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Celebrating Inaugural Torres Strait Regional Authority Women's Leadership Program

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation have launched a unique program tailored to enrich and empower women from the Torres Strait, leading in their communities and sectors.

The inaugural TSRA Women's Leadership Program kicked off on Monday, with five committed women embarking on the initiative. The program is the result of continued collaboration between the Foundation and the TSRA to build stronger communities through leadership development.

Designed with input from Indigenous leaders Michelle Deshong, Napcia Bin Tahal, Waverley Stanley, and staff from each organisation, this program charts new territory in its approach to building a more resilient region through its strong community of female leaders.

Program participants Ella Kris of Thursday Island, Iris Billy and Catharine Enosa of Warraber Island, Lizzie Lui of Iama (Yam) Island, and Solanima Mareko of Horn Island are united by their desire to see solid leadership and healthy, prosperous outcomes for people in the Torres Strait.

Major objectives of the TSRA Women's Leadership Program include developing each participant's self-awareness and adaptability in their approaches to leadership.

The program will equip them to effectively engage in governance and politics and develop the confidence to speak; facilitate meetings and convey the needs of those they represent.

TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, congratulated the participants who took on this new journey in their leadership career and said he wishes them every success on their venture.

"It is very pleasing to see emerging female leaders from our region take up the challenge to further develop their leadership skills through the new program," Mr Elu said.

"The TSRA has been looking at developing a program specific for women from the Torres Strait for the past year to help the gender balance in local leadership and encourage more women to take up or stand for leadership positions.

"I would also like to acknowledge the assistance and support provided by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation in developing this program."

The women's leadership program will establish ongoing relationships for peer support, and showcase the importance of role models with strong, positive mindsets.

To foster ongoing development and strong networks, the program will take place over three sessions, two in the Torres Strait, and one in the ACT. The first session will conclude on Friday.

Catharine Enosa from Warraber Island said she felt privileged to walk with women who have years of experience and seeking to improve their own leadership.

“Stepping out of my comfort zone is critical in developing my leadership capability.”

Session 1: 11 – 15 August 2014, Session 2: 2 – 3 September 2014 and Session 3: Will be set according to Parliamentary Sitting Dates.

For interviews and enquiries, please contact Communications Officer, Claire Delahunty at communications@rural-leaders.com.au, or contact the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation office on (02) 6281 0680.



The Inaugural Torres Strait Regional Authority's Women's Leadership Program. Five committed women are headed into the unknown. Pictured are Catharine Enosa of Warraber Island, Solanima Mareko of Horn Island, Iris Billy of Warraber Island, Ella Kris of Thursday Island, Lizzie Lui of Iama Island, and program facilitators Michelle Deshong and Philippa Woodhill.

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TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson 0423 403 449