



ACT

Government

Community Services

Ms Jennifer Collard
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National Indigenous Australians Agency
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Dear Ms Collard

RE: Draft Report released: Review of Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act)

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 2020 regarding the draft report release of the review of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act).

Strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation sector aligns with two of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2018-2028* significant focus areas. The significant focus areas are as follows:

- a. **Connecting the Community** – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are connected to strong families, and social and support networks building upon the foundation of community leadership.
- b. **Economic Participation** – Equality of access to employment and growth in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and community services organisations which drives economic development across their communities.

ACT Government supports the CATSI Act review in its intent to strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community sector. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations form the basis of support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and provide an advocacy role that is both strong and diverse; as is the First Nation peoples.

The ACT Government recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations play a unique role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and in the provision of services. The CATSI Act review should foster good governance practices to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations to be sustainable. Any special administration required through the life of a corporation should focus on strengthening governance and processes and not disadvantage the

corporation in any way in continuing business.

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation sector is made up of a majority of smaller organisations as the ACT Government supports growing the sector. Many of these organisations incorporated under the CATSI Act look to the Registrar for assistance and support. The review of the CATSI Act provides an opportunity to look for ways to support smaller organisations like reducing the regulatory burden and/or through advice and information sharing on the requirements under the Act.

The ACT Government is supporting new and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, under the ACT New and Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisation Support Program (NEO Support Program), to develop culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.

On behalf of the ACT Government, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Draft Report of the Review of the CATSI Act of 2006*, and we look forward to the release of the final report in October 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Wood', written in a cursive style.

Jo Wood
Director-General
Community Services Directorate
10 September 2020