



Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | ICN 7823

Board Communiqué

ISSUE 25, FEBRUARY 2018

BOARD MEETING WRAP

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting held 14 February 2018:

- Heads Up—a new Strategic Plan for Congress
- New Rule book available on website
- Australia Day—Changing the Date
- Proof of Aboriginality Applications
- Finance Risk & Audit Subcommittee Report
 - » Pharmacy Application
 - » Capital Works
 - » Changes to Human Resources at Congress
- Governance Subcommittee Report
- Research Subcommittee Report
- CEO's Report to the Board
 - » Closing the Gap (CTG) Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Special Gathering
 - » Submission to the modernisation of the NT Anti-Discrimination Act
 - » The reduction in police on take-away alcohol outlets
 - » AMSANT General Meeting

The next Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Board meeting is scheduled for 8.30am 19 April 2018

Heads Up—a new Strategic Plan for Congress

At its meeting on 29 November 2017, the Congress Board of Directors supported the development of a new Congress Strategic Plan. The Plan will set out the priorities for Congress in meeting the health and wellbeing needs of the Aboriginal community of Central Australia for the next three to five years.

An independent consultant (Edward Tilton) will carry out the Strategic Planning process under the direction of the Board. The Board has asked Edward to consult with Congress membership, staff and other stakeholders to develop the Plan.

Consultations are planned to begin in April (with the Board and senior staff) and continue in June (with members, staff, and Remote Health Board representatives).

We will get back to you soon on how you can have your say in setting the direction for Congress in the coming years.

For further information, contact Congress' Company Secretary on 8959 4713.

New Rule book available on website

The new Congress corporation rule book, voted in at the 2017 Annual General Meeting and approved by ORIC, is available for download on our [website](#).

Australia Day—Changing the Date

After discussion, the Board voted to declare support of the change of date of Australia Day from 26 January to a more appropriate and inclusive date so that Aboriginal people are fairly and properly represented in national celebrations on an alternative date. A Congress position paper has been developed.

The Congress Board voted to declare support of Australia Day date change



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.

Finance Risk & Audit Subcommittee Report

The Board noted the report of the Finance, Risk & Audit Subcommittee.

Pharmacy Application

The Board noted that the final pharmacy application was submitted in January 2018 and it was acknowledged that the quality of the submission was impressive. It is expected to be a lengthy period, up to six months, before Congress will hear back from the Federal Minister about the outcome of this application.

If granted, this would be the first Aboriginal community controlled pharmacy.

Capital Works

The Board approved the decision to appoint Interite Healthcare Interiors (Interite) as the winner of the tender for the construction work on Northside and Sadadeen Clinics. Interite have completed works on headspace buildings and have demonstrated a capacity to work in remote locations. Congress has made it part of the contract with this project management organisation to ensure that local and Aboriginal contractors are used when possible.

Changes to Human Resources at Congress

Due to changes in organisational structure, the Human Resources (HR) Subcommittee members will now form part of the Finance, Risk and Audit Subcommittee. After the resignation of the Human Resources General Manager, the HR division has been moved to the supervision of the Business Services General Manager to ensure continuity of important strategic actions. Recruitment of a Chief Human Resources Officer is currently underway, with an appointment made at the time of publishing this Communiqué.



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Featured artwork: Gwen Gillen, *Land & River, My Home Place* acrylic on linen, 300 x 905 mm,
2016 Courtesy Tangentyere Artists

Governance Subcommittee Report

The Board noted the report of the Governance Subcommittee.

The Board discussed and reviewed the recruitment process for an Independent Director—Governance and Law, and approved this recruitment which has now commenced. Applications closed on 12 March 2018 with interviews and selection of the successful candidate expected to be completed shortly.

The Board reviewed a proposal for the Strategic Planning process to commence in late February or early March 2018. Strategic Planning has now commenced with initial meetings conducted with the Board and Executive Management in early March. Further consultations with Congress membership, staff and other stakeholders will occur over the next few months.

The Board also approved amendments to all Board Subcommittee terms of reference and appointed members to Board Subcommittees.

Research Subcommittee Report

The Board noted the report of the Research Subcommittee.

The Board resolved to approve the following new research applications:

- Career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals.
- Driving Change—mentoring for driver licensing, education and employment for young at risk Aboriginal people.
- Territory Kidney Care Stage 1.
New research application: Healing the past by nurturing the future.
- Diabetes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- Pregnancy and neonatal diabetes outcomes in remote Australia (PANDORA) generations—Wave II.
- Case study site of NT Diabetes in Pregnancy Partnership Systems.
- Using implementation science to evaluate the impact of the *Parents Under Pressure* on practitioner and agency level outcomes.

The Board also resolved to ratify the new research application signed by the CEO for the Evaluation of Indigenous Remote Service

Delivery Traineeship Aged Care and Primary Health Care Training Programs.

CEO's Report to the Board

Closing the Gap (CTG) Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Special Gathering

Congress CEO, Donna Ah Chee, was invited to attend the Closing the Gap (CTG) Council of Australian Government's Special Gathering which took place 7–8 February 2018 in Canberra. There has been no real Aboriginal oversight to the development of the new 10-year plan—a plan designed to be the main strategic approach to Aboriginal Affairs for the next decade. Under the Board's direction, the need to support the implementation of the Uluru Statement and create the new Aboriginal parliamentary advisory body, known as "the voice" was included in our submission to this process. Congress' submission to the Close the Gap refresh can be accessed on our [website](#).

The Territory government's commitment to supporting Aboriginal self-determination in practical ways was evidenced by the invitations extended to the Territory's Aboriginal Leaders to attend this meeting, as guests of the Northern Territory Government. This is significant as only Government can be represented at COAG meetings.

Three regional roundtables were held last year as part of the consultation process, with another 11 scheduled over the next few months. The Alice Springs roundtable is scheduled for 27 March and Darwin for 28 and 29 March.

Submission to the modernisation of the NT Anti-Discrimination Act

Congress provided a submission to the modernisation of the NT Anti-Discrimination Act to bring it into line with developments in other jurisdictions and ensure the rights of all Territorians are better protected. Congress supported all of the proposed changes including:

- The inclusion of the attributes of gender identity and intersex status.
- The introduction of vilification provisions.
- The creation of rights for people experiencing domestic violence in relation to public areas of life such as employment, education and accommodation.

- The protection of people against discrimination on the basis of their accommodation status.
- The inclusion of "socio-economic status" as a protected attribute.
- The introduction of a representative complaints body.
- The removal of the provision that only allows complaints under the Act to be brought against clubs who hold a liquor licence. This means that complaints can be made under the Act against all clubs and not only those that hold a liquor licence.
- The removal of the current restriction on areas of activity for sexual harassment claims.

A copy of the submission is available on our [website](#).

The reduction in police on take-away alcohol outlets

After our input into the Review on Alcohol Legislation in the Northern Territory, and the subsequent report from this, known as the 'Riley Review,' Congress has continued to be involved in advocacy around reducing alcohol related harm. The most recent media activity was prompted by the impact of reduced Police presence on alcohol retail outlets following the introduction of the Banned Drinkers Register. After pressure was applied by multiple sources, it was announced 75 police auxiliaries will be trained as Liquor Inspectors and stationed in front of bottle shops across the Territory, among other measures designed to reduce supply including secondary supply.

AMSANT General Meeting

The Board nominated director representatives to attend the AMSANT meeting on 27–28 February 2018 to discuss a number of important issues including the outcomes of the Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry into the *Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*. Remote Board representatives were also nominated to attend the Joint Aboriginal Housing Forum on 7–9 March 2018 in Darwin. A Congress paper entitled *Discussion Paper—Housing and Health* referred to in the Forum and will be published on our [website](#).