



The Indigenous Governance Awards

The Indigenous Governance Awards were created by Reconciliation Australia in partnership with BHP in 2005 to identify, celebrate and promote effective governance in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and initiatives. This relationship with BHP continues today through the BHP Foundation. In 2018, the Awards are co-hosted for the first time by the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute.

Effective governance is key to success for any enterprise. It melds traditional governance and responsibilities based on culture and kinship, with the requirements of mainstream organisations, including financial and legal accountabilities. By creating governance models that are effective and legitimate in two worlds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations are examples of successful self-determination and two-way governance in action.

The Indigenous Governance Awards recognise and celebrate success in two categories: incorporated Indigenous organisations (Category A), and non-incorporated Indigenous projects and initiatives (Category B). This year the judging panel selected nine finalists and were hosted by each finalist at a site visit. This final stage of the judging process allowed judges to see how the finalists placed culture at the heart of their governance and developed innovative systems of governance.

By shining a light on well-governed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and initiatives around the country, the Awards encourage others to emulate their success. Despite working in challenging environments, the finalists showcased in these pages are achieving amazing outcomes for their families, communities and wider Australia. The Awards help to tell their stories, and play an important role in promoting effective governance and leadership as the foundation of success.

Reconciliation Australia, the BHP Foundation and the Australian Institute of Indigenous Governance congratulate this year's finalists and the many applicants. The high standard of applications reflects the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and initiatives around Australia. It is a privilege to hear these stories of outstanding achievement and we invite you to learn about them in the following pages. As we make progress towards a reconciled Australia, the self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must be universally recognised and respected. Learning about, celebrating and promoting the governance success of the Awards finalists can only support this journey.





Message from the Chair of the Indigenous Governance Awards

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been governing the land that is now known as Australia for at least the past 60,000 years. As the Chair of the Indigenous Governance Awards for the past 14 years, I have had the immense privilege of getting to understand the various systems, rules and codes of conduct that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have used, and continue to use, to effectively govern their communities. There are many different ways of 'doing' Indigenous governance in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations spread across this vast continent – but the common thread is that culture must be at the core.

This year's finalists typify culturally informed ways of working, which drive positive and long-lasting change in their communities. Their work demonstrates the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and projects throughout urban, rural and remote Australia. Their successes show us that traditional governance models, which have been developed and refined over tens of thousands of years, can inform effective responses to contemporary challenges. By embedding culture at the heart of everything they do, the finalists are finding solutions to complex issues that have long confounded governments and mainstream organisations.

The six incorporated finalists (Category A) are doing incredible work across a broad range of issues and sectors. The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Ltd continues to develop and implement its ground-breaking approach to comprehensive health care for the Aboriginal community in South East Queensland.

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation is sustaining and growing the Quandamooka people's traditional and modern knowledge of how to care for Country while managing the Quandamooka's native title rights and interests. Nyamba Buru Yawuru is

managing the Yawuru community's assets so that Yawuru people can fulfil their cultural and customary obligations while building a healthy and resilient community. Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation has worked with many Traditional Owner groups to achieve native title, support community and economic development, and foster effective natural resource management. Marr Mooditi Training Aboriginal Corporation empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Western Australian to build skills, gain knowledge and acquire nationally recognised qualifications. And Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation delivers services and programs that promote independence, community wellbeing and cultural identity for the Kuruma and Marthudunera communities.

The three finalist non-incorporated projects and initiatives (Category B) are equally profound in the change they're making. The Alekarenge Community Development Working Group work together to channel income into projects that benefit their community, such as youth media, driver training and sports facilities. The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust use gold mining royalties to develop programs and partnerships that provide bilingual and bicultural education to four Yapa communities of the Tanami desert. And the Apmer Akely-Akely Committee for the SCfC Utopia Project works across 16 homelands in the Northern Territory to support local people in developing services to help young people get the best possible start in life.

This year, the Indigenous Governance Awards have been delivered for the first time in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute. Additionally, we welcomed three new judges to our esteemed judging panel – Australian Indigenous Governance Institute CEO Michelle Deshong, BHP Principal Adrian Brahim and Anne-Marie Roberts, the First Assistant

Secretary for the Indigenous Affairs Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. These new relationships enable us to draw on a broader range of knowledge, ideas and experience while remaining committed to our original vision of showcasing world-class Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and projects.

In 2018, the Indigenous Governance Awards finalists again prove that good governance is crucial to self-determination, and to building and sustaining strong, healthy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It's time for mainstream Australia to abandon the ill-informed deficit discourse and recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples themselves hold the key to positive social, political, cultural and economic prosperity. You too can play a part by celebrating and sharing these stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander success.

Mick Dodson

Chair, Indigenous Governance Awards



Message from Reconciliation Australia

Indigenous governance is a subject I'm very passionate about, so it's an honour as CEO of Reconciliation Australia to oversee the Indigenous Governance Awards. Delivered in partnership with the BHP Foundation, the Awards were established by Reconciliation Australia in 2005 and are now co-hosted with the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute. The Awards celebrate the positive and longlasting change that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations are able to achieve through culturally-informed ways of working.

This year, nine high-performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and initiatives have been shortlisted as IGA finalists. In late September and October, our expert panel of judges traveled around Australia – from the Kimberley region of Western Australia, through Central Australia and as far east as Queensland's Stradbroke Island – to assess the finalists hailing from diverse sectors and language groups. I was privileged to join the judges on a number of the site visits to see first-hand the life-changing work these organisations do.

The finalists this year stood out because they draw on cultural practice to inform their decision-making, and use creative and original approaches to meet the needs of their communities. Whether focused on creating sustainable economies, heritage protection, encouraging school attendance or native title rights, the finalists are pioneering culture-smart solutions and self-determining answers that work in their communities. They represent the best of what is happening across Australia, and their successes show us that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to make decisions, substantial and sustainable change for the better is possible.

The Awards are part of Reconciliation Australia's broader Indigenous Governance Program, which aims to progress reconciliation through recognising, supporting and celebrating strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and self-determination. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have tried and tested their own models of governance for at least the past 60,000 years - and we know what works. When broader Australia takes an inclusive approach to traditional governance, the result is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations can develop solutions to address the specific needs of their communities. Indeed, each of this year's finalist organisations and initiatives is evidence of that fact.

Karen Mundine

CEO, Reconciliation Australia















Message from the BHP Foundation

To take on some of the world's greatest sustainable development challenges requires big ambitions and a determination to contribute to a sustainable future. That's why we are proud to support Reconciliation Australia's Indigenous Governance Awards. These Awards shine a welcome spotlight on exceptional people and organisations doing extraordinary work to make a meaningful difference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout the country.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to self-determination is about two simple things: choice and voice. It is about empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to make informed choices about their own futures and ensuring they have a greater voice in the decisions affecting them.

At the BHP Foundation, we believe in a just, equitable and reconciled Australia. We will continue to foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions, and do everything we can to help establish a strength-based policy framework that's based on choice and voice.

To all the Awards' finalists, congratulations. It is through your stories of courage and inspiration that we can ensure self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples becomes a critical part of our national conversation.

Karen Wood

Chairman, BHP Foundation







The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute is proud to partner with Reconciliation Australia to deliver the 2018 Indigenous Governance Awards.

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute is a national Indigenous-led centre of governance excellence, connecting Indigenous Australians to world-class governance practice, providing accessible research, disseminating stories that celebrate outstanding success and solutions, and delivering professional development opportunities to meet the self-determined governance needs of Indigenous peoples.

The Indigenous Governance Awards are the pre-eminent platform where Indigenous nations, groups, corporations and organisations can demonstrate their achievements and governance excellence. Finalists in the Awards are beacons, shining a light on how Indigenous peoples and communities are coming together and finding innovative governance solutions to meet their needs. The Awards are a rich source of storytelling insight and shared practice. The many case studies showcase contributions towards self-determination and future sustainability.

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute strongly believes that the finalists in this year's Awards have the ability to stand tall among all mainstream Australian organisations. Finalists in the Awards have significant teachings that other Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian organisations can learn from. By advancing through the process to become finalists, these organisations and groups demonstrate that they clearly understand principles of locally appropriate governing arrangements, accountability, responsibility, and balancing the multiple and intersecting interests that they carry on behalf of their members and communities.

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute congratulates all finalists and acknowledges their efforts over many years to establish high functioning, community spirited and culturally appropriate governance practices. May you all journey into the future grounded in the knowledge that you stand tall amongst all other governance groups in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia.

Michelle Deshong

CEO, Australian Indigenous Governance Institute













Institute for Urban Indigenous Health

Finalist - Category A

South East Queensland is home to 38 per cent of Queensland's and 11 per cent of Australia's Indigenous people. The region has the largest and fastest growing Indigenous population in the nation and the biggest health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In 2009, only a fraction of this population were accessing community controlled comprehensive primary health care.

The imperative to address these challenges shaped the blueprint for a ground-breaking new regional community governance architecture and the formation of a regional backbone organisation – the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH). Critically, this contemporary regional model was underpinned by strong cultural foundations and goes back to traditional ways of being, doing and belonging, when for thousands of years, Aboriginal tribes and nations across South East Queensland came together to achieve shared and cross-territorial goals.

Through strengthened community self-determination, an entrepreneurial business model, and pioneering a brand new regional health 'ecosystem', IUIH has now been able to make the biggest single health impact of any Indigenous organisation in Australia, in the shortest time period, and with a national best practice standard of care. In just nine years, the numbers of Indigenous clients accessing comprehensive and culturally safe care in South East Queensland has increased by 340 per cent (from 8000 to 35,000); annual health checks have increased by 4100 per cent (from 500 to 21,000); and, progress against Closing the Gap targets is being made faster than predicted trajectories. Further challenges lie ahead.

In response to even more rapid Indigenous population growth – expected to reach 130,000 in South East Queensland by 2031 – IUIH is now exploring further transformative models which, if realised, have the potential to double its existing client population.

Pictured are IUIH Deadly Choices staff Sam Pierce, Luke Dumas, Tori Cowburn, Donisha Duff, Dwayne Conlon and Jessie Domic, in front of the iconic IUIH headquarters mural featuring Aunty Pamela Mam and Uncle Tiga Bayles.





Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation

Finalist - Category A

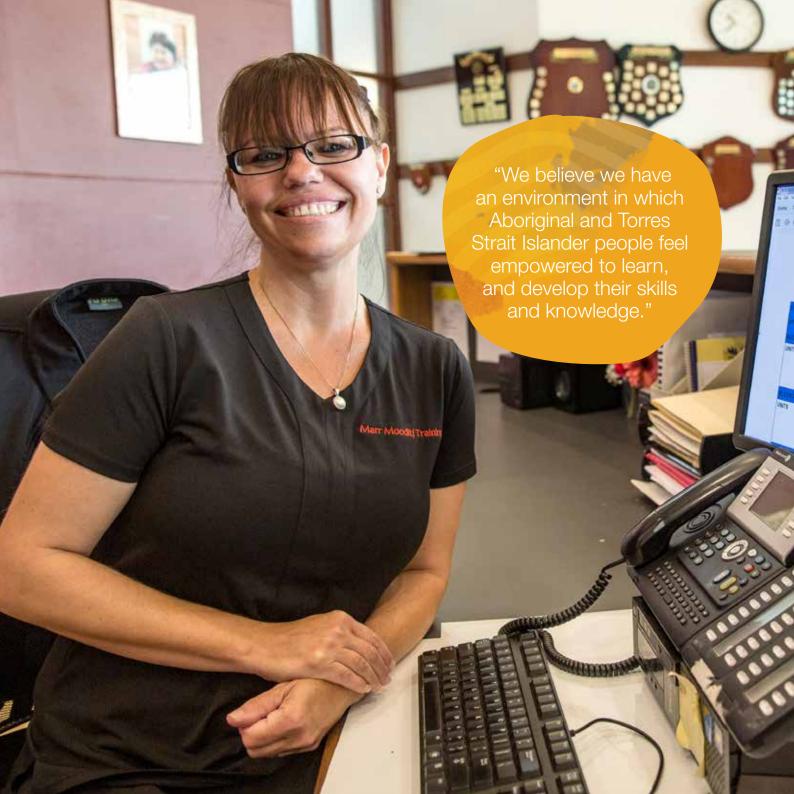
Based in Karratha, the Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation (KMAC) was established as a corporate identity for the Robe River Kuruma (RRK) people. KMAC is the registered native title body corporate for RRK native title determined areas. The RRK people have traditional rights to an area covering nearly 16,000 square kilometres in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Their traditional lands lie within the Shire of Ashburton and comprise part of the Fortescue River and the complete river system of the Robe River, in the most westerly part of the Hamersley Range.

KMAC's objectives are taken from its vision to work together as a community to establish a solid foundation towards independence, community wellbeing, and cultural identity now and for future generations. KMAC has a pivotal role in progressing the broader interests of approximately 300 RRK people and in representing them in their dealings with government and the private sector. In addition, KMAC monitors and implements obligations under the RRK people's various participation agreements, provides services that protect and preserve RRK cultural heritage, and utilises charitable trust funds to deliver programs for the betterment of the RRK people.

KMAC successfully locates a 'recognition space' between the legislative requirements of the Australian legal system and the traditional laws and customs of the group, within and throughout its Indigenous governance model. The group recognises culturally appropriate and community-inclusive representation in its framework. Community drive KMAC's corporate values. They are instrumental in the strategic plan developmental process and underpin the corporate governance framework, including through their strong representation throughout all decision-making bodies.

KMAC is a forward-thinking corporation that holds a long-term vision in pursuit of its strategic objectives. This is embedded in the governing body's governance framework, which captures the cultural governance and decision-making of the RRK group. Succession planning and knowledge capture, retention and transfer are reoccurring themes across the corporation.

Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation directors and family, including (from back) Mathew Sampi, Peter Iancov, Sara Slattery, Ann Wally, Katherine Glass and Royce Evans; and (in front) Elaine James, Tuesday Lockyer, Kasey Sampi (with her son, Chance) Leanne Evans and Arnold Bobby.





Marr Mooditj Training Aboriginal Corporation

Finalist - Category A

Marr Mooditj Training Aboriginal Corporation is an Aboriginal Community Registered Training Provider. "Marr Mooditj" means good hands and is a fitting description of the way the training organisation is managed and operates. Its training site is located in Perth, and provides services for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people across the state of Western Australia.

Professor Joan Winch – a Nyungar health practitioner, advocate, and educator with extensive experience and knowledge in Aboriginal health – established the organisation in 1983. Her vision was to provide opportunity for Aboriginal people to access knowledge and skills in primary health care, so they could provide health care directly to their people and communities. This vision is based on the belief that Aboriginal people should be encouraged to take control over their own health care and use traditional medicines, including foods and healing practices.

In 2018, Marr Mooditj continues to expand its delivery of nationally recognised qualifications in primary health, mental health, counselling, hospitality, phlebotomy, alcohol and other drugs, and nursing.

The organisation continues to be strong in the face of trials and challenges it has faced over the years. It has gone on to win awards at state and national levels. To its students, Marr Mooditj says: "You are our bread and butter, and we are grateful you choose us to go on your learning journey with you."

Marr Mooditj Training Aboriginal Corporation receptionist Sandy Whelan greeted Awards judges and crew to the campus on Whadjuk land at Waterford, Perth.





Nyamba Buru Yawuru

Finalist - Category A

Based in Broome, Western Australia, Nyamba Buru Yawuru (NBY) is a not-for-profit company owned by the Yawuru native title holders through a corporate group structure. NBY works alongside the Yawuru registered native title body corporate, the holding company Murra Mala Yawuru and a number of developing subsidiary business entities.

NBY is responsible for investing and managing the tangible and non-tangible assets of the Yawuru community, to develop the economic foundation for the cultural and social growth, and sustainability, of the Yawuru people. The key objectives are aligned to creating the greater resilience of the Yawuru people in fulfilling their cultural and customary obligations, so that Yawuru people will continue to sustain their values, build a healthy community and culture, and enjoy their Country.

The Yawuru philosophy 'making Mabu Liyan real for all, always" underpins the interconnectedness between the individual and their Country, culture and community. It is this understanding of wellbeing and respect that links Yawuru's commitments to both its communal native title rights and its goal to succeed in a competitive global economy. The key philosophy and practice of NBY's approach to business development, growth, investment and leadership is designed around transparency and "owning our own risk". NBY plays a leading role in the whole Broome community, establishing critical collaboration with the local government, Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other civic leadership. NBY invests strongly in encouraging younger Yawuru people to 'step up' in leadership positions.

Pictured is Nyamba Buru Yawuru CEO Peter Yu.





Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

Finalist - Category A

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) is traditionally owned and led. It was established in 2011 as a registered native title body corporate to manage the native title rights and interests of the Quandamooka people.

A core part of QYAC's business is to gather, sustain, share and grow the traditional and modern knowledge of Quandamooka care for Country. Quandamooka Country comprises the waters and lands around Moorgumpin (Moreton Island), Minjerribah, the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, and South Stradbroke Island. It includes the mainland from the mouth of the Brisbane River, Wynnum, Chandler, Lytton, Belmont, Tingalpa, south to Cleveland, to the Logan River. Quandamooka Country crosses the boundaries of four Queensland local governments.

Quandamooka rangers Jarlin Robinson, Kyle Coghill and Richard Martin having a breather from removing the noxious weed asparagus fern on the Country they care for in Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island).





Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Finalist - Category A

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for the Traditional Owners of the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors from across these areas.

The organisation provides a range of services to its members, including claim and 'future act' representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development, and natural resource management.

YMAC represents 24 different Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups, each with their own distinct Country, culture and identity. These living cultures are maintained though languages, ceremonies, beliefs, music, art, laws and creation stories. YMAC's representative area covers more than a third of Western Australia, with offices in Geraldton, Hedland, Broome and Perth. Over the past two years, YMAC has achieved 10 native title determinations for stakeholders.

Reconciliation Australia CEO Karen Mundine, Awards judge Eddie Cubillo, YMAC Co-Chairs Peter Windie and Natalie Parker, and Awards Chair Mick Dodson.





The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust Advisory Committee

Finalist - Category B

Established in 2005, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) is an Aboriginal-controlled initiative to improve the education and training outcomes in four Yapa (Warlpiri-speaking) communities of the Tanami Desert.

The members of the WETT Advisory Committee monitor and develop programs and partnerships that promote bilingual and bicultural education and lifelong learning.

The Committee advises the Trust about investing its gold mining royalty income in training and education programs that support Yapa education priorities.

Its vision is for Yapa to be strong in their knowledge of culture, country and language, to be strong role models for future generations, and to stand up for our communities. They want their voices to be heard, and to have the same opportunities as everyone else. They want good roles and jobs, for their people today and for generations to come.

Tess Napaljarri paints up seven year old Zania Nelson for Yuendumu School open day, supporting bilingual and bicultural education through a partnership with the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.





The Alekarenge Community Development Working Group

Finalist - Category B

Traditional Owners and residents in Alekarenge, a community 400 kilometres north of Alice Springs, work together to make decisions about the community's income.

Group members plan and implement projects that benefit families from four language groups. Their initiative is about Aboriginal people in Alekarenge controlling their own resources and investing them in projects that help their community.

Since 2012 the group has used the community's leasing and compensation income for initiatives that support its young people in particular.

Working with a range of project partners, the group has funded youth media employment and training and school holiday initiatives, as well as sports facility upgrades and traditional dance festivals.

Dilys Wilson and Sabrina Kelly from the Alekarenge Community Development Working Group at the community water park which is maintained through community lease money.







Apmer Akely-Akely Committee for the SCfC Utopia Project

Finalist - Category B

The Apmer Akely-Akely Committee for the SCfC Utopia Project has a total of 80 members – all Indigenous – who endeavour to support local people in developing and shaping services for young people and families in their community. The project was established in 2015 and has seven objectives: better school attendance, more relevant school curriculums and better outcomes from schooling; better communication and understanding between local citizens and service agencies/government; health and early development of infants; providing services, support and activities to ensure local youth stay out of trouble; a sense of 'working together' and unity between service organisations; support for the right kinds of jobs for local people; and, an urgency for these objectives to be achieved quickly.

The Committee has helped establish 22 funded activities to support these objectives, along with monitoring and evaluation processes. The Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service convenes and supports the Committee in contracting, implementing and monitoring funded projects.

Arlparra High School students Karishma Long and Belisha Long with bush balm for sale. It is made at the school, using ingredients identified by elders and collected during educational bush trips funded by the SCfC Utopia Project.

Judges biographies



Mick Dodson

Professor Mick Dodson is a member of the Yawuru peoples, the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of land and waters around Broome. He is the former Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University (ANU) and Professor of Law at the ANU College of Law. He was formerly Malcolm Fraser and Gough Whitlam Harvard Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University and the Director of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Dodson has been a prominent advocate on land rights and other issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. He was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and in 2009 he was named Australian of the Year.



Simon Longstaff

Dr Simon Longstaff's distinguished career began on Groote Evlandt (Anindilyakwa). where he worked in the Safety Department of GEMCO (then a subsidiary of BHP). He is proud of his kinship ties with members of the island's Indigenous community. Dr Longstaff undertook postgraduate studies in philosophy as a member of Magdalene College at the University of Cambridge. He commenced his work as the first Executive Director of The Ethics Centre in 1991. Dr Longstaff is a Fellow of CPA Australia and, in June 2016, was appointed an Honorary Professor at the Australian National University - based at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies. Dr Longstaff was the inaugural President of the Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics, serves on a number of diverse boards and committees, and was formerly a Fellow of the World Economic Forum.



Adrian Brahim

Mr Adrian Brahim is a Principal with BHP, based in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. He was born and raised in Port Hedland, and has spent most of his working life in the inland areas of Western Australia. Mr Brahim has spent time in the Australian Public Service and in later years with BHP. He was a recent member of the State Government Regional Strategic Advisory Group that provided advice and direction to the Western Australian government roadmap for reform on Indigenous services and infrastructure.













Michelle Deshong

Ms Michelle Deshong is from Townsville, North Queensland, and draws her connection to Kuku Yulanji nation. She has completed a BA with first class honours in political science and Indigenous studies. She is working on a PhD at James Cook University on the participation of Aboriginal women in public and political life.

Ms Deshong has worked in both the government and NGO sectors, and has held many senior leadership roles. She currently holds a number of directorship roles in the not-for-profit sector. In 2013, Ms Deshong was honoured in the Australian Financial Review/Westpac 100 Women of Influence Awards.

Ms Deshong has extensive experience in areas of leadership, governance and politics. She has a strong commitment to human rights and has also been an NGO representative on many occasions at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and in forums about the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She has a strong background in gender equality and works to ensure the voices of Indigenous women are represented at all levels.



Glenda Humes

Ms Glenda Humes is a descendant of the Gunditjmara people from the western districts of Victoria, and her grandmother's people, the Jawoyn from the Northern Territory.

Ms Humes has spent more than 30 years working in senior management roles in Aboriginal affairs at the local, state and federal levels. With a law degree and a master degree in Indigenous social policy, Ms Humes has been a director on many boards across diverse sectors. Ms Humes has a great interest in how organisations are managed and the role of boards. Ms Humes was the CEO of the South West Aboriginal Medical Service when the service received a High Commendation in the 2008 Indigenous Governance Awards.



Anne-Marie Roberts

Ms Anne-Marie Roberts is a First Assistant Secretary in the Indigenous Affairs Group and the National Director of the Regional Network in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Ms Roberts oversees the Regional Network, which supports the Australian Government through local engagement with Indigenous communities.

Ms Roberts has been in the Australian Public Service for more than 24 years and has worked with people and communities across most areas in Australia. In her time in the Australian Public Service, Ms Roberts has held high-profile positions within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, served as the inaugural Chief of Staff to establish the Northern Territory Emergency Response Operations Centre, and also served as state manager for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.



Judges biographies



Gary Banks

Professor Gary Banks has spent most of his professional life in organisations devoted to improving policy outcomes for society. He is Dean and CEO of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, having previously been Chairman of the Productivity Commission since its inception in 1998. In that capacity, he chaired COAG's Review of Government Services and was the inaugural convenor for its biennial report Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage.

Professor Banks has worked for international organisations and in economic consultancy, and currently chairs the OECD's Regulatory Policy Committee. He holds a Professorial Fellowship at Melbourne University and is an Adjunct Professor at the Australian National University. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2007 in recognition of his service to public policy.



Eddie Cubillo

Mr Eddie Cubillo is an Aboriginal man with strong family links in both urban and rural areas throughout the Northern Territory. His mother is of Larrakia/Wadjigan descent and his father is from Central Arrente. Mr Cubillo's family has experienced the intergenerational effects of the policy of forced removal of children of mixed descent from their family and Country.

Mr Cubillo has more than 20 years' experience working at the grassroots of Aboriginal affairs. In 2001, he obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree, and in 2002, he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. In 2009, Mr Cubillo completed a Masters of Laws (International Law and International Relations) at Flinders University. Mr Cubillo is currently completing a doctorate at UTS Law School looking at justice issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In 2010, Mr Cubillo was appointed the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner of the Northern Territory. Following his term, in October 2012, Mr Cubillo took on the role of Executive Officer with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. In this role he championed the rights of Indigenous Australians in a legal context.





Acknowledgements

Reconciliation Australia, the BHP Foundation and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute would like to acknowledge all the applicants in the Indigenous Governance Awards 2018. We thank the applicants for the time and effort they invested in the application process. The strength and quality of applications is testament to the outstanding work being done by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and initiatives every day.

We'd particularly like to thank the nine finalists in this year's Awards. Each finalist went to extraordinary efforts to welcome the judging panel on the site visits and share their work with us. This publication, and the Awards more broadly, provide opportunities to showcase the finalists' governance practices, share their stories of success and assist them to achieve the recognition they deserve.

The dedicated members of the judging panel are essential to the success of the Awards. The judging panel is made up of a diverse group of individuals from various sectors, bringing with them extensive experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. Each judge gave significant time in their busy schedule to contribute to the rigorous judging process.

Thank you also to Australian Indigenous Governance Institute colleagues Jane Pound and Bhiamie Williamson, who, as members of the review committee, lent their extensive knowledge of Indigenous governance and process to the Awards. We would also like to thank Rebecca Harnett, Jade Lane, Victoria Shehadie, Shikierra Thorne, Jillian Mundy, Richard Jameson, Luke Patterson and Jen Dawson.

Finally, a special thank you goes to Eunice Porter – from 2008 Awards finalist Warakuna Artists – for allowing us to use her beautiful artwork in the design work of the Awards logo.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and particularly thank all those on whose land we have travelled over the past 12 months.















Reconciliation Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present, and emerging.







