' in training materials. We are looking at this and we're also going to hold more training workshops in areas currently not covered.

93% *said ORIC training provided good to excellent help in improving knowledge of, and skills in, corporate governance.*

Local officers: Many told us they value locally-based ORIC officers and would like to see more out in the field. In the coming months a new local officer will be based in Perth or Port Hedland.

Examinations: Before examiners arrive at your corporation you would like greater opportunities for your directors to be involved. We are exploring how we can best achieve this.

68% *said examinations helped them to build good governance processes at their corporation.*

Call centre: We are upgrading the ORIC call centre—one of our most highly used services—to introduce quality assurance and include dispute management assistance. The number won't change (1800 622 431) but the new system will allow a high level of consistency in dispute management advice and process.

Disputes: ORIC is also leading a collaborative approach to dispute management within registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs). We recognise that complex disputes require better management so native title holders can realise their land management aspirations.

The next client survey will be launched in May 2012 and will run online for three months.

Calling accountants

Are you looking for new ways to support your corporation? Perhaps you already work in administration or you just want to upgrade your office skills.

What about accounting?

A group has formed with the main purpose of encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take up accounting and to improve their office administration skills.

In comparison to other professions such as legal, health and education, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed as accountants and bookkeepers is very low. It's time this changed.

If you would like to find out more information about the group please contact Christian Lugnan at ORIC on (02) 5622 8860 or christian.lugnan@oric.gov.au. Alternatively search for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Accountants page on Facebook.

Don't hesitate. Get involved.

Finding tax tricky?

A new booklet from the ATO answers common questions from not-for-profits (also called non-profits).

It's worth finding out whether your corporation meets the ATO definition of 'non-profit' so you can take advantage of tax concessions. Some corporations don't have to pay income tax and can receive tax-deductible donations. The booklet also contains information about paying tax on funding and grants, and paying superannuation to staff.

You can find the booklet online at www.ato.gov.au (search for 'be smart about tax') or request copies by emailing Indigenous@ato.gov.au.

For more information and the latest news visit www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit or call the ATO helpline on **1300 130 248** for answers on a range of topics, including income tax, Australian Business Numbers (ABNs), goods and services tax (GST) and fringe benefits tax.



You're late...

Have you forgotten to lodge your 2010–11 reports? You should have sent them in by **31 December 2011**. Don't risk prosecution! Lodge today.

Go to www.oric.gov.au to lodge online.

If you have any queries call ORIC on 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles).

A graphic with a red background. On the left, there is an image of a document titled 'Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI) General Report' with a large red 'OVERDUE' stamp across it. To the right, the text reads: 'What to do about overdue reports. Lodge now. Failing to lodge reports may lead to prosecution or deregistration of your corporation.'