

Straight Talk is a national gathering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Day 1 is about getting to know each other, identifying what issues are most important and identifying areas for positive change.

Day 2 will focus on understanding how to engage effectively with Australia's political system to have your ideas heard.

Day 3 will be held at Parliament House where you will have the opportunity to meet with female Parliamentarians to build relationships, identify common priorities and objectives and explore ways to work together.

When? 25-27th February 2009 in Canberra.

Why? Through our work in 24 countries, Oxfam Australia has seen many examples of women coming together to bring about change by focusing on their similarities rather than their differences. We believe there is enormous scope for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to work with women in Parliament to advance reconciliation, justice and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'.

Straight Talk 2009 aims to:

- Establish ongoing relationships and networks between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants and female political representatives;
- Highlight the shared concerns and objectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and non-Indigenous women;
- Increase the access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to their political representatives;
- Increase the understanding in Parliament of the issues confronting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women;
- Strengthen the ability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to bring about change through political processes.

Who? We are looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who represent the strength and diversity of their communities. This means we want participants of all ages, family types, and education and employment levels, from all parts of Australia. Participants in Straight Talk will attend as individuals and are not expected to formally represent their community.

Selection criteria for Straight Talk 2009

Our primary objective in selecting participants for *Straight Talk* is to ensure they represent the strength and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In addition, applicants will be assessed on how well they meet the following criteria:

- Willingness to travel to Canberra in February 2009
- A demonstrated ability to commit to something and follow through on that commitment
- Commitment to contributing to the aims of the program
- Commitment to make follow up contact with Parliamentarians in 2009
- Must be willing and prepared to be open and honest in forging new relationships
- Over 18 years of age

If you know **someone** who can **contribute to, and benefit from,** this program please call us to **nominate her!**

Oxfam Australia
132 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053
Freecall: 1800 088 110
www.oxfam.org.au



Do you believe women can **work together** across political and cultural **boundaries** to advance reconciliation, **justice** and **equality**?

Do you want to learn how Australia's **political** system works and meet Australia's **leading women**?

Are you an **Aboriginal** or **Torres Strait Islander** woman interested in bringing about **change**?

Straight Talk 2009

Oxfam Australia's
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Women's Summit

How? To apply, simply fill in the application form below and answer the 5 questions in Section 3 on a separate sheet of paper and mail back to **Oxfam Australia**
132 Leicester Street Carlton VIC 3053

Alternatively, answers can be submitted on the website at: www.oxfam.org.au/straighttalk

Or freecall 1800 088 110

Applications close **5 January 2009** and spaces are limited.



Apply now!

SECTION 1

Last/Family Name:

First/Given Name(s):

If the name you would like to be called by is different from the name given above, please write your preferred name here:

What is your date of birth?: ___/___/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

E-mail Address:

Mobile Number:

What is the best time of day for Oxfam to phone you?

Street Address:

City:

State:

Post Code:

(Please advise us if your **Postal Address** is different to your Street Address).

SECTION 2

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*, including women of different ages, backgrounds, education and employment levels.

Do you identify as being:

Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Both

Language group/Nation (optional):

Where were you born? (town, state)

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:

Which of the following best describes the place where you live?

Major City Inner Regional Outer Regional

Remote Very Remote

Have you ever traveled outside of your community?

Never Once only 2-5 times Over 5 times

Have you ever been to Canberra?

Never Once only 2-5 times Over 5 times

Are you able and willing to travel to Canberra in February 2009 to attend *Straight Talk*? Yes No

Will you be available for Oxfam to contact you during January 2009 to make travel arrangements? Yes No

Which airport will you be departing from?

Will you need support to travel to the airport?

Do you know someone from your community applying for this program that you would like to travel with?

Are you currently employed? Yes No

Full-time Part-time

What is your occupation:

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Primary Secondary TAFE University

If tertiary educated, please describe your field of study:

Have you ever communicated with a politician, whether in person, by telephone or in writing? Yes No

How would you describe your understanding of politics and Parliament:

good medium low don't understand it at all

Which topics are of greatest interest to you?

Health Youth Culture Employment

Education Sport Law and Justice

Other:

How did you find out about *Straight Talk*?

Please Note: Travel will be arranged at no cost to participants. Twinshare accommodation will be provided. If you have concerns about sharing a room with another participant please contact event coordinators on 1800 088 110

SECTION 3

On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following questions.

1. Can you tell us a bit about your life – your job, your family, your community, your interests, your passions?
2. Why you are interested in participating in *Straight Talk*? How do you think you can contribute to, or benefit from, the event?
3. Can you tell us about a time when you have committed to something and followed through on that commitment?
4. Can you tell us about a time in the past when you have tried to change something you didn't like? How did you go about it?
5. What are some of the changes you'd like to see in your community?