

First Circles

Supporting Aboriginal leaders from across the Territory

First Circles Members become Qualified Aboriginal Mental Health First Aiders

First Circles members travelled to Darwin in July to participate in a two-day Mental Health First Aid Training Course. The Mental Health First Aid course teaches participants how to provide initial support to another adult who may be experiencing a mental health problem.



As community leaders, the skills and knowledge gained during the course will assist members in identifying people at risk. At the conclusion of the training, members went on to complete the assessment and have now achieved a 3-year accreditation as AMHF Aiders.



Guest speakers – Jeremiah Baker and Top End Region's Executive Director, Darren Johnson and First Circles members.

Top End Region Guest Speakers

Top End Regional Executive Director, Darren Johnson shared his inspiring story about the challenges he faced growing up in the NT. He expressed to members the importance of having goals and to keep working towards them, despite any setbacks they may face. Members were impressed by Darren's mindset in relation to achieving his goals and the success that he has achieved within the NT Government.

Chief Minister and Cabinet, Regional & Economic Development Manager, Jeremiah Baker, a proud Yolgnu man from East Arnhem Land, who participated in the First Circles program in 2022.

Jeremiah lead members through his First Circles journey and how it has helped his career within the NT Government. He encouraged First Circles members to embrace the opportunity that the First Circles program offers and to never be afraid to aim high.

Want to know more about First Circles?

Contact the Office of Aboriginal Affairs on:
08 8999 8579 or email:
aboriginalaffairs@nt.gov.au

Parliament House Tour



Aspiring politicians in the group, selected their seats in the chamber for when they are elected into Parliament!

To wrap up the first day members went on a guided tour of NT Parliament House. They learnt about the history of Parliament House and the roles and responsibilities of those who are elected to represent Territorians. Members found the tour informative and were especially interested in the visit to the Legislative Assembly Chamber. The tour was followed by a meet and greet with former NT Minister, Joel Bowden.



Refreshments at Parliament House with former NT Minister, Joel Bowden.

Top End Regional Engagement Workshop in Jabiru

The three day itinerary was packed with activities that challenged members while providing opportunities to experience the Kakadu region and what it had to offer culturally, visually and historically.



FC Members in Jabiru with Chief Minister and Cabinet Top End Regional staff.

Former CM&C Regional Director, David Boustead and Regional Project Officer, Claire Joyce shared a presentation about the history and future of Jabiru. The presentation highlighted the local Mirarr's aspirations for the region, the economic opportunities and vision for the township.





Croc spotting at Cahills Crossing...

Known as the most dangerous causeway in Australia, the croc infested waters of Cahills Crossing is home to as many as 50 crocodiles. The causeway that crosses the East Alligator River will take you from Kakadu National Park into Arnhem Land.

For some members it was their first time visiting the Kakadu region, so a bit of croc spotting was definitely on the cards.

Members were in awe at the number and size of some of the scaly residents but were keen to snap lots of pics to send back home to family and friends.



Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) Wetlands



Day two commenced with an early morning wakeup call and bus trip to Coinda Lodge to experience a sunrise cruise on Yellow Water Billabong. Members thoroughly enjoyed the 2hr morning cruise and the low water levels ensured they experienced an abundance of crocodile sightings.

What is your leadership style?



Following the cruise and breakfast at Coinda Lodge, members participated in a leadership activity to assist them to understand and value different types of leadership styles. Members were intrigued as they began to identify the different characteristics they demonstrated as leaders.



Communication Styles

Everyone had the opportunity to explore their communication styles by taking part in a self-assessment activity. Members then compared their results against four communication styles:

- **Driver** – High achiever, organised and decisive. A mover and shaker.
- **Expressive** – Engaging, accommodating and supportive of others. Relationship-rather than task orientated.
- **Amiable** – Devoted, consistent. A team player, avoids confrontation and can sometimes be indecisive.
- **Analytical** – Reserved and task orientated. Can be persistent and have a systematic approach.



Everyone was reminded that they can possess a mixture of different communication styles, however the best learning is through trial and error and reflection.

Leadership and Governance tips from West Arnhem Regional Council CEO



First Circles member and West Arnhem Regional Council Services Manager in Warruwi, Geraldine Narul, facilitated a meet and greet with WARC CEO, Andrew Walsh. Andrew shared his invaluable experience working across the Arnhem region and local government. He fielded questions from members about the structure and governance of council and explained the important role of elected council members.



Andrew's passion for local government was well received by members and we thank him for taking the time to share important leadership tips and to chat with us about governance within local councils.

On the last day, members enjoyed breakfast at the Kakadu Crocodile Hotel. The opportunity was taken to explore the hotel and admire some of the incredible local art and craft on display.



It was then on to discuss and explore matters impacting their communities and to prepare for their presentations to NT Cabinet Ministers in November 2024.

Key topics members are preparing to speak to Cabinet Ministers about include:

- Housing
- Roads
- Water Security/Quality and the corresponding effects on health and culture in the community.



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

