



OFFICE OF THE
**REGISTRAR OF
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Mr Barry Wakelin
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CAPACITY BUILDING INQUIRY Submission No.26.....
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Dear Mr Wakelin

I refer to your invitation to this office to make a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities.

The Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations (ORAC) currently provides training and other assistance to the Board members and other members of Indigenous corporations with a view to developing their capacity to better manage their corporations and to provide better services to their communities.

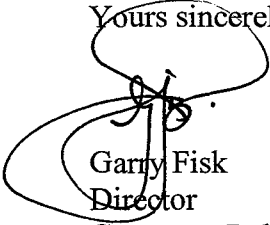
The Act under which ORAC operates, the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976*, is currently undergoing a major review. Although the final report has not been delivered it is evident from material already provided by the reviewers that if their recommendations are accepted by Government, ORAC's focus will be increased in the area of capacity building. A summary of one of the earlier papers prepared by the reviewers is attached for your information.

The final review report is expected in the near future and at that time the Registrar would appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with a presentation on how ORAC can assist with building the capacity of Indigenous communities. At the same time we would also like to brief the Committee on a training initiative that ORAC is undertaking, and which we hope will be close to implementation by that time. This training is designed to provide a demonstrable improvement in the skills of potential and existing Directors, Senior Managers and Boards of Indigenous corporations and which will contribute to improved corporate governance and management by targeting training in developing sectors (eg family violence) and highest risk essential service organisations.

The final report from the reviewers is expected by the end of September. If possible it would be appreciated if you could allow the opportunity for the Registrar to brief the Committee around mid to late October.

I look forward to your advice in this regard.

Yours sincerely


Garry Fisk
Director
Corporate Relations
29 August 2002