

What can we do?

Networking

Task	Some questions to ask	Example	What can we do?
<p>Don't forget about your community.</p>	<p>Who in our community would be a useful contact for our governing body?</p> <p>How do we reach out to our community?</p>	<p>A council holds public meetings for any matters that affect the lifestyle or activities of the general community, so that issues can be openly debated until an agreement is reached.</p> <p>A women's corporation uses monthly lunches and fortnightly morning teas to help communicate its activities to its members.</p>	
<p>Keep people informed on all levels.</p>	<p>Would all our staff members be able to explain our governance to an outsider?</p>	<p>One council holds different sorts of meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly staff meetings bring everyone up to speed with current issues and projects being worked on. • Quarterly meetings involved the council's main government stakeholders. • An annual regional workshop for its community stakeholders addresses issues faced by the tribal groups the council represents and confirms the mandate of the people on the ground. 	

<p>Advertise your governance.</p>	<p>Where can we advertise our governance, outside businesses or organisations?</p> <p>How can we advertise within our governing body?</p>	<p>A health organisation keeps its community informed through the local free newspaper and by running promotions at shows and other public venues. It also advertises its meetings, encouraging the community to attend any time, and holds forums on special interest issues to gain feedback from the community.</p> <p>Another organisation circulates information directly to the community through its website, public notices, a local-language radio station and by word of mouth.</p> <p>A media association distributes copies of its quarterly newsletter to the community and its funding bodies.</p> <p>A community government council posts matters of general interest on community notice boards and also prints flyers.</p>	
<p>Have someone spread information further in remote areas, in person or using the Internet.</p>	<p>How do people outside our community find out about our governance?</p>	<p>An institute uses a coordinator who meets with communities in remote areas to advise them of decisions and changes. It also uses fax, email, word of mouth and the annual general meeting to inform its stakeholders and various clients.</p> <p>Another health service places annual reports, newsletters and information about its various programs on its comprehensive website.</p>	

<p>Diversify your governing body.</p>	<p>What cultural connections do we have within our governing body?</p> <p>How do we use these connections to spread the word about our governance?</p>	<p>One foundation has a board that consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• six local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across its region, appointed from nominations by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations• a special advisor—an independently appointed accountant• up to three members (either Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or non-Indigenous) appointed for their expertise on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.	
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