



CASE STUDY

Walangeri Ngumpinku Aboriginal Corporation **Stepping up for community control of the Yarralin store**

Walangeri Ngumpinku Aboriginal Corporation (WNAC) is a small organisation in the north-west of the Northern Territory (NT), representing Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people from the township of Yarralin. Set up back in 1992 WNAC was, until recently, effectively dormant - with little power or purpose for how to serve its members.

This changed in 2019 when the Victoria Daly Regional Council handed a number of community assets—including the Yarralin store - back to community control. To support the transition, WNAC applied for a business development grant from the NT Government which enabled them to kick-start the organisation - establishing an office, engaging a General Manager, developing a strategic plan and setting up systems and policies. However longer term mentoring and support was needed to build the confidence and capacity of the Board to take on the new opportunities ahead.

In February 2020, AGMP was approach to provide financial literacy and governance training for the WNAC Board. Over the following 6 months, AGMP delivered workshops and provided information to help the Board and Management understand budgets, profit and loss statement and interpret store finances. Through the advice provided by AGMP, the Board also came to recognise that a separate corporate structure was required to protect WNAC from risks, maintain their 'not-for-profit' status and to ensure the store could hold suitable insurances and permits. As a result, AGMP helped WNAC to understand the pro's and con's of different corporate governance options and supported their decision to establish Kyang Kyang Aboriginal Corporation as subsidiary organisation.

"Its quite special, and we've been waiting for this to happen for quite a few years... Ngayimarna (us mob) will be the Directors going forward for this store. Anything to do with the store -it will be Ngayimarna. Nobody else!"
(Brian Pedwell, Chairman WNAC)

Through this experience, the Board have increased their skills and confidence in leading their organisation and have developed a clearer direction for their future.



In addition, through the process of developing a Rule Book and registering Kyang Kyang, the Board have developed a deeper understanding of good governance. The Board have now turned their attention to reviewing the WNAC Rule Book to better reflect their values and aspirations.

"The Board know what they want, what the problems are, and are clear on the solutions."

(Martin Schahinger, General Manager WNAC)

The Yarralin store is now successfully under community control. Local people are employed, food prices are down and the store finances are looking good. But more importantly, WNAC are confident and at last able to deliver optimism and opportunity for their members – the Traditional Owners and their families of Yarralin community.

Critical factors for success

AGMP delivers governance and management support that strengthens Aboriginal organisations according to their self-determined needs. We believe that strong Aboriginal organisations lead to improved outcomes for the communities in which they operate. WNAC demonstrate this through:

- A committed Board—pro-actively seeking partnerships and support to increase their skills
- Good management—with systems and procedures in place to remain compliant and solvent.
- Adaptable and responsive to opportunities, yet working to a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of its members.