

# Alice Springs Desert Leadership: Program impact to date

This report provides reflections from participants in response to the key aims and impact of the Desert Leadership program. More formal evaluation mechanisms are in place and results will be available at a later date. To view video interviews of participants, sponsors and key leaders please visit our website.

## Aim 1: Address the substantial barriers to leadership development in Alice Springs



*“We have a group of people here that represent pretty much the whole of Alice Springs, and we’ve had to find a way to respect and learn and realise that each of us function differently, and each of us has a different passion, values and life experience, but there’s value in really trying to come together and that’s the lesson for us.”* Fionn Muster



*“A leadership program that is locally based is far more beneficial as the learnings we are taught can be directly applied to the circumstances and situations on a local level as opposed to using the blanket effect that doesn’t work in the NT.”* Donna Lemon



*“In order for Alice Springs to continue and stay abreast of developments in the greater community we need to have people who are aware of the local issues, but also skilled enough to engage in those traditional power bases so that things like resources and education, are accessible, available and delivered, in our remote location.”* James Nolan



*“A town like Alice Springs needs a leadership program that engages a cross section of the community. Working together as a community is the only way to solve issues.”* Ian McAdam



*“The program has really highlighted to me exactly the extent to which the discussions in Alice Springs and more broadly around central Australia, which are so often framed within the context of being black and white and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, is such a poor proxy for the actual debate that’s going on.”* Lyndon Frearson

## Aim 2: Build the leadership skills of emerging leaders



*"I have learnt so much about myself, things I thought I did and didn't do, that I don't really do as I thought I did. Without the program, I don't think I would feel as confident as I do now in my ability to lead and make a difference." Georgina Davison*



*"The ability to have a range of discussions from an informed position is critical. I find that I am able to better represent a range of views and experiences in the work that I do as a direct result of this program." Sam Osborne*



*"The impact on my life is huge, at first I didn't realise how much this program has developed my skills but, as time goes on I can reflect back and see I wouldn't have made this or that decision if I didn't participate in this program and gain useful skills." Skye Thompson*



*"The program has increased my self-awareness and confidence in my potential. I have recently stepped way out of my comfort zone to take on challenges where I know I can make a positive difference. I'm not sure I would have had the courage to do this without the influence of this program." Jade Kudrenko*



*"I have learnt how to be an adaptive leader and apply myself dependent on the environment and situation. The impact that the program has had on me is immense." Donna Lemon*



*"I have been forced to evaluate myself, and the way that I interact with others, and confront the things that in the past I would shy away from. This has in turn led to personal growth and development that has flowed onto my ability to be a stronger person and leader." Fionn Muster*



*"The program has given me more confidence and opportunity to interact with leaders from different sections of our community. I've learnt how to interact and look at different situations and apply what I've learnt in most situations." Ian McAdam*

## Aim 2: Build the leadership skills of emerging leaders (continued.)



*"The program has challenged my approach to leadership, and as a result, I believe I am now in a much better position to become a more effective leader in the future."*  
Thomas Newsome



*"The main skill for me is adapting, for instance meeting parliamentarians and having discussions with people in parliament and adapting how we communicate and speak to one another."* Barbara Shaw

## Aim 3: Provide a supportive network of mentors for participants to improve sustainability in employment and community leadership



*"This is the chance to be mentored in a way that allows participants to reach their full potential in an environment that is supportive, because a lot of young aspiring leaders don't necessarily have the support that they need to fulfil their dreams of becoming leaders."* Donna Lemon



*"It's given me connections in Alice Springs which I probably wouldn't have made, with the group of people that are in the program. We've also had the opportunity to make connections with NAB on the east coast, and meeting ministers, in Darwin."* David Quan



*"The strong relationships I've developed within the network of other like-minded professionals in the program have been invaluable. The people involved in the program from the guest speakers, the mentors, the facilitators and especially the other participants have continually inspired me to step to the leadership challenge."* Jade Kudrenko

## Aim 4: Provide opportunities to meet with leaders from different sectors and to learn from contrasting styles and approaches



*"I have developed skills in the listening area and been exposed to the many varied styles of leadership as it pertains to the community at large. For me personally just seeing the levels at which other organisations operate in different strata has been of enormous benefit."*  
James Nolan



*"I'm involved in a lot of community programs and organisations because of the leadership program. This program has given me the opportunity to learn about different issues other than my own. The program format gets different sections of the community together. Everyone learns what impacts our community from other participants who you may not normally associate with."* Ian McAdam



*"I have had the opportunity to get to know a range of people far better and this has helped me to have a much broader understanding of decision making, ideas and values that exist in the broader community. This concept is of benefit for any community where diverse standpoints and deep passions exist with a common theme for real and lasting change."*  
Sam Osborne

## Aim 5: Encourage emerging leaders to commit to the town and community



*"What an awesome investment in potential leaders. To equip people with the skills and confidence in their own ability to undertake challenges that are presented in everyday life, work and communities. Investment in the future of people within a community is a secure investment in the community's future. Imagine the opportunity to be part of it and the pride in saying that you sponsored and supported it."* Georgina Davison



*"A small investment now will reward a HUGE return for the future for Central Australia."*  
Joe Clarke



*"I think we feel a bit more bound to the town, and also to contribute to the next group of the youth program, or next group of our friends, our workmates who could be potential leaders in the future."* David Quan



*"Going forward I'm a long term resident of the Northern Territory, I intend to be a long term resident of the Northern Territory and involved in its future so I think the skills I'm obtaining here can only be of benefit going down that road."* James Nolan