

Our clients

Performance of Indigenous corporations

Profile of corporations incorporated with ORAC

At the end of 2004–05, 2585 corporations were registered under the ACA Act. This is a targeted reduction of nearly 5 per cent reflecting a new emphasis on responsible and necessary incorporation. After rapid growth in Indigenous corporations under the ACA Act in the early 1990s, the number of incorporations annually remained steady for some years and has now started to decline (see Figure 4). It is estimated that at least as many Indigenous corporations are incorporated under other legislation. However, some corporations incorporated under other legislation are interested in transferring to ORAC when the new CATSI Bill commences to gain the benefits of ORAC's support and preventative work.

Corporations vary in size, from unfunded groups through to organisations with millions of dollars of income and assets (see Map 1 and Attachment 12 for 25 Indigenous corporations with highest known income). Corporate functions are diverse, from providing services such as health care and power supply to simply holding land, and many corporations are multifunctional.

Figure 4: Registered and new corporations, by year, 1987–88 to 2004–05

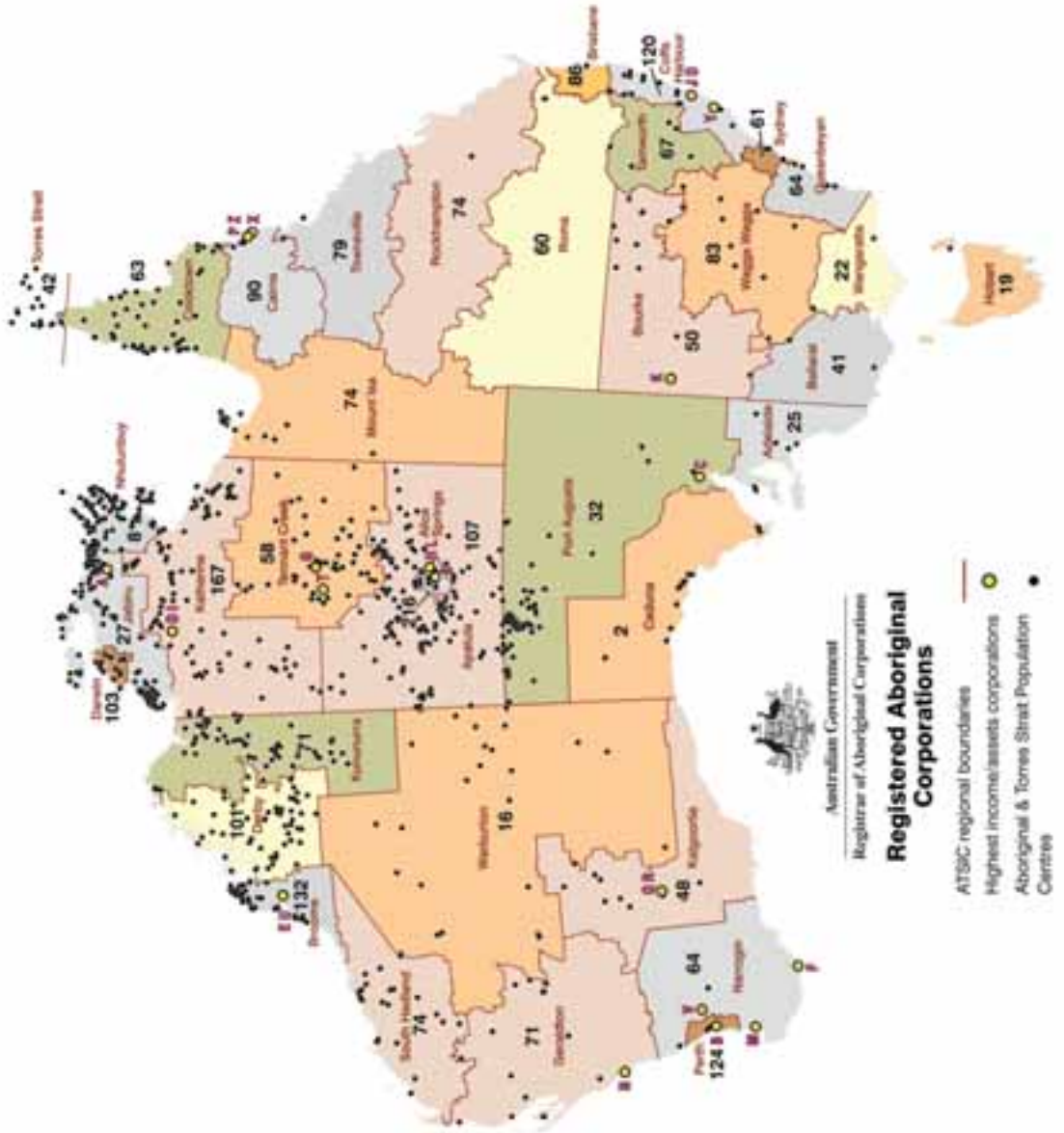


Note: The number of registered corporations is the total number of corporations registered less the total number deregistered.

Most groups incorporated under the ACA Act are located in remote areas (56 per cent), as Table 1 shows (on p. 23), and are publicly funded. However, some generate substantial private income—for example, corporations linked to mining compensation or to the Indigenous arts industry. Many hold significant community assets that were funded publicly and are now held privately by the corporations.

During 2004–05 corporation numbers fell in all states and territories or remained stable, with the highest falls recorded in NSW and Queensland of 62 and 40 respectively. This was due to the deregistration program undertaken by ORAC (see page 40 and Attachment 11). Breakdowns of locations of ACA Act corporations by Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) and by ATSIC regions are shown in Tables 2 and 3, and Maps 1 and 2. (ATSIC regions ceased to exist from 1 July 2005, and ICC regions have taken their place.)

Map 1: Location of corporations by ATSC region, state/territory, with location of 25 highest income registered corporations at 30 June 2005



Map 2: Location of corporations by ICC region, state/territory

Total corporations as at 30 June 2005 = 2585
 (2540 mapped, 45 address unknown)

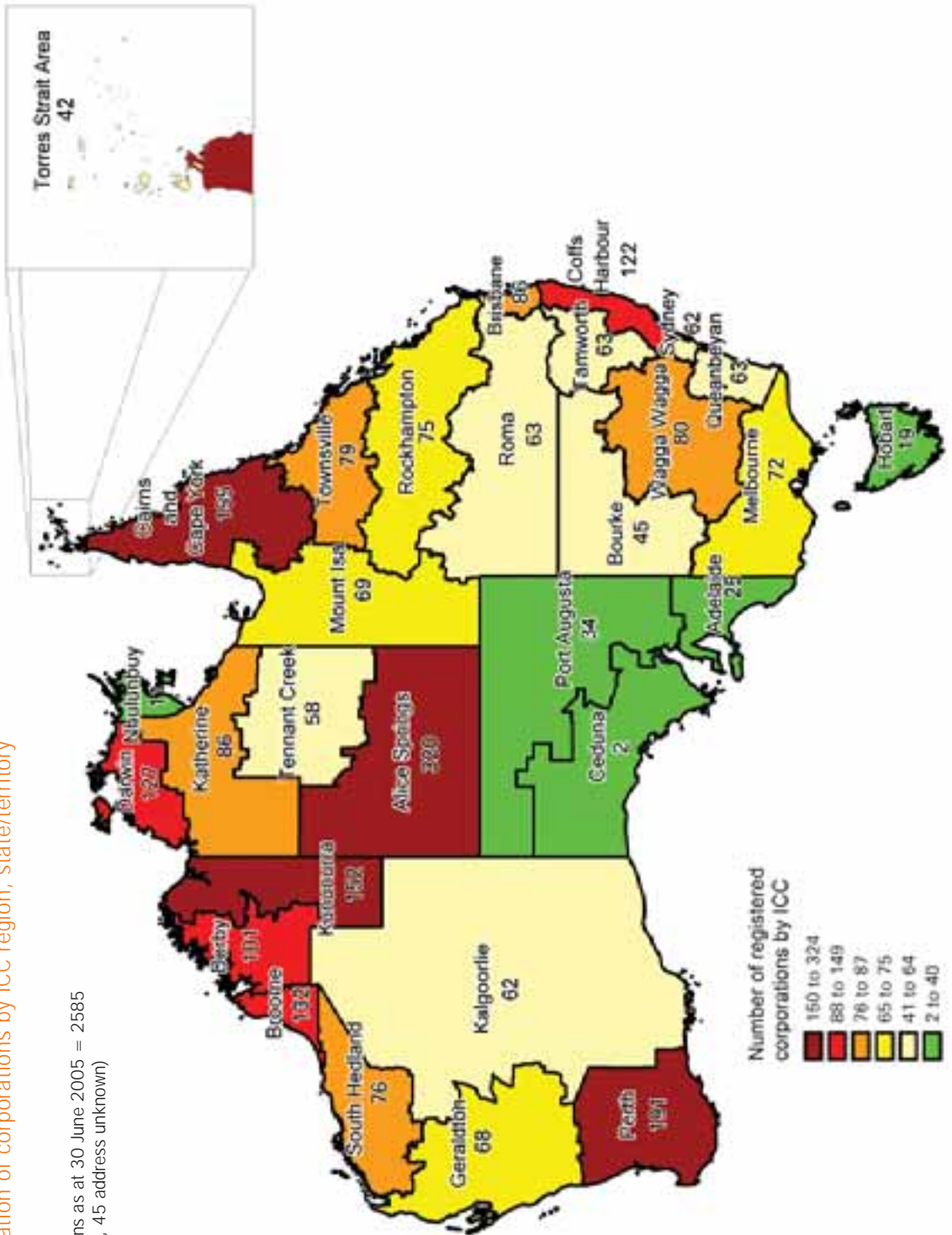
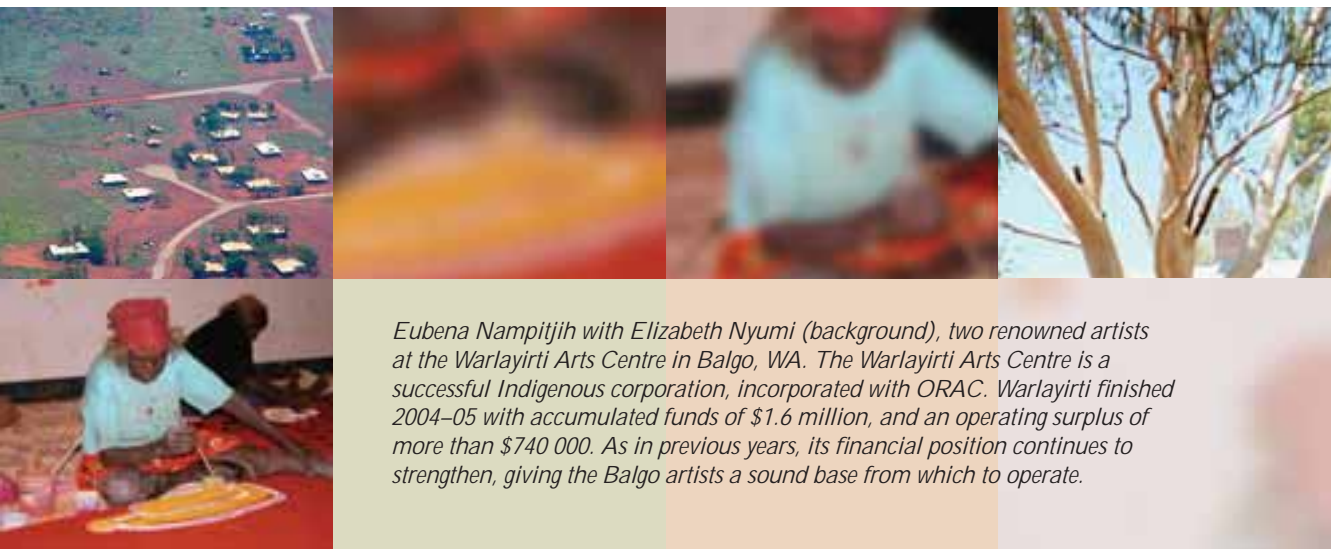


Table 1: Location of registered corporations, by remoteness and state/territory, 2004–05

State	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Unknown	Total 2004–05	Total 2003–04
ACT	19	0	0	0	0	0	19	21
NSW	73	108	166	51	17	0	415	477
NT	0	0	100	267	236	0	603	619
QLD	65	65	175	93	171	0	569	609
SA	17	4	20	4	15	0	60	61
TAS	0	13	4	1	1	0	19	21
VIC	18	25	22	8	1	0	74	74
WA	106	33	64	81	498	0	782	797
Unknown						44	44	34
Australia	298	248	551	505	939	44	2585	2713
Percentage of total	11.5%	9.6%	21.3%	19.6%	36.3%	1.7%	100%	



Eubena Nampitjih with Elizabeth Nyumi (background), two renowned artists at the Warlayirti Arts Centre in Balgo, WA. The Warlayirti Arts Centre is a successful Indigenous corporation, incorporated with ORAC. Warlayirti finished 2004–05 with accumulated funds of \$1.6 million, and an operating surplus of more than \$740 000. As in previous years, its financial position continues to strengthen, giving the Balgo artists a sound base from which to operate.

Table 2: Location of registered corporations by ICC regions at 30 June 2005

ICC region	Corporation numbers	% Total
Alice Springs	320	12.38%
Binaal Billa (Wagga Wagga)	80	3.09%
Cairns and District	107	4.14%
Cape Yorke	48	1.86%
Central Queensland (Rockhampton)	75	2.90%
Garrak-Jarru (Katherine)	86	3.33%
Goolburri (Roma)	63	2.44%
Gulf and West Queensland (Mount Isa)	69	2.67%
Kamilaroi (Tamworth)	63	2.44%
Kullari (Broome)	132	5.11%
Malarabah (Derby)	101	3.91%
Many Rivers (Coffs Harbour)	122	4.72%
Melbourne	72	2.79%
Miwatj (Nhulunbuy)	11	0.43%
Murdi Paaki (Bourke)	45	1.74%
Noongar (Perth)	191	7.39%
Nrarda-Ngarli-Yarndu (South Hedland)	76	2.94%
Nulla Wimila Kutja (Port Augusta)	34	1.32%
Patpa Warra Yunti (Adelaide)	25	0.97%
Queanbeyan	63	2.44%
South East Queensland Indigenous Council (Brisbane)	86	3.33%
Sydney	62	2.40%
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Council (Hobart)	19	0.74%
Torres Strait Regional Authority	42	1.62%
Townsville	79	3.06%
Wangka Wilurrara (Ceduna)	2	0.08%
Wongatha (Kalgoorlie)	62	2.40%
Wunan (Kununurra)	152	5.88%
Yamatji (Geraldton)	68	2.63%
Yapakurlangu (Tennant Creek)	58	2.24%
Yilli Rreung (Darwin)	127	4.91%
Unknown	45	1.74%
Total	2585	100.00%

Table 3: Location of registered corporations by ATSC regions at 30 June 2005

ATSC region	Corporation numbers			% of total	Variation number	Variation %
	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05		2003–04/ 2004–05	2003–04/ 2004–05
Alice Springs	220	224	216	8.35%	-8	-3.57
Binaal Billa (Wagga Wagga)	77	86	83	3.21%	-3	-3.49
Binjirru (Wangaratta)	21	25	22	0.85%	-3	-12.00
Cairns and District	96	91	90	3.48%	-1	-1.10
Central Queensland (Rockhampton)	85	74	74	2.86%	0	0.00
Central Remote Regional Council (Apatula)	111	106	107	4.14%	1	0.94
Garrak-Jarru (Katherine)	98	93	167	6.46%	74	79.57
Goolburri (Roma)	79	66	60	2.32%	-6	-9.09
Gulf and West Queensland (Mount Isa)	76	77	74	2.86%	-3	-3.90
Jabiru	35	34	27	1.04%	-7	-20.59
Kamilaroi (Tamworth)	72	75	67	2.59%	-8	-10.67
Kullari (Broome)	130	129	132	5.11%	3	2.33
Malarabah (Derby)	108	106	101	3.91%	-5	-4.72
Many Rivers (Coffs Harbour)	122	133	120	4.64%	-13	-9.77
Miwatj (Nhulunbuy)	13	9	8	0.31%	-1	-11.11
Murdi Paaki (Bourke)	47	48	50	1.93%	2	4.17
Noongar (Perth)	92	85	74	2.86%	-11	-12.94
Noongar Country (Narrogin)	140	126	124	4.79%	-2	-1.59
Nrarda-Ngarli-Yarndu (South Hedland)	76	65	64	2.48%	-1	-1.54
Nulla Wimila Kutja (Port Augusta)	34	33	32	1.24%	-1	-3.03
Patpa Warra Yunti (Adelaide)	23	25	25	0.97%	0	0.00
Peninsula (Cooktown)	72	66	63	2.44%	-3	-4.55
Queanbeyan	76	79	64	2.48%	-15	-18.99
South East Queensland Indigenous Council (Brisbane)	102	96	86	3.33%	-10	-10.42
Sydney	77	77	61	2.36%	-16	-20.78
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Council (Hobart)	21	21	19	0.74%	-2	-9.52
Torres Strait Regional Authority	45	46	42	1.62%	-4	-8.70

ATSIC region	Corporation numbers			% of total	Variation number	Variation %
	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05		2003–04/ 2004–05	2003–04/ 2004–05
Townsville	108	93	79	3.06%	-14	-15.05
Tumbukka (Ballarat)	46	50	41	1.59%	-9	-18.00
Wangka Wilurrara (Ceduna)	2	2	2	0.08%	0	0.00
Western Desert (Warburton)	15	16	16	0.62%	0	0.00
Wongatha (Kalgoorlie)	45	47	48	1.86%	1	2.13
Wunan (Kununurra)	153	146	71	2.75%	-75	-51.37
Yamatji (Geraldton)	79	74	71	2.75%	-3	-4.05
Yapakurlangu (Tennant Creek)	57	57	58	2.24%	1	1.75
Yilli Rreung (Darwin)	98	99	103	3.98%	4	4.04
Unknown	110	34	44	1.70%	10	29.41
Total	2861	2713	2585	100.00%	-128	-4.72

Note: Queanbeyan number included ACT corporations

Income of corporations

Figure 5 and Table 4 show the wealth of Indigenous corporations (where known). Those corporations with significant incomes usually also have significant assets. Analysis by ORAC indicates that most corporations under the ACA Act are small to medium in their income, assets and number of employees. However, a growing number are large in that they have substantial income (see Attachment 12). Also, a significant number have little income and substantial assets. These findings have implications for many aspects of ORAC's work, especially legislative reform and risk management.

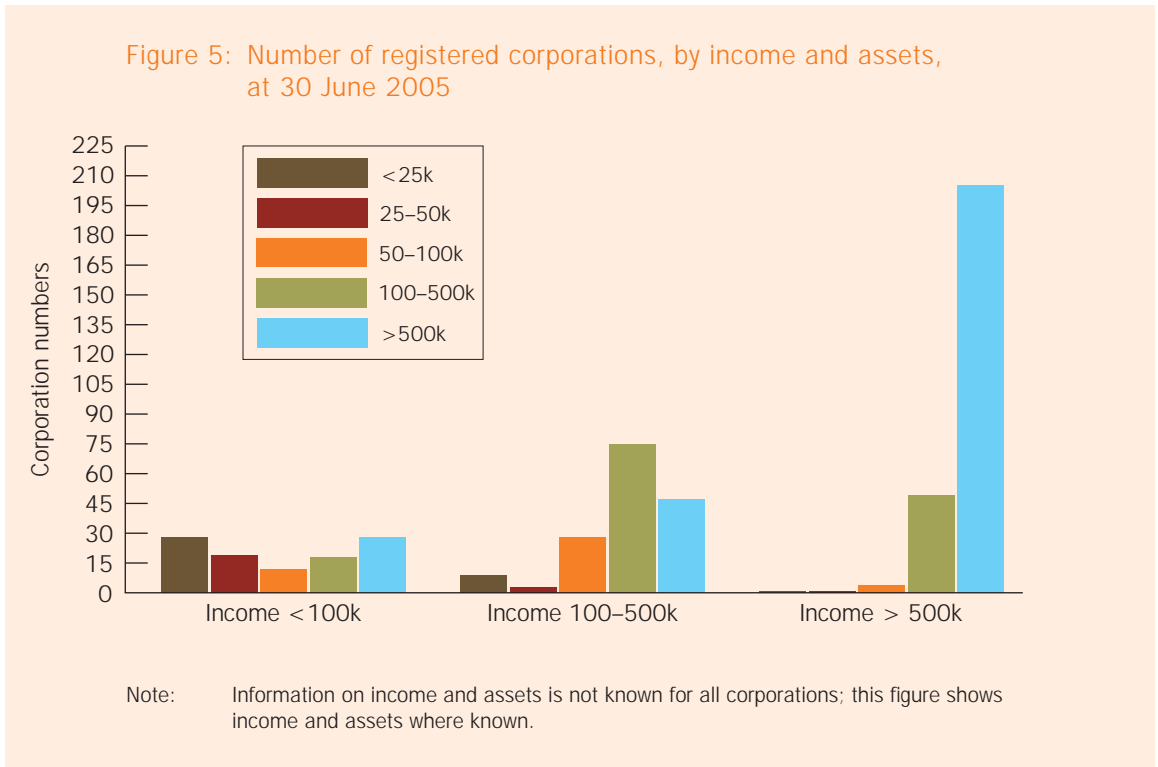


Table 4: Number of corporations by income and assets at 30 June 2005

Income and assets	<25k	25-50k	50-100k	100-500k	>500k	Total
Income < 100k	28	19	12	18	28	105
Income 100-500k	9	3	28	75	47	162
Income > 500k	1	1	4	49	205	260
Total	38	23	44	142	280	527

Funding of corporations

The major known funding bodies of corporations under the ACA Act in 2004–05 were the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the then Department of Family and Community Services, and the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) at the Department of Health and Ageing.

Table 5: Funding by major Australian Government agencies of registered corporations at 30 June 2005

	2004–05	No. of corporations
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	\$221 880 611*	105
Department of Family and Community Services	\$52 007 508	95
Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	\$104 573 471	103

*This amount is the budgeted funding by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) of registered corporations for 2004–05 rather than actual expenditure at 30 June 2005.

Other sources of public funds include a wide range of Australian Government agencies and state/territory agencies, especially in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.