



BOARD MEETING WRAP

Werte!

This Communiqué relates to Congress Board business dealt with at the Board meeting on 10 October 2019 and the supplementary Board meeting on 25 October 2019. The following topics were discussed:

- Endorsement of Director Nominees to Board
- Appointment of Independent Aboriginal Researcher
- Annual Financial Statements
- Risk Appetite Statement
- Leadership Capability Program
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap/Everyone Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy
- CEO Report to the Board
 - » Closing the Gap Joint Council
 - » Closing the Gap National Consultations
 - » Allied Health Leadership Award
 - » Cashless Welfare Card

The next Congress
Board of Director's Meeting
will be held on
26 November 2019

Endorsement of Director Nominees to Board

Nominations for vacant Director positions to be approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting were received from current Directors Graham Dowling, Joseph Hayes and Dorethea Randall (Remote Representative) and also from Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation Director, Taren Williams (Remote Representative). The Board accepted and endorsed all nominees for four (4) year terms. Members will now be asked to approve and appoint Directors to the Congress Board at the AGM on Thursday 28 November 2019. No voting is required as the number of nominees did not exceed the number of vacant positions.

The Board also agreed that the AGM should commence earlier this year at 9.30am. Members are invited to attend the AGM and to join Directors for lunch afterwards.

Appointment of Independent Aboriginal Researcher

After the resignation in August 2019 of Leisa McCarthy, Independent Aboriginal Researcher on the Research Subcommittee, the Board was required to appoint a replacement to this position.

Ms McCarthy recommended a number of suitable candidates of which Ms Lorna Murakami-Gold, a lecturer in Indigenous Health at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and PhD candidate in Public Health, was preferred.

Ms Murakami-Gold is well known to Congress through Dr Boffa, Chief Health Officer Public Health and the Research Unit. Ms Murakami-Gold consented to appointment and the Board unanimously agreed to appoint her.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to Ms McCarthy for her dedication,

commitment and work with the Research Subcommittee. Ms McCarthy will continue with Congress in a research and management role in the Research Unit.

Annual Financial Statements

The Independent Director – Finance presented the Annual Financial Statements audited by Congress' appointed auditor, BDO. In summary, Congress has remained financially stable with an increase in grant funding and a small change in profitability. BDO's Audit Manager will be in attendance at the Congress 2019 AGM to present the auditor's report to members.

Risk Appetite Statement

The Congress Board has worked with Price Waterhouse Cooper's Indigenous Consulting to develop a risk appetite statement for Congress. This is an important document that will be made available to members in 2020 which will outline Congress' approach to risk across the entire organisation. It will link in with Congress' Risk Management Framework and provide transparency on risk tolerance for Congress.

Leadership Capability Program

A leadership capability program project is to commence at Congress. This will be followed by learning and development programs that will then feed into organisational succession planning. The objective of this project is to place Congress in the best position moving forward, in terms of leadership and growth. The initial focus will be on developing a leadership capability framework and succession plan for Executive to be followed by planning for senior managers.



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National Agreement on Closing the Gap/Everyone Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

The Board was presented with a briefing on proposed responses to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the NT Government's 'Everyone Together' Aboriginal Affairs Strategy 2019-2029. This provides an opportunity for Congress to have input into the development of a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap, from the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks) and also on the draft 'Everyone Together' Aboriginal Affairs Strategy 2019-2029 from the Northern Territory Government. The CEO also provided an update on these initiatives in her report to the Board.

CEO report to the Board

Closing the Gap Joint Council

The Joint Council on Closing the Gap held its second meeting in Adelaide on 23 August 2019 and the meeting made some very significant decisions. AMSANT CEO, John Paterson was at the meeting as one of the 12 representatives from the Coalition of Peaks. The Hon Selena Uibo, MLA, represented the NT government.

At the meeting, the group considered a review of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA), completed by the Partnership Working Group, and agreed to develop a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The new National Agreement on Closing the Gap will be developed for the consideration of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Coalition of Peaks.

This continues to be a historic process with genuine inclusion of our own Aboriginal leadership and it has the potential to make a real impact on the lives of our people.

Closing the Gap National Consultations

The Coalition of Peaks led face to face meetings with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations across the nation during October 2019. The meetings were intended to allow our communities to tell the Coalition of Peaks and governments what changes are needed to improve their lives. This will inform the finalisation of the new National Agreement between the Coalition of Peaks and COAG on the ten year Closing the Gap plan.

Allied Health Leadership Award

Congress was very pleased to win the Allied Health Leadership Award, presented at the Indigenous Allied Health Australia conference. The work we are doing to expand our services and programs in ways that include allied health professionals was strongly endorsed. This is very helpful in giving a message to this growing group of Aboriginal health professionals that Congress is a good place to come and work.

Cashless Welfare Card

Board approval was sought for a submission on the proposed cashless welfare card. The submission reiterates the Board view that all forms of income management should be voluntary. It also proposes an increase of Newstart Allowance by \$75 per week with additional loading for those people living in remote communities to address higher costs of living. Congress' submission can be found on the Congress website via this link:

<https://www.caac.org.au/uploads/pdfs/Congress-Submission-re-Cashless-Debit-Care-Final-October-2019.pdf>

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.

Update your details

It is important that we have the right details recorded in our membership register so that we can contact you the right way, and for accountability.

These are separate to your clinical records at Congress. Because your privacy is important to us, we never access your medical records for membership business.

You can help us make sure your details are up to date by emailing membership@caac.org.au or calling Congress' Membership and Client Engagement Officer on 8958 4871.

Remind your friends and family too!



CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL CONGRESS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION - ICN 7823

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on
Thursday 28 November 2019 at 9.30am
32 Priest Street, Alice Springs

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Checking the Register of Members
4. To receive and approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2018.
5. Tabling of 2018/19 Annual Report and any other reports.
6. Auditor fees.
7. Declaration of Member Director Appointments.
8. Vote on Director fees.
9. Any other business (including questions by members).

Lunch to be provided. All Congress members are invited to attend.
THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMPANY SECRETARY, MARINA BOYLE.