



Program Report

Indigenous Peoples Human Rights and Advocacy A Training Program for Community Advocates

Diplomacy Training Program and the Fred Hollows Foundation
*Held in partnership with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous
Tertiary Education*

Katherine, 27 September - 1 October 2010



Introduction

In an ongoing partnership, the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and the Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) conducted a training program in late September 2010 for Indigenous community advocates entitled *Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy*. The program took place in the Northern Territory town of Katherine, bringing together advocates from local and neighbouring communities to gain and share knowledge on Indigenous peoples' rights, human rights and the legal standards protecting them in Australian and international law.

Most of the twenty-nine participants came from Northern Territory communities around Katherine with a few travelling interstate from New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. The participants brought a diverse range of knowledge and experience in areas including legal aid, health services, women's refuges, land and council shires, educational institutions, government departments and other community service-oriented organisations. This diversity allowed for lively and insightful exchanges throughout the program.

The course content included an introduction to the international human rights framework including the UN system and their relevance to local-level issues; the development of practical advocacy and lobbying skills; media communication; and case studies into Australian examples of Indigenous human rights issues. During sessions, participants considered how international recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights related to issues in Australia – such as the disparity in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The impact of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP) and the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), as well as recognition of culture and special relationships to land, were considered in this respect.

The DTP was privileged to have a highly skilled team of trainers to lead the sessions. International human rights lawyer and DTP Board Member, Dr Sarah Pritchard, delivered comprehensive presentations on the international human rights framework. There were also three Indigenous trainers, offering their personal and professional experience in advocating for Indigenous rights within Australia. Michael Duffy and David Britton provided insight into their experience within state and federal politics, as well as the role of media and community advocacy in shaping political outcomes. A list of full trainer biographies accompanies this report.

The DTP and the FHF express their gratitude and appreciation to the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education for their collaboration in hosting the program.

Background to the Program

The DTP is an independent, not-for-profit organisation affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales. It was founded in 1989 by President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste and Professor Garth Nettheim and has been committed to working with Indigenous advocates since its establishment. In recent years the partnership between the DTP and FHF has strengthened, with a shared recognition that inequality in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is a pressing human rights issue. Further, sustainable programs to address

this inequality must be based on the informed participation of Indigenous communities and their representatives and address the social determinants of health, including other human rights such as housing and food.

Indigenous Australians face many challenges to their human rights which are moral, legal and practical challenges for the wider Australian community and Australian governments. The challenge that has received perhaps the greatest attention in recent years is the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. However, less attention is given to the related human rights challenges faced by Indigenous Australians – including the impacts of current and historical discrimination.

Closing the gap in health outcomes has become a stated priority for Australian governments and organizations including medical and development organisations. The Australian Human Rights Commission and others have called for the adoption of a human rights based approach to health.

There is limited legal protection for human rights in Australia. Only two of the important international human rights treaties have been enacted into federal legislation¹. The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* and the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* have been enacted into federal legislation the *Racial Discrimination Act* (RDA – 1975) and the *Sex Discrimination Act* (1984) respectively. The RDA in turn enabled the landmark Mabo case to proceed to the High Court resulting in significant legal recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights in Australia. Victoria and the ACT have enacted Charters of Rights that recognise and promoting international human rights standards, but focus in a limited way on recognised civil and political rights. However, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights such as health, housing, food and social security, which have particular relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have received less recognition in law at the federal or state/territory level.

As the Mabo case highlights, international standards can interact powerfully with domestic legal regimes to deliver tangible outcomes. However, as only few of the core international human rights treaties that Australia has agreed to have been incorporated in domestic legislation, the potential for international human rights standards to guide Australian government policy and practice remains unfulfilled. The likelihood for individuals or groups to successfully seek redress in domestic courts for breaches or abuse of rights is also limited. Australia is also in the only region in the world where individuals or groups do not have recourse to regional human rights mechanisms – such as the European Court of Human Rights. There is, as a consequence, interest in seeking international accountability through mechanisms established by the United Nations. However, this can be a lengthy and frustrating process in and of itself.

International recognition of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has advanced considerably in recent years and in 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Although the Australian government endorsed the Declaration in 2009, it has no binding legal force. However, its moral force is being powerfully asserted by Indigenous peoples' advocates internationally, and in Australia, to encourage new policy approaches which confront challenges of discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion.

The NT Emergency Intervention, launched by the Howard Government and continued by the succeeding Labor government, included the suspension of the limited human rights protection provided by the *Racial Discrimination Act*. The willingness of the government and parliament to

¹ Australian legislation on disability discrimination predated the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of All Persons with Disabilities

suspend this vital instrument of human rights protection caused considerable concern across Australia and the international community.

For many Indigenous Australian advocates, representative bodies and community organisations, the NT Intervention emphasised some of the most regressive elements of longer standing approaches to Indigenous policy in Australia. This includes a failure to consult with affected communities and respect their rights of participation and consent, as well as overt discrimination on the basis of identity. This has compounded the often negative practical impacts of income quarantining, the compulsory introduction of the Basics Card for purchasing of limited items at specific stores, compulsory acquisition of leases, and closure of longstanding community employment schemes. (www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/06/19/2931678.htm/, www.youtube.com/watch?v=72Hob9ud0aU/ <http://www.apo.org.au/research/working-basicscard-northern-territory>)

The nature of the NT Intervention policies and the way it was announced and implemented may be indicative of a broader lack of knowledge and awareness of human rights among government officials and in government policy and practice.

Participation and consultation with the affected individuals and communities in decision making is increasingly recognised as a human right. Development agencies have learnt through experience in Australia and internationally that participation is central to achieving sustainable outcomes.

This collaboration between DTP and FHF grows out of the recognition that confidence, skills and knowledge to engage are essential to effective participation. Sustainable improvements in health outcomes require the active participation of affected communities and organisations to develop policies and services that are informed by and respect the rights of Indigenous individuals and communities. The FHF-DTP collaboration is also based on the assumption that in order to effectively assert and exercise their human rights, Indigenous community advocates will gain from training to develop knowledge and skills.

Since its establishment in 1989, the DTP has recognised the need and demand for information on human rights standards and the UN system within Indigenous communities. In Australia, this stems directly from the experience of Indigenous Australians having their rights denied and violated by successive governments. International human rights standards and the UN system go a small way to addressing the shortcomings of the Australian judicial and administrative frameworks for respecting and protecting the rights of Indigenous Australians. More recently, a growing understanding of the content of human rights and associated government responsibilities has increased the potential for human rights principles to provide a practical guide for government policy. A human rights based approach to development recognises that human rights are inter-related. With respect to Indigenous health, a human rights based approach highlights the role of wider social determinants of wellbeing, including past and present instances of discrimination, and the need to respond to these in order to address disparities in health outcomes.

Since 2004, the DTP has facilitated an annual regional capacity building course for Indigenous advocates from Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region. Based on positive feedback from FHF staff participating in these courses, DTP and FHF have developed a program focused on working with Indigenous community organisations and representatives in the Northern Territory, where FHF has long established programs and relationships.

This was the second DTP Human Rights and Advocacy Program to be delivered in Katherine focusing on exploring local/regional issues and equipping individuals and their organisations with the knowledge and skills to engage with government and the media to address their concerns. The

following report provides a summary of the program, drawing on participant evaluations of the program, and provides some reflections.

Program Objectives

The program centres on developing the lobbying and advocacy capacity of Indigenous community advocates and their knowledge of human rights. The specific aims of the program include:

- a) providing Indigenous peoples' advocates and their organisations with knowledge of human rights standards and mechanisms relevant to their concerns, and to build their skills to use these mechanisms effectively, including through strategic advocacy;
- b) identifying issues that prevent Indigenous peoples from realizing their human rights and mapping out mechanisms for redress and accountability for violations;
- c) enabling Indigenous peoples' advocates and their organisations to use and promote relevant national and international mechanisms in their advocacy to demand good governance, respectful of their rights;
- d) building the skills of advocates to participate and engage effectively with government and the private sector to build better governance and promote and defend their human rights and rights as Indigenous peoples;
- e) strengthening regional networks and grassroots and national level organisations to work effectively to defend and promote the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Upon completion of the program it is hoped that participants will have acquired an understanding of:

- a) human rights standards and principles with particular relevance for Indigenous peoples;
- b) international human rights law and the United Nations system;
- c) strategies for engaging state and non-state actors in negotiations and advocacy over land, use or exploitation of natural resources, ownership and other areas as identified;
- d) "peoples diplomacy", including strategic advocacy, lobbying state/non state actors, and how to effectively use the media (video, radio, internet and print) as an advocacy tool.

Program Schedule

Day 1

The program began with a welcome to country. Participants were then introduced to the work of the DTP and FHF; as well as the content of the course. The opportunity was provided for participants to introduce themselves, ask questions about the program and list issues of concern facing themselves and their communities. The issues were listed on large sheets of paper which were posted around the room for the length of the program for participants to read, consider and revisit at the end of the program. The introductory session was followed by the first formal session of the course, *What are Human Rights?*

Dr Sarah Pritchard led the session, providing a general introduction to the concept of human rights, and outlining the International Bill of Rights and other key documents and mechanisms constituting the international human rights framework. This session encouraged participants to share their ideas on the meaning and value of human rights, from which some key characteristics were deduced – universality, indivisibility, inalienability, interdependence and participation.

The afternoon session allowed participants to explore in greater detail, certain aspects to the international human rights framework and Australia's obligations under that framework. This encompassed a study into the interaction between international and domestic laws and the available means through which governments could be held accountable to their human rights obligations. The day concluded with a case study on the NT Intervention with participants analysing it through the lens of their experience and international human rights standards. These standards can provide a framework with wide legitimacy through which to protest violations.

Day 2

Day Two was devoted to examining the place of Indigenous peoples' rights within the international human rights framework. Dr Pritchard began with an introduction to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP), with participants relating some of its key concepts to their own experiences and challenges. She then outlined additional provisions and mechanisms through which indigenous peoples were represented within the UN, including the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and certain UN Human Rights Special Procedures.. This discussion was accompanied by examples of how advocates could practically access and utilise the mechanisms.

"The practical exercises were very useful because we had to work in groups and identify articles from the different declarations and treaties to use in our feedback sessions"

To help participants conceptualise the theoretical content delivered to this point there was a practical exercise on the UN Treaty Bodies and how, through the Reporting processes integrated within these bodies, advocates could publicly voice concerns over possible violations to the UN. The exercise demonstrated to participants that the government was *not* the last recourse for addressing human rights violations and that there are international mechanisms that they can engage.

Dr Pritchard also provided an introduction to the structure of government in Australia, the role of the Constitution, Parliament, the Executive and the Courts and the different responsibilities at the state and territory level.

Days 3 and 4

The third day of the course began with a session on *Lobbying Governments in Australia* led by Josie Crawshaw Guy, long time advocate for Indigenous Rights in Australia and at United Nations forums in Geneva, and Michael Duffy who is a writer, editor, media adviser and political speech writer with twenty years of experience working with Indigenous Australian communities. This session continued to explore the workings of the various levels of government within Australia. This included the specific roles and responsibilities of federal and territory government departments, Ministerial advisors and government officials, and an insider's explanation of where decisions are made, how they are made and by whom. The objective of the session was to develop participants' understanding of human rights advocacy and lobbying. Essential to this process is working out the individual decision makers to target, and understanding the factors that influence their decisions.

During these sessions, participants were encouraged to share examples of their experiences of seeking to engage MPs and government officials at different levels. These were very practical sessions and learning was deepened through exercises that involved groups discussing their concerns, prioritizing issues and developing campaigning and lobbying strategies. Participants

benefited further through a lobbying exercise aimed at developing their skills and confidence to present their arguments and demands through dialogue. The key elements of successful lobbying and campaigning involving including focus, credibility, relevance and timing were reinforced.

Participants were also inspired by Barbara Shaw, who has emerged as a leading and powerful voice in protest against the NT Intervention, and her session on strategic campaigning. Barbara was able to recount the different ways in which local communities have sought to challenge and roll back the NT Intervention – building alliances locally and across Australia, doing media work, initiating court action and appealing through different parts of the UN system. She also detailed her role in facilitating the visit to Alice Springs of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya..

Day 5

The final day of the program began with a presentation from Tania McLeod on the work of *the Indigenous Human Rights Network Australia*. The Network was founded in 2007 after research revealed there was enthusiasm among DTP alumni and others for the creation of a support network for human rights advocates working with indigenous issues in Australia. It provides a portal through which advocates can make contact with other individuals concerned with human rights in their communities. Tania guided participants through the IHRNA website and the resources it made available to them.

In the final session, David Britton and Peter Bonner from Fred Hollows Foundation focused on building media skills and the use of media in advocacy campaigns. David provided participants with practical tips and advice on interacting with the media, including appreciating the importance of deadlines, understanding what the media is seeking in a news item, developing relationships and networking, and strategizing different responses to the media. Britton also guided participants in the development of their own media strategy through the practical exercise of constructing a media release. The group's collaborative efforts resulted in publicity for the program with their story being published in the Katherine Times Newspaper later that month.

The day concluded with an evaluation questionnaire and a formal Closing Ceremony, where participants were given the opportunity to reflect on the week passed and consider how they would put their new found knowledge into practice for the benefit of their communities. Participants were also awarded certificates for their successful completion of the program.

Training Methodology and Materials

The DTP was founded in the belief that individuals working together have the capacity to make change. Its programs and approach to training reflect a deep respect for the knowledge, experiences and perspectives of the participants. It aims to build both knowledge and skills in an integrated way, through the development of teaching methodologies that are interactive and participatory – with an emphasis on case studies, small group exercises and role plays. Wherever possible it seeks to include real life advocacy exercises.

In the lead up to the program, a training needs analysis was conducted. This was done through questions in the program application form and by contacting participants by telephone for a short interview. The objective of this analysis was to determine what participants themselves saw as the major issues and opportunities in their communities; better understand participants' experiences in relation to community development and human rights; gauge the level of education and literacy of participants and identify participants' expectations of the program. The information gathered

through this analysis was compiled with feedback from previous years to tailor the program to the specific needs and experiences of those attending.

To accompany the sessions, DTP provided participants with a training manual which consists of a DTP/Oxfam publication *“Free and Equal – A Guide for Community Advocates”* and a number of short chapters on the issues discussed, written by experts in the field. The manual was designed to be used as a practical tool during the training and participants were encouraged to read relevant chapters prior to particular sessions. It was also designed to be a reference tool for participants in their work following the training.

Evaluations and Feedback

The DTP regards participants’ feedback as a critical component of ongoing program development. Sessions are evaluated individually and then participants are asked to give an overall analysis of the success of the program. This is done through both anonymous questionnaires and group feedback on the final day. At the conclusion of the program participants are asked to anonymously complete extensive evaluation questionnaires to elicit extensive and honest feedback that can help DTP understand the effectiveness of particular programs, to review content and make changes in future. Following is a selection of questions and responses.

What was the best part of the program for you?

- Great to be gathered with Aboriginal people from all around the country.
- Listening to real life experiences from the experts
- Being given the opportunity to learn and gain knowledge that I can use to help better the lives of the many people within my community and who have been affected by the Federal Government as result of their actions with the NT Intervention
- The opportunity to be trained to be a voice in my community and being able to empower people
- Learning about advocacy skills and campaigning skills that I can take back home. I loved hearing about Barb’s and Josie’s personal stories very inspirational real people sharing their struggles

What was lowlight of the program for you?

- The groupwork. it wasn’t really group work because group means more than one. some people’s Ideas dominated and were presented as the group’s, when certain people’s ideas were ignored
- The lowlight of the program was after the media session – and filling out the evaluation forms because this is making a reality statement that we are heading back to our communities

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

- The session by Barbara Shaw and Josie Guy were the most useful and inspiring for me: Josie has an extensive and important history to share and Barbara has the fullest and latest experience to share

- Learning about Human rights, and my right as a person. I think the young generation should get involved and should be touching on this subject in the High Schools. it is the younger generation that need to get more involved
- Human and Indigenous Rights. because – not all Indigenous peoples and communities have problems with intervention or racial discrimination acts, but common problems still exist across the board and until we get Indigenous Rights enshrined and enacted in domestic law the problems will continue ad hoc
- Media practice gave me the skills and understanding of how to effectively deal with the media

What was the least useful session for you? Why?

- The sessions could have been more useful to me personally if they directly relate to the arts (and rightly so as the arts are usually the best vehicle for a voice in Australia), so exercises could have been more relevant and useful to me, rather than some here.
- Media – because if you know the right people you get them to help you formulate a good and effective media release.
- There wasn't any least useful session the whole 4 ½ days was extremely fantastic. so overwhelmed about all the information thanks to the facilitators and trainers: very relevant, helpful people

Do you have any suggestions for other sessions or issues that the DTP should focus on in the program?

- International Indigenous perspectives and speakers would be really inspiring, important and necessary.
- They should touch on public speaking skills first before you get up and speak – tips etc...
- Explaining the articles in the Indigenous charter of Rights and how we can utilize them effectively to empower ourselves and communities and lobby for its enshrining and enactment into domestic law ie country

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?

- The info and training will help me tremendously
- More knowledge about particular issues and relate it to the Declaration of Rights. Include and refer in submissions and reports and keep advocating for your countrymen's rights.
- I will now have much of the knowledge and resources that I will require to help other members of my community. I will help these members of my community when the opportunity arises
- On the communities I visit with my work. all the old people have some important issues and are not being heard. Hopefully I can speak for them
- Having a better understanding has given me a solid platform to base arguments and discussion on what is right for our people
- it will assist me immensely in my role as senior liaison officer with my organization in advocating for aboriginal

- I can now go back to my community to start the ball rolling and get community action

Conclusion

This program was positively received and evaluated by participants. For most participants this was their first formal introduction to the language and standards of human rights, and while many were experienced in advocacy, it was also their first training in more systematic approaches to advocating for change. The opportunity to learn from, and be inspired by, the example of others was a key strength of the program and it is hoped that some lasting relationships were formed.

As this was the second consecutive program in Katherine it is hoped that a core group of advocates has now been built who will be able to work together on shared challenges over the longer term. There is a need to do some follow-up work to better assess the impact of the training and how participants can be supported by IHRNA and DTP and FHF over the longer term.

DTP and FHF would like to express their appreciation to the many different individuals and organisations that made it possible to hold this course in Katherine.

"I am thankful and overwhelmed for the chance to be able to work alongside such intelligent, motivated and self-determined people and facilitators this week. I wish that the wider society could seek the strength that I saw from 30 or more Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people on Indigenous Rights!"

Appendix

Participant List

First Name	Last Name	State	Position	Organisation
Shirleen	Alum	NT	Support Worker	Tennant Creek Women's Refuge
Elizabeth Joanne	Brown	NT	Aboriginal Health Worker	Department of Health and Family
Vicki	Butters	WA	Manager	Kimberley Language Resource Centre
Jill	Curtis	NT	Womens Centre	Roper Gulf Shire
Dulcie	Donaldson	WA	Senior Aboriginal Liason Officer	Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service INC
Sharon	Dykes	NSW	Aboriginal Health Project Officer	GPNN Northside Network Hornsby Wurungai Ryde
Lindsay	Everett	WA	Driver	Numbud Night Patrol
Jenny	Fraser	NT	Artist/Curator	Cybertribe-online Indigenous Art Gallery
Waturr Harry	Gumana	NT	Director/Supervisor	Laynhapuy Homelands Association
Penelope	Hill	NT	Social Worker	Royal Darwin Hospital
Donna Marie	Ifould	WA	Student	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)
Leitisha Mona	Jackson	NT	Registered Aboriginal Heath Worker	Wurliwurlinjang Health Service
Maggie	Jentian	NT		
Jesse	King	NT	Indigenous Education Worker	St Joseph's College, Katherine
Glen	Leftwich	NT	Case Manager/Counsellor	Forward
Estelle	Pangquee	NT		Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)
Michael	Petterson	NT	Indigenous Community Liaison Officer	Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
Herbert	Pettit	VIC	Student	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)
Sybil	Ranch	NT	Indigenous Engagement Officer	FaHCSIA
Cherie	Roberts	NT	Community Services Worker	Mission Australia
Nathan	Rosas	NT	Liason and Awareness Manager	Sunrise Health Service
Allan	Timms	NT	Project Officer	Northern Land Council (NLC)
Geraldine	Toby	NT		
Bianca	Tukumba	NT		
Janelle	Tyrrell	NT	Personal Assistant	Sunrise Health Service
Rachel	Willika	NT	Health Promotion Assistant	Fred Hollows Foundation

Program Schedule

	Monday 27 September	Tuesday 28 September	Wednesday 29 September	Thursday 30 September	Friday 1 October
Morning 1 9:00 - 10:30	Opening Ceremony, Training outline and Participant Expectations and Key Issues.	Introduction to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Revisiting Expectations and Key issues. Lobbying governments in Australia – where and how decisions made	Strategic Campaigning Skills – Principals of Campaigning	Introduction to the Indigenous Human Rights Network Australia (IHRNA)
Facilitator(s)		Dr Sarah Pritchard	Josie Guy + Michael Duffy	Barbara Shaw + Josie Guy	Tania McLeod
Morning Tea 10:30-10:45					
Morning 2 10:45 - 12:15	What Are Human Rights?	Indigenous Peoples and the UN System - Opportunities and Challenges	Lobbying and advocacy skills – developing strategies: Case Study	Strategic Campaigning Skills – Case Study: NT Intervention	Media Skills – Integrating Media into an Advocacy Campaign
Facilitator(s)	Sarah Pritchard	Dr Sarah Pritchard	Josie Guy + Barbara Shaw	Barbara Shaw + Josie Guy	David Britton
Lunch 12:15-1:15					
Afternoon 1 1:15 - 2:45	The International Human Rights Framework and Australia's Obligations	UN System – Holding Australia Accountable – Practical Exercise	Lobbying and advocacy skills – practical exercise	Strategic Campaigning Skills – Practical Exercise 1	Media Skills – Practical Exercise
Facilitator(s)	Dr Sarah Pritchard	Dr Sarah Pritchard	Josie Guy + Barbara Shaw	Barbara Shaw + Josie Guy	David Britton
Afternoon Tea 2:45 - 3:00					
Afternoon 2 3:00 - 4:30	The NT Intervention and Human Rights – Practical Exercise	Review Session - Questions	Campaigning Case Study: Jabiluka Video	Strategic Campaigning Skills – Practical Exercise	Closing, Course Evaluation and Feedback
Facilitator(s)	Dr Sarah Pritchard	Dr Sarah Pritchard		Barbara Shaw + Josie Guy	

Trainer Biographies

Eddie Cubillo

Eddie Cubillo is an Aboriginal man with strong family links in both urban and rural areas throughout the Northern Territory. His mother is of Larrakia/Wadjigan descent and his father of Central Arrente. Eddie's family has experienced the intergenerational effects of the forced removal of children of mixed descent from their family and country. With a sound understanding of Aboriginal culture and society he has contributed to the needs of Aboriginal individuals and communities through more than fifteen years of employment in the NT Government working at the grass roots of Aboriginal affairs. Eddie was also admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT, providing services for NT Legal Aid and the NT Government. Eddie has acted as Regional Councillor of ATSIC, Chair of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee NT and has recently been appointed Commissioner at the NT Anti-Discrimination Commission.

Dr Sarah Pritchard

Dr Pritchard is an experienced international human rights lawyer. She is currently practicing in Sydney as a Barrister, following a distinguished academic career at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and twenty years of training at human rights courses run by the Diplomacy Training Program. She is a Board Member of the DTP, and has worked extensively with issues regarding Indigenous rights and human rights in Australia and internationally. She addressed the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva when it held a special session on East Timor and has played an important supportive role in the development of Indigenous issues at the UN.

Josie Crawshaw Guy

Josie Guy is the current Training Coordinator for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service. She is a member of the Gurindji Nation, the heartland of Indigenous Land Rights. Josie has had a long history of advocating for Indigenous Rights in Australia and at United Nations forums in Geneva, in particular on the drafting of the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights. Josie has had an extensive working history at the executive level in both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Public Service and NGO agencies. Her working background has been in Indigenous Employment, Training, Health, Land Rights, Legal Services, Arts, Governance and now with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

Michael Duffy

Michael Duffy is a writer and editor with over 20 years of experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. He has worked in State and Federal politics in various capacities including as media adviser and speech writer for politicians such as Warren Snowden. He has worked on a range of projects aimed to support Aboriginal communities including 'Animal Management in Rural and Remote community' (AMRRIC), 'Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services' (CAAPS),

Desert Knowledge Australia and North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). Michael is currently working as a Project Consultant for Strong Schools, Strong Communities and Parents, and Teachers Working Together for the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations. Both projects aim to empower Aboriginal parents in remote communities to become more involved in their children's education.

Barbara Shaw

Barbara Shaw is a descendent of the Arrernte, Kaytetye, Warlpiri and Warramungu people. She is a founding member of the Intervention Rollback Action Group (IRAG) which was formed in response to the Howard government's Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation. IRAG campaigns against the NTER intervention and advocates for Aboriginal peoples living in prescribed areas affected by the NTER. Barbara has attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, was invited to speak at a side event of the Durban review conference on racism in Geneva and also attended the International Indigenous Solidarity Conference in Melbourne. She is an active and valued member of the Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programs Unit, Executive Member of the local Tangentyere Council and member of the National Aboriginal Alliance. Barbara also contested at the last Federal Election as the Greens' candidate for the seat of Lingiari on a platform of human rights, the roll back of the intervention and preventing the proposed nuclear waste dump at Muckaty Station.

David Britton

David Britton has been Director of Public Affairs for the Fred Hollows Foundation since 2005. Previously he worked as a press secretary for various state and federal Labor leaders, including NSW Premier Bob Carr and Federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley, and was the Labor Party's Federal Media Director at three elections. Between 1999 and 2005 David was also a partner in Hawker Britton, one of Australia's leading public relations and government lobbying firms.

Support Staff:

Tania McLeod

Coordinator Governance Project - Fred Hollows Foundation

Mia Christophersen

Development Coordinator Indigenous Program - Fred Hollows Foundation

Maddy Bower

Senior Co-ordinator Indigenous Programs – Fred Hollows Foundation

Geoff Hazell

Indigenous Programs Coordinator – Diplomacy Training Program

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