Emerging Indigenous Leaders turning ideas into reality

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The members of First Circles have wrapped up a three day intensive workshop in Darwin which included a presentation to Cabinet.

Minister for Local Government and Community Services Bess Price said the First Circles program supports emerging Indigenous leaders.

“First Circles is bringing new voices to the conversation about how to improve lives in remote communities, while also building the next generation of community leaders,” Mrs Price said.

“The team provided an impressive presentation to Cabinet, putting forward ideas they are passionate about to develop projects which will be supported by departmental staff.

“I’m really excited to hear from the members that they feel this initiative is supporting them by providing the skills and access to resources they need to make their dreams a reality.

“First Circles is a fantastic way to improve the participation of the community in local decision making.”

First Circles member Selena Uibo from Numbulwar said she feels like her ideas are being taken seriously.

“The Chief Minister and Minister Price have shown a clear commitment to us, and have been extremely supportive of our ideas,” Ms Uibo said.

“The time we had with Cabinet was unique and exciting. Having direct, unfiltered contact with the decision makers was really rewarding and it is clear they are taking our ideas seriously.

“I’ve had an idea for my community for two years and today is the first time I feel like things are actually able to progress. Everything can move faster when you have your feelers out with the right people.

“The First Circles initiative has given a lot of us the tools and direction needed to get our ideas up and running, which can be as simple as which department we need to speak to for information to grants that are available and how to apply.
“I’ve enjoyed making new contacts and learning from the other members to discuss solutions from other regions. It’s been really interesting learning about the different issues members face in other communities and looking at how diverse the regions are.”

First Circles will ensure Indigenous people can provide advice on the development and implementation of policy, directly to Government.

The First Circles team is made up of Indigenous Territorians from communities around the Northern Territory who want to be actively involved in decision making in their region.

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