



Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | ICN 7823

Board Communiqué

ISSUE 30, FEBRUARY 2019

BOARD MEETING WRAP

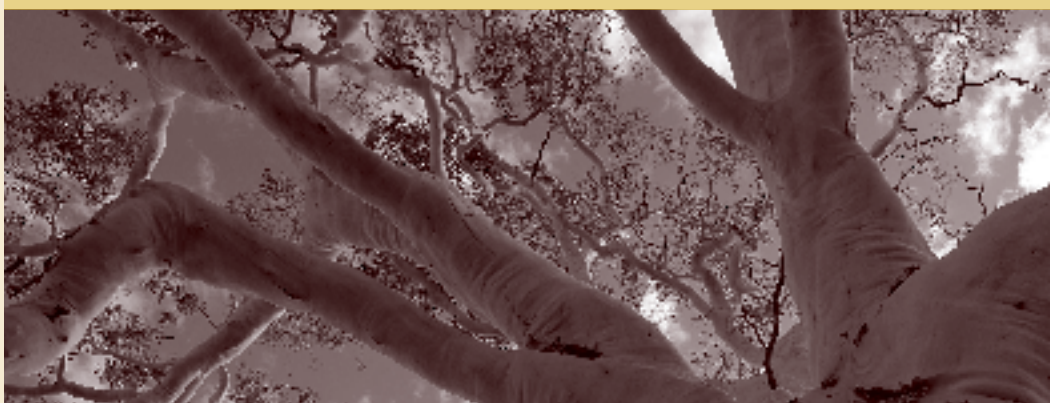
Werte!

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting held 28 February 2019:

- Welcome new Director, Dorethea Randall
- Central Australian Academic Health Science Network (CAAHSN)
- Rule Book approved
- CEO update to the Board
 - » Outstanding results in client satisfaction
 - » Environmental Health & Housing
 - » Closing the Gap—Aboriginal partnership in decision making
 - » Central Australian Academic Health Science Network roundtable
 - » Prison to Work submission
- Proof of Aboriginality applications
- Update your details

The next Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Board meeting is on 17 April 2019

The Chairperson, Deputy Chair and Directors paid their respects to the late M Lindner, reflecting on her happy smiling nature and paying tribute to her tireless contributions to the Congress Board, Women's Health Subcommittee and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Central Australia.



Welcome new Director, Dorethea Randall

Mutitjulu Health Board representative Dorethea Randall was appointed to the Congress Board of Directors after changes to the Rule Book, approved by members at the AGM, came into effect. Dorethea takes up a position of Remote Member Director, representing Mutitjulu and Pitjantjatjara speaking remote communities. Welcome Dorethea, we are pleased to have you on board.



Central Australian Academic Health Science Network (CAAHSN)

The CAAHSN is set to become incorporated in coming months, with the Congress Board supporting this move. The network has been served by Congress as the lead agency to this point. Becoming incorporated means that the group can apply for grants and funding in its own right and would be run by its own board comprising the existing management committee. The CAAHSN was recognised as a Centre for Innovation in Regional Health in 2017 and is a significant body with regard to Aboriginal health research and advancement. Congress would remain a member of the incorporated group, and as such the Congress Board will review governance documents such as the constitution and members' deed prior to them becoming official.

*New Remote Member Director,
Dorethea Randall*



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

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

Rule Book approved

Congress' corporation Rule Book, updated to include amendments voted in at November's AGM, was approved by the Office of the Registry of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). This was reported to us on 29 February 2019. Members can access this rule book on **our website** or through ORIC.

CEO update to the Board

The Board noted the CEO's report, including updates on the following items:

Outstanding results in client satisfaction

The Board is very pleased to share the outcomes of our most recent client satisfaction survey. In particular, we were pleased to be able to share that 97% of clients interviewed were overall satisfied with Congress services, with 98% of clients feeling that their culture and traditions were respected, 98% feeling that they were involved about decisions about their health and 99% stating that they were happy with the standard of cleanliness across the clinics.

You can read more about this, including the full report on **our website**.

Environmental Health & Housing

In line with Congress' position on housing and health, Congress has reached out to Rotary to seek funding for an environmental health officer position. This is to conduct environmental health audits and to work to ensure that houses are made and kept safe through adequate maintenance and basic essential services.

Dr Paul Torzillo of Health Habitat is coming to visit in the near future. It is proposed that Health Habitat hardware audits will start following consultations in a remote community where Congress provides primary health care services.

Closing the Gap—Aboriginal partnership in decision making

In positive news, the Closing the Gap refresh has led to the development of a new peak body and the possibility of a genuine partnership with Aboriginal people through a tripartite Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Ministerial Council. The Council will have representation from the Commonwealth and all States and Territories along with Aboriginal representatives. This will be about making decisions jointly, beginning at the national level. NACCHO will be advocating for Aboriginal health funding to go directly to ACCHOs rather than the States/Territories. Since the Board meeting, a joint announcement has been made by the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Patricia Turner (CEO NACCHO) on behalf of the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, on a *The Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement*. The historic Partnership Agreement means that for the first time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through their peak bodies, will share decision making with governments on Closing the Gap.

Central Australian Academic Health Science Network roundtable

A two-day roundtable was held by the Central Australia Academic Health Science Network to assist Aboriginal organisations to develop research proposals. The purpose also was for Universities and researchers to listen to these organisations in order to support community driven research.

Prison to Work submission

Congress made a submission for the Territory Government's "prison to work" program. This program provides support for men when they are released from prison. Congress' submission proposes funding for two positions for this work which will provide a type of case management service by helping men to do such things as prepare resumes, go to interviews and obtain a driver's licence.

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 Officer on 8951 0904.

Remind your friends and family too!

The next Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Board meeting is scheduled for 8.30am on 17 April 2019