



Australian Government

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

yearbook 2010-11



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Please be aware that this publication may contain the names and images of deceased people. The Registrar strives to treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and beliefs with respect. We acknowledge that to some communities, it is distressing to show images of people who have died.

Produced by ORIC, October 2011



Artist at Ngaruwanajiri, Ngulu community, Northern Territory. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.



Gunbalanya community, Northern Territory. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.



About the yearbook

Under current legislation the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (the Registrar) is not required to produce an annual report. However, the Registrar thinks it appropriate and desirable to publish a yearbook as an aid to those interested in ORIC's work.

This yearbook will cover our 2010–11 business plan that identified five priority areas in line with the Australian Government's commitment to closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage and includes important sectors and remote service delivery. It also reports on our regulation and support activities.

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Patsy Kelly, weaves outside the Gunbalanya Arts Centre, Northern Territory. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.



Numbulwar community, Northern Territory. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.



Overview



Milingimbi community school, Northern Territory. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.

Highlights 2010–11

Firsts for ORIC

- first ever criminal conviction for non-compliance with reporting requirements under the CATSI Act (Western Desert Puntukurnuparna Aboriginal Corporation)
- first ever warrant for books and records issued (Yuendumu Women's Centre Aboriginal Corporation)
- first ever civil penalty proceedings (Ngukurr Progress Aboriginal Corporation)
- first ever use of power to call a general meeting of members (Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation)
- first ever reporting compliance of 100 per cent (corporations on the APY lands)

Regulatory functions

- increased reporting compliance rate—96 per cent compared with 92 per cent in 2009–10
- resolved 77 disputes
- registered 187 new corporations compared with 163 new corporations last year
- started nine special administrations and ended 16
- completed 72 formal examinations
- conducted a review of ORIC's decentralised services

Support services

- launched two new services—ORIC recruitment assistance (ORA) and LawHelp
- delivered 137.5 training days to 838 participants from 325 corporations with a satisfaction rating of 99.8 per cent

Other initiatives

- delivered the second successful corporate governance event in Alice Springs
- published *Strong corporations, strong stores, strong communities* looking at financial trends of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations that own community stores
- released the second top 500 report—based on the income of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations, provided as part of their annual reporting
- increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment at ORIC to 35 per cent—from 28 per cent in 2009–10 and 17 per cent in 2007–08

Year in review

Another productive year has passed with a number of good outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations. This yearbook gives a more detailed look our achievements and challenges.

There were a number of firsts for ORIC as mentioned in our Highlights section and further on in the yearbook—all with good outcomes. We also prioritised five areas this year in our business plan, discussed in more detail below and in section 2—Performance reporting.

Strengthening corporations

Compliance

ORIC has continued to build on international best practice benchmarks with 96 per cent of our corporations meeting their reporting requirements under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act)—up from 92 per cent last year. A highlight was when Aboriginal corporations in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands achieved a reporting compliance rate of 100 per cent for the first time.

Regulation and registration

ORIC completed 72 formal examinations of corporations in 2010–11.

Special administrators were appointed to nine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations where external



intervention was required to help with building stronger governance and leadership practices.

Throughout the year, 187 new corporations were registered under the CATSI Act, compared with 163 in the previous year.

Governance support

New regional office and local officers

A review of ORIC's decentralised services resulted in the opening of a permanent regional office in Alice Springs on 31 March 2011. Bob Turner was appointed as regional manager and George Donaldson as senior officer. This office will provide a longer term presence in central Australia.

In 2010–11 ORIC had local officers in Umuwa, South Australia; Kununurra, Western Australia and in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. The presence of ORIC local officers has greatly improved the reporting compliance of corporations in these regions and has also helped to promote the role of the Registrar and the benefits of the CATSI Act.

New services and products

LawHelp was officially launched on 22 November 2010 at Parliament House by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin and the Attorney-General, Robert McClelland. LawHelp is a pro bono legal scheme established by ORIC and the Australian Government Solicitor. It helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations to access quality legal assistance. Some of Australia's top legal firms are listed on the LawHelp panel. They provide their time and expertise free of charge.

Dispute management

Requests for complaints assistance and dispute management remained high in this financial year. ORIC's accredited mediators have used their expertise in corporate governance to help resolve 77 disputes in 2010–11.

Governance training

There was an increased demand for corporate governance training in 2010–11 with ORIC delivering training to a record 838 participants despite floods and cyclones in affected areas earlier in the year.

ORIC also maintained its partnerships with state departments in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Staff secondment

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

ORIC staff often get the chance to go out into communities and work with corporations. These opportunities are always highly valued. Making face-to-face contact with the directors, staff and members of our corporations is an important part of our work.

The senior managers found the experience particularly rewarding. It gave them insight into the daily activities of our corporations. It also gave them the opportunity to provide hands-on help with the issues facing corporations.

The year ahead

The year ahead will have its own unique challenges. We have made enormous progress over the past four years and it is time to reflect. This year will therefore largely be a year of consolidation for ORIC.

Thank you to my staff who have worked tirelessly to provide support and services to all our corporations. The results speak for themselves.

Anthony Beven
October 2011

Staff

Senior management

The Registrar and senior management
as at 30 June 2011.



Anthony Beven
REGISTRAR



Joe Mastrolembo
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
Regulation and Registration Branch



Michael Cullen
GENERAL COUNSEL



Brendan Moyle
A/g BRANCH MANAGER
Governance Branch



Maureen Colley
DIRECTOR
Training Section



Caroline Joske
DIRECTOR
Strategic Project Delivery Section



Peter Armstrong
DIRECTOR
Regulation Section



Lisa Hugg
DIRECTOR
Communications and Policy Section

ORIC staff

The Registrar was supported by 60 full-time and six part-time staff—equating to 64 full-time equivalent staff—as at 30 June 2011. There were 40 female and 26 male staff. Twenty-three staff (35 per cent) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander—an increase of seven per cent from 30 June 2010.

ORIC remains committed to reconciliation. This means recruiting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and providing career pathways. During 2010–11 ORIC developed a cultural competence framework for all ORIC staff, regardless of cultural background. The framework aims to ensure that all ORIC staff have the ability to work with and achieve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The framework will be implemented in 2011–12.



Above: Masepah Banu receiving his scholarship.
Below: Registration and Reporting staff with their Australia Day awards.



Staff achievements

2010 Rebecca Gregory scholarship

ORIC's Masepah Banu was awarded a scholarship by the Australian Institute of Management (AIM) NSW and ACT. AIM ACT General Manager and judging panel member, Greg Field, said Masepah impressed the panel with his ability to balance his involvement in various external committees that represent the interests of Indigenous Australians with his role at ORIC.

Australia Day awards

The exceptional work of ORIC's Registration and Reporting staff was recognised on Wednesday, 2 February at FaHCSIA's awards ceremony for the 2011 Australia Day Recognise and Appreciate People Scheme (RAPS).

The RAPS awards recognise staff who daily make a solid and worthwhile contribution to FaHCSIA's effectiveness and business outcomes, resulting in one of the following:

- a significant impact within FaHCSIA (the way we work)
- a significant impact on FaHCSIA results (the work we do)
- demonstrated excellence in public service.

ORIC's Registration and Reporting staff were recognised for significant productivity improvements over the last four years. In 2007 ORIC took, on average, 60 days to process documents and inquiries. This average decreased in 2007–08 with ORIC processing 4078 documents and inquiries in 9.8 days. In 2009–10 ORIC processed 8899 documents and inquiries in an average of 2.19 days. The staff were also instrumental in increasing reporting compliance from 59 per cent in 2006–07 to 96 per cent in 2009–10.

The ORIC staff recognised were:

- Lorraine Rogge
- Luba Neiden-Bach
- Casey Lee
- John Berkman
- Judy Appo
- Katherine Oldfield
- Masepah Banu
- Theresa Berkman
- Mavis Napatali
- Karen Nicholson
- Joanne Collins
- Carly Chapman
- Tremaine Richardson.