



Australian Government

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations



ORIC STRATEGIC PLAN 2014–17

Strong corporations, strong people, strong communities



WHO WE ARE

The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (the Registrar) is an independent statutory office holder appointed by the Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs.

The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) supports the Registrar to regulate and deliver services to corporations registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act).

THE CATSI ACT

The CATSI Act is the set of laws that establishes the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to form corporations.

The CATSI Act delivers modern corporate governance standards but still provides special measures to suit the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. An example of this is the requirement for the majority of directors and members to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This means corporations will always be owned and controlled by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Registrar provides a range of services, including extensive training and public education to support corporations. The CATSI Act sets out what services and functions the Registrar provides, as well as what powers the Registrar has to enforce this law.



OUR VISION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations are important in communities and Australian society. In recognition of this, ORIC will continue to increase public confidence in the standards of corporate governance and viability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

*Strong corporations,
strong people,
strong communities*

OUR AIMS

We aim to:

- administer the CATSI Act and related legislation efficiently and effectively and in a way that eases the burden on corporations
- help corporations to operate in an effective, efficient, sustainable and accountable manner
- provide certainty:
 - for the members, officers and employees of corporations in their dealings with the corporation and each other
 - for people outside corporations in their dealings with those corporations
- take Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradition and circumstances into consideration
- ensure that public information about corporations is available on our public register
- identify corporate wrongdoing and take appropriate action.

OUR VALUES

Independence—the Registrar is independent.

Professionalism—we behave ethically and honestly and uphold confidentiality. We focus on results, work productively and constantly build our expertise.

Respect—we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first Australians and respect their cultures, traditions, views and ways of life. We are continually developing our understanding about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Commitment—we are committed to delivering high quality products and services that help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people build self-determination and achieve results.

Accountability—we take responsibility for every decision that is central to our own good governance.

Innovation—we value what works, are receptive to fresh ideas and constantly look to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

HOW WE WORK

Building sustainability—encouraging corporations to adopt good practices in management and governance to make the most of their resources and help them achieve their purpose.

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ownership and control—recognising the benefits of community control in community development.

Promoting accountability—supporting corporations to deliver good governance and when appropriate taking action to address wrongdoing.

Managing conflict and disputes—helping corporations to resolve conflicts and develop effective conflict resolution processes to deal with future challenges.

Fitting with culture—making sure that incorporation models, processes and support services fit within the specific culture of the community and locality, and that any dealings with corporations are relevant within that context.

Shaping our services—tailoring our information and services to the needs of our clients and making sure that they are easy to access and use.

Building capability—equipping corporations, their directors and members with the necessary skills and knowledge to help build the sustainability of corporations and enable them to take control of their continued economic growth and development.

OUR BUSINESS

ORIC supports and regulates corporations according to the CATSI Act and the statement of expectations issued by the Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs.

REGISTERING CORPORATIONS

We:

- promote registration under the CATSI Act
- maintain the public Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations
- provide information and advice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups wanting to incorporate
- help corporations design their own rules to support good governance.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

We:

- provide corporate governance training
- compile and distribute information, publications and resources on good corporate governance
- share information and good news stories, and promote best practice
- provide analysis of matters affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.



RESOLVING DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS

We help to:

- resolve governance difficulties, disputes and complaints.

POLICY

We contribute:

- to policy development and best practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporate governance.

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

We:

- identify and respond to the needs of corporations with a range of support services, such as our pro bono legal service, LawHelp, Independent *directory* and ORIC recruitment assistance (ORA).
- explore opportunities and new services to support the good governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

REGULATING CORPORATIONS

We are an active regulator, we:

- ensure that corporations follow the law
- assess the governance standards of corporations and take remedial action where necessary
- investigate poor conduct and take necessary action against illegal activity
- intervene when appropriate.

OUR PRIORITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations are important in communities and Australian society. In recognition of this, we will continue to increase public confidence in the standards of corporate governance and viability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations by:

- administering the CATSI Act in an effective and efficient manner
- building the capacity and self-reliance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations, people and communities
- providing staff in regional locations to strengthen our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- working with the Australian Government to achieve meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- providing policy advice to government
- identifying new activities and flexible ways of working that complement ORIC's existing functions
- continually review the way we work to reduce the regulatory burden on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- focusing regulatory activities on early identification of issues, early intervention, and prompt and fair resolution
- identify corporate wrongdoing and take appropriate action.

OUR REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We make information available about the Registrar, our activities and performance to clients and stakeholders through:

- the Registrar's yearbook, ORIC website, *ORIC Oracle* newsletter and other publications
- regular media releases on key activities
- submissions to, and appearances before, parliamentary inquiries and committees.



HOW DO I CONTACT ORIC?

If you have any inquiries, need information or advice, or wish to make a complaint you can contact ORIC on:

Freecall: 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles)

Email: info@oric.gov.au

Website: www.oric.gov.au

Address: PO Box 29
WODEN ACT 2606

