

BUDGET ESTIMATES

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

7 November 2024 Hearing

Good Afternoon Senators.

Tricia Stroud, Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations.

I'm accompanied by Andrew Huey, Deputy Registrar.

I'd too like to acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Ngunnawal people.

Since our appearance before the committee in May, ORIC has:

- Released its Corporate Plan 2024-27.
- Commenced the roll out of our refreshed 2 Day Governance Training and aim to deliver 15 workshops this financial year.
- Returned to offering the Certificate IV Business (Governance) with 16 participants from 16 corporations, having last week completed their 4th and final week-long residential.

We have also launched our new website with improved user functions. We continue to build new resources and make further improvements - informed by user feedback but also the demand for support resources driven by our training offerings.

Since returning to minor regulatory prosecutions, we have seen 18 corporations prosecuted. These are medium and large corporations who have failed to lodge annual reports, or more importantly failed to provide their members with annual reports. We continue to refer corporations who have not lodged reports for 2 or more years, and where every effort has been made to assist the corporation to become compliant with its reporting obligations.

We are currently reviewing 328 corporations for deregistration. These being corporations that we believe are no longer operating.

In terms of the corporations we support and regulate:

- There are 3,493 corporations registered under the CATSI Act, including 279 RNTBCs.
- 36.6% of corporations who are required to lodge annual reports still have not done so for 2022-23 reports. As is the usual trend, 85% of corporations with overdue reports are small corporations.
- 92.4% of RNTBCs are complying with the requirements of the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021* to amend their rule book.
- 38% of director positions have director IDs.
- Nearly a quarter of corporations have achieved all directors having a unique director ID.
- Three corporations are under special administration.
- Thirteen examinations have been undertaken with 6 resulting in the corporation being given a compliance notice and one issued a show cause notice as to why it should not be placed under special administration.

We continue to review and refresh our policies and procedures and expect to very shortly finalise core ones relating to reporting concerns about a corporation, corporation disputes and complaints about ORIC.

This month we published the first of our new triannual performance reporting – replacing our annual Yearbook. It reports on what we have delivered this year.

This will be followed by reports measuring how well we have done this and the impact of our work in February and July respectively.

We will continue to contribute to National Indigenous Australian Agency's Annual Report.

I look forward to providing further updates on our regulatory progress.

Senators, I'm happy to take any questions.