Australian Government
Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

State of the sector January to June 2025

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations

As at 30 June 2025 there were 3,284 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations[1] registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act), including 284 registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs) and 1,312 corporations that are also registered charities.

The size and location of those 3,284 corporations are set out in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Size of corporations as at 30 June 2025

Size	Number of corporations
Small	2,252
Medium	767
Large	265

Table 2: Location of corporations as at 30 June 2025

State/territory	Number of corporations
Australian Capital Territory	35
New South Wales	669
Northern Territory	652
Queensland	841
South Australia	140
Tasmania	24
Victoria	126
Western Australia	797

Between January and June 2025, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) registered 66 new corporations, of which one corporation was transferring in from another incorporation statute.

Over the same period, ORIC deregistered 311 corporations, of which:

- 294 were deregistered as part of a bulk deregistration project targeted at corporations that had not lodged their reports for 2 years, had not been in contact with ORIC, and which ORIC believed were no longer operating
- one transferred to another incorporation statute
- 9 voluntarily deregistered
- 6 were deregistered at the Registrar's initiative (in addition to those corporations that were deregistered in the bulk exercise)
- one was deregistered following notice by a liquidator.

As at 30 June 2025, the largest corporation based on members had 6,701 members and there were 172 corporations with one member.[2] The average was 74 members.

Table 3 sets out the sectors that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations have identified they operate in.

Table 3: Operating sectors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations

Sector	Number of corporations
Community services	1,095
Education and training	879
Health care and health promotion	665
Heritage and Culture	650
Land and waters management – care for Country	607
Other services	525
Employment	491
Other	465
Arts	454
Housing and tenancy	300
Agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, fishing	293
Hospitality and tourism	278
Wholesale and retail trade	176
Communication services	152
Municipal services	124
Construction	102
Spiritual congregation and religion	102
Manufacturing	85
Transport and storage	72
Mining and mining support services	63

1 An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation is a corporation registered under the CATSI Act (section 16-5).

2 The CATSI Act says that corporations must have 5 or members unless they have an exemption.

Corporation boards

Corporations registered under the CATSI Act must meet the Indigeneity requirements set out in the Act. This ensures that they are at all times Indigenous member controlled. If corporations allow non-Indigenous members and directors, this must be set out in the corporation's rule book. If Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations allow non-member directors, this must also be set out in the corporation's rule book.

As at 30 June 2025, there were 17,636 directors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations, of which 16,751 were member directors and 885 were independent or non-member directors. A breakdown is provided below in table 4.

Table 4: Indigeneity of directors

	Member	Independent/ non-member
Indigenous	16,291 (97%)	681 (77%)
Non-Indigenous	460 (3%)	204 (23%)

Note: Director figures do not include alternate directors.

As at 30 June 2025, the largest board of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation had 21 directors. The average size of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation boards was 5 directors.[3]

Of the 24,370 member directors, 7,845 had director identification numbers (or 32.2%).

3 The CATSI Act says that a corporation with one member must have one director; a corporation with 2 members must have at least 2 directors; and a corporation with more than 2 members must have at least 3 directors.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation reporting

Corporations are required to lodge annual reports, which are determined by their size and income for the year.

Small corporations with an income of less than $100,000 are required to lodge a general report.

Small and medium corporations with income between $100,000 and less than $5 million are required to lodge general, financial and auditor's reports.

Large corporations or any corporation with income of more than $5 million are required to lodge general, financial, auditor's and directors' reports.

Corporations must lodge their reports within 6 months of the end of the financial year. For most corporations this is 31 December, although some corporations have an exemption to have calendar year reporting. Those corporations must lodge by 30 June.

Corporations can also seek an exemption from reporting for a year or more, or an extension for lodging their reports.

Reporting compliance for corporations required to report in 2023–24 as at 30 June 2025 is provided below in Table 5.

Table 5: Corporation reporting compliance 2023–24

	2023–24 reports	
	All required reports lodged	Have not lodged all required reports
Large	213 (89%)	27 (11%)
Medium	471 (68%)	219 (32%)
Small	948 (47%)	1061 (53%)
Total	**1632 (56%)**	**1307 (44%)**

Reports of concern

From 1 January to 30 June 2025, ORIC received 319 reports of concern as set out in table 6.

Table 6: Types of reports of concern received from 1 January to 30 June 2025

Nature of report	No. of reports received		
	Corporations	RNTBCs	Total
Corporation directors and officers	58	44	102
Other	42	22	64
General meetings	22	14	36
Allegation	15	10	25
Out of scope	12	8	20
Membership	11	8	19
Dispute	16	2	18
Native title	3	5	8
Decision review	7	0	7
Directors' meeting	5	1	6
Regulation activities	2	2	4
Record keeping and corporation books	3	0	3
Public register inaccuracy	3	0	3
Annual return	1	1	2
Rule book	0	1	1
Extreme risk rating	1	0	1
Total	**201**	**118**	**319**