



LOCAL DECISION MAKING

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONFERENCE
14-15 NOVEMBER 2016

Welcome to the inaugural Local Decision Making Partnership and Collaboration Conference

Hosted by Aboriginal Affairs, this Conference 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 Conference will focus on:

- **Optimising community leadership:**
Sharing lessons about sustainable and effective Aboriginal governance.
- **Sharing decision-making power:**
understanding the role of government in Local Decision Making.
- **Building better partnerships:**
understanding the elements of successful cross-cultural partnerships.

Participants will have the opportunity to hear from leading national and international Indigenous leaders and contribute to the future of Local Decision Making in NSW.



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 Jason Ardler, Head of Aboriginal Affairs



I wish to start by acknowledging that we are gathered on Wonnarua country and to thank the Northern Region Aboriginal Alliance for hosting us.

At a time when conversations about the relationship between Australian governments and first peoples are increasingly topical, I would like to extend my thanks to all the attendees who have committed to participating in the inaugural Local Decision Making Partnership and Collaboration Conference and extend a warm welcome to our international guests.

This is the first time a Local Decision Making conference has been held and it is also the first opportunity we have had to come together collectively to reflect on progress so far and to consider what direction Local Decision Making should take moving forward.

Local Decision Making is an initiative of OCHRE, the NSW Government's community focussed plan for Aboriginal affairs, which represents fundamental change in the relationship between government and Aboriginal communities.

Local Decision Making is underpinned by the principle of self-determination and aims to ensure that Aboriginal communities have a genuine voice in determining what and how services are delivered to their communities. Local Decision Making places Aboriginal people at the centre of service design, planning and delivery, enabling the staged devolution of decision making and accountability to the local level.

A key outcome of the conference is to strengthen relationships between the NSW Government and Aboriginal regional alliances. I am excited to see government and community come together during this event to build on lessons learned and to set out the future direction of Local Decision Making in NSW.



Message from Aunty Jean Hands,
Chairperson, Northern Region
Aboriginal Alliance and Interim
Chairperson, NSW Coalition of
Aboriginal Regional Alliances



First and foremost I would like to acknowledge that this conference is being held on Wonnarua country and pay my respects to the Traditional Owners, and to Elders, past present and future.

This conference is the first of its kind and is an acknowledgement of the hard work and commitment of the regional alliances across NSW. Local Decision Making puts Aboriginal people in the driver's seat of developing priorities and decision making on issues that affect us. We need to ensure that we all make the very most of this opportunity. Local Decision Making

is about finding better ways to work with government, to achieve meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal peoples in NSW. This conference is an opportunity to strengthen relationships and continue working together to achieve these outcomes.

Personally I would like to welcome all participants and dignitaries to this conference and ask that we all work constructively and in a spirit of shared purpose over the course of the next two days.



Guest Speakers

Mr Rahui Papa, New Zealand



Mr Rahui Papa has represented his marae in the tribal parliament since its inception in 1999 and currently co-chairs the Ngaati Koroki-Kahukura Tribal Trust. He has a background in broadcasting and education, and currently chairs several community organisations from Koohanga Reo to Tribal and Community Trusts and sits on Iwi-Government governance groups. Mr Papa has been a director and member on various tribal, local and national organisations, mainly focusing on the well-being and development of Waikato-Tainui and Maaori in general. He is an orator and a recognised authority on Waikato reo and tikanga. Mr Papa will deliver a keynote presentation on Day 1 of the conference which will highlight the thinking and practical applications that have led to the renaissance of Maori to the political, cultural and economic decision tables in national, regional and community setting and the decisions that have a wider reaching effect to benefit Maori society and New Zealand communities.

Dr. Allen Benson, Canada



Dr. Allen Benson is a member of the Beaver Lake First Nation and has dedicated his life to advocating for the poor and disenfranchised and for the actualisation of healthy Aboriginal individuals, families and communities, both in Canada and internationally. Dr. Benson has spearheaded the development of many groundbreaking programs for Aboriginal people. Dr. Benson will deliver a keynote presentation on Day 2 of the conference which will draw from the Native Counselling Services of Alberta Model of Building Individual, Family and Community Relationships. Strategies for creating meaningful, productive partnerships will be explored through a discussion of the three key principles of the model: reclaiming our interconnectedness, reconciliation of damaged relationships and the repatriation of the power to self-determine.



Master of Ceremonies

Luke Carroll

Luke is a proud Wirajduri man. Luke started out in acting and has had regular roles in other Australian television dramas. Luke has MC'd many Australian events which have centred around the Aboriginal community, most notably the NAIDOC Awards and The Deadlys.



Facilitators

Grant Sarra – Community

Grant has thirty years' experience working in areas that focus exclusively on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community matters relevant to public and private sector organisations and projects throughout Australia. Grant is an experienced Indigenous executive, change agent, trainer, workshop facilitator, project manager and report writer.



Marcia Ella-Duncan – Government

Marcia is a descendant of the Yuin people of the NSW south coast. She has had 30 years' experience in Aboriginal affairs within numerous portfolios including criminal justice, family and child wellbeing, land management, housing and community development. She has held senior positions in ATSIC and participated in various high level review committees.



Aden Ridgeway – Partnerships

Aden is of the Gumbayngirr people. He has served as a senator in the Federal Parliament and has spent 14 years in the NSW Public Service. Aden is now a partner of Cox Inall Ridgeway, which specialises in Indigenous communications, policy, research and project delivery.

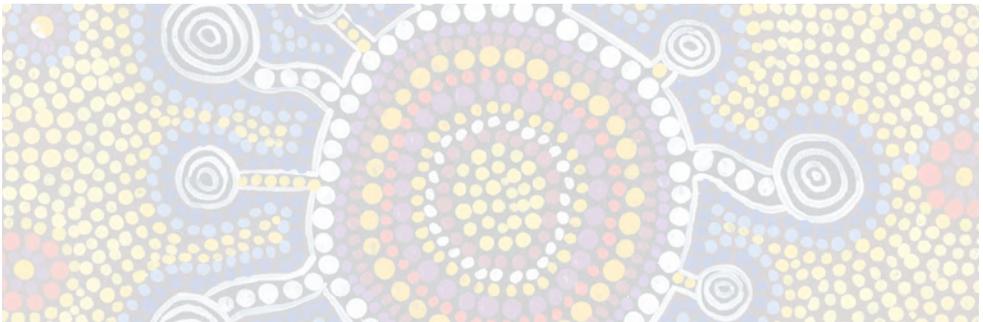


Marcus Corowa, Musician

Sydney-based singer/songwriter Marcus Corowa is turning heads amongst music fans with his catchy melodies and lyrics from the heart. Gifted with a silky smooth singing voice, Marcus draws on his Aboriginal and South Sea Islander roots, mixing in the sounds of classic RnB to create a soulful, soothing sound distinctly his own. Marcus grew up in Bowen, a small coastal town in Queensland, before moving to Brisbane to pursue a career in music.

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

- **33 Creative**
www.33creative.com.au
- **BlackaWear Promotions**
www.blackawear.com.au
- **Dreamtime Tuka**
www.dreamtimetuka.com.au
- **Guni Thakkun Dancers**
- **Indigiearth**
www.indigiearth.com.au
- **Joseph Mayers Photography**
www.josephmayers.com
- **Saretta Fielding**
www.saretta.com.au
- **Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation** www.wonnarua.org.au
- A huge thank you also to our event organisers at **CC Conferences and Corporate Events**
www.ccconferences.com.au





Want to know more?

Visit our website:

www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

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

1800 019 998

Send us an email:

enquiries@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au