



CENTRAL
AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL
CONGRESS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
ICN 7823

Organisational Background

Since 1973 Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) has provided support and advocacy for Aboriginal people in the struggle for justice and equity.

Since that time, Congress has expanded to become the largest Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation in the Northern Territory, providing a comprehensive, holistic and culturally-appropriate primary health care service to Aboriginal people living in and nearby Alice Springs, including some remote communities in Central Australia.

As a community controlled service, Congress relies on its members to participate in decision making that affects the health and wellbeing of the community to ensure Congress remains relevant, culturally appropriate and responsive.

Who can apply

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18 years and over who have resided in Central Australia for a continuous period of two (2) years prior are eligible to apply for membership.

How to apply

To become a member, complete a Congress Membership application available at all Congress locations and on the Congress website.

Assessment

Applications for membership are considered by the Congress Board of Directors. Applicants will receive written advice of the outcome of their assessment within 14 days of the Board of Director's decision.

Congress Member Charter

Term of Membership

A person stops being a member if they resign in writing, pass away or their membership is cancelled.

Membership may be cancelled (see Rule 3.7 of the Congress Rule Book) when a member:

- cannot be contacted for two (2) years
- misbehaves

Membership can be cancelled by special resolution at a general meeting.

Member's Rights and Responsibilities

Members have the right to:

- attend, speak and vote at Congress General Meetings
- be elected as a director
- vote on items at general meetings
- ask the directors to call a general meeting
- access the following books and records of the corporation
 - » the register of members
 - » the minutes book for member's meetings
 - » the corporation's rule book
 - » certain reports prepared by or for the directors and the corporation, in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (the Act)
- ask the directors to provide access to any other records or books of the corporation as permitted under the Act
- have a dispute with another member or with the directors dealt with under the process in Rule 10.

Members do not have the right to share in the surplus of Congress or take part in the distribution of the Congress assets if it is wound up.

If a member believes that their rights have been breached or ignored by the directors, the member can use the dispute resolution process to solve a dispute.

Members have the responsibility to:

- follow all rules set out in the Congress Rule Book
- advise of a change of address as soon as possible
- treat other members with respect
- attend general meetings including the Annual General Meeting or give their apologies
- be considerate of Congress employees, clients and members
- respect the direction of the Board
- follow the processes in the Congress Rule Book when raising issues about Congress
- help Congress maintain a safe environment that prohibits threatening behaviour such as verbal or physical abuse
- protect and promote the good reputation of Congress members
- behave ethically and with integrity as a member of Congress.

Membership Contact

Any queries regarding membership support please contact Congress on 8959 4792 or by email at membership@caac.org.au.

Congress will contact all members at least once a year for the purpose of updating member's contact details.