



CENTRAL
AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL
CONGRESS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
ICN 7823

Board Communiqué

ISSUE 49: SEPTEMBER 2022

Werte!

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting, held on 29 September 2022:

- Board Performance Review
- Human Resources Report
- Business Services Report
- Internal Audit Reports
- Strategic Planning and Five Year Action Framework
- Congress History Project
- Approved Research Projects
- **Updates from the CEO**
 - COVID-19 update
 - Gambling
 - Stronger Futures Legislation
 - Joint Remote Health Board Meeting
 - Population Health Congress

The next Congress Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 November 2022

Board Performance Review

In accordance with the Board Governance Charter, the Congress Board is committed to an annual performance review of the Board and directors, including periodically engaging external parties to conduct the review. Board performance reviews are part of good governance and ensure that processes are in place and are followed. Engaging an external consultant to undertake the review means that there is an independent assessment of the Board's performance.

An external consultant was engaged to conduct an external review which included the performance of subcommittees. This review was largely positive and was tabled and discussed at this meeting, with recommendations to be developed into an action plan for the Board to work on in 2023 to continue improvements and fine tuning of our governance practices.

Human Resources Report

The General Manager Human Resources presented the HR report for the period ending August 2022. The Board was advised that turnover has dropped to around 30% of staff which is a significant improvement from earlier in the year considering COVID and recruitment challenges nationally in the sector. It is expected that towards the end of calendar year the vacancies will drop further if turnover stays stable. The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement is getting close to finalisation and is with the Commissioner for final approval (*note since the meeting held, the EA has been approved*).

The Risk and Compliance report was also tabled and re-accreditations have been scheduled.

Business Services Report

The General Manager Business Services presented the Business Services Report for period ending August 2022. As we are only a couple of months into the new financial year, there are not yet many trends emerging for the year, however Congress continues to remain solvent with a healthy solvency ratio.

The 10 Year Finance Plan was refreshed by the finance team and approved by the Congress Board at this meeting. The 10 Year Finance Plan is a strategic document that is reviewed and tweaked every year and includes the timetabling and budgeting of asset maintenance and infrastructure items.

Internal Audit Reports

Congress has a robust internal audit schedule which sets an audit plan for audits into internal processes. The audit plan is set by the Board to ensure processes are operating smoothly. Two internal audit reports were presented to the Board, one on assets and the other on staff grievances. The recommendations for this report were workshopped by the Executive and an action plan developed to implement the observations found.

Strategic Planning and Five Year Action Framework

Congress currently has a strategic plan for the years 2019 – 2023. Before the expiry of the current strategic plan the Board will begin a process for setting the Strategic Plan for 2024 and beyond. Work on the new strategic plan will commence in 2023. Setting the strategic vision of an organisation is an important process and function of the Board, and the Directors

look forward to working with the Congress Executive in 2023 to develop its future vision.

The strategic plan is a key governance document for the organisation, as it sets the reporting requirements for the organisation under the Five Year Action Framework which is reported on every 6 months. The Five Year Action Framework report is the way the executive report back to the Board on key performance indicators and ensures that everything the organisation is working towards is aligned with the strategic vision as set out in the strategic plan.

Congress History Project

The Board received an update on the Congress History Project and nominated three directors to be part of the History Project Congress 50 Year Celebration Working Group which will plan celebration events in June 2023.

Over the next few months a new digital portal, *Congress Arruleny* (Congress from a long time ago), will go live online. Through this portal, community members will be able to browse and search through photographs and other material from Congress in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. In the first stage, 5,000 digitised photographs from the Congress history collection will be uploaded.

Soon this portal will be shared with Congress staff for their feedback to help guide the next stages of roll out where it will be introduced to more people through family networks and community workshops. People will be encouraged tag people in photos by name and add information about events and places.

Cultural protocols for the portal are being developed including copyright and other permissions, to allow people to copy, save and print photos to share with family and other community members. See the Cultural Warning here.

Nhenhe unte areme photo ante pipe mape Congress Arrulenyentyele. Congress-le alhenge areme tyerrtye apmere arenye mape ante tyerrtye arpenhe areye. Mwantye-le araye photo nhenhe mape tyerrtye-itethe-kwenye mape-arlke.

Here you can see photographs and documents from the history of Congress. Congress pays respect to traditional owners and to the wider community. Be mindful that these pictures may include deceased people.

Purkarangku nyawa, munu kutkupa tjuta kulinma uwa nyangatjala anangu ngurartija munu kutu-ngulu tjutatjara. Purkaringkula tjinguru nyura nyakuku pitja irititja panya Congress-tja tjutatjara.

Unte apeke irrare awelheme Purple button ulthaye alengke-iwetyeke photo ante pipe nhenhe mape.

Tjinguru nyuntu mi-lariku, nyuntu pampula panya Purple-wananya button- panya kurintjunktjaku Photo- tjara munu Pipa-tjutajara.

If you feel sad, you can click the Purple button called "Restrict" to hide photos or documents

Arremte

Luritja

Warlpiri

Listen

A grant from the Aboriginal Benefit Account (ABA) is supporting development of this portal with funding allocated for an Aboriginal Community Engagement Coordinator and two Aboriginal Research Assistants who will join the project's Archive Officer, Teresa McCarthy, and Senior Researcher Jocelyn Davies.

In addition to this exciting portal, a new interactive timeline is being prepared for the Congress website. The timeline will tell stories from Congress history through several themes including protest and advocacy, community control and changes in health outcomes. It will also include relevant events in central Australia, Australia and internationally, and changes in policy and the environment, that influenced Congress's actions and impact. The timeline will be brought to life with pictures of past events and quotes from people involved as well as links to other relevant information.

Approved Research Projects

The Directors approved Congress' participation in the following new research projects:

1. *Evaluation of Managing PCOS in Indigenous Communities: A community-led approach;*

Jean Hailes for Women's Health; Renea Camilleri

2. *A tiered approach to neurodevelopmental assessment in health care settings;* Griffith University, A/Prof Dianne Shanley (CIA)

CEO's report to the Board

CEO Donna Ah Chee provided the following report to the Board at the meeting:

COVID-19 Update

The most recent COVID-19 wave continues to decline with the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people infected significantly lower than expected. This is likely due to recent evidence that immunity from natural infection plus vaccination last longer, in terms of preventing re-infection. Sadly, though, there have been more deaths reported in the NT, with a total of 37 Aboriginal deaths and 34 non-Aboriginal deaths where COVID has contributed or been the main cause.

COVID-19 vaccination rates continue to be lower in Aboriginal people, with 36% of Aboriginal people aged fifty and over having four vaccinations in the NT, although the rate of third doses is slightly better than

the national average. Vaccination rates amongst children under 16 remain low with only about a third of children vaccinated. This is of great concern, particularly due to the recent data that shows COVID causes significant mortality in children and it almost doubles the risk of getting type 1 diabetes. For those who are infected with COVID, Congress has been doing a good job at ensuring Aboriginal people access the anti-viral treatments when needed which is both saving lives and preventing disability.

Now that isolation requirements for people with COVID-19 have ceased, it is more important than ever that people are up to date with their vaccinations, including the fourth dose. Congress has the new bivalent vaccine which works well on many variants, including subvariants of omicron. On top of vaccination, wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces is recommended, as well as getting tested and staying home if you are unwell.

Gambling

Congress objected to the applications made by Iris Capital, new owners of multiple pubs and hotels in Mparntwe, for an increase the number of poker machines. Congress has advocated against poker machines for

many years due to the impact of gambling individuals and their families in Alice Springs who are already vulnerable to social, economic, developmental and psychological stressors. The Territory Government has since announced a 9-month freeze on issuing new licences for any additional poker machines, but we will continue to advocate against applications.

Stronger Futures Legislation

Congress has continued to advocate about the harms that have been created by the cessation of the Stronger Futures Alcohol reforms. Preliminary data shows that there are 20 additional alcohol-related presentations per week compared with the average 12 months prior to the changes. Congress has also been advised that serious harm has increased but we have not seen the data. We will continue to advocate for improved data monitoring to demonstrate the extent of the additional harm that has been caused by this policy shift.

Joint Remote Health Board Meeting

The joint Congress and remote health board meeting was held in Mparntwe on 25 August and was attended by representatives from all our remote health boards. In the

member updates, the impact of the recent alcohol changes on increasing alcohol misuse in remote communities was reported everywhere except Mutitjulu. There was also a major concern that parents have moved to town with their children, to be able to access alcohol.

Population Health Congress

Congress was recently represented at the Population Health Congress in Adelaide. This is a meeting of key public health organisations in Australia where Congress presented the following papers:

- The Congress history project and health improvement
- The Congress COVID response
- The Child Health and Development Centre Outcomes
- The Intensive Family Support Service model
- The Graduate Nurse program
- The 3 streams of care AOD service model
- The Child Youth Assessment and Treatment Service
- The outcome of the Minimum Unit Price on alcohol in the NT



From left to right: Dorethea Randall, Graham Dowling, Jonathon Doolan, Sarah Gallagher, Renita Kantawara, Donna Ah Chee, Marie Mulladad, Veronica Wallace, Joseph Hayes, Marion Swift, Gary Cole, John Boffa



CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CONGRESS
 ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
 ICN 7823

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members of the corporation are advised that an annual general meeting of the members of the

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation

will take place as follows:

Time: 10am

Date: Thursday 24 November 2022

Place: 32 Priest St, Alice Springs

Members can participate in the meeting by phone or Zoom – however you must contact the Congress Governance Unit on (08) 7928 8142 by COB Tuesday 22 November to arrange this prior to the meeting.

On arrival at the meeting, members should check the register of members and if needed, update their name, address and any other details. Please note no proxies are able to be used for the annual general meeting, pursuant to 4.12 of the Congress rule book.

Refreshments to be provided

All Congress members are invited to attend.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMPANY SECRETARY, ISOBEL MILNES.

Ph 8951 4401 | www.caac.org.au

MEETING AGENDA

Item	Description
1	Welcome, attendees and apologies: 1.1 Confirm the Chair for the meeting 1.2 Attendees 1.3 Apologies 1.4 Quorum
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Members of 25 November 2021: 2.1 Confirm the Minutes 2.2 Matters arising
3	Corporation's Annual Report including: 3.1 CEO report 3.2 Directors' report 3.3 Financial report 3.4 Auditor's report
4	Questions for the auditors
5	Appointment of auditors and fees -NIL Note appointment of auditor in 2018 for five (5) years, note directors have been authorised to set the fee for 2021-2023.
6	Appointment of Directors - NIL
7	Special Resolutions: 7.1 <u>Removal of members who cannot be contacted</u> The members of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation resolve that: the members listed in the attachment to the notice of the meeting should be removed pursuant to rule 3.7 of the Congress rule book as they have not been able to be contacted at their address entered on the Register of members for a continuous period of two (2) years before the meeting, and Congress has made two or more reasonable attempts to contact the members during that two (2) year period but has been unable to contact that member. 7.2 <u>Rule book amendment</u> The members of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation resolve that: a. the whole current rule book of the corporation be repealed and b. that the proposed rule book (available on the following link www.caac.org.au and hard copies available at Congress reception areas at 14 Leichhardt Tce or 32 Priest St) be adopted as the rule book of the corporation.
8	Any Other Business 8.1 Health Hub Development Update 8.2 Questions from members
9	Close