What is it?

Straight Talk is a program which brings together Aboriginal women to strengthen their skills to bring about change. Regional gatherings provide women with the opportunity to come together with others from their region to develop their advocacy skills, build relationships with each other and with decision-makers where possible, and to explore ways of being more effective in the changes we are making.

What’s the purpose?

Regional Straight Talk aims to:

- strengthen the skills of Aboriginal women to bring about change;
- increase the capacity of Aboriginal women to access their political representatives;
- raise the awareness and understanding of parliamentarians of the issues confronting Aboriginal women, and their communities; and
- provide opportunities to network, share and learn from each other.

How to participate?

Applications are open to all Aboriginal women currently based in the Kimberley. We’re looking for women who represent the strength and diversity of their communities. You don’t need previous political experience or an understanding of Parliament, but you should be active in making change.

The regional gathering will be held in Broome from 9–11 October 2017.

How do I apply?

You can apply to participate in Straight Talk 2016 by sending a completed application form by email to admin@aarnja.org.au or by fax to 03 9347 1495.

If you are handwriting your application and there is not enough space to write your answers, you can attach additional pages. If you need support with completing your application please contact Attika Edgar on 08 9192 2361 or 0499 332 020.

Travel and accommodation arrangements:

We will cover travel, accommodation, meals and registration costs.

"... it has given me the strength and confidence to have a voice and raise issues or concerns in a proactive and inclusive manner on all levels. To have ability to adapt cultural knowledge to main stream environments. I also gained a new wide network of like minded strong aboriginal women who I still keep in contact with today ..."

RENAE WALLEY
Straight Talk Participant

Applications close Monday 28 August
How are participants selected?

Oxfam Australia will select 40 Aboriginal women to participate in Straight Talk.

We are looking for Aboriginal women who represent the strength and diversity of their communities. This means we want participants from the Kimberley 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 Broome in October 2017 and participate in the entire summit
- Commitment to working for change
- Commitment to sharing the information and your experiences with others after the summit
- Over 18 years of age

When will I know if I’ve been selected?

Oxfam/Aarnja will be in contact by early September 2017 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/Aarnja 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.
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:

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/esearch/ 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**

Are you able and willing to travel to Broome in October 2017 to attend Straight Talk?
- [ ] Yes  - [ ] No

Will you be available for Oxfam to contact you in September 2017 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 5**

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.

Do you identify as:
- [ ] Aboriginal  - [ ] Torres Strait Islander  - [ ] Both

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?
- [ ] 

What is your date of birth?
- [ ] 

Which of the following best describes the place where you currently live?
- [ ] Inner regional  - [ ] Outer regional  - [ ] Remote

Have you ever travelled outside of your community?
- [ ] Never  - [ ] Once only  - [ ] 2-5 times  - [ ] More than 5 times

Have you ever been to Broome?
- [ ] Never  - [ ] Once only  - [ ] 2-5 times  - [ ] More than 5 times

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
1. Have you ever communicated with a politician (e.g., 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?

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?


