

National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services Inc Our Strong Women – Speaking Up, Speaking Out



The National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services Inc (NNIWLS) partnered with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre on a Leadership and Advocacy training project Our Strong Women – the Next Step. A training package titled *Our Strong Women - Speaking Up, Speaking Out* was produced.

During the period August 2002-June 2003, 200 Indigenous women associated with Indigenous women's legal services across Australia completed a two-day leadership and advocacy training program. The training was run by NNIWLS and presented by PIAC, based on PIAC's accredited training program *Work the System – An Introduction to Advocacy*. The majority of the funding was provided by the Office of the Status of Women.

In 2005 the Office for Women provided funding to produce a version of the *Work the System* training kit that is tailored and relevant for Indigenous women. In March the Working Party for the Project designed a customised two-day training program for Indigenous women. Many imaginative ideas were shared for training to empower and equip Indigenous women to speak out on behalf of their communities. The striking project logo that appears above was also designed by the Working Party and incorporates the NNIWLS logo.

Ideas were developed into a training kit, consisting of a workbook for training participants, a training presenter's guide and overhead transparencies. The training kit was piloted at five regional workshops around Australia: Moree, NSW; Townsville, QLD; Darwin, NT; Broome, WA and Port Augusta, SA with 56 Indigenous women attending the workshops.

The training includes a session about the branches of government. The women traced the impact of government on Indigenous people and the history of Indigenous advocacy and activism on a timeline.

In the future the project will train members of NNIWLS and participants of the training to run the advocacy and leadership training themselves, for and in their own communities.

The NNIWLS thanks members of the project working party Libby Carney, Nancy Walke, June Lennon and Boni Robertson and Carolyn Grenville from PIAC for their commitment and hard work in inspiring and development of the project.

Denese Griffin
National Coordinator
NNIWLS
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