



Registrar's word

Our reform work has continued over the last 12 months with the delivery of some significant pieces of work that were months or longer in development. You will see in this report several pieces of work aimed at striking a balance between the volume of corporation information we make publicly available and the privacy expectations of corporations and individuals regarding their information.

Building trust and confidence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporate sector is an important aspect of my role. To this end, I make key registration, administration and regulatory information available on a public Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations accessible from oric.gov.au.

Over recent months I have reviewed my approach to the management and release of data with the aim of balancing transparency and accountability with corporations' expectations of how their data is used. Corporations provide data for a specific purpose, not necessarily with the expectation that it will be used for other purposes.

I recognise the broader public interest in corporations registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) and, along with other Australian Government agencies, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) makes data available on the public register and on data.gov.au.

My office has information sharing arrangements with key stakeholders. Data is only shared in limited circumstances, where data exchange agreements have been entered into and only to facilitate my functions under the CATSI Act.

Over recent months we have continued to build on the material we make available to corporations to assist them to meet their obligations under the CATSI Act. We complement this work by increasing our investment in ORIC's new corporation portal, myCorp, and our IT system. myCorp has been designed to make it easier and quicker for corporations to lodge reports and forms and keep their information up to date. To this end, I strongly encourage corporations to use myCorp if they aren't already. There are a number of videos on ORIC's website about how to use myCorp and my office is always happy to assist if people need any help.

Implementing new systems and digital support

ORIC's new IT system and myCorp portal were released on 31 March 2025 and the functionality continues to be expanded. The latest release of myCorp included a new form to be used when directors are seeking permission from the Registrar to deny a members' request for a general meeting.¹ The purpose of the form is to help directors submit a request to the Registrar that meets the requirements of the CATSI Act. It is also aimed at helping directors assess whether the request made by members meets the requirements of the CATSI Act – this is a responsibility of directors as ORIC has no power to do this under the CATSI Act. The new form is accompanied by a guided workflow in the IT system to assist ORIC staff with processing.

¹ Under the CATSI Act, members can request directors call a general meeting if certain criteria are met. In turn, directors can seek permission from the Registrar to deny the request if they believe the request is frivolous or unreasonable or not in the best interests of members as a whole.

Improved support for corporations to lodge their general reports

Corporations are required to complete a general report within 6 months of the end of their financial year unless they have an exemption. General reports are a key transparency mechanism for members and other stakeholders. In October 2025 ORIC released a new *Guide to completing the general report*. The guide provides a detailed explanation of the fields in the general report and is expected to help corporations report accurately.

The general report functionality in ORIC's new IT system and myCorp portal is also aimed at helping corporations lodge accurate and complete general reports by prepopulating general reports with corporation information. Corporations then input their financial information into the report. This enhancement should make it quicker and easier for corporations to lodge their general reports. We expect another benefit of prepopulating general reports is that corporations keep their information up to date with ORIC so that their reports contain the right information.



Information provided to ORIC in forms and reports is corporation information. Corporations are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of their information.

Release information materials

In September 2025 we released our Data Sharing Policy. The policy sets out ORIC's position to make data available on the public Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations and data.gov.au. The policy further states that ORIC will generally not provide data to a third party outside these arrangements.

This policy was introduced in recognition of corporations' expectations about the release and use of their data as well as the diversion of ORIC resources required to produce data sets.

ORIC also released a position statement about how we treat information provided to the Registrar voluntarily. The CATSI Act has provisions that require the Registrar to take all reasonable measures to safeguard protected information from misuse or disclosure. The position statement says that information provided to ORIC in connection with the performance of a function or exercise of a power of the Registrar will be treated as protected information. This can include information provided to the Registrar

by a corporation registered under the CATSI Act, an individual, or another entity.

To complement ORIC's 3 performance reports, we will also be releasing 2 state of the sector reports each year. The first state of the sector report was released in October 2025 and provides a snapshot of corporations registered under the CATSI Act.

Revised examination and special administration materials

From July 2025, officers undertaking an examination of a corporation were provided with a testing guide, in lieu of terms of reference. The change is aimed at improving the consistency of work undertaken by examiners and increasing the focus on the solvency and financial viability of corporations as well as broader corporate structures.

Similarly, we revised our examination outcome letter to better reflect their positive nature – the letters are used for findings that a corporation is generally doing well with very minor areas for improvement.

We also revised our examination compliance notices to focus more on the breaches and irregularities that can be rectified, and which ORIC will monitor.

We considered introducing standard terms of reference for special administrators appointed to corporations experiencing financial and/or governance difficulties. Preliminary work on this included consultation with 2 experienced special administrators. ORIC decided not to proceed with introducing terms of references, recognising the independent nature of special administrators.

We formed the view that standard or prescriptive terms of reference had the potential to reduce the independence of the special administrators and was not in the best interests of corporation members. It is important that members of a corporation in special administration can trust that the special administrator will act independently, just as a board of directors would.

ORIC's investigations function

In ORIC's November 2024 report, we flagged the introduction of a new investigation case management system. This was expected to be released in November 2024, with full integration by December 2024. Due to unexpected delays, the system was released in July 2025. The investigation system incorporates a triage tool to help ORIC focus on priority matters.

Working with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

ORIC has been strengthening its relationship with the ACNC, across individual teams and with the office as a whole. The ACNC and ORIC have been working together to improve understanding of our respective roles, as well as to find ways to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander charities. ORIC's engagement with the ACNC has included:

- discussing a joint approach to proposed accounting standard and service performance reporting
- undertaking joint ACNC and ORIC training on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander charities
- Registrar presentation to ACNC staff on ORIC's role
- ACNC presentation to ORIC staff on its role
- consultation regarding ORIC's director ID project
- consultation on our new model rule book, which is due for release soon.

The Registrar also presented with the Commissioner of the ACNC, Ms Sue Woodward AM, at an ACNC-convened 'meet the regulator' forum for charities in Alice Springs.