



ABOUT THE YEARBOOK

Under current legislation the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (Registrar) is not required to produce an annual report. However, the Registrar thinks it appropriate and desirable to publish a yearbook as an aid to those interested in our work.

The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) provides support to the Registrar, an independent statutory office holder responsible for administering the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act). The functions of the Registrar are prescribed by the CATSI Act and form the basis of all ORIC's business.

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

FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRAR

The Registrar has the following functions:

- to **administer** the CATSI Act
- to maintain certain **registers**
- to make available to the public **information** about the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and the administration of the CATSI 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 CATSI Act and 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 CATSI Act:
 - about the internal operation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation or
 - involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- to conduct **research** on matters affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- to develop **policy proposals** about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.



ORIC AT A GLANCE

VISION

Strong corporations, strong people, strong communities

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

GOVERNANCE

The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations is an independent statutory office holder appointed by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). ORIC supports the Registrar to regulate and provide services to corporations under the CATSI Act. ORIC is part of the FaHCSIA portfolio.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main activities of ORIC are to:

- make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations registered under the CATSI Act follow the law
- advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups on how to become corporations and help them register
- help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations understand, create and adopt their own rule book according to their own needs and values
- offer support services, advice and corporate governance training to help corporations do the best job for their members and communities
- record public information about corporations
- help corporations with complaints and provide mediation and dispute resolution services
- conduct investigations into breaches of the CATSI Act.

STAFF

Employed 70 people—including 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members.



HIGHLIGHTS

In 2008–09 ORIC:

- completed a successful transition to the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) on 30 June 2009 of 99.6 per cent of corporations
- deployed a compliance campaign to help corporations complete their reporting requirements under the CATSI Act
- 72 per cent compliance rate with reporting, the highest level ever reached and an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year's compliance rate of 59 per cent
- implemented Registrar-initiated rule books for corporations without their own rule books
- delivered 207 days (204 days last year) of training to build the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations by providing education and assistance
- 81 formal examinations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations to assess the governance of the corporations—an increase on last year's 60 formal examinations
- six special administrations continued from previous years, eight new special administrations begun and 10 ended during the 2008–09 year, leaving four special administrations in progress at 30 June 2009
- refined ORIC's document registration systems and introduced online lodgment to help corporations lodge their reports on time
- introduced and reported on ORIC's first *Reconciliation action plan* (RAP)
- completed an Indigenous workforce strategy as outlined in the RAP to look at the recruitment, development and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff
- increased the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees from 11 (16 per cent) to 20 (29 per cent)
- contributed to whole-of-government policy through submissions to and appearances before parliamentary committee inquiries into matters relating to the governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- established a mediation and dispute resolution service, which has resolved 45 disputes and responded to over 240 complaints.

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