



CENTRAL
AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL
CONGRESS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
ICN 7823

Board Communiqué

ISSUE 33 : AUGUST 2019

BOARD MEETING WRAP

Werte!

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting, held on 22 August 2019:

- Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Organisational Restructure and new General Manager
- Research Update
- Change to Congress Board Officer Bearers
- CEO report to the Board
 - » AMSANT 25th Anniversary Conference
 - » Prison to Work Program
 - » Alternatives to Custody Service
 - » NDIS Updates
 - » Visit from the national headspace CEO Jason Trethowan
 - » Aboriginal Cultural Lead position
 - » Utju Health Board objection to the liquor licence application for Glen Helen Lodge

The next Congress Board of Director's Meeting will be held on 10 October 2019

Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

Congress CEO, Donna Ah Chee and Chief Medical Officer Public Health, Dr John Boffa recently travelled to Darwin to give evidence to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Their contribution was based on Board approved Congress policy on homecare, aged care and residential facilities.

The Royal Commission heard evidence from experts in the sector and community which emphasised the importance of being on country for aged care and when passing away.

Organisational Restructure and new General Manager

In recent months, the organisational structure of Congress was reviewed. From this, changes were recommended and endorsed by the Board to align with strategic priorities, in particular the key focus on our children, young people and families. Those changes have now been implemented, and we are proud to announce the new Child Youth & Families Division led by newly appointed Congress Executive team member, Carolyn Renehan. Carolyn is a proud Arrernte custodian of the Stuart family who has worked in leadership positions for over 10 years, including within Aboriginal community controlled health services. Carolyn previously worked in Congress' CQI team before being inspired to undertake and successfully complete a Master of Public Health.

Research Update

The Board of Directors resolved to approve the following research projects:

- ASQ-TRAK-Extended: A child development outcome measure for Australian Aboriginal children.
- Alice Springs Food Security Project: A qualitative exploratory study of stakeholder perceptions of food security in Alice Springs.

- Hearing for Learning Initiative - an innovative community-based service-enhancement model to address the crisis in ear and hearing health of Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory: a Phase III stepped-wedge cluster randomised trial.
- Evaluating the prevalence and identification of overweight and obesity among Aboriginal adults and young people in Central Australia.

Change to Congress Board Office Bearers

At the August meeting of the Congress Board, a change to the office bearers at Congress was ratified by the Board in line with the Corporation's Rule Book.

Chairperson: Mr Graham Dowling

Deputy Chairperson: Ms Sheralee Taylor

These positions are appointed up until the first Board meeting of 2020 at which time the Member Directors of the Board will again appoint these roles for that year.

We thank Mr William Tilmouth for his contribution as Chairperson since 2012 and look forward to his continued contribution as a Director.

CEO report to the Board

AMSANT 25th Anniversary Conference

The 25th Anniversary of AMSANT was celebrated in Alice Springs on 7–8 August. It was a great event with keynote presentations from Pat Turner, Pat Anderson, Barbara Shaw and Congress CEO Donna Ah Chee. A key theme that emerged from all speeches was the integral role that Aboriginal community controlled health services are playing in the expression of Aboriginal self-determination in health; and in improving the health and well-being of our people. It was an important gathering that served to renew energy and reinforce the value of



**Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress**
14 Leichhardt Terrace
Alice Springs, NT 0870

PO Box 1604 Alice Springs, NT 0871
T: (08) 8951 4400 | F: (08) 8953 0350
info@caac.org.au | www.caac.org.au
ICN 7823

our shared efforts.

Congress teams featured prominently presenting on the Child and Youth Assessment and Treatment Service, Research, Early Years, CQI, Health Promotion and Communications.

Prison Transitional Care Coordination (Prison to Work) Program

The Prison to Work program is an exciting new service within the Ingkintja Male Health Service that has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. The program will employ two coordinators to work with men in the leadup to and after their release from jail, focusing on adjusting to community life and getting into work.

This program has been a strategic goal for Ingkintja for a long time and with these resources they can finally undertake this very important work.

Alternatives to Custody Service

In partnership with the NT Department of Health, the NT Department of Justice have funded a new program that enables Congress to provide a social worker to help women who are in a new step-down facility after release from jail.

The accommodation facility is located in the Desert Peoples Centre at the Centre for Appropriate Technology. Congress will support these women and coordinate the services they need to help them engage with family and community in ways that will help them to lead safe, healthy lives and avoid further problems with the law.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Updates

After considerable advocacy over the past few years, Congress is in the final stages of negotiation with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for a contract for significant recurrent funding

to work with children with borderline outcomes on the ASQ Trak developmental screening tool.

Additionally, after advocacy from Congress, AMSANT and NACCHO about the barriers to access the NDIS, the NDIA has responded with a new program for remote areas – Evidence, Access, Coordination and Planning (EACP). Congress has been given two contracts under this program, the aim of which is to identify Aboriginal people who are eligible for the NDIS, ensure they get properly assessed, referred and have an appropriate NDIS plan developed that meets their needs.

Visit from the national headspace CEO Jason Trethowan

On 19 July national headspace CEO, Jason Trethowan, visited Congress to observe first-hand the benefits of locating headspace services within Aboriginal community controlled health services. This model is in practice in Broome and Mt Isa also. He was very impressed with what he saw including the committed team of people that we employ. As a result of the visit there is a commitment to try to assist Congress secure an additional position to maintain the current Aboriginal cultural advisor to the service. There was also a commitment to promote the benefits of working through Aboriginal community controlled health services.

Aboriginal Cultural Lead position

Congress is proud to announce that Sabella Turner has been appointed to the position of Aboriginal Cultural Lead. In this valuable and important role, Sabella will work across the organisation under the direct supervision of the General Manager Health Services Division.

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!

Utju Health Board objection to the liquor licence application for Glen Helen Lodge

Ngurratjuta/ Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation has applied to vary the license for Glen Helen Nominees Pty. Ltd. The variation would enable Aboriginal people from surrounding communities including Utju, Ntaria, Papunya, Ikuntji and Haasts Bluff to drink on license only with no take-away, without staying at the accommodation, making the facility akin to a bar. These communities requested the current restrictions more than 20 years ago in response to problems faced at the time. The Utju Health Board has lodged an objection on the basis that it was not consulted about the change and that it has significant concerns that this will lead to alcohol related issues in Utju, a community with no police presence.