

Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service

(special administrator appointed)



May 2012, Issue 3

Dear corporation members and interested people

This is my third newsletter to you since my appointment on 28 November 2012 as special administrator of your corporation.

Since my last newsletter a lot has happened that I want to tell you about.

Durri has a new chief executive officer

After an extensive recruitment process Mr Greg Davison has been appointed as Durri's new CEO. He started on 23 April 2012.

Greg is a Wiradjuri man from New South Wales. He holds two degrees—a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Commerce. He also has extensive senior management experience in federal and state governments and in the not-for-profit community sector. Greg was the former chairperson of the New South Wales Reconciliation Council and, to join Durri, he has left his position as the Indigenous Engagement Officer at CSIRO.

I am looking forward to working closely with Greg until the end of the special administration. My job is to make sure he is fully across Durri's operations and all of the new policies and procedures that I have put in place during my appointment.

Advisory committee

I'm pleased to announce that on 7 March 2012 the following members were appointed to the advisory committee:

Nicole Turner
Barbara Greenup-Davis (Bowraville)
Beryl Wilson (Bowraville)
Kerry Wade
Donald (Jack) Griffen
Robert Barnett-Stewart

We have held two advisory committee meetings so far but unfortunately both Ms Wilson and Ms Greenup-Davis were unable to attend. I'd like to boost the number of people on the advisory committee so I have asked Ms Patricia Edwards, the chairperson of the Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council, to join. I am still searching for someone to represent the Dunghutti people on the advisory committee.

New rule book

You may recall that at the request of the members I arranged a community meeting for 1 March 2012 to discuss the new rule book. Unfortunately I had to cancel the meeting because so few people turned up.

The advisory committee subsequently settled the content of the new rule book and it has been registered by the Registrar. A copy of the new rule book can be downloaded free of charge from the Registrar's website www.oric.gov.au or members can obtain a copy from Durri's office in Kempsey.

Legal proceedings

The legal proceedings continue against the former CEO, Gerald Hoskins, to recover money that was incorrectly paid to him. The District Court of New South Wales has issued the following timetable for the case:

Pre-trial conference: 14 June at 2.30 pm
Status conference date: 15 November at 9.30 am
Estimated hearing date: 11 February 2013

Independent specialist directors

Some good news is that I have identified two people to be the independent specialist directors when the special administration ends. Both are



volunteers—Ms Leah Fricke (whose expertise is in law and governance) and Mr David Johnson (whose expertise lies within the finance, governance and management fields). They will bring a range of knowledge and skills that will be, I believe, of great benefit to Durri. The advisory committee has endorsed their appointment.

Leah and David will become independent specialist directors of the corporation in the next few weeks but have already visited corporations sites and met staff.

Governance training

Allan Sambono and Christian Lugnan from ORIC provided governance training for the members of the advisory committee and the new CEO on 23 and 24 April 2012.

The training went very well. The group showed a strong level of interest, were actively engaged throughout both days and generously shared past experiences as part of their learning.

Business as usual for Durri clients

During the special administration the corporation has been able to continue providing services to clients on a 'business as usual' basis. This is in large part thanks to senior management and staff who have continued to support the needs of clients.

The money story

I recently received independent advice about Durri's money situation. I believe that the corporation is solvent. However, the report indicates that the corporation will have to manage its money very carefully in the future so as not to allow a repeat of past circumstances.

I am also pleased to report that the upgrade to the corporation's accounting system should be completed shortly (maybe as early as 23 May 2012). After the upgrade the corporation, for the first time, will be able to produce meaningful financial reports on a monthly basis.

Return of control of the corporation to the members

The special administration is due to end on 31 May 2012. I have already started work on a detailed hand over report for the directors.

When the special administration ends I will hand over control to the new directors who I will appoint on merit (I expect they will come mainly from the advisory committee).

KEY DATES

23–31 May	Final visit to Kempsey by special administrator—hand over meeting
23 May	Advisory committee meeting scheduled for 5.30 pm
24 May	The special administrator and the Registrar will hold a ceremony to hand back control to the new directors at 12 noon, Durri main office, 15–19 York Lane, Kempsey NSW. Refreshments provided
31 May	The special administration officially ends at 11.59 pm.

More information

ORIC has fact sheets that explain the purpose of special administrations and why they can be helpful. You can download these fact sheets from the ORIC website at www.oric.gov.au.

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

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