

## **National Board Communique Meeting No 2. Canberra, August 2011**



The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Congress) Board met in Canberra from 24-26 August 2011 and discussed a range of issues which are summarised below:

### **Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER)**

The Board considered a Congress position on the NTER informed by research undertaken by the UNSW Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Research Unit, position papers prepared by NT Aboriginal organisations and meetings held in the Territory by the Co-Chairs and staff.

A position paper will be based on the principle that organisations and communities in the NT are best placed to provide the solutions for their communities' needs and aspirations and all necessary effort to ensure they are resourced and empowered to do this in a genuine way should be made.

The Congress paper on the NTER and background research will be made sent to Members and made publically available on the Congress website for Members' information and comment.

### **Constitutional Recognition**

The Board considered a Congress statement on Constitutional recognition for a presentation to the Expert Panel by the Co-Chairs.

The statement is largely based on the survey of Members undertaken on this topic along with the deliberations of the National Congress in June, both of which expressed strong support for Constitutional change.

The paper will be published on the Congress website.

### **Policy Process**

The Congress is currently finalising a policy model that will ensure an open and robust process by which policy positions of the organisation will be formed. The process will include clear roles for Congress Members and Delegates and will draw upon the expertise of all our individual Members and Member organisations.

Directors will lead various policy areas and the process will be trialled in the coming months in a number of priority areas identified by our Members.

## **Leadership in the Health Sector**

The Congress is working with a coalition of Indigenous health peak bodies, many of whom are member organisations of the Congress.

A new forum will be launched soon with the primary role as the partnership interface with Government on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. It will also have a role in the development of the Health Equality Plan with Federal Minister Snowdon and in the Closing the Gap on Indigenous Health Steering Committee.

Congress Co-Chair Jody Broun will co-chair the coalition along with Justin Mohamed Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

## **Audit**

The Board was briefed by Ms Gaille Pearce of Deloitte on the outcomes of the audit. The audit was clear and identified no major concerns, with the organisation operating well within budget. The audit was approved to be presented to members at the AGM.

## **AGM**

The first AGM of the Congress will be held on 13 October at 5:30 pm in Sydney.

## **Membership**

The Board approved 240 new individual membership applications bringing the total number of individual members to 2654.

## **Next meeting**

The Board will next meet in Sydney on 14 October.