



Ardyaloon community, Western Australia. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.



Other initiatives

Research

The top 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations

The second top 500 report was published in December 2011 and provided an analysis of the top 500 corporations registered under the CATSI Act. Corporations were ranked according to their income for 2008–09.

The report highlighted growth in the total income generated by the top 500, up \$101 million from 2007–08 to \$1.18 billion in 2008–09. The top 500 corporations also held a total of \$1.22 billion in assets.

The 2008–09 report included a case study of one of the top 500 corporations. The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) provides community stores to communities in Arnhem land. ALPA is Aboriginal-owned and controlled.

ALPA was registered as a Northern Territory association, but transferred to the CATSI Act in 2008. To support the transition, the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and ORIC staff worked with ALPA to develop a rule book for the corporation and its members.

The Top 500 report can be downloaded from the ORIC website at www.oric.gov.au.

The practice of accountability in Australian Indigenous corporations

In partnership with the Australian National University (ANU), ORIC was awarded an Australian Research Council linkage project over a period of three years. ORIC will contribute a total of \$90 000 over the three years as well as in-kind support.

The main objective of this project is to evaluate how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations can improve their accountability to government and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities they represent.

The research for the project is conducted by a post-doctoral fellow and a PhD scholar from the ANU. They have just completed the first year of research, collecting data directly from their meetings with corporations as well as by extracting information contained in ORIC's databases. This information will be analysed during the second year of the project (2011–12).

Corporate governance event

The 2010 Indigenous corporate governance event was held at the Alice Springs Desert Park on Thursday, 28 October. The day's activities included a trade fair, a seminar by the Arts Law Centre of Australia on a new intellectual property rights toolkit, and a discussion forum. It was the second event of its kind hosted by ORIC and an opportunity to bring together a wide range of people to discuss some of the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

The discussion forum—the main feature of the day—included topics, such as the competing demands on corporation directors, how to engage young people in governing roles, and overcoming barriers of language, culture and remoteness. The facilitator, journalist Kerry-Anne Walsh, directed many of the toughest questions to a panel and ORIC staff.



Above: Walter Dorrington and Caroline Joske staff ORIC's table at the trade fair.

Below: Drum Atweme, a local drumming group performed at the ORIC corporate governance event.



Spotlight on

Every month ORIC features a good news story on its website about a CATSI Act corporation. ORIC encourages corporations to share their special projects, awards or any interesting story.



July 2010: Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Aboriginal Corporation



August 2010: Geraldton Yamatji Patrol Aboriginal Corporation



November 2010: Tjanpi Desert Weavers



December 2010: Mari Yerta Men's and Young Men's Aboriginal Corporation



March 2011: Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation



April 2011: Ngurra Bu Aboriginal Corporation



September 2010: Gurriny Yealamucka (Good Healing) Health Services Aboriginal Corporation



October 2010: Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation



January 2011: ORIC's partnership with the Australian National University



February 2011: Deadly Sista Girlz Aboriginal Corporation



May 2011: Bumma Bipperra Media Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation



June 2011: Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation