

# Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service

(special administrator appointed)



February 2012, Issue 2

Dear corporation members and interested people,

This is my second newsletter to you since being appointed the special administrator of the corporation by the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations on 28 November 2012.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I will be providing you with regular updates on how the special administration is going and also outline key upcoming activities and events.

## INFORMATION MEETING

On 8 December 2011 I held an information meeting to inform the members and others about my role and the purpose of the special administration. The meeting was generally positive and about 90 people attended, including the Registrar, Anthony Beven.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

On 31 January 2012 I held the AGM for the year ended 30 June 2011 at the Kempsey Anglican Youth Hall. Unfortunately Kempsey was on flood alert that day and as a result many members were unable to attend. Only 17 members and 12 observers attended.

After the AGM business I held an initial consultation session to discuss some proposed changes to the rule book. More detailed consultations will take place in March.

## RULE BOOK WORKSHOP

On Thursday 1 March 2012 I will run a full-day workshop on the proposed rule book changes at the Kempsey Motor Inn. The schedule for the day is:

9.30 am–10 am	Meet and greet with morning tea
10 am	Start workshop (includes a break-out group activity)
1 pm–1.30 pm	Lunch
1.45 pm	Continue workshop (concluding with final recommendations)
3 pm	Close

All members are welcome to attend but there is limited space in the meeting room so space will be allocated on a first come basis, so please arrive on time.

## COMMUNITY MEETING

On 2 March 2012 I will be holding a further information meeting at the Bowraville Health Clinic. This meeting will start at 1 pm. Members and interested people from all regions are invited to receive a progress update and to ask me questions as the special administrator for Durri. The Registrar, Anthony Beven, will also attend the meeting.

## BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR DURRI CLIENTS

When I was appointed I advised members that it would be 'business as usual' at Durri. I have been able to keep to that promise mainly because senior management and staff have continued to focus on core business, servicing the needs of clients. I congratulate all staff for the work they are doing under difficult circumstances.

I am pleased to report that the executive officers at Durri now have the delegated authority to take on the role of front line decision makers with full responsibility for working within budgets. They are keeping the clinics on track with services and resourcing.

## RECRUITMENT OF NEW CEO

Friday, 17 February 2012 was the closing date for applications for the position of CEO. Interviews will be conducted on Friday 9 March and I hope to announce an appointment very soon after that date.

## THE MONEY STORY

I recently received independent advice about the corporation's money situation. I believe Durri can pay all its bills from money it has at hand. This is very good news and means the future is bright although I caution there is still work to do to really make sure this is the case.

A new financial management system is being developed. It will replace the old one that did not serve the needs of management and the directors. The new system will be

much better because it will give managers and directors up-to-date and higher quality information about how the corporation is spending its money—for example, it will show who is doing the spending and on what.

## REVIEW OF CLINICAL SERVICES

OATSIH will be funding a review of Durri's clinical services across the Macleay and Nambucca Valley regions. The start date has been delayed but I hope it will be completed before the end of the special administration.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

On 16 December 2011 the Federal Court made interim orders to freeze the personal bank accounts of the former CEO of the corporation, Gerald Hoskins, and his wife. The Federal Court also issued interim orders restraining Mr Hoskins and his wife from dealing with a residential property jointly owned by them. On 17 February 2012 the Federal Court extended the freezing orders and the matter will be back before the court on 18 May 2012 for further directions. These orders are in place to allow time for the irregularities highlighted by the auditors and the Registrar to be fully investigated.

In addition I have now commenced legal action to recover monies incorrectly paid to Mr Hoskins. This matter is being dealt with in the District Court of New South Wales.

## RETURN OF CONTROL OF THE CORPORATION TO THE MEMBERS

I am working towards ending the special administration on 31 May 2012. At this time I will return control of the corporation to new directors and provide them with a hand-over report. The appointment of the new directors will be based on merit from mainly within the advisory committee. The advisory committee will be able to demonstrate their capabilities while I work with them through the rest of the special administration.

The progress of the special administration is on track and I have already started preparing to hand back the corporation to members. I am getting the people and

systems in place to support this process which includes training for directors and managers, financial systems upgrades, and some restructuring.

## KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT
17 February	Closing date for advisory committee applications
27 February	Fourth visit to Kempsey by special administrator—for five days
29 February	Appoint advisory committee members
1 March	Workshop rule changes with members
2 March	Community meeting
13–15 March	Advisory committee governance training—ORIC
26 March	Fifth visit to Kempsey by special administrator
23 and 24 April	Advisory committee training—Durri ACMS specific—ORIC
23–31 May	Final visit to Kempsey by special administrator—handover meeting

## APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Since my appointment the number of members has increased from 46 to 128.

Please encourage any non-members who believe they satisfy the existing membership criteria to fill in a membership application form and lodge it as soon as possible. It goes without saying that anyone who would like to become a new member should have the best interests of the corporation at heart.

## MORE INFORMATION

ORIC has fact sheets that explain the purpose of special administrations. You can download these fact sheets from the ORIC website at [www.oric.gov.au](http://www.oric.gov.au).

If you would like to speak to someone at the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) please call Jon Rogers on freecall 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles).

## Contact details

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