



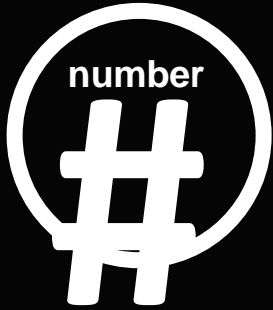
Australian Government

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

# OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF INDIGENOUS CORPORATIONS

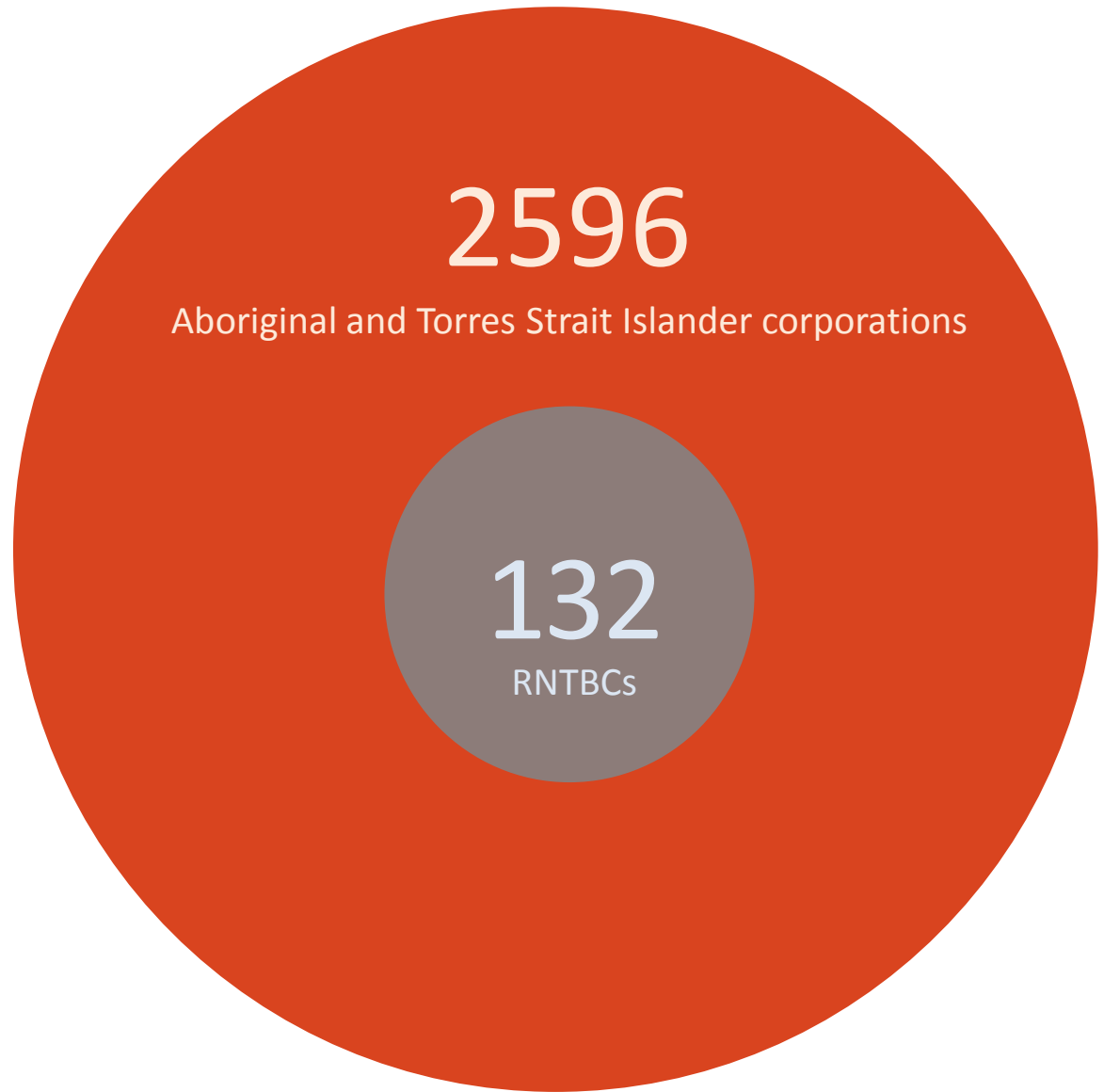
Independence in the boardroom  
Native title conference, 17 June 2015





Total number of corporations registered under the CATSI Act as at **30 June 2014**

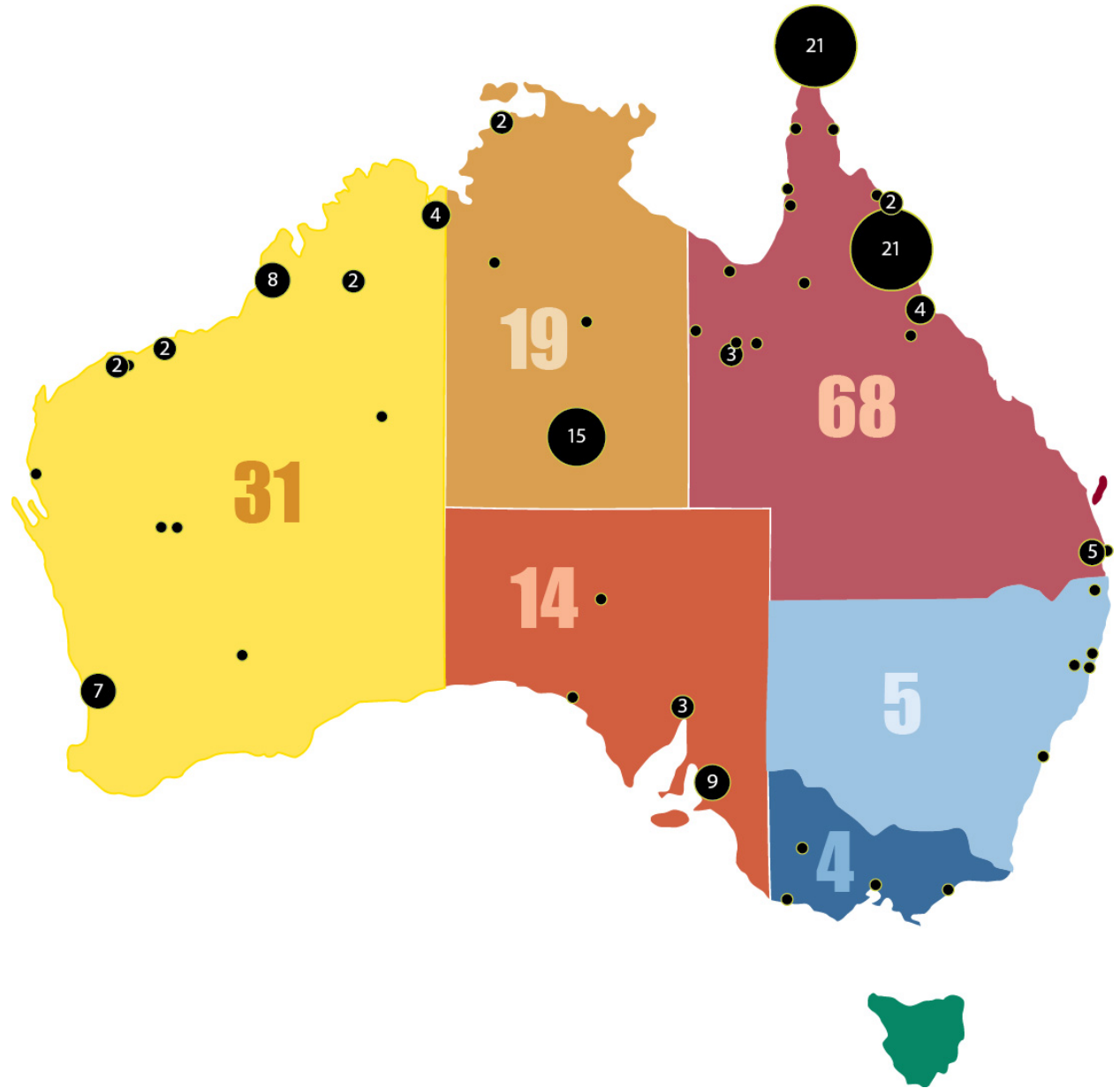
Note: As at 17 June 2015 there are 2680 registered corporations (141 are RNTBCs)





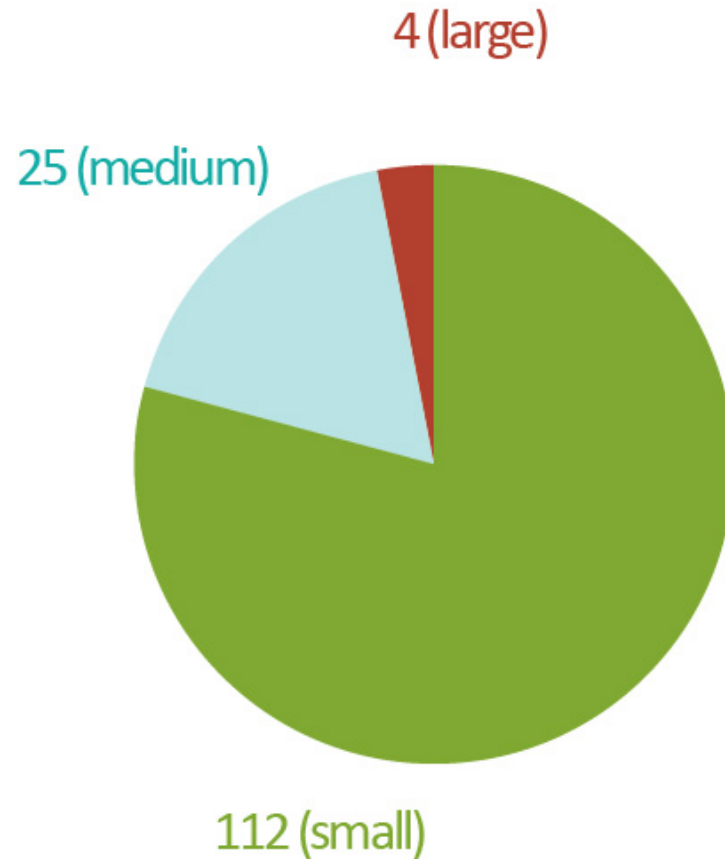
location

141 registered  
native title  
bodies  
corporate under  
the CATSI Act  
(as at 17 June  
2015)





Registered size  
of 141  
registered native  
title bodies  
corporate under  
the CATSI Act  
**(as at 17 June  
2015)**

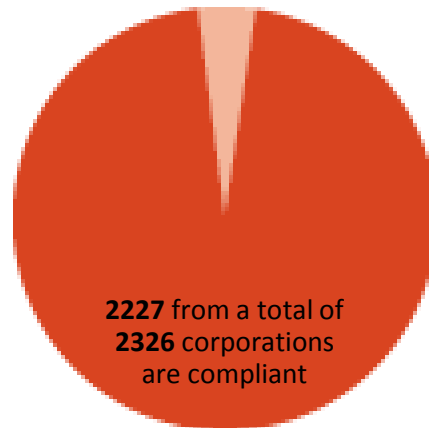




percentage of corporations compliant with reporting requirements under the CATSI Act (2012–13 reports)

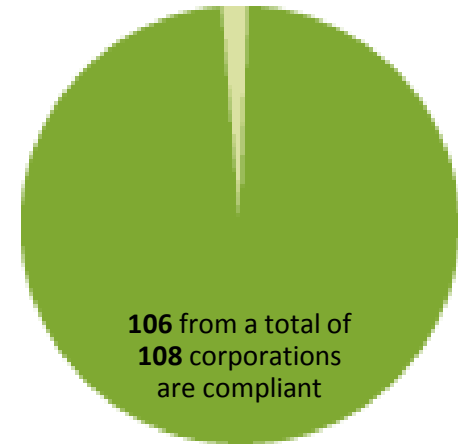
As at 17 June 2015  
100% for the 2013/14 reports

### All corporations



**95.7%**

### All RNTBCs



**98.1%**



total income  
reported  
by corporations in  
their 2012–13  
general reports

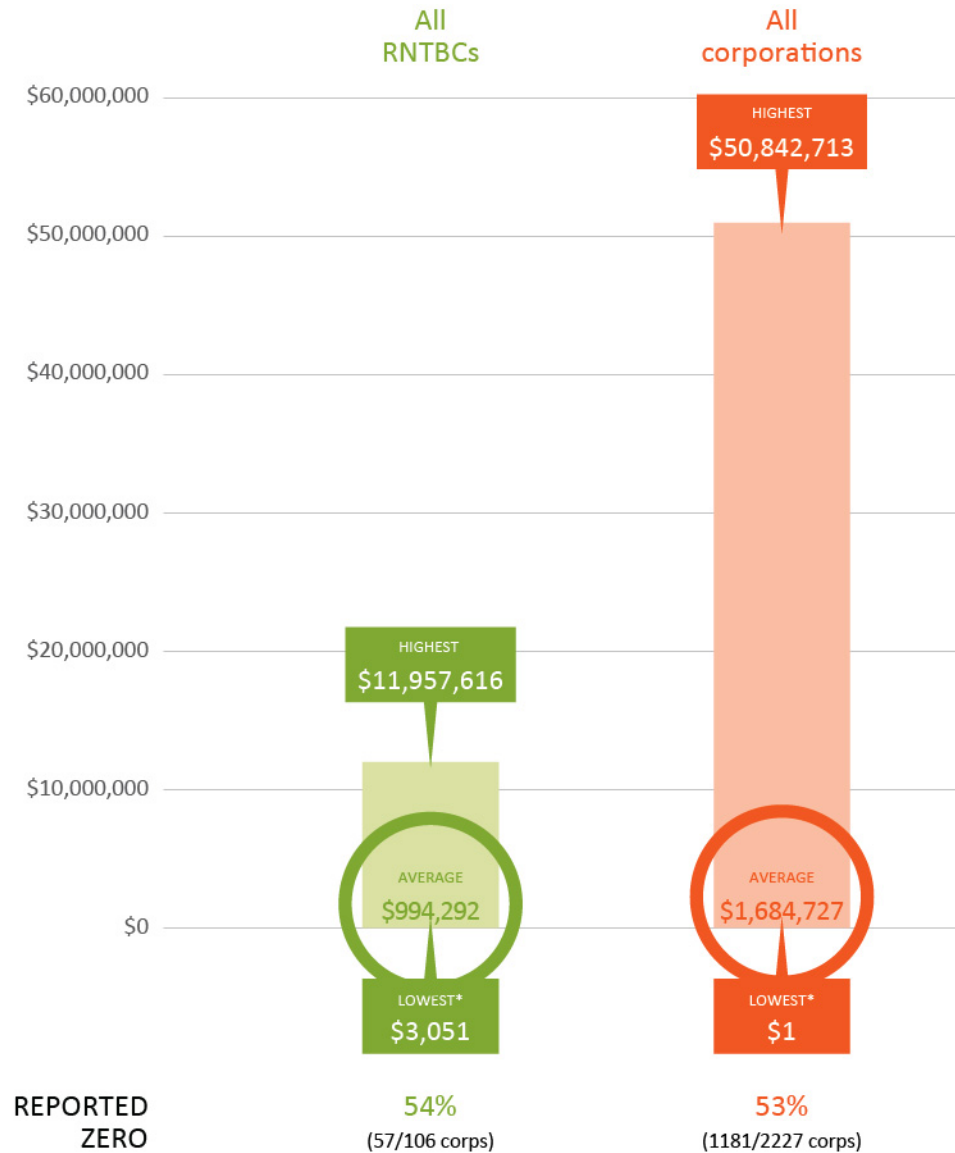
**combined total income**

for all corporations

**\$1,762,224,399**

for all RNTBCs

**\$48,720,324**

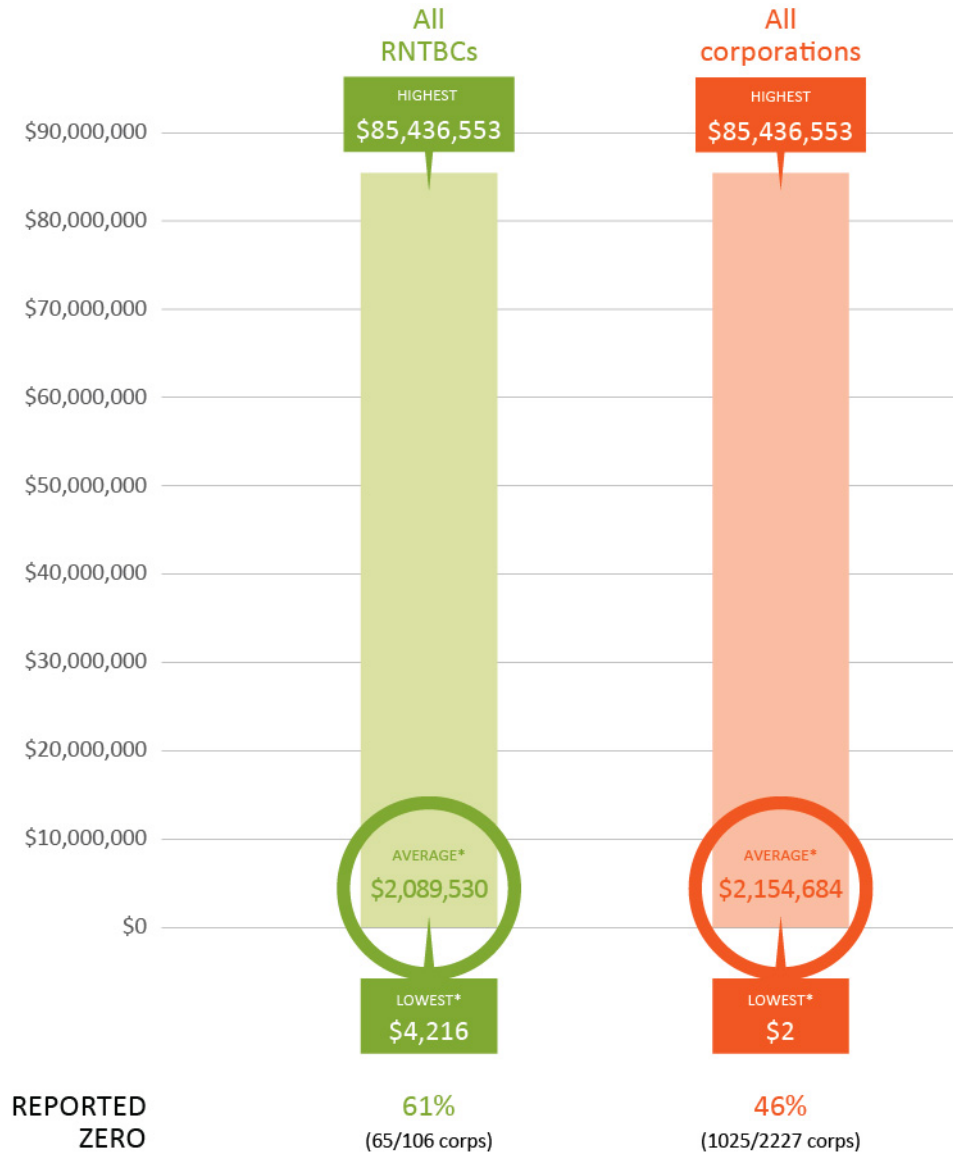


\*of those who reported a non-zero figure.



total assets reported  
by corporations in  
their 2012–13  
general reports

**combined total assets**  
for all corporations  
**\$2,208,550,758**  
for all RNTBCs  
**\$135,819,458**

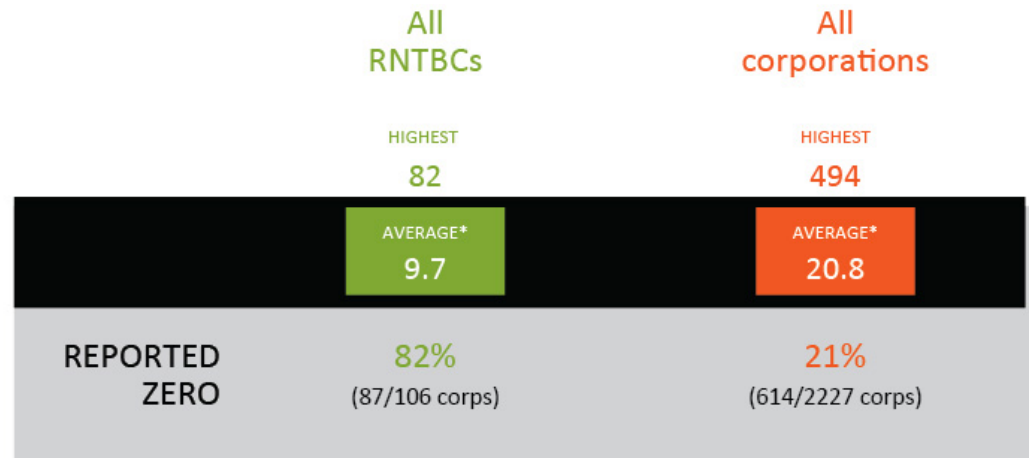


\*of those who reported a non-zero figure.



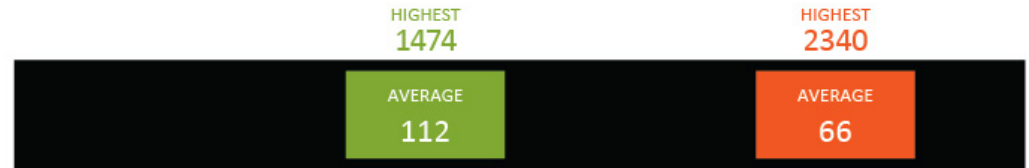
Number of employees, members and directors reported by corporations in their 2012–13 general reports

## employees



\*of those who reported a non-zero figure.

## members



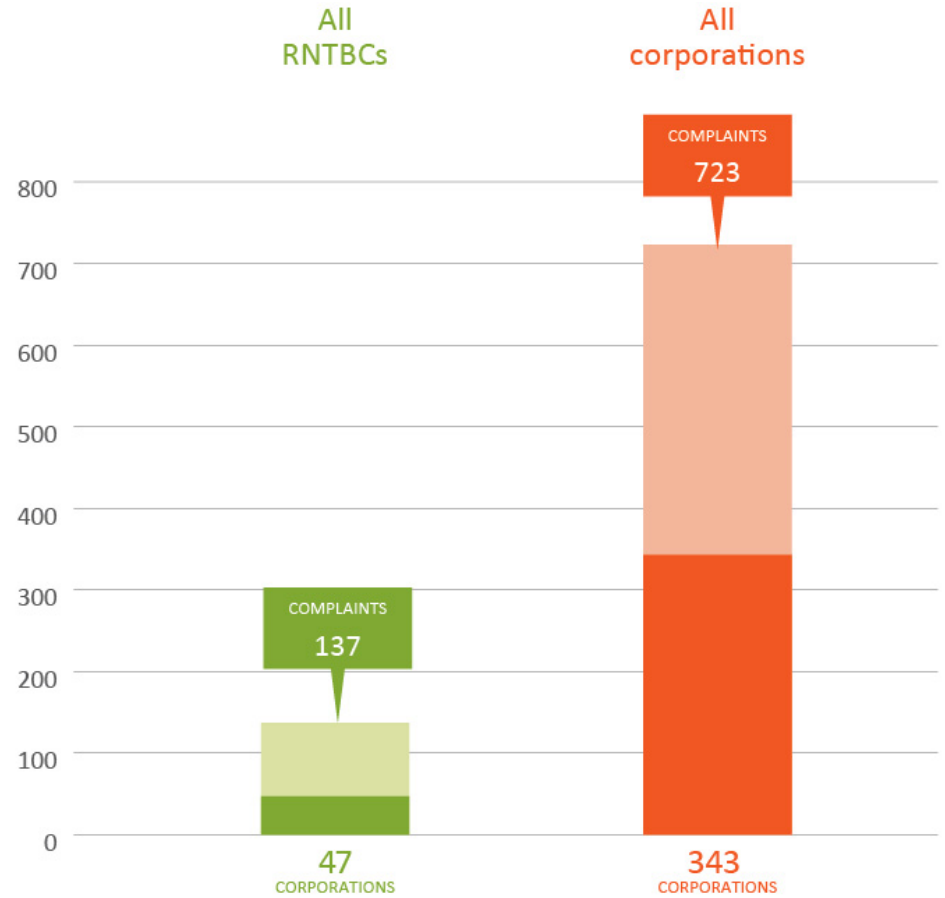
## directors







total number of complaints involving corporations in 2013–14



% of total registered corporations

36%

13%



# What is independence?

- A person that is not a member, employee or contractor of the corporation
- In some cases it would exclude a person with another type of conflict of interest



Why have  
independent  
directors

# Benefits

- Independent directors and the organisations and communities they work with all stand to gain from the right match of skills and need.
- Independent directors get the chance to develop skills, knowledge, and gain exposure to new experiences. It can be a rich development opportunity professionally and personally.
- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, having a skilled professional on their governing body can bolster their governance capacity, provide a different perspective, support dispute resolution and provide access to important advice and expertise that might be otherwise difficult to obtain.



Some things to think about when a corporation is considering independent director candidates

# What to look for

- **Independence**

Are they independent of the current directors, staff, legal advisor, members; corporation's affairs?

Are there any conflicts of interest?

- **Experience**

Do they have relevant industry experience or life experience?

Have they sat on other boards? Any with similar vision or services?

Can they introduce you to new networks or business contacts?

- **Qualifications or skills**

What skills do you require? legal, accounting, compliance, investment, IT, marketing, strategic planning etc.

Where does their specific expertise lie and how will they add value?

- **Personality**

Are they a leader, a strategist or a nurturing person?

Can they work effectively with a diverse group of people?

Can they disagree without being disagreeable?



# What to look for

- **Capacity**

Can they devote enough time to fulfil their duties?

How many boards does the director currently sit on?

Directors oversee the business of the corporation. Each director must be personally aware of the corporation's business and financial position. Do they have time to do this?

How far are they willing to travel?

- **Availability**

Do they have personal or work commitments that may restrict their participation in corporation activities?

- **Performance**

Have they been on previous boards and how has that corporation performed?

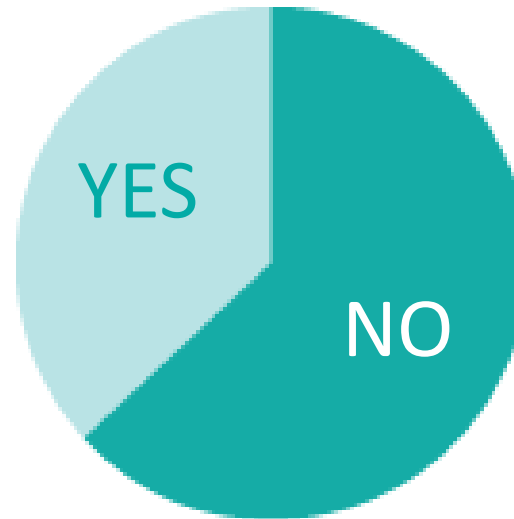


Rule books of RNTBCs that provide for independent/non-member specialist directors to be appointed

## RNTBC rule books that allow independent directors

37%

The rule book provides for independent directors



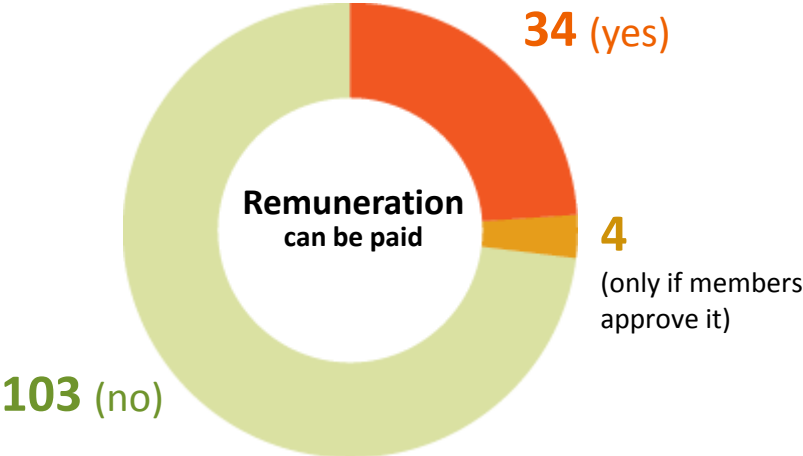
63%

The rule book does not provide for independent directors



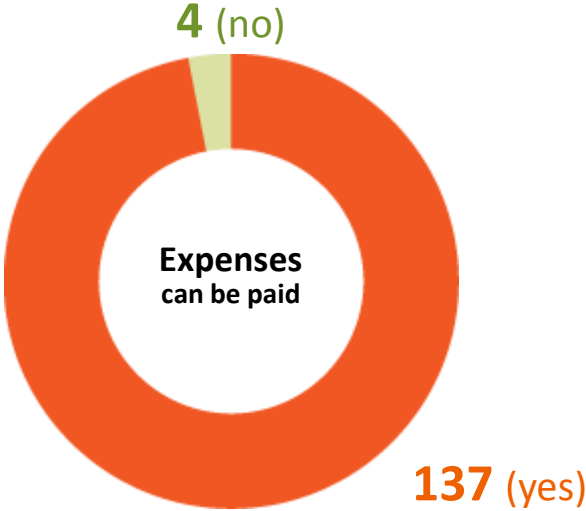
Rule books of RNTBCs that provide for remuneration and expenses to be paid to directors

### Remuneration for directors



**24%**  
Remuneration can be paid to directors

### Expenses for directors



**97%**  
Expenses can be paid to directors

# New service—Independent directory

- Free online service helping to match skilled directors to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- To be launched in 2015–16

