

**Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy:
A Training Program in Human Rights and Advocacy for Indigenous Youth**

**16-20 February 2009, Sydney, Australia
Participant Feedback**

SECTION 1: General Feedback

Please provide some general feedback on your experiences at the Program.

1. What were the best parts of the program for you? Why?

1. All parts because it didn't know much when I first came here but now I know I can do more for my people with the training I received from this course
2. Unwritten tips about lobbying; advocating for change, provided by people with a lifetime of experience for human rights
3. Everything, I really enjoyed all parts of the program
4. The program is fantastic. The presenters were highly skilled and informative. I learnt a lot from other participants too which is fantastic
5. Meeting inspiring and future leader within the DTP- Human Rights
6. The program timetable, guest speakers, facilitators, the topics and informative presentations at the sessions. The staff and of course meeting and sharing with fellow participants
7. Opportunities to network; make contacts during social/free time; using the theory of human rights in practice; participants presentations
8. The universal declaration of human rights!; redfern community visit; networking and meeting educated indigenous people from around Australia
9. My favorite and most informed sessions were Brian Wyatt's Advocacy and lobbying info and learning from some of his experiences too; having Sandra Creamer at the DTP was highly influential (female and black); thank you for lovely breakfast; lunch; dinners and great support from Geoff and Sarah
10. meeting everyone
11. lobbying and advocacy – Bryan was an interesting presenter with obvious experience and knowledge on the subject; session on UN Framework; Internet Research Skills
12. all of it; Gammig! I really really enjoyed the first 2 days just covering the basics with the UN and Human rights Great speakers and friendly staff; Food was pretty good; networking with other participants
13. presentations on such a wide range of topics. A good grounding on Human Rights
14. the best parts of the program would be the sessions because they were very informative for me and meeting people from across Australia
15. the training sessions based on the different covenants, treaties and declarations were great and extremely informative. The community visit to the Kooni Radio Studio was refreshing. Also the individual presentations

16. networking- takes weight off me just knowing there are Indigenous people “out there” that are doing great stuff and are so smart!
17. learning the Human Rights and the other participants presentations
18. Information about L/R and Law. International HR Standards. Why? Will be useful for me in my professional capacity.

2. What was the most useful session or sessions for you? Why?

1. all sessions were good but mainly the internet research
2. the presentation on the child’s rights; women’s rights; and again information provided on how to advocate ; lobby and run successful action campaigns
3. simon rice: he made us think outside the square Amalia Fawcett: great session Brian Wyatt: very upfront and too the point
4. I enjoyed Garth’s session and Phillips Interest research session was good too
5. I guess al session were useful for me to learn on how to address issue and problems in my community
6. UDHR info session ; Simon Rice’s session; Group presentations- sharing stories; media training/discussions/; brian Wyatt and Sandra Creamer
7. understanding the human rights treaties and how to use them. Lobbying and advocacy skills. Understanding the declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples.
8. declaration on Human rights, I can take it back and help my community with the issues we face everyday
9. Darren and Allison’s UN and AHRC presentation was a solid useful and informative class to inform us and ground us for the coming week of info. Loved this calm, in depth and positive session
10. everything
11. lobbying and advocacy – helped me focus on developing a strategy for change
12. the session with the 2 people from the human rights commission; the women’s session on Friday, it was good to be with other women talking about our issues
13. most of the sessions on human rights, international law, Australian law and indigenous law. Although it was a lot to absorb in a week it was covered well.
14. I found the UN framework; child rights; lobbying; Oxfam and media skills because they were all very interesting
15. probably the sessions on the declarations and treaties and also the ‘holding Aust governments accountable’ by Patrick
16. simons- had a nice ‘way’ about him- his relaxed style and interactive approach was great
17. was with Sandra Creamer because of the information on how to take action further (as far as it can go)
18. All sessions related to UN International Conventions/Declarations and Mediums/mechanisms for creating awareness . Why? Will be useful in my profession

advocating and lobbying for my people.

3. How will the knowledge of human rights and the UN system influence your work or your approach to the particular issues you are working on? Could you give an example?

1. stopping the government putting a gas hub in our area
2. dealing with racism in the media in Geraldton gave me advice on working with media rather than against them
3. I want to take this info back to my community and to my work place and educate people on their rights
4. OMG. I can now fight and argue for more funding for our client! A lot of the session gave me ideas on how to best lobby and advocate within my job for social change
5. I guess there are a whole lot of issues in my community that needs to be worked on. It is a matter of one to research and collect information
6. having a better understanding of the UN system and its influence on Indigenous issues has empowered me with the tools to research, network, discuss and plan how to tackle the big issues in my community. Example is the NT intervention and how the legislation and actions affect my people in the top End
7. taking a rights approach is problematic at the best of times. I hope I know enough about what I "don't" know to actually be able to make a different
8. empowerment to my community in understanding their rights and how to advocate for them and to have their say. Funding opportunities
9. Dealing with Police discrimination; I had no idea the rights
10. My knowledge now of the different conventions, treaties etc and their connection to my grass roots organization is invaluable because it keeps perspective and has educated me to use this info as advocacy and lobbying foods and educate youth too, as something they have access, priority and control to use.
11. Don't know (yet)
12. being able to link operational strategies at the local level to inter-national forums gives leverage to issues I'd like to change in my community
13. knowing about the rights to health etc, especially in relation to the rights of children will be useful in educating my organization
14. will give me a much stronger base to build from, using legislation to use my argument
15. I now have a better understanding about it all and really helps me for my future jobs/career
16. Will be able to teach what I have learnt to those I work with and we could perhaps consider international campaigns a little move as well, or examining them. I can now use what I have learnt when I'm lobbying on behalf of my work
17. the government taking away the funding for Aboriginal Liaison Officer away from all the public schools. Will be approaching the MP.
18. I would have to say that my whole outlook on the rights of individuals as well as collective or communal rights has somewhat been enlightened as a result of attending the DTP. I really did learn so much from the week from the participants, the presenters and the

Sydney landscape (That is the hustle and bustle of the city lights and the masses of people).

19. In turns of the work / involved in I am able to lobby and advocate more confidently and informed