

# BARKLY ABORIGINAL ALLIANCE COMMUNIQUE



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## First Alliance Meeting for 2024

The Alliance gathered for the first meeting of the new year and hit the ground running, where they discussed outstanding actions and follow ups, their budget and work plan for the next few months, preparation for the upcoming Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table meeting and other business. They talked with Sean Gordon, Managing Director and owner of the Gidgee Group, who further to his role as independent chair of the Governance Table, has been assigned to assist with strategic advice and mentorship of the Alliance and the Aboriginal Corporations Leadership Group. The Alliance were honoured with having Senator Malarndirri McCarthy at their meeting where they discussed the ongoing issues affecting the Barkly and what they are advocating for.

## Systems Leadership Development Program

The Alliance Chair and Coordinator, along with the Backbone EO Deb Hartman, recently completed the *Systems Leadership Development Program* training through the Collaboration For Impact team. They completed the first 3 day module in Melbourne last year and the second module in Canberra in January - February this year. They learned about how systems operate and their own roles in the various systems they are involved with and learned valuable ways of enacting change in those systems. One of the highlights of the training was a field trip to the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and the Old Parliament House.

The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance represents 11 Aboriginal language groups across the Barkly, and as a member of the Governance Table, has a core role in representing Aboriginal communities as the Deal is implemented and beyond the Deal itself.



## Meeting with Senator Anthony Chisholm

Alliance Members and the Backbone met with Senator Chisholm recently on his visit to Tennant Creek. The Alliance gave the Senator an update into their recent activities and plans for the next half of the year. They spoke about the Incorporation of the Alliance and that they were waiting to receive the news any day now from ORIC (Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations) on their application status. They also discussed how some of their members were included in a Deep Collaboration workshop with other local Aboriginal leaders in Tennant Creek recently. They spoke about the collective group's attitude and understanding that the best way forward for Indigenous people is that they all work collaboratively together and be involved in making the decisions that affect them. One of the main outcomes of that workshop was that the group recognised that the community was not happy with the Barkly Regional Deal and pushed for a review to be conducted, focussing on the governance structure of it. This was brought to the Governance Table for consideration.

## Alliance members complete Indigenous Mentor Training



Members of the Alliance received their certificates for an Indigenous Mentoring Program they completed last year through Ninti Training, which has provided them more skills to help strengthen their leadership in the community.



## Change Fest 2024 in Mildura VIC

The Alliance were invited to attend Change Fest in Mildura, Victoria in March, where we were asked to speak on a panel about *Collaborative Leadership and Governance*. We were joined on the panel by members of *Hands Up Mallee*, a Social Impact Initiative, based in the Northern Mallee region and Liz Weaver of the *Tamarack Institute* of Canada. The Alliance gave a brief history of the Barkly Regional Deal and where the Alliance sits, also that they have 4 seats at the Governance Table and are a representative body of the 123 remote homelands, outstations and communities in the Barkly region, who make up the potential membership of the Alliance. They spoke of the importance of truth telling and gave some insights into the living standards in the Barkly, then gave examples of strategies they have been using and are determined to implement to better those living conditions. The feedback from their talk on the panel was overwhelming, with many of the audience members extending their gratitude for being a part of the experience and wanting to spread the word of the good work being done by the Alliance. The Alliance also participated in the cultural experiences of the traditional owners, the Latji Latji mob and had many strong conversations, connections and stories to take away.

