



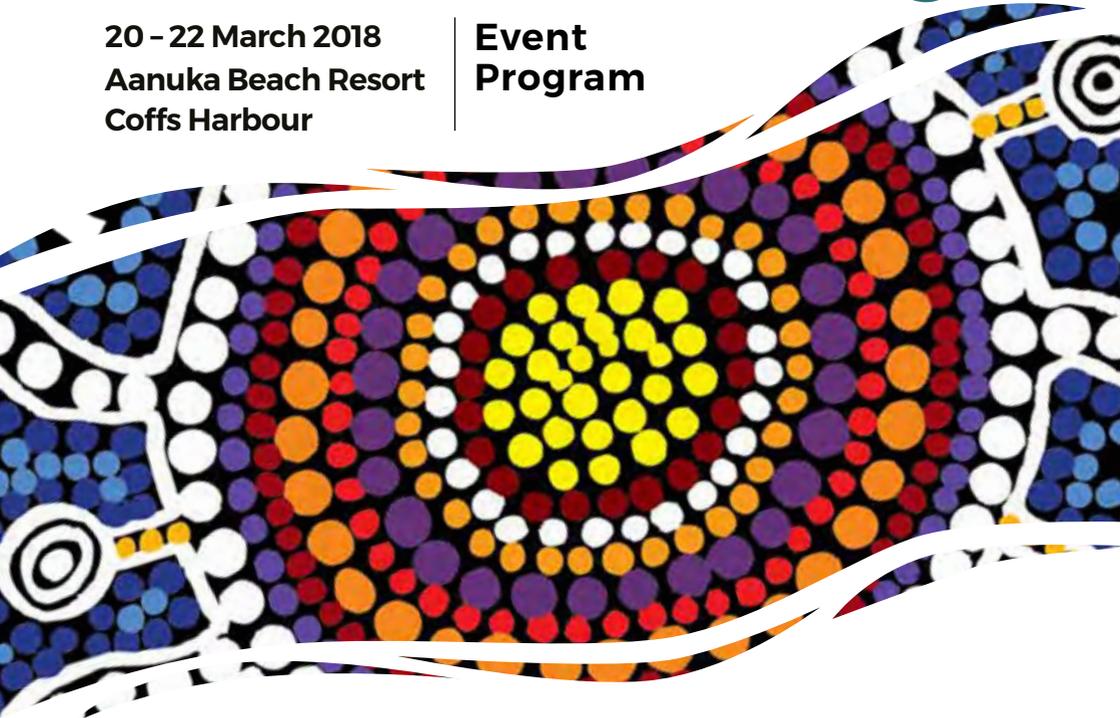
The NSW Coalition of Aboriginal
Regional Alliances presents

Local Decision Making

Aboriginal Regional Alliance Gathering

20 - 22 March 2018
Aanuka Beach Resort
Coffs Harbour

Event
Program



Sponsored by



Aboriginal
Affairs



OCHRE

Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment



Welcome to the inaugural Local Decision Making Aboriginal Regional Alliance Gathering

Hosted by the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA) and sponsored by Aboriginal Affairs, this gathering is being delivered as part of the Local Decision Making initiative under OCHRE: the NSW Government's community focussed plan for Aboriginal affairs.

This year's gathering will focus on:

- Fostering collaboration and communication between regional alliances
- Exchanging best practice models showcasing alliance aspirations and success

Participants will have the opportunity to strengthen their capacity and contribute to the future of Local Decision Making in NSW through the delivery of practical workshops led by leading Australian organisations; the Jumbunna Institute and Amnesty International.



Artwork: Working Together

This artwork was designed by Laura Bowen, a proud Woromi and Biripi woman from Bellinger Valley, NSW. In the centre of the image are smaller meeting places that represent the Aboriginal communities and NSW Government, they are all coming to a large meeting space where they can work together toward shared goals. The colours represent optimism, partnership and moving forward.



Message from Aunty Jean Hands, Chairperson, NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Gumbaynggirr people for welcoming us onto country for the inaugural Local Decision Making Aboriginal Regional Alliance Gathering. I pay my respects to the Elders of the Gumbaynggirr Nation and recognise their continued connection to sea and country.

I would also like to thank the Tribal Wave Assembly for allowing this event to be hosted in their region.

In 2016, The NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA), in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs NSW, hosted the first Local Decision Making Conference with a focus on partnership and collaboration. It served to strengthen existing relationships between the NSW Government and Aboriginal regional alliances and build on how we can best work together for the benefit of Aboriginal communities through the Local Decision Making initiative. The 2016 Conference was a success and demonstrated that both regional alliances and government representatives have a shared purpose and commitment to work together to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities in their regions.

A recommendation from the Conference was to commit further investment in establishing stronger communication networks and collaborative practices between regional alliances across NSW.

Acting on this recommendation, NCARA, with the support of Aboriginal Affairs, would like to welcome you to the 2018 Local Decision Making Aboriginal Regional Alliance Gathering.

This gathering brings together over 100 representatives from regional alliances to foster stronger collaboration, exchange best practice models and strengthen capacity as well as communication. It also provides a great opportunity to showcase alliance success and for understanding of Local Decision Making as well as NCARA to be strengthened among alliance members.

I trust that all delegates will find the program valuable and encourage networking and collaboration to ensure everyone gets the very best out of the next two and half days.

**Aunty Jean Hands,
Chairperson, NSW Coalition of
Aboriginal Regional Alliances**



Workshop Facilitators



Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research

Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research is at the forefront of Indigenous nation building research and practice in Australia. Their Indigenous led research team operates throughout Australia, with staff working in communities in Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales, and collaborators in all States and Territories. Operating in the domestic and international spheres, the team prides itself on frank and fearless research and advocacy driven by the Indigenous communities it serves.

Their vision is to promote, support and embody the exercise and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sovereignty and Self-Determination. Jumbunna has collaborated with the Native Nations Institute at the

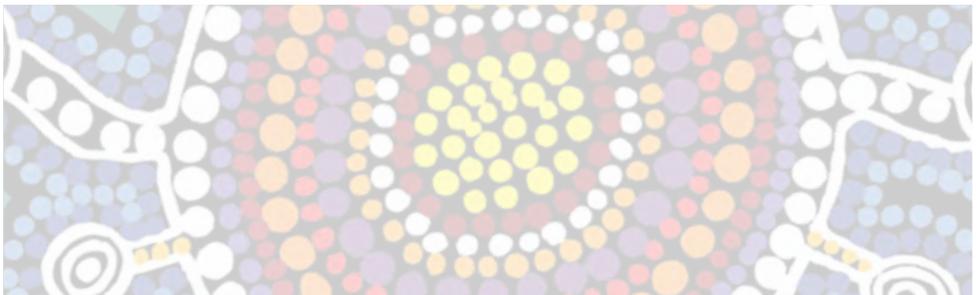
University of Arizona since 2010 in ongoing research projects assessing the applicability in Australia of the research findings of the Harvard Project.

Representatives from the Jumbunna Institute will deliver workshops in Governance and Leadership, allowing participants the opportunity to engage in practical exercises that will focus on reflecting on their achievements and progress, strengthening their governance and leadership skills and considering what direction they should take going forward.

www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/jumbunna-institute-indigenous-education-and-research

Day 1 Tuesday 20 March Workshop: **Governance**

Day 2 Wednesday 21 March Workshop: **Leadership**





Amnesty International

Amnesty International is the world's largest and most-respected human rights organisation. They work closely with Indigenous communities and people seeking asylum to fight discrimination, unfair detention and to demand safety and a fair justice system for all.

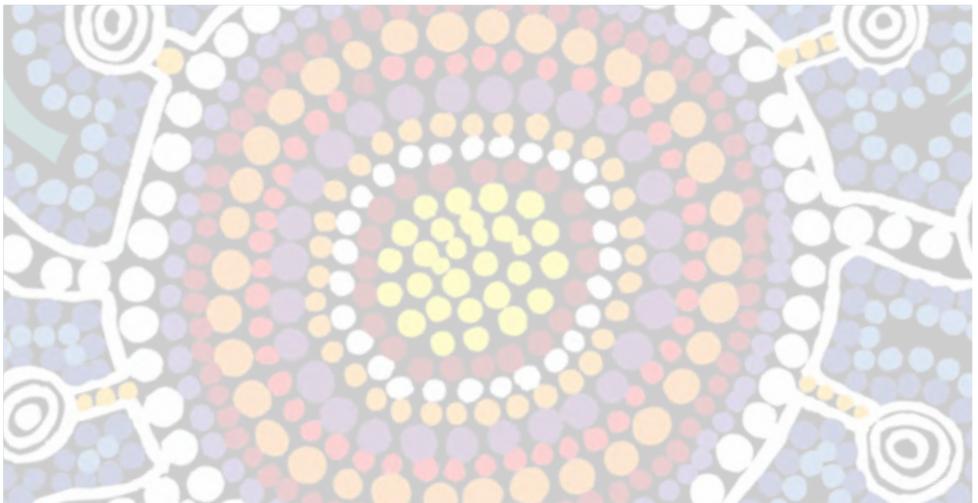
Amnesty put pressure on the Australian government to adopt laws that respect the human rights of all our citizens and to meet our international human rights obligations. Amnesty International

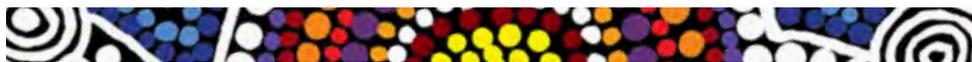
have been engaged to lead delegates through practical workshops in lobbying and negotiating with government and other stakeholders.

At the end of the workshop, participants should walk away with an improved understanding of how they and their alliance can better to influence, lobby and negotiate government and other stakeholders.

www.amnesty.org.au

Day 2 Wednesday 21 March
Workshop: **How to lobby and negotiate with government and other stakeholders**





Event facilitators, speakers and entertainment



Event Facilitator - Lillian Gordon

Lillian Gordon is a proud Aboriginal woman from Nyiampaa (Ngemba) and Gamilaroi country in Brewarrina in Northern NSW. Lil has over 30 years of experience working in education and with Aboriginal communities in a range of environments including high school, Juvenile Justice, Correctional Centres, TAFE NSW and as CEO of the Barang Regional Alliance. Lil has experience MC'ing a number of conferences, gatherings and awards ceremonies for a range of audiences and facilitating many Aboriginal cultural education programs for different organisations.



~~Guest speakers - Kardu Alliance, Wadeye~~

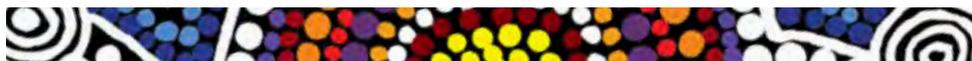
The Kardu Alliance is a newly formed governance body for the Wadeye region made up of six Aboriginal organisations based in Wadeye, Northern Territory. Key leaders from the Wadeye community recognised that communication between Aboriginal organisations was lacking and more could be achieved if they combined their effort. The Alliance offers a form of protection and unity across member organisations. The Kardu Alliance has only been operating for a year and is still working on establishing their governance arrangements at the regional level. They have identified a number of priorities, including healing, transport, women's policy, youth policy and more. Representatives from the Kardu Alliance will be delivering a presentation on their LDM journey on Day 2 Wednesday 21 March.

Unable to attend



Entertainment - Matty Devitt Band, Musicians

The Matty Devitt Band is based around indigenous singer/songwriter Matty Devitt, who has been writing songs and performing for the past 12 years in and around the Coffs Harbour, Byron Bay and Fraser coast areas. Combining modern musical influences with the spirit of his Aboriginal heritage, Matty Devitt has created his own version of Alternative, Acoustic rock. The Matty Devitt band will be performing at the dinner on Tuesday 20 March from 7.30pm.



The NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA)

The NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA) is comprised of nominated representatives from each of the NSW Aboriginal Regional Alliances established to have an increased say in government service delivery, exchange ideas and consider common issues, as well as providing leadership and advocacy where and when necessary. The primary focus of the NCARA is to:

- Advocate on issues that relate to the application of policy, program delivery and funding for Aboriginal peoples in regard to basic and essential services.
- Promote discussion and consider common issues.
- Identify risks and opportunities.
- Strategically plan for the future needs of Aboriginal communities.
- Coordinate and collaborate on priorities across the regions.
- Support the aspirations and achievements of regions, including providing mutual support for participating and emerging regional alliances.

The NCARA meet on a bi-monthly basis with peak bodies and government stakeholders in an effort to build and strengthen the relationships needed to deliver tangible outcomes for Aboriginal people across NSW. The NCARA also distribute a bi-monthly regional alliance newsletter which details the outcomes of meetings, recent alliance news and upcoming dates.

More information about NCARA can be found on the following link www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/working-differently/local-decision-making/ncara



Many Aboriginal suppliers have made this event possible and we would like to extend a special thank you to all our contributors.

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A huge thank you also to our event organisers at

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Want to know more?

Visit our website:

www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/working-differently/local-decision-making

Give us a call and have a yarn with our friendly staff: 1800 019 998

Send us an email: enquiries@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au