

# Indigenous Women's Leadership Workshop

Key strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to achieve personal, professional and community success

## EXPLORE

- Learn to lead effectively and authentically
- Develop positive communication skills
- Understand and align your cultural and corporate responsibilities
- Develop effective tools to communicate your values
- Infuse cultural values into your corporate role
- Understand your heritage and pave the path for others
- Build relationships based on trust
- Enhance self-awareness and lead with resilience
- How to handle setbacks constructively
- Take ownership of your career

## EXPERT FACILITATOR



**Mel Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Spirit Dreaming Australia



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# Indigenous Women's Leadership Workshop

## BACKGROUND

Research shows that leadership cannot be singularly defined and is perceived differently depending on cultural and national differences. Effective leadership is a notion of positive influence, as leadership is strengthened by our customs, beliefs and values.

The Indigenous Women's Leadership Workshop provides an essential platform for aspiring, existing and emerging leaders. This workshop creates a forum to share stories, wisdom and a passion for leading with the body, heart, soul and spirit. Discussions will delve into how we combine our cultural roles with the responsibilities of the business world. We will also explore strategies to effectively put ourselves forward for workplace opportunities.

This two-day event gathers Indigenous women from across the country to reflect on cultural heritage and refine leadership strengths as we pave the way for the next generation of Indigenous leaders.

## Day One

### **Maintaining culture to unlock your leadership potential**

- Understanding your country and culture in contemporary Australia
- Balancing the commitments of community, career and character
- The importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female leaders to community

### **Individual strengths and areas for growth**

- Examining your leadership traits and how to apply them
- Understanding where your strengths fit within your community or organisation
- Recognising growth areas and how to reinforce your skills

### **The importance of authentic leadership and being true to yourself**

- The role authenticity plays in effectively leading a team
- Advocating for yourself and developing your leadership identity

### **Understand and align your cultural and corporate responsibilities**

- Be present in all aspects of your life
- Confidently incorporate your personal journey
- Remain genuine to your true self

## INTRODUCING YOUR FACILITATOR



**Mel Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Spirit Dreaming Australia

Melinda Brown is a Ngunnawal woman who now resides in the Northern Rivers Bundjalung Nation and has a Master's in Indigenous Healing and Trauma. Mel started her career in child protection and has 10 years' experience in the field, including managing the Aboriginal Child Protection Unit in ACT. Mel Brown is the Director of Spirit Dreaming Pty Ltd.

She is an experienced Aboriginal Cultural Trainer and Lateral Violence Expert. She develops and delivers a range of workshops for government, non-government organisations and corporate businesses. Mel is also experienced at developing and writing VET packages for NSW TAFE and private Registered Training Organisations and delivering these packages to students.

## Day Two

### **When cultures clash and how this can impact you**

- Juggling corporate and traditional cultures
- Understanding how our communication styles impact our life
- The art of mindfulness

### **Develop effective tools to communicate your values**

- Understanding your personal and professional needs
- Effectively present your values and negotiate your needs with your organisation
- Handling difficult conversations with staff or community members

### **The importance of resilience and confidence for leaders**

- Strategies on how to work with people who have differing values to yourself
- Dealing with disappointment and setbacks throughout your career
- Identifying stress triggers and how to avoid them

### **Embracing and mastering your emotions**

- Understanding the role emotions play in leadership
- Recognising when to lead with emotion and when not to
- Considering the impact of decisions on others

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