



STRAIGHT TALK REGIONAL GATHERING • TOWNSVILLE

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S PROGRAM

8 October – 10 October 2019

What is it?

Straight Talk connects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with the political system and builds the capacity of women as change makers. Including a focus on practical tools and confidence, Straight Talk brings people together to share, learn and be effective in making a difference. The program includes opportunities for relationship-building between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and parliamentarians, information-sharing and developing strategies for change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

For the past ten years the Straight Talk program has brought together more than 700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women from across the nation to learn about Australia's political system and form powerful networks with each other and with women of Federal Parliament. Held over three days in Townsville, the gathering focuses on developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's skills to make positive changes through political engagement, while also increasing engagement in public and political life. The gathering also provides participants with the opportunity to build relationships with each other, to engage with parliamentarians, and to explore ways of working together to advance reconciliation and achieve greater justice and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Straight Talk aims to assist in:

- ▶ strengthening the skills of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to bring about change;
- ▶ providing a space to reflect on our work for change, share and learn from each other;
- ▶ increasing the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access their political representatives;
- ▶ establishing ongoing relationships and networks between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their female political representatives; and
- ▶ raising the awareness and understanding of parliamentarians of the issues confronting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and their communities.

How do I apply?

If you currently reside in Queensland you can apply to participate in Straight Talk 2019 by sending a completed application form by email to womensbusiness@oxfam.org.au. We would prefer the form to be filled on the computer form but it's not a necessity. For more information please contact the Straight Talk team, our direct line 03 9289 9444 or email womensbusiness@oxfam.org.au



Canberra, Australia: Participants from Queensland pictured at Parliament House during the 2018 Straight Talk National Summit. Photo: Jillian Mundy/OxfamAUS.

Applications close Friday 16 August



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How are participants selected?

Oxfam Australia will select 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women currently residing in Queensland to participate in Straight Talk. We are looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who represent the strength and diversity of their communities. This means we want participants from all parts of Australia of all ages, different backgrounds and education and employment levels. Participants do not need previous political experience or an understanding of Parliament. However participants should be active in making change and learning new skills.

Applicants will be assessed on

- ▶ Your completed application
- ▶ Willingness to travel to Townsville in October 2019 and participate in the entire gathering
- ▶ Commitment to working for change
- ▶ Commitment to sharing the information and your experiences with others after the summit
- ▶ Over 18 years of age

Please note: in order to support the involvement of a diversity of women, previous attendees are not able to re-apply.

When will I know if I've been selected?

Oxfam Australia will be in contact in early September 2019 to advise you if you have been selected for Straight Talk.

What will happen if I am selected?

Travel, accommodation, meals and registration will be provided by Straight Talk. If you are selected, Oxfam Australia will contact you to make travel and accommodation arrangements. Also note that some travel arrangements may involve early morning or evening travel. We will send you a pack with more information about your participation in Straight Talk.



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All information provided in this form is confidential.

SECTION 1

Please provide your name as it appears on your driver's licence, passport or other photo identification.
This information is needed to book your travel.

Last/family name:

First/given name(s):

If the name you'd like to be called by is different from the name given above, please write your preferred name here:

Date of birth:

Do you identify as:

Aboriginal

Torres Strait Islander

Both

Email address:

Home phone number:

Mobile phone number:

What is the best time of day to contact you?

Postal address:

State:

Postcode:

Electorate:

(To find your electorate go to <http://apps.aec.gov.au/eseach/> or call 13 23 26)

How did you hear about Straight Talk?

SECTION 2

Please provide details of the people you'd like us to contact in case of an emergency:

Name:

Phone:

Phone other:

Name:

Phone:

Phone other:

SECTION 3

Please list any medical conditions, mobility issues etc, that we need to be aware of:

Do you have any specific dietary requirements?

SECTION 4

Please note that there are no right or wrong answers to these questions. We are looking for a diverse range of women to participate in Straight Talk.

Language group/nation (optional):

How would you describe your ability to communicate in the English language?

Fluent Conversational With difficulty Not at all

Will you require translation services?

Yes No

What other languages do you speak?

Which of the following best describes the place where you currently live?

Major city Inner regional Outer regional Remote

SECTION 5

Are you able and willing to travel to Townsville in October 2019 to attend Straight Talk?

Yes No

Will you be available for Oxfam to contact you in September 2019 to make travel arrangements?

Yes No

Will you be driving to Straight Talk?

Yes No

If yes, where would you be driving from?

If flying, which airport would you be departing from?

SECTION 6

Are you currently employed?

Yes, full time Yes, part time No

What is your occupation?

What is the level of education you have completed?

Primary Secondary TAFE University

If TAFE or University, please describe your field of study:

How would you describe your understanding of the Australian political system and Australian politics?

Good Medium Low No understanding



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SECTION 7

For the remainder of the questions please limit responses to 200 words for each question

1. Have you ever communicated with a politician (EG: in person, by telephone or in writing)

Yes No

If yes, please provide a brief description of what you were trying to achieve. How did it go?

2. Can you tell us a bit about your life — your job, your family, your community, your interests, your passions?

3. Why are you interested in participating in Straight Talk? What information and experience would you like to gain?

4. Can you tell us about a time when you have committed to make a change and followed through on that commitment?



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5. What are the top two issues impacting on you/your community?

6. What are some of the changes you would like to see in your community?

7. How do you think some of these changes could occur?

8. How would you share the information and your learning with your organisation, community or family?



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