



APONT
Aboriginal Governance
& Management Program

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Special edition

**See inside for your
guide to Director IDs**

So what is 'two-way' governance?

The Aboriginal Governance and Management Program offers unique 'two-way' governance support for Aboriginal organisations in the NT.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have systems of traditional governance and decision making that have been around for 60,000+ years. Cultural governance informs the rules about the 'right way' and 'wrong way' of working with community and country.

However, Aboriginal organisations must also work within non-Aboriginal, corporate systems, laws and government-defined ways of working. This requires meeting obligations around managing money, reporting to funders and managing risk and compliance.

Finding the balance between Aboriginal cultural expectations and non-Aboriginal, corporate requirements means building governance that works well 'two-ways'. This balancing act is called two-way governance.



Two-way governance: Image courtesy of Australian Indigenous Governance Institute

AGMP supports governance two-ways

AGMP provides training, mentoring and support across many areas of governance – such as:

- roles and responsibilities
- meetings and decision making
- leadership and representation
- organisational planning
- rule books
- managing risk and systems
- supporting the manager
- understanding the money story.

We look at all these topics from a two-way governance perspective — helping boards to consider their responsibilities – both ways – to culture and community as well as funders and regulators.

AGMP also can work with organisations to undertake a two-way governance 'health check', to assess how a board is performing across these areas. We use these results to develop support plans – tailored to the specific needs and aspirations of each organisation we work with.

AGMP recognises that one size doesn't fit all. Aboriginal governance is different everywhere, so every Aboriginal organisation needs a unique two-way approach.

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Guide to Director IDs

Did you know that the Australian Government has introduced new requirements for all directors to get a director identification number (Director ID)?

AGMP has created a free step-by-step guide to getting your Director IDs sorted. This has been created together with the Arnhem, Northern and Kimberley Artists (ANKA) Aboriginal Corporation.

You can download it free from [our website](#).

AGMP have also been speaking up to government about the burden that Director ID requirements have been placing on Aboriginal organisations. We are working to try and make this process easier. If you would like to share some of the challenges you are facing around Director IDs, please let us know so that we can raise your concerns in our advocacy with government.

Feel free to get in touch with a friendly AGMP team member if you have questions.

Download [AGMP's free guide to Director IDs](#) or check out the [ABRS](#) or [ORIC](#) websites for more information.

What is a Director ID?



The Australian Government have introduced a new requirement for directors of all companies and Aboriginal corporations to verify their identity and apply for an identification number.

This is called a Director ID.

Just like when you get a license to drive a car, a Director ID number shows that you can be a director of an organisation



Do you have your **tax file number**?

Yes

No

Have you got at least **2 of these identity documents**:

- full birth certificate
- passport
- Medicare card
- drivers license

Yes

No

Is your **name different** to the name on your identity documents?

No

Yes

Do you have a **certificate showing your name change**?

Yes

No

Have you got at least **2 of these**:

- bank account details (to which your tax refund or payments are made and received)
- an ATO notice of assessment
- superannuation account details (must be your individual account, not an entity's account)
- a dividend statement
- a Centrelink payment summary
- a PAYG payment summary (this is different to your income statement or your PAYG instalment activity statement).

Yes

No

Have you got a **smart device (like an iphone or tablet)** you can download the myGovID app onto?

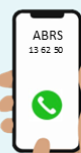
No

Yes

Fill in a paper form



By phone



Use the myGovID app to log in to ABRN online



Image courtesy of <https://www.oric.gov.au/run-corporation/director-id-catsi-act-directors>

Do I need to get a Director ID?



Yes.

All directors – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous directors of incorporated companies (ASIC) and Aboriginal corporations (ORIC) are required to get Directors ID's. If you are a new director – recently appointed at your AGM – you will need to apply now. All existing directors appointed at the 2020 or 2021 AGM must apply before 30 November 2023.

What happens if I don't get one?



If you (or any of the directors of your organisation) don't get a Director ID by the deadline, **you may personally be fined \$5550**. You can apply for an extension if there are reasons why you can't get one by the due date.

How do I get a Director ID?



There are three ways directors can apply – by phone, by a paper application form or online if you have a myGov account.

See AGMP's step-by-step guide on [our website](#) for more information.

Independent evaluation of AGMP finalised

In late 2022, La Trobe University's Institute for Human Security and Social Change published an independent evaluation of the Aboriginal Governance and Management Program.

La Trobe worked with Aboriginal community researchers and consulted with 28 stakeholders where AGMP has recently worked. This feedback, together with other program data, informed detailed case studies on our approach, achievements and areas for further development.

"The key thing about [AGMP] is flexibility and responsiveness to our needs as a board and understanding of the unique aspects of our space. AGMP really understand that and the space people are working in and from." Organisation staff member

The research showed that AGMP has a sophisticated approach to governance support that is tailored and effective in the complex NT context. It found that AGMP is highly relevant and responsive to the governance needs of the Aboriginal organisations and is effectively contributing to strengthening the capacity of their Aboriginal boards.

Board members reported increased understanding of governance – including their roles and responsibilities and separation of powers — because of AGMP support. They also reported feeling more empowered, confident, and motivated because of AGMP support.

"There is a lot of big words and languages and (AGMP) breaks it into small and meaningful language for us to understand."

Committee member

Board members also said that AGMP provided clear information and useful resources and tools that assist board members. Key to the approach is AGMP's experienced and skillful staff, the development of relationships and the tailoring of support to the local needs of each organisation. Our flexible approach, deep understanding of the local context and strong, long-term working relationships were highlighted as key enabling factors.

"What AGMP have done differently is being persistent. Not just coming in and ticking the box. They wanted us to understand and went through it with us over and over until we all understood it."

Board member

You can read the full evaluation report at [our website](#).



APONT Aboriginal Governance & Management Program

Two-way governance for Kakadu National Park Board

The Kakadu National Park Board of Management are a 21-member group of Traditional Owners representing diverse clan groups from across the Kakadu region, plus representatives from NT Parks, government and tourism. The board are entrusted with the joint management of Kakadu through their cultural authority as Traditional Owners.

A recent review of federal joint managed parks recommended stronger two-way governance and less 'western bureaucratic approaches to park management' in order to maximise Traditional Owners' participation in decision making at the board level.

AGMP has been engaged as a long term partner in providing two-way governance support for the Kakadu Board of Management. AGMP is the only Aboriginal-controlled, not-for-profit governance provider in the NT. We have 10 years' experience in locally developed approaches to supporting Aboriginal leadership.

We are proud to be supporting Kakadu's Bininj and Mungguy board members in their important work looking after country.



Ryan Baruwei, Chair of the Kakadu Board

AGMP support for start-up Aboriginal Corporation



St Mary's Stolen Generation Group

AGMP is pleased to support the newly established St Mary's Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation in Alice Springs. This dedicated group of local leaders approached AGMP early this year looking for help to set up as a new organisation. Since then, we've enjoyed meeting regularly with members. We've talked about the purpose of the new organisation and developed a draft rule book that reflects their objectives and preferred ways of working. AGMP has also been helping the group navigate the application paperwork (including Director IDs) and preparing further training so that everyone is across their formal roles and responsibilities once incorporated. We've even been able to provide referrals for the group to access pro bono (free) legal support.

Whether you are young or old, whether your Aboriginal organisation is brand new or well established, AGMP can help you with governance support!

We are happy to be supporting this dedicated group and their families in their goal of strengthening connections and healing amongst the former residents of the St Mary's children's home in Alice Springs.

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