



Supporting the next generation of Aboriginal leaders

## Leadership and Governance

The Northern Territory Government has set a significant Aboriginal Affairs agenda that aims to empower Aboriginal people and communities to enhance their capacity for self-determination. Increased leadership and governance opportunities, and training tailored to meet Aboriginal Territorians needs will help to achieve self-determination at a community level.

### About the First Circles Program

The First Circles Leadership Program is a unique remote leadership program that provides an opportunity for participants to directly engage at the highest level of government. They meet with Cabinet to discuss matters impacting Aboriginal Territorians and their communities, and present local solutions.

First Circles is about identifying, mentoring and supporting and the next generation of Aboriginal leaders with a strong focus on remote leadership.

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.

First Circles focuses on engaging future Aboriginal leaders from across the Northern Territory to bring new voices to the conversation and help build the next generation of community leaders.

The NT Government acknowledges the importance of engaging with Aboriginal Territorians to ensure people have input into policies and programs which affect the lives of people, their families and communities. First Circles provides an opportunity for emerging leaders to drive and influence change through direct engagement with Members of the Legislative Assembly, Ministers and Cabinet.

First Circles is a 12 month leadership program offered to 16 Aboriginal participants, eight from the southern and eight from the northern regions, from across the Territory. It is a membership program with nominations filled through expressions of interest.



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## What is the role of First Circles' members?

Members' roles include:

- Involvement with community activities
- Liaising with community members to discuss matters of concern, and support local and regional activities and initiatives
- Participating in community projects and policy development
- Working collaboratively with the Northern Territory Government to influence, contribute and support policy implementation and change
- Attending and actively participating in workshops
- Actively participate in a meeting with Cabinet

## How are First Circles' members supported?

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs supports and provides mentoring to First Circles' members.

First Circles is a voluntary program, however, funding is available to meet the costs for members to attend workshops and the Cabinet meeting.

First Circles is a Department of the Chief Minister initiative managed by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

## Program Outline

In the lead-up to a Cabinet meeting participants engage in leadership training; attend three workshops designed to support their capacity to actively engage and communicate with government about priorities such as, local decision making and other matters that are important to them; and to collaboratively engage with all levels of government.

The workshops will include travelling to Darwin and Alice Springs.

To find out more about First Circles and to nominate go to [nt.gov.au/oaa](http://nt.gov.au/oaa) or phone Kevin Tilmouth on 8951 5680, or send an email to [oaa@nt.gov.au](mailto:oaa@nt.gov.au)