

MEDIA RELEASE – Thursday, 8 August 2024

Auditor-General tables his review of Tasmanian Community Fund referendum support and assessment of grant to AICR

The Auditor-General has tabled his report of a limited assurance review of the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) referendum support and assessment of grant funding to Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition Ltd (AICR).

In reading the report it is important to be aware that the review only examined the processes and considerations behind these two decisions of the TCF Board.

The aim of the review was to provide transparency on the process the TCF followed and to enhance public confidence by strengthening better practice grants assessment.

The review found that TCF's:

- processes and considerations leading to its decision to support the yes vote in the Voice referendum were inadequate
- assessment of the AICR grant was not conducted in accordance an established and documented grants management framework.

The review recommends the TCF:

1. Conducts and documents due diligence including recording the legislative basis, key considerations, conflicts of interest, assessment of risks, and any advice relied upon in reaching its decisions
2. Adopts better practice grants management to objectively assess the relative merit of grants with clear reasons why applications are approved or denied
3. Provides regular guidance, training, and clear directions to staff to ensure they are able to comply with Tasmanian State Service principles of remaining impartial and apolitical while following the Board's directions
4. Adopts better practice records management in accordance with the Archives Act and associated guidance.

Further detail and the full audit report can be accessed here:

<https://www.audit.tas.gov.au/publication/tasmanian-community-fund/>

ENDS

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