
Understanding the Structure & Operations of OSW's Current National Secretariats

By Sarina Jan

Townsville International Women's Conference - AUSTRALIA



3 - 7 July 2002 ~ James Cook University
"Poverty, Violence and Women's Rights:
...Setting a Global Agenda"

This international conference is for all who care passionately about improving women's position in the world, who demand justice and full human rights for women everywhere and who believe that a feminist analysis is essential to defining a fairer globalised world.

Understanding the Structure & Operations of OSW's Current National Secretariats

- Originally funded through a tender process
- Needed to prove demonstrated reach (eg diversity of women and their needs)
- Needed to prove established National operations that is able to coordinate or tie in to local / state services
- Needed to prove representation (eg metro / regional / remote)
- Needed to argue own case for a National Secretariat on our own merits
- Needed to submit a Proposal in terms of the acceptable frameworks that OSW operate within and can recognise

Workshop Discussion Issues

- Can Indigenous women come together as a gender nationally, rather than due to common issues / problems? (eg domestic violence, education, health, etc)
- How representative can this National Indigenous Women's Secretariat be, in terms of local vs state vs. national issues / problems?
- How can this National Indigenous Women's Secretariat be coordinated and financially administrated properly?
- What are the roles and responsibilities this National Indigenous Women's Secretariat should take on, that local / state Indigenous women's groups cannot?
- Will this National Indigenous Women's Secretariat be recognised and accepted by local / state / national Governments, private and public agencies as holistically representing Indigenous women's interests?
- Will Indigenous women accept a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat?
- Will non-Indigenous women support our process?

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Each Indigenous Women in attendance agreed to become a voluntary Member of the National Indigenous Women's Working Party that would work towards establishing a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat.

Each Indigenous Women in attendance agreed to go back to their own State / Territory and identify other Indigenous women in their various Regions/zones, who would agree to work with them and take on the responsibility of organising their own local Indigenous Women's meeting, so as to identify a representative towards a State Indigenous Women's Secretariat and eventually a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY

Consultation Process

Recommend an Indigenous community group takes responsibility for:

1. applying for funds and centrally administering all funds received
 - to enable Indigenous women in each state / territory to hold local regional meetings, so as to nominate an Indigenous women representative from each local region onto a State Secretariat
 - to enable each State Secretariat to nominate an Indigenous women representative onto a National Secretariat

Community Action

Recommend an Indigenous community group takes responsibility for:

2. coordinating community ownership of the process
 - by providing each state / territory with sufficient funds to hold local regional meetings
 - by assisting each state / territory in identifying additional funds (if required)
 - by providing each state / territory with local contacts (networks) to empower like-minded Indigenous women to come together and own the process and be responsible for tasks

Accountability

Recommend an Indigenous community group takes responsibility for:

3. undertaking preparatory activities and providing ongoing support
 - by developing a state/regional Indigenous women's database that each state / territory can access, so as to target Indigenous women in their area
 - by undertaking research (investigations) to identify main issues / problems of concern that need addressing
 - by developing a Draft National Proposal with the support of other National Women Secretariats and influential partners targeting Funding bodies (eg OSW)
 - by creating awareness of who is involved and encouraging ownership
 - by keeping interested parties (eg Governments, private and public agencies) informed

NON - INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT

Help Indigenous Women by:

1. establishing relationships with the other 3 National Women's secretariat
2. helping us to write our Proposal to OSW and other Funding Bodies (copy of own tender submission with budget)
3. lobbying state/territory/national governments to recognise our process
4. accessing Pamela's List (email network)
5. raising the issue at future Women's meetings / conferences / forums
6. assisting Indigenous women in own areas to tie into this National Indigenous women's network

STRATEGY OF EMPOWERMENT

Members of the National Indigenous Women's Working Party will

1. on return home, will get together with other like minded Indigenous women and talk about establishing a National Secretariat
2. identify Indigenous women in each ATSI region (within own state/territory), who will take on the responsibility of empowering other Indigenous women to become involved in the process and in organising an Indigenous Women's meeting (local women's group)
3. this local women's group in each region is to start promoting their own Indigenous Women's meeting within the Indigenous community (approx 2 months)
4. this local women's group in each region is to write funding proposals to cover expenses and costs for their own Indigenous Women's meeting
5. this local women's group in each region is to meet regularly (each month) and undertake preparatory tasks (re venue, catering, child care, issues to be discussed, etc) for their Indigenous Women's meeting
6. this local women's group will take on the responsibility of finding funding (eg donations /sponsorship from local businesses, Aboriginal organizations, etc) to cover all of their expenses
7. Indigenous Women's meeting is held – need to discuss issues/problems in their own local Region; need to nominate and vote a representative to the State Secretariat; and then advise National State Working Party of outcome
8. National State Working Party will then find funds to organise State / Territory Secretariat meetings in each State / Territory – need to discuss issues/problems for each state/territory; nominate and vote a representative to the National Secretariat and then advise National State Working Party of outcome
9. National State Working Party will then find funds to organise a meeting for the newly established National Secretariat
10. NOTE This is but a basic strategy – each state/territory is entirely responsible for their own way of nominating their own representative

Additionally, All Members of the National Indigenous Women's Working Party:

- will gather and collate Indigenous women's contact details in their own state/territory (database)
- will write up funding proposals to gain funds for the various Indigenous women's meetings
- talk and promote the various Indigenous Women's meetings in their state/territory
- gather information on issues/concerns that Indigenous women need to discuss and debate (eg family violence, youth suicide, incarceration of Indigenous women in prisons, etc)
- generally make themselves known as being a Member of the Working Party
- maintain ongoing contact with SARINA JAN (THE IBI) via phone or email to assist her in developing a National Indigenous Women's Database for the eventual National Indigenous Women's Secretariat

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S WORKING PARTY

**(Please make initial contact with these women and then start organising
your own local / regional Indigenous Women's meetings)**

		PHONE	EMAIL
Western Australia			
Sarina Jan	Perth	(08) 92423733	sarjan2@bigpond.com
Isabelle Adams	Perth	(08) 92751320	isaadams@tpgi.com.au
Denese Griffin	Sth Hedland	(08) 91401613	Denese_Griffin@fclfl.asn.au
Northern Territory			
Rosalie Petrick / Susie Williams	Alice Springs	(08) 89569441	
Priscilla Williams	Alice Springs	(08) 89569787	
Libby Carney	Darwin	(08) 89419989	Libby_Carney@fclfl.asn.au
Torres Strait Islands			
Kailang Dorante	Thursday Island	(07) 40691366	lenapassishelter@bigpond.com
Agnes Fox	Thursday Island	(07) 40691321	
Queensland			
Karen Collins	Ipswich	(07) 38122772	karen@iratsi.org.au
Eileen Conlon	Ipswich	(07) 38122772	
Mary Graham	Southport	(07) 55320452	mwgraham@powerup.com.au
New South Wales			
Rene Adams	Moree	(02) 67526039	WAWHS@bigpond.com
Terry Anne Carr	Moree	(02) 67526039	WAWHS@bigpond.com
Victoria			
Australian Capital Territory			
Ellen			
Tasmania			
Marilyn Pitchford-Brown	Hobart	(02) 62244054	

Remember, to remain in contact with SARINA JAN on a regular basis so that she can keep you in touch with other Indigenous Women in your state/territory working towards having Indigenous Women's meetings AND/OR where you can assist her in developing a National Indigenous Women's Database.

Questions that need Answers

1. Is a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat desired (what will be achieved)?
2. Who should be involved?
3. How will a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat be achieved?
4. What actions are required to achieve a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat?
5. What activities need to occur to support these actions?
6. How much will a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat cost?
7. When will a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat happen?
8. How can a National Indigenous Women's Secretariat be maintained?

**ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN HELPING THE NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP IN ESTABLISHING A
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT
OR
WHO WANTS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO MAKE
CONTACT WITH THEIR LOCAL NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S
WORKING GROUP MEMBER AT A STATE / TERRITORY LEVEL**

Please contact

SARINA JAN

The Indigenous Business Institute Ltd

31 Collins Street, Yokine, WA 6060

(PO Box 2146, Dogswamp, WA 6060)

Phone: (08) 92423733 / Fax: (08) 92423755

Mobile: 0411-531-666

Email: theibiltld@hotmail.com OR sarjan2@bigpond.com