

Question on notice no. 1818

Portfolio question number: NIAA1818

2025-26 Supplementary Budget estimates

Finance and Public Administration Committee, Cross Portfolio Indigenous matters

Senator David Pocock: asked the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations on 2 December 2025—

The Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) has failed to lodge financial statements for the 2023/24 financial year. Please advise what action the Registrar has taken to ensure compliance with the CATSI Act.

Given that the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 requires payments by land councils under section 64

(3) to be made to corporations incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, and the amounts paid to such corporations are substantial and ongoing:

(a) Does the Registrar give corporations in receipt of these funds any particular attention in terms of its ongoing regulatory oversight?

(b) Does the Registrar's formal risk assessment strategy (assuming such a strategy exists) give particular attention to this category of corporations? If not, why not?

Answer —

See attached.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-2026

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)
Topic: Financial Statements of Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC)

Senator: David Pocock

Question reference number: NIAA1818

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 January 2026

Number of pages: 2

Question:

The Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) has failed to lodge financial statements for the 2023/24 financial year. Please advise what action the Registrar has taken to ensure compliance with the CATSI Act.

Given that the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 requires payments by land councils under section 64(3) to be made to corporations incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, and the amounts paid to such corporations are substantial and ongoing:

- a) Does the Registrar give corporations in receipt of these funds any particular attention in terms of its ongoing regulatory oversight?
- b) Does the Registrar's formal risk assessment strategy (assuming such a strategy exists) give particular attention to this category of corporations? If not, why not?

Answer: -

All corporations registered under the *Corporations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2006* Cth (CATSI Act) have reporting obligations to ORIC. It is the directors of the corporation's responsibility to ensure compliance with their reporting obligations. The Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation is currently a large sized corporation and is required to provide a general report, audit report, financial report and directors report each year. The corporation has outstanding reporting requirements for the 2023/24 financial year. They have failed to submit their audit report, financial report and directors report for the 2023/24 financial year and reports for the 2024/25 financial year were not lodged by the due date of 31 December 2025.

Our office has sent numerous correspondence to the corporation following up the outstanding report and advising them to take action. Their corporation is currently listed on the Corporation with reports not lodged on the [ORIC website](#).

Failure to lodge outstanding reports may result in a referral to a delegate to consider the use of regulatory powers. These powers include:

- issuing compliance notices requiring you to take action to submit outstanding reports – compliance notices will be published on the public facing Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- possible referral for an examination of the books of the corporation
- initiating prosecution proceedings against the corporation and/or individual directors.

The Corporation is due to appear in the Darwin Local Court on 17 February 2026 for failure to meet its reporting obligations under the CATSI Act.