



NATIONAL CONGRESS
OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES

INAUGURAL NATIONAL CONGRESS DELEGATES MEETING

7-9 JUNE 2011

MEMBER INPUT, WORKSHOP AND POLICY POSITION PAPER

Brief:

To engage Congress members to identify the policy priority areas for the organisation and to facilitate at the inaugural meeting of delegates at the National Congress meeting on the development of the Congress's policy platform for the next 12 months.

Background:

The Congress was incorporated in April 2010 to be a national advocacy body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members. It is a member-driven, democratic Indigenous organisation whose policy mandate will be set at the inaugural National Congress meeting to be held in Sydney on 7-9 June 2011.

120 delegates, will be attending the National Congress meeting to engage in the policy setting and direction for the organisation in the forthcoming year.

It is intended that delegates will provide recommendations and priorities in specified policy portfolio areas. To this end, a day of the National Congress program has been allocated to the development of our policy agenda by our delegates.

Project specifications:

There are three elements to this brief, where we would welcome a fee proposal for the provision of advice and services:

(1) To identify policy priority areas through member consultation.

The Congress is committed to our members being engaged in the policy development process and that our policy priorities reflect the matters that are of concern to our members, their families and communities.

We seek your services to develop an effective model for engaging our members to identify the broad policy priority areas for 2011-2012 (financial year) and for our members views to inform the Congress's policy platform. Models of engaging our members may be informed by reference to other national organisations that are membership based (ACOSS or Political party's National Conferences) or other international models (National Congress of American Indians).

In relation to implementing the proposed model for consultation to help define the policy priorities, a member survey will need to be undertaken to enable a short discussion paper to be drafted in May for delegate consideration and deliberations at the National Congress.

(2) Running of National Congress policy workshop forum. To run the policy portfolio workshops, it is anticipated that the key functions/deliverables will include:

- Identifying key themes/portfolio areas for the basis of delegates dividing into focus groups, so that they may provide recommendations as to policy and priorities in these specified areas;
- Draft a high level accessible issues/discussion paper for each workshop focus group, (which may include key issues, questions or possible high level policy positions) for delegate debate, endorsement and recommendations;
- To facilitate delegate discussion and the development of policy priorities.

If preferred, the workshop facilitator functions may be undertaken by another Indigenous organisation or recommended persons with expertise and/or experience in running or facilitating workshops.

- (3) **Draft report /policy platform** The outcome of the policy workshop (post the National Congress) would be a draft report, which collates broad membership input, delegate recommendations and discussion and provides the Congress with its policy priorities and platform for the forthcoming year.

Fee proposal: The Congress would welcome your expression of interest and fee proposal for undertaking this brief and sincerely hopes that you are interested in providing your expertise and services to assist the National Congress developing its policy agenda for 2011- 2012 financial year.

Timeframes: The National Congress will be held in Sydney on 7- 9 June 2011. The workshop policy forum is scheduled for 8 June 2011. The preferred model of engagement with our members would be for consultation to happen prior to the National Congress and a draft report on the outcome of the policy workshop forum produced by 9 July 2011.

Closing date for submissions is cob **Wednesday, 18 April 2011.**

Please email to eoi@nationalcongress.com.au

Contacts

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