



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES

www.nationalcongress.com.au

The Directors of the National Board tasked with overseeing organisational growth and setting policy priorities of the Congress.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Ms Venessa Curnow, Mr Brian Butler, Mr Les Malezer, Mr Rodney Little, Ms Jody Broun, Mr Dennis Eggington, Ms Daphne Yarram and Ms Tammy Solonec.



The National Board.

**“ The Congress will create a national and collective voice, conduct research, be a partner for government and industry, a think tank for our issues and our peoples. ”**

Congress launch May 2010

## A National Voice

The establishment of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is the culmination of years of hard work to re-create a national representative body. The Congress has been established as a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in April 2010. Our vision is to be a national leader and advocate for recognising the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as First Nation peoples.

### About the Congress

The final model is based on:

- the highest standards of professionalism and objectivity
- clear principles and ethics: integrity, honesty, accountability, transparency, openness, participation and inclusion, being informed
- a non-government organisation
- an organisation which will raise corporate and philanthropic support and funds

### The Congress will:

- advocate for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights
- work towards securing an economic, social, cultural and environmental future for our peoples
- grow and change based on decisions made by our members – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

### The Congress will not:

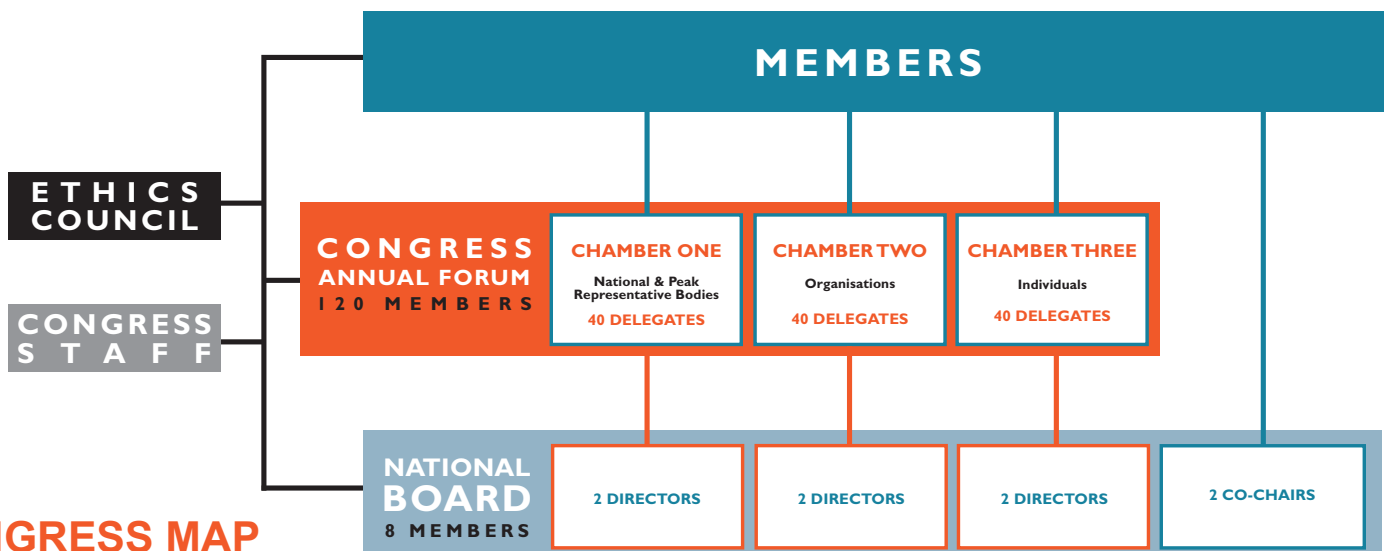
- have representatives or members who are hand-picked by government
- be dependent upon the good will of parliament or the government of the day
- provide service delivery or funding for public programs

### Financial Sustainability

The Congress aims to become financially sustainable by raising funds, and gaining sponsorships.

The Australian Government has committed \$30 million to the establishment and operations to 2013.

## CONGRESS MAP





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## Who can join the Congress?

**INDIVIDUALS** - All Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, 18 years and over can join.

**ORGANISATIONS** - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Membership to the Congress is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and organisations. As a Congress member you will be part of a national network that shares information and develops our skills. The Congress will also share the latest news and opinions and you can also have a say by standing as a candidate or voting directly for the Congress Co-Chairs. We will seek your views on important issues and there will be opportunities to participate in Congress forums, conferences and workshops.

### Eligibility

To be a member you will need to meet some basic requirements:

#### Definition of Organisations:

- At least 51% of members are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders
- At least 51% of the Board/Committee/Council members are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- The purpose and activity of the organisation relates specifically to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- For national organisations, you need to have a significant number of members throughout Australia, in at least five or more states and territories

#### Definition of Peak Body organisations:

- Not controlled by government; and
- Members of the peak body provide the same or similar services as each other

#### Individuals must:

- be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and
- be accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community

### Membership Approvals

Applications will be considered by the National Board at its next available meeting. Once your application has been considered, you will be notified of the outcome.

**MEMBERSHIP COSTS** - There are no membership fees at this time.

**“ We are promising to deliver a vehicle for our aspirations and visions – not an overnight fix or that would have been realised already. This is a long term proposition. ”** Congress Launch May 2010

MEMBERSHIP