



### BOARD MEETING WRAP

#### Werte!

The following topics were discussed at the last Congress Board of Director's Meeting, held on 28 June 2018:

- Congress' Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee
- Congress' Submission into the Inquiry into the Accessibility and Quality of Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Australia
- Early Childhood Learning Centre (ECLC) Reference Group
- Community Consultation on Submissions and Programs
- Child and Youth Assessment and Treatment Program
- Strategic Planning Consultation
- Finance, Risk and Audit Subcommittee Report
- Governance Subcommittee Report
- Research Subcommittee Report
- Male Health Subcommittee Report
- Women's Health Subcommittee Report
- CEO's Report to the Board
  - » AMSANT General Meeting and Board Meeting
  - » Mutitjulu Board Meeting
  - » WAHAC Board Meeting
  - » Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program Leadership Retreat
  - » ANFPP National Conference
  - » Central Australia Academic Health Science Centre (CAAHSC)
  - » Joint Congress and Remote Boards' Meeting
  - » Meeting with the Baker Institute Board

*The Congress Board noted the passing of Director Joe Hayes' wife Kwementyaye Liddle on 24 June 2018. The Board extends their thoughts, prayers and condolences to Joe, his family and extended family and offers their support at this very sad time.*

#### Congress' Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs— Inquiry into Local Adoption (the Adoption Submission)

The Board gave approval for the Adoption Submission to be provided to the Australian Government House of Representatives Inquiry into Local Adoption (the Inquiry). The Board also approved for Congress to give evidence in the public hearing of the Inquiry scheduled for Tuesday 14 August 2018 in Canberra, and recommended that the CEO and a Member Director should participate.

The Adoption Submission highlights that the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle must be maintained within a child protection and adoption framework, and that prevention including providing family support services through Aboriginal community controlled services, is integral to reducing the need for adoption in the first place.

This submission is available [on our website](#).

#### Congress' Submission into the Inquiry into the Accessibility and Quality of Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Australia

The Board resolved to approve the submission of Congress' response to the Inquiry into the Accessibility and Quality of Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Australia.

This submission is available [on our website](#).

#### Early Childhood Learning Centre (ECLC) Reference Group

The Board discussed community control in the context of the ECLC and agreed to re-establish the ECLC reference group comprised of Congress Directors along with a community representative (a senior female cultural leader). If you are a senior female cultural leader and wish to nominate for the community representative position, please contact the Company Secretary on 8959 4713 or email [director@execsec@caac.org.au](mailto:director@execsec.caac.org.au).



*Child playing at the Congress Early Childhood Learning Centre — Arrwekele akaltje-irretyeke amere*

#### Community Consultation on Submissions and Programs

The Board discussed the level of community engagement that takes place around policy submissions and other Congress services and programs, and agreed that there should be more engagement to reflect the views of the community and to ensure that community control of Congress is maintained. To receive future invitations to contribute on specific important issues dealt



with by Congress or to participate in groups convened by Congress, please ensure Congress has your current contact details, including your email address. You can get in touch with our Membership and Client Engagement Officer by calling 8951 0904 or emailing [membership@caac.org.au](mailto:membership@caac.org.au). You can also connect with Congress on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### Child and Youth Assessment and Treatment Program

The Board discussed Congress' recently commenced Child and Youth Assessment and Treatment Program, with the service diagnosing and treating neurodevelopmental conditions (including autism, ADHD and FASD) in children and young people. Hearing is also tested and assessments are made both in the community and for young people currently in detention.

The Board endorsed the Child and Youth Assessment and Treatment Program and approved quarterly reporting by Patches Paediatrics and Congress to the Board.

### Strategic Planning Consultation

Community consultation for strategic planning has now finished, and the Board has commenced planning Congress' future strategic directions. Congress thanks those members and staff who contributed to this process. The subsequent strategic planning meeting between the Board and Executive was good and productive. Independent consultant, Edward Tilton will conduct another strategic planning meeting on 22 August 2018 with the Board and Executive and on 21 August 2018 with the remote Boards at the next joint Congress and Remote Boards' Meeting.

### Finance, Risk and Audit Subcommittee Report

*The Board noted the report of the Finance, Risk and Audit Subcommittee, which met on 18 June 2018.*

The Finance Risk and Audit Subcommittee report was considerable this meeting,

with many items to discuss. This included the business services report and global operational budget, which was approved by the Board subject to final confirmation of funding. The financial outlook is positive, with a healthy predicted solvency ratio.

The External Audit Policy is due for review, and tenders have been called for external auditors. Tenders received will be assessed by a small expert team comprising the Independent Director – Finance, General Manager Business Services and Chief Financial Officer. The recommendations from this team will then be put to the Board for endorsement and approval at the AGM.

The Internal Audit Policy, Schedule and Standards have been updated to align with the new ISO standard to which Congress has been accredited. The Board approved these amendments, and the Schedule for internal audits has been prepared. Internal audit looks at process, procedure and compliance across the organisation (as opposed to external audit which is financially focused). This is a positive step in ensuring good operating standards for Congress are maintained.

The Board was briefed on progression of Congress' information technology updates and noted the migration of email and databases to secure, Australian-based cloud platforms. This factor, and other important insurances and data security controls are employed to mitigate risk of breaches and data loss.

The purchase of a 4WD capable truck was approved by the Board, through funding from the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA). The specific operational uses for the truck will be guided by the Male Health Sub Committee.

### Governance Subcommittee Report

*The Board noted the report of the Governance Subcommittee, which met on 12 June 2018.*

A number of items were discussed including creating an Independent Director – General position to allow broader expertise than the prescribed requirements of the existing (and vacant) Independent Director – Governance and Law position. This will be a Rule Book change which requires

member approval at the next AGM. The Board resolved to approve this proposal and to retain the current number of up to three Independent Director positions, subject to member approval at the 2018 AGM.

The Board also discussed and approved the proposal to conduct Board and individual Director performance reviews including as required in accordance with the Board Governance Charter, resolving that these reviews will be completed by 28 November 2018.

The updated Member Charter was tabled. It was amended to include that Congress must notify within 14 days of approval or otherwise for membership applications. The Board approved this charter, which you can download [from our website](#).

### Research Subcommittee Report

*The Board noted the report of the Research Subcommittee, which met on 18 June 2018.*

The Board supported the proposal for Central Australia Academic Health Science Centre (CAAHSC) to become incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. It was also agreed that the company should be incorporated in

accordance with a proposed Constitution and Members Deed, subject to acceptance by all proposed members of the company and independent legal advice to be obtained by Congress.

The Board resolved to approve Congress' participation in the following research projects:

- ASQ-TRAK Inventory—a child development outcome measure for Australian Aboriginal children for an initial six month period, which will involve further development of a culturally appropriate ages and stages tool.
- Family and Community Safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (FaCtS) Study.

### Male Health Subcommittee Report

*The Board noted the report of the Male Health Subcommittee, which met on 6 June 2018.*

### Women's Health Subcommittee Report

*The Board noted the report Women's Health Subcommittee, which met on 30 May 2018.*

### CEO's Report to the Board

The CEO informed the Board that she had accepted appointment as Chair of the Royal Commission Tripartite Forum with the Commonwealth, NT Government, APONT, NTCOSS and NAAJA. The CEO was invited by the Federal Minister to this position which was acknowledged as a significant appointment and representation for Congress at the highest level.

The CEO also presented her report to the Board and highlighted in particular the new Federal Budget and visit by the Baker Institute to Alice Springs. The CEO's Report to the Board was taken as read and included the following items:

### AMSANT General Meeting and Board Meeting

The AMSANT Board meeting was held on 1 May 2018 in Tennant Creek. The meeting was well attended. The strategic policy issues discussed included the ACCHSs funding formula, clinical risks with SEWB, nKPI and Communicare upgrade, syphilis update and discussion, growth funding letter response, nurse home visiting programs, NT Health Pathways, RFDS mental health funding, Batchelor AHP

Training Alice Springs discontinued, Royal Commission response update, Out of Home Care update, regionalisation and member support, evaluating community control, APO NT update and Submission to the Closing The Gap review.

The General Meeting was then held over the following two days at the same location. It was chaired by Anyinginyi Chairman Ross Williams, and was attended by the Congress Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson along with Directors from our remote health Boards. Some of the key strategic issues from the Board meeting were discussed in more detail.

### Mutitjulu Board Meeting

The Mutitjulu Board Meeting took place on 29 May 2018 in Mutitjulu. While no quorum was achieved, the meeting still proceeded with discussion on important strategic issues. This included the proposal for a funding advance from the Indigenous Health Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health, given Mutitjulu is currently underfunded.

### WAHAC Board Meeting

The WAHAC Board Meeting took place on 5 June 2018 in Ntaria. Among many items of business, discussion included support for construction of a new anti-smoking billboard, based on the billboard currently in place on the way to the airport in Alice Springs (pictured left).

### Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program Leadership Retreat

Professor Tom Calma ran a two-day retreat just out of Perth for Aboriginal leaders of organisations funded as part of the national Tackling Indigenous Smoking program which was attended by the CEO. The meeting was very informative and reinforced the key message that smoking is a major cause of many preventable health problems facing our people, especially cancer. The need to commit our organisations at all levels to smoking cessation was discussed, as well as the change in emphasis of the program towards more population activities such as the recently constructed billboard and bus—signage that will soon be on display.







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

## ANFPP National Conference

The Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program (ANFPP) had their annual conference in Brisbane from 12 June 2018 to 14 June 2018. The program is now operating through 13 sites nationally as a result of extra funding in last year's budget, all of these sites were represented at the conference.

Professor Leonie Segal presented the outcome of Congress' evaluation of its program and the key findings in terms of the prevention of child neglect, child protection involvement and days in Out of Home Care, increased birth spacing, halving of childhood anaemia and reduced hospitalisations for injury. The methodology Congress used for its evaluation was considered the best way forward for future evaluations.

## Central Australia Academic Health Science Centre (CAAHSC)

The CAAHSC—of which Congress is the lead agency—has been through its first process of receiving funding applications for research projects. This resulted in a number of high quality applications and allocation of its initial \$2 million funding for 2018/19. The Board approved extension of Congress' Doing It Right project funding along with a study on young people on the streets at night. There was a decision to provide a seed grant for the evaluation of the alcohol policy reforms over time including the impact that alcohol is having on domestic and other interpersonal violence. The NT Government will be approached to provide most of the funding.

## Joint Congress and Remote Boards' Meeting

The joint Congress and Remote Boards' meeting was held on 21 June 2018 at Priest Street. The meeting was attended by Directors from all remote Boards including Ltyentye Apurte, Amoonguna, WAHAC, Mutitjulu and Utju.

There was discussion on a broad range of issues including the AMSANT meeting in Tennant Creek, Health Care Homes, an update on the needs based funding model and the progress on the funding for the Food Summit project.

Power and Water gave a presentation on their current services and there were many excellent issues raised and questions from Directors which led to some important new information on problems they are experiencing. For example, in situations where people are not able to pay for power out of hours at times, one solution is that this will be possible at the 24/7 BP service station in town within the next 2 weeks. It was also made clear that in urgent out of hours situations where there is no access to a store to pay for power, emergency credit can be granted over the phone.

There was a decision to hold a special meeting about Health Care Homes to enable more time to discuss the concerns that were raised. It was decided that it is not possible to make a decision about participation in the evaluation until there is a better understanding of about Health Care Homes.

## Meeting with the Baker Institute Board

The Board of the Baker Institute are coming to Alice Springs, and have requested Congress meet with them on 17 August 2018. The Baker Institute are an important research institution and one of the partners in the CAAHSC. They employ approximately 30 staff in Central Australia. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, CEO and Chief Medical Officer – Public Health have been invited to attend.

## 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](mailto:membership@caac.org.au) or calling Congress' Membership and Client Engagement Officer on 8951 0904.**

**Remind your friends and family too!**

**The next meeting of the Congress Board of Directors will be held on 23 August 2018**

