

Newsletter 3

July 2022



DEAR MEMBERS, TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE,

My name is Peter McQuoid and on 22 February 2022 the Acting Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Gerrit Wanganeen, appointed me special administrator for Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation ICN 745 (RivMed). The appointment is for 6 months and due to end on Friday, 26 August 2022.

While I'm in this role I'll send regular newsletters to let you know what I'm doing to help get your corporation back on track. This is my third and final newsletter.

Where are we now?

STAGE	ACTION	STATUS
1	Take control of the assets, including bank accounts; build a complete picture of issues and challenges; and establish a clear plan of action.	COMPLETE
2	Restore good operational order.	COMPLETE
3	Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	IN PROGRESS

Stages one and two of the special administration are finished and I have made good progress with stage three – preparing the corporation for handback to member control.

I am pleased to advise that with the support of the members, staff, community and funding bodies the corporation will be ready to hand back to member control in August as planned.

New RivMed board

A new board will be in place for the return of RivMed to member control on 26 August 2022. RivMed's new board will be primarily skills-based and governance-focused. The new directors will represent all RivMed members.

RivMed member directors

The member directors will be selected from the corporation advisory group (CAG). I have been working with the CAG for several months and wish to thank the members for their time and contribution to the corporation. The appointment of directors will take effect from 26 August 2022.

CAG members at this stage are:

- Leonie Dennis
- Maxine Honeysett
- Faye McMillan
- Kenneth Neale
- Sarah O'Brien
- Troy Pietsch
- Hewitt Whyman
- Rory McKenzie

Specialist independent directors

The CAG has selected 2 independent people with board experience and specific professional skills to join the advisory group. They will also be considered for appointment as specialist independent directors at the end of the special administration.

David Lowe is an experienced board director, an ex-CEO of Homes Out West and business advisory consultant. He has an MBA and Master of Commercial Law, is a Member of the Law Institute of Victoria and an Approved Advocate for the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

David Mandel has held many board positions, including as chair of the Royal Children's Hospital, and is also an independent director of Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation in the Northern Territory. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, a senior member of the Finance & Treasury Association, and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Chief executive officer

We are pleased to announce that **Peta Larsen** will join RivMed as chief executive officer (CEO) on 8 August.

The selection panel was unanimous in its choice of Ms Larsen as the preferred candidate at the selection panel interviews held at RivMed on 27 May.

Peta has considerable healthcare experience with recent senior leadership appointments in primary and allied health in community settings with Mission Australia, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, LiveBetter Community Services and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network. Before that she was community engagement manager with NSW Health following her career with them in dietetics, nutrition and health development in Cowra, Tumut and Wagga Wagga.

Peta lives in Wagga and is an accredited practising dietician with a Bachelor of Health Science. She is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has lectured in allied health at Charles Sturt University and Riverina Institute of TAFE.

Rule book changes

To strengthen the governance framework for RivMed, changes to the rule book have been discussed with

the corporation advisory group and incorporated into a draft new rule book. We are seeking feedback from members of RivMed on the proposed changes. The Registrar will register the new rule book in time for the end of the special administration.

Please provide feedback to Keith Mackay by email to k.mackay@kmsearch.com.au or by phoning 07 3289 6071.

The most significant proposed changes are:

Rule 3.1 – **Membership eligibility** to be changed from adult Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people 'within 50km from Wagga Wagga' to 'within the service area of RivMed'.

Rule 5.2 – The **number of directors** to be changed to a maximum of 10 including up to 3 specialist independent directors, and a minimum of 5 including up to 2 specialist independent directors. There must always be a majority of member directors.

New rule (under 5.2) – From the date of the end of the 2022 special administration, a person will be **ineligible for a directorship for 3 years** if they were a director or CEO at any time from July 2019 to October 2021.

Rule 5.4 – All directors will be required to hold a **National Police Certificate** and **Working With Children** clearance. The prohibition on multiple members from the same family remains.

Rule 5.5 – Directors will be appointed on **rotation** for 2-year terms so that half of the directors' appointments expire each year. This will begin at the 2024 AGM, when the terms of half of the directors appointed at the end of the special administration will end, and elections for those appointments will take place at the AGM. Directors are eligible for reappointment.

New rule 5.7 – Specialist **independent directors**: The corporation must have a minimum of one and a maximum of 3 specialist independent (non-member) directors. Specialist independent directors will be appointed to add skills in financial management, corporate governance, accounting, law or a field relating to the corporation's activities. The directors will appoint specialist independent directors by passing a resolution in a directors' meeting. Specialist independent directors will be voting directors, appointed for a term of 2 years and eligible for reappointment. Specialist independent directors may not hold the position of chair.

Information & handback meeting

I will be holding a final information meeting / handback meeting on Thursday **18 August 2022**.

TIME: 11:45 am to 2:00 pm

PLACE: Ngurra Hub Ashmont
15 Blakemore Avenue
Ashmont NSW 2650

The notice of meeting is attached to this newsletter. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. Representatives from ORIC will be in attendance and available for answering questions.

The handback meeting will be a great chance to find out more about your corporation and for you to **meet the new directors**. This is an opportunity for you to discuss the special administration and your corporation's future. Please come along. Light refreshments will be provided.

No financial support is available to attend this meeting.

Get up, stand up, show up!

RivMed held its NAIDOC celebration and official Docker Street opening on Thursday 7 July. The day started with Uncle Hewitt Whyman's smoking ceremony and a welcome to Country by Aunty Cheryl Penrith. Next up was a performance by Ashmont Public School's Aboriginal dance group—and community members who joined them.

RivMed hosted information stalls about its services, and the face painting, hair braiding and colouring-in competition were popular with the children. The day ended with songs by Sarah Ingram and Nathan Lamont. It was a great day enjoyed by all—as you can see from the images on the right.

Many thanks,
Peter

More on special administrations

See ORIC's fact sheet **Special administrations: what members and directors need to know** at oric.gov.au.

Find out more about special administrations via oric.gov.au or by calling the registrar's office on **1800 622 431**.



Special administrator

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Notice of meeting for information & handback



Members and other interested people are invited to the 3rd and final information meeting of the special administration.

The meeting is not only for members. It's a chance to be informed, ask questions and enjoy some fellowship and lunch.

A representative from ORIC will be present and happy to respond to any questions you have.

This is an opportunity for you to discuss the special administration and your corporation's future. Please come along. Light refreshments will be provided.

No financial support is available to attend this meeting.

Peter McQuoid
special administrator

DATE: Thursday, 18 August 2022

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Agenda

1. Role of the special administrator and aim of the special administration
2. Progress to date
3. Handback to member control
4. Asking questions about the corporation and the special administration