



CENTRAL
AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL
CONGRESS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
ICN 7823

Board Communiqué

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BOARD MEETING WRAP

Werte!

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting, held on 27 June 2019:

- Back on track funding
- Staff engagement at Congress
- Fuel tender awarded to Aboriginal supplier
- Five Year Action Plan for Congress
- Centrecorp AGM
- Research update
- CEO report to the Board
 - » Central Australian Academic Health Science Centre (CAAHSC) update
 - » AMSANT Board meeting
 - » New funding
 - » NACCHO Member Satisfaction Survey
 - » Treaty Commissioner visits Congress

The next Congress Board of Director's Meeting will be held on 22 August 2019

Back on track funding

At the June meeting, the Congress Board supported the Congress submission for funding through the Northern Territory Government's Back on Track—Cutting Youth Crime Plan. Since this took place, Congress has been named as a successful applicant. From this, Congress will provide a suite of assessments and support young people to prepare for and attend youth justice conferencing and give back to the community. This will occur through undertaking community work and providing reparation to victims and the community. Congress will provide case management of young people through intensive programs that provide life skills, increase cultural connection and have strong links with community sporting clubs. We will also work with families to increase their capacity to support the young person.

Staff engagement at Congress

Last year, Congress staff participated in the Employee Engagement Survey, a confidential questionnaire conducted by third party provider, Culture Amp. The results have now been received and were promising, while also pointing out some areas needing action.

Engagement across Congress rose from 74% in 2016 to 76% in 2018. This positive result means that Congress staff are happy, motivated and engaged in their work. This was supported by positive results in staff believing in the services Congress provides, being happy in their work and knowing what they need to be successful in their roles. Feedback also showed that internal communication practices, staff recognition and performance management could be improved. Congress has since taken action on these matters, putting in place plans for improved manager training, an internal communication strategy and a review of the performance management system.



headspace Alice Springs team at the NAIDOC Week Youth event

Fuel tender awarded to Aboriginal supplier

After a thorough tendering process, the Board appointed Indervon Pty Ltd as Congress' fuel supplier for the next three years. Of the tender applicants, Indervon was the only Aboriginal owned business.

Five Year Action Plan for Congress

A Five Year Action Plan has been developed and adopted by the Board to implement the objectives set out in Congress' Strategic Plan 2019–2023, published late last year. The Action Plan provides an outline of reporting, focus areas, reviews and key performance indicators, creating an accountability for the Congress Executive team to report on progress every six months. Congress' Strategic Plan 2019–2023 is available on our website.

Centrecorp AGM

As Congress' shareholder representative and proxy, Dorethea Randall, Director attended the 2019 Centrecorp Annual General Meeting on 7 June 2019. Directors appointed to Centrecorp after voting by shareholders included Congress Directors William Tilmouth and Graham Dowling.



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Research update

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

1. *Giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children the best start in life: improving food affordability and determining solutions to food insecurity.*

This internal research project is about trialling discount cards to improve access to healthy food in the hope that it will have a positive impact on health. This research was originally conducted in Cape York.

2. *Mayi Kuwayu: The national study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing.*

This is an external research project about showing the link between culture and wellbeing. The researchers have 8,000 survey responses from across the country and are seeking 100 from remote areas. The research aim is to show that culture is protective of health.

3. *Improving models of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Youth with type 2 diabetes.*

This is an internal research project about creating appropriate ways to care for young people with diabetes to help them engage with health services and improve health outcomes. The rate of diabetes is going up in young people. Youth diabetes progresses much quicker than in adults. This research should help to improve and evaluate services for these young people.

CEO report to the Board

Central Australian Academic Health Science Network (CAAHSN) update

CAAHSN has recently welcomed Purple House, Anyinginyi and Tangentyere Council to its membership. CAAHSN founding partners include AMSANT, Congress, Baker Institute, NT Government through Central Australian Health Services, Centre for Remote Health, Charles Darwin University, Crana Plus, Flinders Uni, Menzies, Ngaanyatjarra Health, Poche Centre, NPY Women's Council. More information on CAAHSN is available at centralaustraliaahsc.org.

AMSANT Board meeting

The last AMSANT Board meeting was held on 24 May 2019 at which a range of issues were discussed including Aboriginal health funding. An organisational review of AMSANT is to be conducted and the AMSANT research moratorium ceased.

New funding

Congress has secured funding for a coordinator for the Child and Youth Assessment Treatment Service through the NT Government. In addition, Congress also has acquired a contract for new Community Connectors for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

NACCHO Member Satisfaction Survey

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) recently conducted a member survey. The survey found that the members have a good awareness of the support services offered by affiliates like AMSANT. Support services include training and education, quality improvement with organisational governance and representation.

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!

Treaty Commissioner visits Congress

Prof. Mick Dodson AM is the newly appointed NT Treaty Commissioner. He visited Congress recently and met with the CEO and Directors Graham Dowling, Sheralee Taylor and Dr Peter O'Mara. Mr Dodson talked about treaty models from different parts of the world and also talked about the need to approach this from a human rights perspective. There are two stages to the consultation for a NT Treaty. The first stage is to see the level of interest in the community, information sharing and understanding the legal context. The second stage will involve preparing a paper for further consultation and then reporting on findings.