

# Establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

## AOD Professional Body

### Working Group Teleconference

10 September 2014

#### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Leon James, Scott Wilson, Gay Foster, De-Joel Upkett, Denise Gilchrist (Secretarial support)

Apologies: Julie Spratt

#### 2. Minutes from the previous meeting

A number of points were raised in relation to the minutes that required amendment. These included:

- Mention of the recommendation provided by NIDAC to look at adding an additional ToR that included the purpose of the working group, namely progressing the work to establish a professional body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD workers
- Clarification that the draft constitution had not been accepted by working group members but rather that members were to review this
- Clarification that the NIDAC Secretariat were meeting with a law company to explore assistance via pro bono work

#### Action:

- *Amendments to be made to minutes prior to placing on the NIDAC website*

#### 3. Actions from the previous meeting

- Discussion on the name of the body took place. Suggestions included:
  - Recognition of Indigenous Professionals Pay Equality Nationally (RIPPEN) – suggested by Trevor Knox
  - 'BIRRIMANNAR – meaning 'Sitting In A Circle; Walking In A Row' – put forward by Gay Foster from the NSW network ADAN; this is the title of ADAN's 2014 Symposium. It was suggested that other states could come up a word for their state and that an acronym could be developed from that. *(Postscript: in discussion with Gay after the meeting she felt it best to remove this suggestion given that a specific name had not been proposed)*
  - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Drug and Alcohol Workers Association (NATSIDWA) – suggested by NIDAC
- Discussion on seeking funding for the body took place. It was also clarified that NIDAC was not an incorporated body and was not in a position to put in for funding on behalf of the group. It was suggested and agreed to that it would be more advantageous to incorporate the body and establish a membership before seeking funding for the body. It was noted that

the Indigenous Advancement Strategy had discretionary funding that may be available for the group to seek funding from in the future.

- Meeting with the Sydney based legal firm is to take place on Tuesday 16 September

*Actions*

- *To forward suggested names of body onto working group members to seek their preferences prior to next teleconference*
- *To incorporate the body and establish a membership base prior to seeking funding*

4. Draft Constitution – membership and objects

Working group members discussed Article 5: Objects of the Company, Article 13: Membership categories and Article 14: Membership Rights of the Constitution.

It was suggested and agreed to that at the teleconference the following Articles of the Constitution would be discussed.

- Article 15: Application and acceptance of members
- Article 44 - 50: Directors

Action:

- *Make recommended changes to constitution as discussed*
- *Place review of Article 15 and 44 – 50 on the agenda for the next teleconference*

5. Next meeting – Wed 24 September @ 11am EST.