



Left: Four Bulpu by Walinyinawuy (Nancy) Guyula. Right Three Bulpu and Five Bulpu by Walawun (Kathy) Guyula.  
Below: Maat, pandanus spiralis and natural dyes (d. 96cm) by Yilakala (Christine) Wanapuyngu.



# Online support—a click away!

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strong corporations  
strong people  
strong communities



## LawHelp available

A new legal service is available to help not-for-profit CATSI Act corporations to conduct their business.

Started by the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and volunteer lawyers from the Australian Government Solicitor, LawHelp can help corporations with requests regarding:

- interpretation of the law
- drafting, negotiating and managing contracts
- employment issues like workers' compensation, employment contracts and occupational health and safety matters
- tax obligations
- intellectual property arrangements
- real property matters.

Guidelines and an application form for applying for LawHelp are available on the ORIC website in the training and support section.

Applications are assessed by a panel and, if successful, will be passed on

to a lawyer who will then contact the corporation.

If the corporation's application falls outside the scope of LawHelp, it will be returned with a written explanation for the reasons behind the decision, and possible alternatives for assistance.

Areas that LawHelp does not cover include: native title matters, legal action in a court or tribunal and matters of potential conflict for the Australian Government such as Commonwealth funding agreements and Indigenous land use agreements.

You can get assistance with applications from the LawHelp secretariat on 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles) or by emailing LawHelp@oric.gov.au.



The Office of the Registrar of  
Indigenous Corporations  
presents the

## 2010 INDIGENOUS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EVENT

Thursday 28 October 2010  
Alice Springs Desert Park

You will have the opportunity to:

- exchange valuable advice and information on running a corporation
- attend a Corporate Governance for AGMs training session on Wednesday, 27 October 2010  
email: [training@oric.gov.au](mailto:training@oric.gov.au)
- showcase your corporation at the trade fair and network with:
  - » other Indigenous corporations registered under the CATSI Act
  - » government agencies and NGOs

For further details email:  
[publications@oric.gov.au](mailto:publications@oric.gov.au),  
freecall: 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles)

If you're interested in attending the corporate governance event or in having a stall at the trade fair call ORIC on 1800 622 431.



# Spotlight on Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Aboriginal Corporation

The newest Aboriginal art centre in the Northern Territory, Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Aboriginal Corporation, is holding its first independent art exhibition in August.

As featured in the ORIC website's 'Spotlight On' in July, the exhibition will celebrate the works of 20 artists renowned for their traditional fibre art as well as bark and canvas paintings.

*Ngurrungu Yolnguwung Mala Djaamapuy* art exhibition  
13–29 August 2010

Territory Craft Gallery, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Bullocky Point, Darwin.

Got a story for ORIC's 'Spotlight On'? Contact our communications area by emailing [publications@oric.gov.au](mailto:publications@oric.gov.au)

*Gonbuy Bathi* by Wulnuwulnu (Wendy Guyula)  
and *Bathi* by Wulthangi (Sandra Burrawanga)

## New checklist makes compliance easier

Corporations now have a new tool to help meet important obligations and keep track of compliance requirements.

The Healthy Corporation Checklist contains template documents such as notices of meetings and forms for updating information with the Registrar.

There are also checklists relating to people management, strategic planning and other issues that may be faced by corporations.

'This is a very useful tool which I know will become popular,' the Registrar, Anthony Beven, said.

'ORIC welcomes feedback from corporations using the checklist so it can be updated and tailored to best meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.'

Peter Armstrong, Director of ORIC's Regulation Section, said the response from corporations since the checklist was launched in June, has been very positive.

'It's a really valuable guide for corporate governance and I think it's one of the best things ORIC has produced for a number of years.'

The healthy corporation checklist is available from the ORIC website.

Image: Peter Armstrong



**SEE THE CHECKLIST ON THE ORIC WEBSITE**

## Reports are now due

All corporations, whatever their registered size and income, must lodge reports with the Registrar every year. Reports for the 2009–10 financial year are now due. Corporations should have recently received an email or letter from ORIC outlining their current registered size and the corporation's 2009–10 reporting requirements.

Corporations can complete their reports by logging onto ORIC's secure online lodgment page, <https://online.oric.gov.au>, or lodge in hard copy.

Don't be late: This year, the Registrar's compliance campaign is focusing on large and medium corporations that do not lodge reports. Large and medium corporations that fail to lodge their 2009–10 reports by 31 December 2010 could face prosecution, along with secretaries of large corporations. Under the CATSI Act the maximum penalties for each report not lodged are \$13 750 for corporations and \$550 for secretaries.

Make sure you get your reports right and lodged on time. For further information on CATSI Act reporting requirements visit [www.oric.gov.au](http://www.oric.gov.au), or if you need help with lodging your reports contact ORIC on freecall 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles) or email [info@oric.gov.au](mailto:info@oric.gov.au).

### Your copy of the ORIC Oracle

If you would rather receive your copy of The ORIC Oracle electronically, send an email to [publications@oric.gov.au](mailto:publications@oric.gov.au).

## 2009–10 reports can now be lodged

Send them to ORIC or lodge safely online at [www.oric.gov.au](http://www.oric.gov.au)





**NATIONAL CONGRESS**  
OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES

## **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR CO-CHAIRS AND DELEGATES**

The first full meeting of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples Ltd will take place from **30 November – 2 December 2010** in Melbourne, Victoria.

Up to 120 Delegates will begin work on setting the agenda for the National Congress at this meeting and nominations are now open.

The Annual Forum of 120 delegates will be organised into 3 chambers. The Forum makes decisions on policies and issues affecting our peoples and advises the National Executive on the future direction and priorities for the organisation. Each Chamber will have 40 delegates, incorporating an equal gender balance, made up of 3 Categories:

- Chamber 1: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and peak bodies operating at a Regional, State/Territory or National level.
- Chamber 2: All other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.
- Chamber 3: All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 18 years and older.

### **ELECTIONS**

There will be elections for the Congress Co-Chairs and the 80 delegates that make up Chambers 1 and 2. Delegates to Chamber 3 will be appointed by a selection process.

More information will be available on how to vote, when nominees have been confirmed.

### **CO-CHAIRS**

The fulltime elected positions of Co-Chairs (female and male) will lead the National Executive and the Congress.

These leaders must be of the highest quality and integrity to undertake the enormous responsibilities of representing the interests of our members across Australia.

### **DELEGATES**

Delegates to the National Congress, will have the opportunity to participate in the development of a national policy agenda for Indigenous issues and be part of a new and exciting organisation that will advocate on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the country.

*More information on the roles and responsibilities of Co-Chairs and Delegates is available in the nomination information packs on our website – [www.nationalcongress.com.au](http://www.nationalcongress.com.au)*

### **HOW DO I NOMINATE?**

All individual nominees for Delegates to the Congress must be members of the Congress, even if you are attending on behalf of your organisation.

To nominate to become a Delegate to the Congress, or apply for the position of Co-Chair, you will need to:

1. Submit a membership form (if you have not already done so) and ensure your organisation is also a member if you are seeking to be a Delegate to Chambers 1 or 2
2. Read the Policy information available on the website for further details about the roles and responsibilities of a Co-Chair or Delegate
3. Fill in the required forms and submit them by close of business **13 September, 2010**

**For further information visit our website: [www.nationalcongress.com.au](http://www.nationalcongress.com.au)**



## What is the Congress?

***“ The Congress will create a national and collective voice, conduct research, be a partner for government and industry, a think tank for our issues and our peoples. ”***

Sam Jeffries, Congress Co-Chair

### **A National Voice**

The establishment of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is the culmination of years of hard work to re-create a national Indigenous representative body. The Congress has been established as a Company Limited by Guarantee and was incorporated in April 2010.

Our Vision is to be a national leader and advocate for recognising the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as First Nation peoples.

### **About the National Congress**

The final Model for the Congress is based on:

- the highest standards of professionalism and objectivity
- clear principles and ethics: integrity, honesty, accountability, transparency, openness, participation and inclusion, being informed
- a non-government organisation
- an organisation which will raise corporate and philanthropic support and funds

### **The National Congress will:**

- advocate for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights
- work towards securing an economic, social, cultural and environmental future for our peoples
- build new relationships with government, industry and among communities
- have fair and diverse membership, guarantee gender balance for delegates and office holders
- ensure participation from youth, urban, regional and remote communities
- encourage new leadership
- grow and change based on decisions made by our members – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

### **The National Congress will not:**

- provide service delivery or funding for public programs
- have representatives or memberships who are hand-picked by government
- be dependent upon the good will of parliament or the government of the day

### **Financial Sustainability**

The Congress aims to become financially sustainable by raising funds, and gaining sponsorships. The Australian Government has committed \$30 million to the establishment and operation to 2013.

***“ We are promising to deliver a vehicle for our aspirations and visions – not an overnight fix or that would have been realised already. This is a long term proposition. ”***

Dr Kerry Arabena, Congress Co-Chair