



## PRESCRIBED BODIES CORPORATE (PBCs) SUPPORT PROJECT UPDATE

By Claire Stacey & Toni Bauman

AIATSIS has been conducting extensive research with PBCs, or Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs) as they are more formally known, since 2006 and started a PBC Support Project in 2011. The PBC Support Project has now become part of the 'business as usual' of the Native Title Research Unit, and continues to take direction from PBCs through recommendations made at national and regional meetings, as well as individual requests from PBCs.

AIATSIS invites all PBCs to send us your feedback and suggest ways that our research can best support your needs.

AIATSIS continues to look after:

- The PBC website: a collection of information, news and advice for PBCs ([www.nativetitle.org.au](http://www.nativetitle.org.au))
- PBC funding toolkits: lists of funding, grants, training and events that might be useful to PBCs
- PBC email network: for sending through any news, information, updates or events that might be useful to PBCs
- PBC profiles: summary of each PBC with contact details

AIATSIS also aims to support PBCs by:

- Following up on the recommendations made by PBCs at regional and national PBC meetings
- Providing PBC forums at the Native Title Conference 2013
- Creating new information resources for PBCs
- Working with other organisations such as Aurora, FaHCSIA and ORIC to better coordinate PBC training and support

- Coordinating a state wide meeting of PBCs in Western Australia in 2013
- Speaking with NTRB/NTSP staff who work with PBCs to better coordinate the flow of information, resources, knowledge and advice that might be of use to PBCs

AIATSIS will also be inviting PBCs to be a part of a national PBC survey in 2013. The survey is being done by AIATSIS in order to gather information about how much assistance native title groups are getting with running their native title business. The survey will ask PBCs questions about the different types of activities they are engaged in, the current capacity of the PBCs and PBC relationships with NTRBs/NTSPs.

Once the survey is completed, AIATSIS will collate all the information it collects and write a report which sets out the findings of this research. If appropriate, this report can then be used by native title groups and research organisations such as AIATSIS, to argue for more support and better policies for PBCs into the future.

PBC profiles, funding toolkits, news and advice can be found on the PBC website: [www.nativetitle.org.au](http://www.nativetitle.org.au). For any enquiries or suggestions please contact Claire Stacey on [claire.stacey@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:claire.stacey@aiatsis.gov.au) or (02) 6246 1158.

### Aurora pilots 'Understanding and managing native title for PBCs'

In 2012, the Aurora Project ran two four-day pilot programs to help Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) manage their native title. Funded

by FaHCSIA, 'Understanding and managing native title for PBCs' was available for members of Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and their staff, as well as PBC support staff from NTRBs and NTSPs. The pilots were facilitated by Toni Bauman (AIATSIS), Angus Frith (University of Melbourne) and Duane Vickery (ETMP consultants).

Eighteen individuals from twelve PBCs and two NTRBs from Queensland attended in Cairns from Monday 6 August to Friday 10 August, and twenty participants from eight PBCs and one NTRB from Western Australia attended in Broome from Monday 3 September to Thursday 6 September.

The four-day pilots focused on PBCs' legal obligations under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth), PBC Regulations and the *Native Title Act* with practical activities and group discussion based on real situations faced by PBCs. The course was in two parts:

- Part 1: Understanding future acts and ILUAs for PBCs; and
- Part 2: Managing native title: Group consultation and decision making

Part 1 reviewed important information that PBCs need to know regarding future acts and ILUAs so as to be able to manage their native title, and explored ways to share this information with the whole native title group. Part 2 dealt with free, prior and informed consent, and PBCs legal obligations for group consultation and native title decision making. A scenario activity focused on how to set up processes for consultation and decision making which meet legal requirements and are right for the native title group.

Materials developed specially for PBCs were also provided, to be taken back to the PBC to help with future work. Resources from the program will be available in December 2013 for PBCs and those who work for PBCs at: [www.auroraproject.com.au/PBC\\_resources](http://www.auroraproject.com.au/PBC_resources)

Enquiries about this program can be made to:

[philippa.pryor@auroraproject.com.au](mailto:philippa.pryor@auroraproject.com.au)

Image: Participants at the Aurora PBC training pilot in Cairns in August 2012.

Credit: Jacinta van Lint