



Darwin graduates. Back: Annie Druitt (trainer), Mary James, Parnell Kumar, Tony Miles and Stuart Nuggett
Front: Anne Moreen, Anita Cooper, Michael Stevens, Helen Fejo-Frith, Janet Gregory and Geoffrey Shannon



All aboard ORIC training

ORIC offers training to help improve the skills of members, directors and key staff

Courses are shaped to fit the needs of Indigenous corporations and cover areas like recruitment and staffing, how to run a meetings, planning, running a community store, budgeting, money management and how to handle disputes.

Certificate IV in Business (Governance)

This certificate course covers 13 units of competency in four one-week blocks (Monday to Friday) over a period of several months.

To be eligible to start this course you must have completed either ORIC's Introduction to Corporate Governance workshop or the Building Strong Stores workshop, and have a year 10 level of literacy and numeracy.

Diploma of Business (Governance)

The diploma course has 13 units of competency held over five one-week blocks (Monday to Friday) in a period of 6–12 months.

To be eligible to start this course you must have completed ORIC's Certificate IV in Business (Governance) and have a year 12 level of literacy and numeracy.

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Nationally accredited training

ORIC's formal training is nationally recognised and accredited and has been developed for Indigenous people seeking skills in corporate governance and management.

Recently, ORIC held graduation ceremonies for certificate IV and diploma qualifications in Perth, Darwin and Cairns.

The Registrar, Mr Anthony Beven, presented the awards and spoke about governance and its role in developing strong corporations, strong people and strong communities.



'The corporations that these graduates are a part of will be better equipped to face the challenges ahead,' he said.

Tony Miles from Tennant Creek says he thoroughly recommends the course to all Aboriginal people. The Arrernte and Warrungu man is a director of the large Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, which provides a range of community development and business services throughout the Barkly region in the Northern Territory. He is working towards a degree in business management.

Warlpiri woman Mary Napangardi James from Elliott also graduated. She is committed

to building a strong and well-run community organisation that provides culturally appropriate services at a grassroots level.

'The business governance course has helped me to increase my knowledge and understanding of issues that affect Aboriginal corporations,' she says. 'This allows me to give back and provide a better service to my community.'

All the Darwin participants had previously completed the ORIC Building Strong Stores training course.

In Cairns, Roy Prior from Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation on Palm Island was one of the 10 proud students to graduate with a Diploma of Business (Governance).



ORIC trainer Russell Styche with Anita Cooper, an Iwaidja woman living at Bagot community in Darwin who graduated with Certificate IV in Business Governance

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'With the way changes are happening in communities today, a real focus is for our people to be involved in small business,' Mr Prior says. 'I feel the diploma of business has equipped me with the right tools to achieve my goals.'

ORIC staff member Masepah Banu, who is a member of the ACT Torres Strait Islander Corporation, also graduated in Cairns. 'It was worth every minute,' says Mr Banu, who is originally from Boigu Island.

He has worked for ORIC since 1999 and his participation in the diploma course was part of the Registrar's commitment to ORIC's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Spotlight on Western Desert corporation

The Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT) has been featured in the ORIC 'Spotlight on', a regular profile of corporations on the ORIC website.

WDNWPT, based in Alice Springs, works with Yanangu families on dialysis and helps them to develop renal services in their home communities. The corporation recently obtained major funding from the Australian Government to expand its training and dialysis services.

It has also received a grant from Medicines Australia, through the Jimmy Little Foundation, for a new mobile renal vehicle. Manager Sarah Brown said WDNWPT has worked hard to establish a good governance structure.

Visit the ORIC website www.oric.gov.au.



WDNWPT Chair Marlene Nampitjinpa Spencer, Jimmy Little, Sarah Brown and Deputy Chair Bobby West Tjupurula

New training calendar

ORIC's training team maintains a hectic schedule delivering quality courses to members, directors and staff of Indigenous corporations.

'We are in the midst of planning the calendar for next financial year's training rounds,' Director Maureen Colley says.

'The emphasis, as always, is on good governance skills and we encourage all ORIC organisations to take advantage of the free training we provide.'

'It's also a good opportunity to share information, network, brainstorm and solve problems with people from a range of Indigenous corporations.'

We are here to help.

For more information on ORIC training visit our website, www.oric.gov.au.



Above: Director of Training, Maureen Colley, pictured in front of *Mungai*—2007 by Bai Bai Napaangarti (Warlayirti Culture Centre www.balgaort.org.au)

Supporting corporations

A new ORIC study reveals the importance of early support and intervention to turn around Indigenous corporations at risk of failing.

'Of the 2300 Indigenous corporations regulated by ORIC, the majority are functioning well. But for those struggling, we need to know why,' Registrar Anthony Beven says.

The study found the most common cause of failure was poor management and poor corporate governance. Other key factors are underlying disputes and conflicts within and between corporations.

'ORIC has responded by providing a new mediation and dispute resolution service to assist in avoiding major disputes and disruptions that can hinder a corporation's success,' Mr Beven says.

The study was conducted for the Registrar by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government's Institute for Governance and is based on ORIC regulatory data without identifying specific corporations.

Copies of *Analysing key characteristics in Indigenous corporate failure* can be downloaded from www.oric.gov.au or call ORIC freecall: 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles).

