



# NATIONAL CONGRESS DELEGATES POLICY

## Chambers 1 & 2

# Chambers 1 & 2 - Organisations

NATIONAL CONGRESS  
OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES

### PURPOSE

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples Ltd (the Congress) has been established for the purposes of:

1. providing national leadership and recognition of the status and of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as First Nations Peoples;
2. protecting and advancing the wellbeing and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities;
3. providing a representative voice of, and a conduit for communications with and between, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
4. securing economic, political, social, cultural and environmental futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities by working with governments, service providers, communities and other stakeholders;
5. building strong relationships with government, industry and among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, based on mutual respect and equality;
6. identifying issues, researching solutions and educating government, service providers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to achieve the above purposes.

### VALUES

In carrying out its purposes, the Congress will operate with the following values:

1. the highest standards of professionalism and objectivity;
2. integrity and honesty;
3. accountability, transparency and openness;
4. participation and inclusion; and
5. being informed.

### INTRODUCTION

The Congress will host a meeting of Delegates each year known as the National Congress.

All duly appointed Delegates from each Chamber will be invited to attend the National Congress.

Delegates are required to participate in the best interests of the Congress at all times and with reference to a National Agenda for the organisation.

The expertise and skill base of each Delegate will be respected and valued and it is acknowledged that such expertise and skill

will inform each Delegate's contribution to the Congress, rather than being the driving force behind their considerations and participation.

Key measures of the quality of the contribution by Delegates to the National Congress will be their capacity to represent the perspectives of the Chamber from which they have been elected.

Delegates will represent their Chamber as fully as possible, taking account of the diversity of views and expectations of the members from the Chamber they represent. Members may not be a Delegate for more than one Chamber at any one time.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Once elected, Delegates must act diligently to ensure they fully understand the framework and structure and operational plans of the organisation. Key responsibilities of Delegates to the National Congress include:

- Actively electing Chamber Directors;
- Collaborating with Chamber members to ensure that co-ordinated advice is provided to the Congress and Board;
- Attending and preparing for all meetings of their Chamber and the National Congress – the meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Sydney;
- Contributing to the operational requirements of the Congress strategic plans and direction;
- Maintaining the confidence of the organization and supporting the Board of Directors in their role;
- Ensuring communication and feedback to their relevant Chamber happens in a timely and accurate manner;
- Work collaboratively and constructively with Chamber Directors;
- Promoting the policy position of the National Congress and applying influence and expertise in the best interest of the agreed Congress goals and advocacy activity;
- Encouraging membership and contributing to community education programs of the Congress model and organisation in line with Congress policies and procedures;
- Abiding by all Congress Policies.

### NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

The nominations to be a Delegate of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples close on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The Delegate nomination pack includes:

- A Delegate nomination form



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- An individual membership form
- An organisation nomination form
- A National Police Check Application form
- A fitness to hold office declaration form
- The Delegate Policy which outlines the roles and responsibilities of Delegates

In order to be eligible to be a Delegate, you must first be a member of the Congress. If you are not a member, then you will need to submit a membership application with your nomination by 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

If there are more than 40 nominations (20 male and 20 female) for Chamber 3, an election process will take place to determine the final delegates to the National Congress. If less than this number is received, all eligible nominees will be accepted.

Once you have submitted your nomination, a vetting process will also take place that will include a National Police Check and a fitness to hold office test by the Ethics Council.

Following the completion of these processes, successful Delegates will be advised of their participation in April.

### TENURE

Rule 6 of the Constitution states the tenure terms of Delegates.

Chamber 1 and 2 Delegates are elected for a four year term except for those elected for a two year term in the first year of Congress operations, to ensure a continuity of membership.

Delegates may stand for re-election with a maximum consecutive term of 10 years.

### REMUNERATION

Delegate positions are not remunerated but allowance based payments may be considered once operational demands of the position have been tested and resource requirements can be accurately assessed.

### REPRESENTATIVE MODEL

The Congress is a public company limited by guarantee, independent of government and representative of its members.

One of the core beliefs of the Congress is the assertion that there is a need for a national voice that can represent First Australians. The representative nature of the National Congress requires Delegates to bring forth their experience, skills and expertise as they can be applied to collective national direction.

Delegates will always be required to act in the best interests of the organisation as informed by their respective Chamber and overall organisational membership.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Delegates must comply with Congress Conflict of Interests policy.

### CONDUCT AND VALUES

In undertaking the role, each Delegate must act in accordance with the values of the organisation honestly, with care and skill in good faith and in the best interests of the organisation, these considerations require that Delegates:

- Must not make improper use of information acquired as a Delegate
- Must act with integrity, care, skill and diligence
- Must not engage in conduct likely to bring discredit to the organisation
- Must not allow personal interest, or the interests of any associated person to adversely conflict with the interests of the organisation.

### INDUCTION AND TRAINING

Each National Congress gathering will include an induction and orientation session for new Delegates.

Support and assistance for Delegates will be made available through the staff of the Congress.

Opportunities for evaluation of Delegate performance and consequent training needs will be assessed annually. The Congress will resource further training where there is a shared need among Delegates and where resources allow.