

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Young Indigenous Leaders

1. Has the government developed its “pool of young Indigenous people to take on leadership roles across the Territory”? If not, why not?
 2. If so, please advise how many young Indigenous leaders make up the pool and what leadership roles have been developed for them?
 3. In which communities are these young leaders based?
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ANSWER

1. The NT Government runs the First Circles Leadership Program (the Program) through the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Chief Minister. The Program is an annual, voluntary program that is open to Aboriginal people over 18 years of age, from remote communities and town camps in the Northern Territory. A range of participants have completed the Program since it commenced in 2014. They continue to serve their communities in various capacities and some have taken on roles involving service to the wider Northern Territory community.

On 25 May 2018, the Department of the Chief Minister’s Office of Aboriginal Affairs held the inaugural Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. The Forum was designed to stimulate, inspire and celebrate what leadership and governance means to Aboriginal people today. The Forum has now become a key event and will be held again in Alice Springs on 19 July 2019.

The NT Youth Round Table has selected their members for 2019, including three Aboriginal members. The NT Youth Round Table is a direct avenue for communication between young Territorians and the NT Government, to provide input into youth policies and programs.

2. Since its commencement, 55 Aboriginal people from remote communities have participated in the First Circles Leadership Program. The Hon Selena Uibo MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, is a graduate of the program. Other graduates include Ms Maria Pyro, who is now an Aboriginal Advisor on the Aboriginal Affairs Sub-committee of Cabinet; Ms Natasha Abbott, who served as a senior employee in the NT Government and is now working in her family’s tourism business in Central Australia. Many other graduates work in government, community organisations or private enterprise.
3. The First Circles Leadership Program participants are based in their home communities. To date, participants have come from 44 different remote communities from across the Northern Territory.