



Australian Government

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

YEARBOOK ⁰⁷/₀₈



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

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Cover image: Aboriginal holding flower fruit and seeds of arrowroot in palm (*Tacca leontopetaloides*). Arnhemland, Northern Territory, Australia. © Penny Tweedie.

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About this report

Current legislation does not require the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) to provide an annual report. ORIC finds it appropriate and desirable to publish a yearbook as an aid to those interested in our work.

The yearbook provides strategic information about ORIC, including its achievements, challenges and organisational structure. It details who we are, what we do and how we do it.

The functions of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations as prescribed by the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) underpin the performance of ORIC.

FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRAR

The Registrar has the following functions:

- to **administer** the Act
- to maintain such **registers** as the Registrar thinks appropriate
- to make available to the **public information** about the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and the administration of the Act
- to provide **advice** to persons about:
 - the registration of a particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation
 - the rules governing the internal management of the corporation
 - the operation of the corporation
- to conduct public **education** programs on the operation of the Act on the governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- to assist with the **resolution of disputes**:
 - internal to the operation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation or
 - involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- to assist with **complaints** under the Act:
 - about the internal operation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation or
 - involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- to conduct **research** in relation to matters affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- to develop **policy proposals** about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

ORIC at a glance



VISION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people building strong communities and people through strong corporations.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- administer the CATSI Act
 - make sure Indigenous corporations registered under the CATSI Act follow the law
 - advise Indigenous groups on how to become corporations
 - help corporations create and adopt their own rule book according to their own needs and culture
 - offer support, advice and training to help corporations do the best job for their communities
 - keep public registers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations under the CATSI Act.
- 

STAFF

Employed 65 people—including 11 Indigenous staff.

GOVERNANCE

The CATSI Act creates the position of Registrar of Indigenous Corporations—an independent statutory office holder appointed by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. In 2007–08 the Registrar was supported by two Deputy Registrars.

Highlights

- improved the overall reputation and credibility of Indigenous corporations by increasing the level of reporting compliance
- 59 per cent compliance rate with reporting, exceeding the anticipated rate of 55 per cent and the previous highest level of compliance
- delivered 200 days of training to build the capacity of Indigenous corporations by providing education and assistance
- 60 formal examinations of Indigenous corporations to assess the governance of the corporations
- up to 20 corporations under special administration managed by ORIC
- completed a four-year project to upgrade ORIC's document registration and information systems which has reduced average processing times from 60 days to 3.5 days
- completed our first Reconciliation Action Plan
- increased our Indigenous employment from 10 to 17 per cent
- completed an organisational review and restructure of ORIC
- a new way of working with out-posted staff
- completed the rebranding of the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations.



ORIC staff—Trish Mu, Katherine Oldfield and Patrick Chapman.



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