



CENTRAL
AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL
CONGRESS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
ICN 7823

Board Communiqué

ISSUE 34: FEBRUARY 2020

BOARD MEETING WRAP

Werte!

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting, held on 27 February 2020:

- 2020 Board of Directors and Office Bearers
- Congress Board Induction
- RACGP Vice President Visit
- Board Seeks Youth Representative
- Centrecorp Updates
- Research Update
- CEO Report to the Board
 - » Combined Aboriginal Organisations
 - » Central Australian Community Priorities Meeting
 - » The NT Child & Families Tripartite Forum (CFTPF)
 - » Closing the Gap
 - » Climate Change workshop

The next Congress Board of Director's Meeting will be held on 23 April 2020

2020 Board of Directors and Office Bearers

Following the 2019 AGM held in November last year, the Congress Board of Directors is comprised of the following Member Directors:

- **Graham Dowling**
- **Sheralee Taylor**
- **Joseph Hayes**
- **Michael Liddle**
- **William Tilmouth**
- **Dorothea Randall (Remote)**
- **Taren Williams (Remote)**

The Board also includes the following Independent (Non-member) Directors:

- **Prof Peter O'Mara – Independent Director, Primary Health Care**
- **Leanne Milligan – Independent Director, Finance**

At the February Board meeting, Member Directors appointed the office bearers for the next 12 months, as per the Corporation Rule Book.

Congratulations to **Graham Dowling** for his appointment as Chairperson. Congratulations also to remote representative, **Dorothea Randall** on her appointment as Deputy Chairperson.

Congress Board Induction

Prior to the February meeting, the Board's induction was held. The induction program gives all of the Directors a chance to immerse (or re-immers) themselves not only in what the organisation does, but also where Congress is headed by revisiting both the Strategic and Corporate Plans. Checking in with these important documents provides a renewed and shared focus, setting vital foundations for the coming year.

RACGP Vice President Visit

Vice President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), Dr Ayman Shenouda visited the Board's February meeting to discuss the Rural GP Pathway program. This program is designed for doctors working remotely to support those doctors to provide strong and stable service delivery to the remote communities in which they work. The program is geared to include learning local language, implementing a remote doctor's network and models for supervision over distance. The Board will consider this further at the next meeting after hearing from Medical Director Dr Sam Heard.



Congress Directors Joe Hayes, Taren Williams, Peter O'Mara and Graham Dowling listening attentively during the Board's Induction day.



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Board Seeks Youth Representative

The Congress Board has commenced discussions about attracting a suitable candidate to fill the youth Member Director position that is currently vacant. The focus will be on identifying a strong, eligible candidate to commence from the next AGM. If you or a young person you know is a potential for this role, look out for more information later in the year.

Centrecorp Updates

At the February meeting, the Directors nominated Dorothea Randall to be a director for Centrecorp, representing Congress for 2020. The nominated Centrecorp AGM proxy for the year is Joseph Hayes.

Research Update

After considering the recommendation of the Research Subcommittee, the Board resolved to approve the following new applications for research:

- Understanding the relevance, appropriateness and impact of a FASD prevention health promotion campaign in Alice Springs, Northern Territory
- Qualitative analysis of assessment feedback given by supervisors to medical students learning in full time clinical placements – a perspective on continuity of supervision and context

CEO report to the Board

Combined Aboriginal Organisations

The Combined Aboriginal Organisations (CAO) held their first meeting for 2020 on Monday 17 February at the Central Land Council (CLC). The meeting focused on youth issues and there was a broad ranging discussion, including the promising measures outlined by the NT government.

The NT Child & Families Tripartite Forum (CFTPF)

The most recent meeting of the NT Child and Families Tripartite Forum was held in Darwin on Thursday 20 February. Assistant Minister Landry, Federal Minister for Social Services and Minister Dale Wakefield were in attendance for part of the meeting.

The work of the NT CFTPF is vital to the development of strategic investments in children, young people and families, and this was acknowledged by the ministers.

The key priority areas for action over the next two years are consistent with the advocacy that has occurred since the Royal Commission into the Care and Detention of Children and include:

1. *A Single Act on Child protection and Youth Justice to be legislated by April 2021*
2. *The development of Child & Family Centres*
3. *The development of Family Support Services*
4. *The development of Family Group Conferencing*
5. *The development of Youth Justice Centres which we prefer to call rehabilitation centres.*

Closing the Gap

In high-level negotiations with the Coalition of Peaks on Closing the Gap, it was revealed that there will be no new money for housing after current investment is fully expended. Pat Turner and other members of the peak organisations are outraged by this and expressed this through some powerful public appearances. AMSANT CEO, John Paterson has since been nominated as the spokesperson for the Coalition of Peaks with regard to housing. At the recent NT Child and Families Tripartite Forum, the latest data on overcrowding was presented and it is clear that this remains a major problem for the NT. It impacts health in many ways including early childhood development, school attendance and the

Proof of Aboriginality applications

Please be reminded that requests for Proof of Aboriginality are only able to be assessed by the Congress Board of Directors at our scheduled Board meetings.

incidence of preventable communicable diseases such as rheumatic heart disease. This reinforces the need to advocate and achieve a new investment from the Commonwealth government on Aboriginal housing as part of the Closing the Gap refresh.

Climate Justice Workshop

A two-day Climate Change workshop organised by Jesuit Social Services and including many local organisations will take place 5-6 March at Desert Knowledge Australia.

Congress has been asked to present on the health impacts on climate change based on our submission to the NT Climate Change Strategy December 2018. This workshop is an important opportunity to consider solutions to this issue and form partnerships essential for effective action.

Central Australian Community Priorities Meeting

In partnership with Chamber of Commerce NT, Alice Springs Town Council has established a non-political, community partnership group to drive forward key projects for the social, economic and environmental benefit of the Alice Springs community, and the greater Central Australian region.

Congress was among the invitees, who were comprised of stakeholders from across the community; across all sectors. The focus of this meeting was to share ideas on key initiatives to fortify our region's social, economic and environmental future. Congress looks forward to contributing to working parties pertaining to relevant issues, including those focussed on climate change, water safety and renewable energy.