

Assessment and evidence guide for determining Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)

The Department of Communities and Justice uses this guide to determine whether an Aboriginal organisation meets the criteria to be identified as an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation. The criteria are based on Clause 44 of the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#). The National Agreement was endorsed by state and territory jurisdictions and the [National Voice for our Children \(SNAICC\)](#).

Criteria	Verification and evidence required	Notes
1. An independent, not-for-profit organisation, that's incorporated as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation and/or is a registered community service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verified the organisation is registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) • Sighted the organisation's Certificate of Incorporation • Sighted the organisation's constitution and it confirms not-for-profit status • Verified the organisation has a registered local business address 	ORIC is an independent statutory office holder which administers the <i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI)</i> . The Registrar's office supports and regulates corporations by ensuring compliance with the law and advising on how to incorporate.
2. Initiated, based, governed and operated by the local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sighted the organisation's constitution and confirmed majority Aboriginal membership and/or Aboriginal board of governance • Verified requirements for membership and eligibility rules comply with CATSI Act 2006 	Organisations registered with ORIC or that are a known Aboriginal Land Council automatically meet criteria 1 and 2.
3. Accountable to its local community, and facilitate local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples to have input into service design, delivery and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verified business plans and annual service plan reflect program requirements • Verified mechanisms are in place to capture community needs such as surveys, consultation and meetings 	
4. Endorsed by the local community leadership to deliver holistic and culturally appropriate services or activities that benefit Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and people, including empowerment and building strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sighted material that shows the organisation has a dedicated, reliable and consistent approach designed to suit the types of services required by communities, responsive to the needs of those receiving the services, and this may be developed in consultation with the relevant body • Verified organisation's services and activities address the needs of local communities 	The organisation's annual work plan and annual report may be used to verify services and activities are linked to community need.