

# Different models of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance

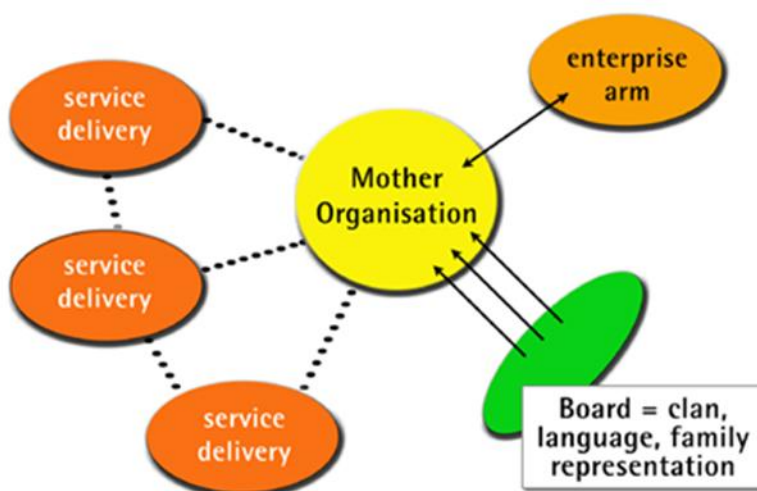
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander models of community and regional governance are based on networks of interconnected layers of leaders, groups of people, and land-ownership rights and interests. They are arranged in different ways, depending on what suits the particular community or organisation. Which model suits you?

## The family model

The governance of some community and regional organisations is structured like a big family, with service and business arms growing out of a 'mother' organisation. Membership of the board is based on kin relationships and extended family ties. The Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation in NSW and Bunuba Inc. in Western Australia are examples of this.



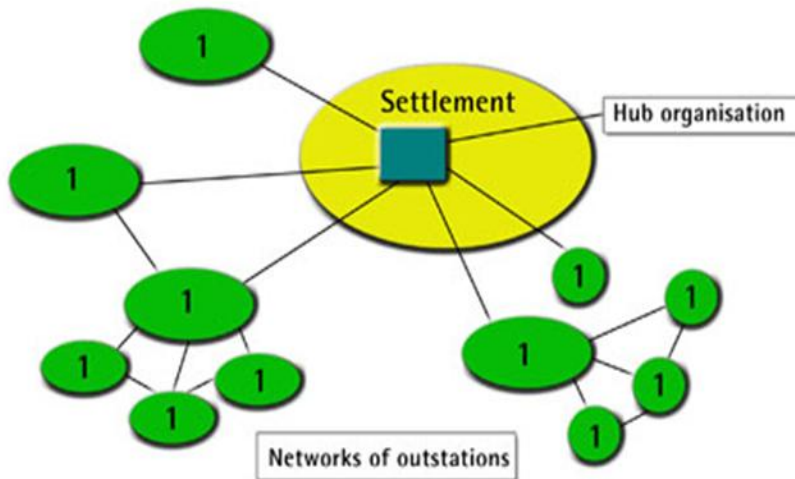
*Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation*



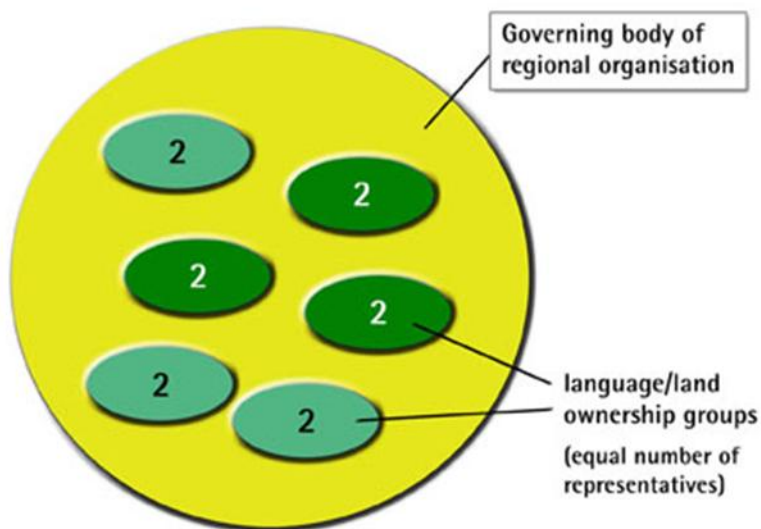
*Bunuba Inc.*

## The hub-and-spokes model

The governance of some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is set up like a ‘hub and spokes’, with people living in outlying smaller communities linked to a central hub. This hub is made up of representatives from different cultures and is responsible for delivering services to the outlying communities. An example of this system is the Laynhapuy Homelands Association Inc. and Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation in the Northern Territory.



*Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation*

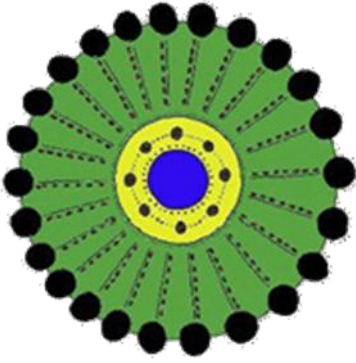


*Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation*

## Equal representation model

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Some regional governance models are based on equal representation of land-ownership, language, clan or family groups, using traditional decision-making processes and criteria for leadership. Examples of this are the Thamarrurr Regional Council in the Northern Territory, and the Yorta Yorta People Aboriginal Corporation and the Armadale Noongar Corporation in the south-east and south-west of Australia respectively.



*Thamarrurr Regional Council*

This is the logo that the Thamarrurr Regional Council designed to explain how their different clan and land-ownership groups have come together to form a single community governance structure.