

First Circles Leaders gather in Darwin for their final workshop.

First Circles members gathered in Darwin at the end of November for the fourth and final workshop.

The three-day workshop focussed on preparations for their presentation to NT Cabinet Ministers. This included group discussions, presentations, and individual time to finalise their speeches. Members practised their public speaking skills, including a mock panel rehearsal activity.

Members confirmed their topics and worked to transform their research and notes into relevant speeches. The four topics raised with Cabinet were:

- Water Security
- Water Quality
- Housing
- Roads



The term 'First Circles' combines two concepts:

- Acknowledgement of 'First Peoples'
- The use of 'Circles' represents the collaboration between people and communities being the main driver to improve outcomes.

Workshop Birthday! 🎂

FC member Deanna Kennedy tried to keep her birthday on the down low during workshop 4. To her surprise, the Aboriginal Partnerships and Reform team arrived with a cake in hand and singing voices to wish her a Happy Birthday.



Member's Final Team Dinner



At each workshop, members gather to enjoy a meal together. For their final get together, members enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner with harbour views at the Jetty restaurant at the Darwin Wharf Precinct.

Cabinet Presentation

On the 3 December, the morning kicked off with the First Circles members gathering to officially present and meet with NT Cabinet Ministers.



Members met with the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and five other Ministers to discuss key issues impacting remote Aboriginal communities. Solutions and opportunities were highlighted for government to better work with remote communities on a range of projects, policies, and programs. Despite plenty of pre speech nerves, members spoke confidently, and strongly expressed their key community matters.



Alec Bidwee welcoming Ministers and introducing topics to be discussed by members.



Deanna Kennedy addressing Ministers about issues associated with the conditions of remote roads.



Above: Sally Sena discussing water quality and related health issues in remote communities of Central Australia.



The Hon Lia Finocchiaro, Chief Minister; the Hon Steve Edgington, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; the Hon Gerard Maley, Deputy Chief Minister; and the Hon Robyn Cahill OAM, Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations.

FirstCircles

Supporting Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory



Cecilia Lake and Tristin Maroney raising issues surrounding water security and water levels in the Big Rivers region.



Kingsley Murphy speaking about the repairs and maintenance of remote public housing dwellings.



Suzanne Munkara speaking about remote public housing and the need for suitable housing for family and cultural needs.



Minister Edgington meets with First Circles members, Kingsley Murphy and Deanna Kennedy.



Gerri Narul summarises First Circles members' presentation to Cabinet.



First Circles members yarning with Chief Minister, Lia Finocchiaro and Mr Ken Davies, the CEO of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

First Circles

Supporting Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory

2024 First Circles Member Awards and 10th Anniversary Celebrations



The First Circles Leadership Program is an NT Government initiative that was developed in 2014 to help identify, mentor and support Aboriginal emerging leaders from remote communities across the Northern Territory.



2014/15 First Circles Members

The Hon Steve Edgington MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, hosted an evening of celebrations to mark the completion of the 2024 program and to recognise the 10th year of the First Circles Program.



Following a 'Welcome to Country' delivered by Larrakia woman Jeaneen McLennan and a didgeridoo performance by Les Huddleston, Minister Edgington congratulated 2024 First Circles members on their hard work and commitment throughout the program. He encouraged members to continue their leadership journeys and to encourage others in their communities to do the same.

This year, 9 Aboriginal leaders from remote communities in the Northern Territory participated in the program to develop and expand their leadership skills.

Since April 2024, members have participated in four workshops and three regional engagement sessions. They have strengthened their voices and built skills to speak confidently and directly with government about matters affecting their communities.

Want to know more about First Circles?

Contact Aboriginal Partnerships and Reform
on:
08 8999 8579 or email:
aboriginalaffairs@nt.gov.au

First Circles

Supporting Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory



First Circles

Supporting Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory

Member's Family, Friends, and Employers



Congratulations to 2024 First Circles Members

Alec Bidwee – Big Rivers

Cecilia Lake – Big Rivers

Deanna Kennedy – Big Rivers

Tristin Maroney – Big Rivers

Kingsley Murphy – Top End

Geraldine Narul – Top End

Suzanne Munkara – Top End

Sally Sena – Central Australia

Sean Wilson – Central Australia

See you around!



First Circles

Supporting Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory

Do you know an Aboriginal leader from a remote community in the Territory?

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is calling for expressions of interest to the 2025 First Circles Leadership Program.

The Program is aimed at identifying, mentoring and supporting emerging Aboriginal leaders from remote communities across the Northern Territory.

You are able to nominate yourself or someone you know

Nominations are now open!

For further information and how to apply visit
aboriginalaffairs.nt.gov.au/first-circles



aboriginalaffairs.nt.gov.au

