Guidelines for applying for Confirmation of Aboriginality

In order for our organisation to process your application, your Aboriginal Heritage will need to be linked to the Illawarra or South Coast or have lived in the Illawarra the majority of your life and you will be required to provide your family tree linking your Aboriginal Heritage back to one of the Apical Ancestors of the South Coast People's Native Title Claim. If your Indigenous heritage is not from the Illawarra and you have not lived the majority of your life in the Illawarra, we recommend that you apply for confirmation with an organisation in that area.

Why do I need to prove my Aboriginal heritage? (Genealogy)

Your Aboriginal heritage is something that is personal to you. You do not need a letter of confirmation to identify as an Indigenous person. However, you may be asked to provide proof or confirmation of your heritage when applying for Indigenous- specific services or programs such as Indigenous health and wellbeing services, employment (Indigenous identified positions), school programs and scholarships for Indigenous students, university courses offering placements to Indigenous students, Centrelink and housing assistance offered to Indigenous people.

These services and programs are intended to help address the inequalities Indigenous people face as a result of past government policies, inadequate health care and lack of educational and employment opportunities. Requiring confirmation of heritage is about honouring this intention and ensuring that Indigenous-specific services and programs are actually benefitting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Why do I need to prove how I have identified in the Aboriginal Community

Part 2 and 3 of the three-part Identification criteria states, Identify as an Aboriginal and is accepted by the Aboriginal Community in which you live. Its important you provide as much information as possible, this will allow the Board to determine how you are connected to the community to determine your acceptance within the Illawarra Aboriginal Community

How do I confirm my Aboriginality?

The following three 'criteria' are used to confirm Aboriginality:

1. Being of Aboriginal descent

2. Identifying as an Aboriginal

3. The Directors of IAC are satisfied that you are a person of Aboriginal descent and have

   provided sufficient evidence to the IAC Board on how you have identified in the Illawarra Aboriginal Community.

How do I meet the three part identification criteria?

Knowing your family history is the key to obtaining your Genealogy of your heritage, this will establish that you are of Aboriginal descent.

You must clearly demonstrate how you have identified in the Illawarra Aboriginal Community and if the IAC board are satisfied that you have provided sufficient evident the IAC Board will provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality Certificate.

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Who determines my application?

Applications are reviewed by the IAC Confirmation Sub-committee and the IAC Confirmation Sub-committee makes recommendations to the IAC board at a formal meeting.

How long will it take to process my application?

Applications are to be received prior to the IAC Confirmation Sub-committee meetings.
The Sub-committee meet once a month, where they will make the recommendation to the full IAC Board of Directors Meeting. The IAC Board meets monthly, the 4th Friday of the month.

What happens if my application is declined?

Consideration and approval of Confirmations is at the discretion of the IAC Board of Directors, who may decline an application for various reason, including not knowing who the applicant is and/or their Aboriginal Heritage. You may be known to other Aboriginal people in the area, however, this will not in itself ensure you receive Confirmation through IAC. In particular, IAC cannot issue you with a Confirmation if you have not provided sufficient evidence to establish that you meet all the criteria as outlined above. If declined we will provide you with a brief letter stating that the Board has endorsed or declined Confirmation.

Where do I send my application?

All Confirmations for Aboriginality are to be hand delivered directly) to:

Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation Head Office
4 Wentworth Street Port Kembla NSW 2505

These applications are not accepted at any other location.

What if I have further questions?
For further questions please call: (02) 4211 0601

Confirmation of Aboriginality Checklist

- ⬭ I have completed the "Confirmation of Aboriginality' application form.
- ⬭ I have attached my Genealogy Form (Family Tree)
- ⬭ I have attached a copy of my Drivers License and Birth Certificate
- ⬭ I have attached additional information to support my application

Confirmation of Aboriginality Form

Personal Information

Full Name

Address

Telephones

Date of Birth

Gender

Background

Are you from this region?

If not, where are you from?

How long have you lived in this region?

Where does your Aboriginality originate from?

Why do you need your Confirmation of Aboriginality?
(Please specify a reason as to why you are needing your COA?)

Medical or Dental Services

Housing

Education
(School or University)

Sporting Events

Employment

Other

Community

Can any Elders within the community confirm your Aboriginality?   Y or N

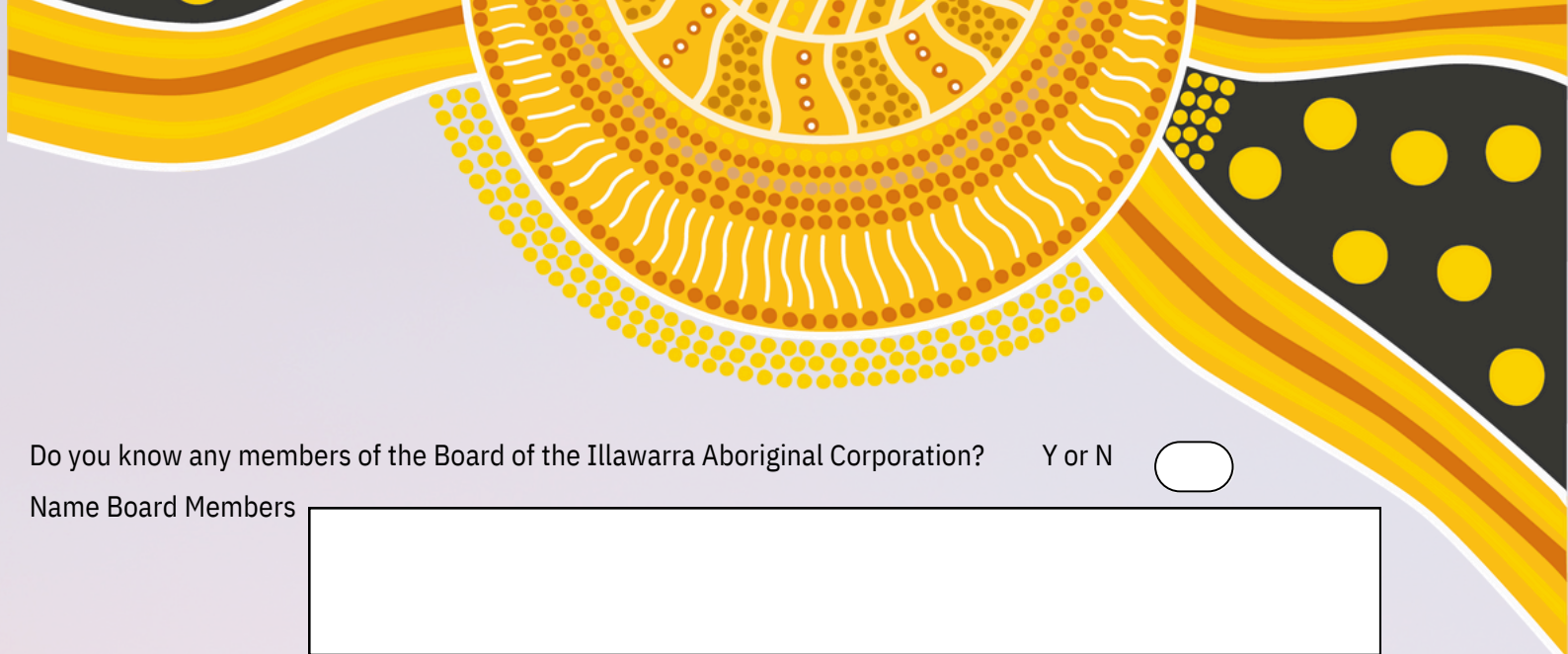Name those Elders

Can anyone else in the Aboriginal community confirm your Aboriginality?   Y or N

Name those people

Do you know any members of the Board of the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation?   Y or N ⬭

Name Board Members

Describe how you have identified in the Illawarra Aboriginal Community?   Y or N ⬭

Describe your involvement

Other Information   Is there any other information that will help us to assess your application?

Lodging this Application form

Sign and date to confirm   Date

Hand deliver the completed **Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation**

application form to: **4 Wentworth Street, Port Kembla NSW 2505**

Office Use Only
Date that application was received (staff only)

Staff name and Initials   Date