



Overview

HIGHLIGHTS 2012–13

Regulatory functions

- ⊙ 2122 (95.5 per cent) corporations met their statutory reporting obligations this year—consistent with recent years
- ⊙ 46 per cent of corporations lodged their annual returns electronically, up from 42 per cent in the previous year
- ⊙ 52 disputes resolved, down from 102 in the previous year—a significant decrease
- ⊙ 155 new corporations registered
- ⊙ six special administrations started and nine ended
- ⊙ 51 formal examinations completed
- ⊙ decrease in show cause and compliance notices
- ⊙ major achievements in investigations, litigation and prosecutions

Support services

- ⊙ published *Remuneration—a report benchmarking the salaries of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations*—on remuneration and other benefits paid to directors, senior managers and other staff
- ⊙ released the fourth top 500 report—based on income provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations as part of their annual reporting
- ⊙ issued 35 media releases
- ⊙ delivered training to 897 participants from 198 corporations with a satisfaction rating of 92.5 per cent
- ⊙ 37.7 per cent of ORIC staff identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Other initiatives

- ⊙ ORIC's pro bono legal service panel, LawHelp received 16 applications and successfully referred 14 matters
- ⊙ ran the third ORIC client survey to assess where ORIC can improve its service delivery



Registrar's reflections

YEAR AHEAD

Key priorities 2013–14

Some of the key priorities identified for 2013–14 include:

- ⊙ working with funding bodies to strengthen the governance of organisations receiving significant funds for the delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and/or programs—mandating incorporation under Commonwealth legislation and independent specialist directors
- ⊙ supporting improvements to the management of native title and royalty payments
- ⊙ continuing to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations through high-quality education and training programs
- ⊙ regulating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations effectively and monitoring their compliance under the *Corporation (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act)
- ⊙ focusing investigation activity on early identification and timely follow-up of poor conduct so that the appropriate action can be taken when serious misconduct or non-compliance is identified
- ⊙ enhancing the Registrar's regional network to focus more closely on local service delivery and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year turned out to be one of sustained excellence with most of our longer term goals achieved and with compliance, reporting and training results exceeding expectations.

This yearbook is therefore not only a reflection on our successes but also those of our corporations.

The many good news stories are not only reflected in our monthly Spotlight ons (p. 46), but in every single statistic revealed in the ensuing pages.

All operational areas in ORIC have worked hard to achieve excellent outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations. And the good governance practices displayed by so many of our corporations is encouraging.

On the litigation front, several of our highly successful court cases have shown that those doing the wrong thing will be held accountable.

With a change of government comes new challenges. It also creates an added impetus to reflect on how we've been doing things and how we can do them better.

This process was already started in August 2012 with an internal organisational review, and will continue as we focus on delivering the best services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

Reducing Indigenous disadvantage

During 2013–14 we will continue to contribute to key work in reducing Indigenous disadvantage by:

- ⊙ working with funding bodies to achieve meaningful outcomes for significantly funded and at-risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- ⊙ implementing recommendation 9 of the sixth report of the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services (coordinating Commonwealth governance training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations)
- ⊙ delivering corporate governance training as part of the Australian Government's Enhancing Communities Leadership and Training Program, and Remote Service Delivery Program
- ⊙ providing assistance to 58 organisations transitioning out of Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) through the CDEP Structural Adjustment Support Program
- ⊙ helping to strengthen the corporate governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations, including assisting significantly funded organisations to register under the CATSI Act and appoint independent directors
- ⊙ contributing to the Australian Government's Business Integrity Project on the early identification and effective management of service provider risk
- ⊙ continuing our cultural competency program and investing in relevant training of staff through performance management processes.

Key challenges and risks

When working to improve conditions for a vulnerable segment of our community, there are challenges and risks. For ORIC some of these include:

- ⊙ managing changes in government policy for the regulation and governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and the Registrar's operations
- ⊙ operating with decreased financial and human resources which may place increased pressure on our ability to deliver key functions and services
- ⊙ managing the office transition to a new structure of fewer staff in Canberra and more staff in regional centres
- ⊙ maintaining current rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff (currently at 37.7 per cent)
- ⊙ working with the regulator of charities to reduce reporting and regulatory requirements for CATSI Act corporations registered as charities
- ⊙ managing requirements to replace or enhance key IT systems.

LAST WORD

Our ability to achieve increased productivity and efficiencies with reduced resources is evidence of the level of commitment of ORIC staff. A recent Australian Public Service Commission survey revealed that the majority of ORIC staff value the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is the driving force for the office. This makes the job worthwhile—to create strong corporations, strong people and strong communities.

Anthony Beven
November 2013

Senior management

The Registrar and senior management as at 30 June 2013



Anthony Beven
REGISTRAR



Joe Mastrolembro
DEPUTY REGISTRAR



Michael Cullen
GENERAL COUNSEL



Catherine Turtle
SECTION MANAGER
Training Section



Peter Armstrong
SECTION MANAGER
Regulation Section



Lisa Hugg

SECTION MANAGER

Communications and Research Section
(job share)



Christa de Jager

A/g SECTION MANAGER

Communications and Research Section
(job share)



Graeme Pert

SECTION MANAGER

Investigations and Prosecutions Section



Gerrit Wanganeen

CHANGE MANAGER

ORIC staff

The Registrar's work was carried out by 45.72 full-time equivalent staff as at 30 June 2013. There were 30 female and 23 male staff members. Twenty staff (37.7 per cent) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander—an increase of 1.7 per cent from 30 June 2012.



ORIC staff after crossing the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge for the 2013 National Sorry Day



ORIC staff member Masepah Banu with his 2013 ACT and Region Indigenous High Achiever Award

The organisational structure



*as at 30 June 2013