



## Media Release No. 684

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### TORRES STRAIT WOMEN LEADERS GRADUATE

Seven Torres Strait women have completed and graduated from the 2015 Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Women's Leadership Program.

The program offered the opportunity for Torres Strait women to fulfil their vision for higher levels of female representation in local leadership and governance.

The TSRA funded the program which began on 9 August 2015, with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation facilitating and delivering the three session program.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the TSRA recognises that Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women are underrepresented in decision making at all levels of government and in many Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Corporations in the region. The Torres Strait Islander Women's Leadership Programme was developed to address this imbalance.

"The aim of the programme is to develop the leadership skills of women in the region to enable them to better participate in decision making organisations. The programme involves removing the participating women from their comfort zones and exposing them to different situations and styles of leadership," Mr Elu said.

"During the programme the women's cohort was given the chance to meet with the Member for Leichardt, Warren Entsch, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, and the Senator for Northern Territory, Senator Nova Peris.

"The women also worked with the participants in the Australian Rural Leadership Programme, including Ms Regina Turner who is the sponsored TSRA candidate on that course.

"This dynamic group of diversely strong women were joined in their passion to make an impact in their communities and for the wider Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

"The TSRA is pleased to have invested in the growth and professional development of the future women leaders in the region and wishes them all the best on their leadership journey."

Applications for the 2016 TSRA Women's Leadership Programme will be open in early 2016. For further information, please contact the TSRA Governance and Leadership Programme on 07 4069 0700 or by email, [info@tsra.gov.au](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au).

**ENDS**

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**Photo Provided**

Image Info:

Picture Women's Leadership meets with ARLP Course 22 cohort

Picture from left to right: Susanah Tapau (Mer), Olive Bann (Thursday Island), Helen Mosby (Masig Island), Senator Nigel Scullion – Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Lisa Lui (Thursday Island), Larissa Bani (Mabuiag Island), Vera Havili (Thursday Island), Jenni Pilot (Thursday Island)