



Oxfam Australia's commitment to  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples:

# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

**OXFAM IS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION WORKING ALL AROUND THE WORLD TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE AND FIGHT POVERTY.**

At Oxfam Australia we are working towards a world in which all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' human rights are respected, and they have the power to determine their own strong, proud and healthy lives. Our vision is that all Australians recognise and celebrate the unique cultural identities and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Oxfam Australia has been working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in many forms for over 35 years. Oxfam's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Program (ATSIPP) partners with several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, as we believe that a partnership approach is the best way to support self-determination for communities, and work with, not on behalf of, partner organisations and stakeholders. In all our work we seek to develop genuine and honest relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their organisations. Here are some examples of our partnerships.



**OXFAM**  
Australia

*The involvement of Oxfam has been transformational, in so many ways, and certainly beyond what we could have imagined when we commenced this partnership ... The game-changing elements of this project have been the embedding of a Oxfam adviser within our team, the building of trust and the ongoing formation of knowledge and skills.*

**Anne Bambrook**, Capacity Development Coordinator, FVPLS Victoria



## ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

**Partners:** Djirra

ATSIPP is working with several Aboriginal community controlled organisations around the country to support their journeys in organisational strengthening. Based on the identified gaps and demand from each organisation, ATSIPP is providing capacity strengthening in the areas of Design, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and Business Development.

In 2017, Oxfam Australia began a partnership with Djirra (formerly FVPLS), an Aboriginal Community Controlled Family Violence organisation to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning framework, which will allow the organisation to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of their work.

## YOUTH SELF-DETERMINATION

**Wylak project Partners:** Melbourne Aboriginal Youth, Sport and Recreation (MAYSAR) and Koori Youth Council (KYC)

Oxfam Australia's new Wylak (Youth) program has two main components. The Self-Determination Action Grants project will support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a change-making initiative of positive benefit to their community. Grantees can also access training in grant writing, evaluation, campaigns and media, and networking opportunities.

ATSIPP is excited to be partnering with the Aboriginal youth organisations KYC and MAYSAR. ATSIPP will support KYC to capture stories from their annual Koori Youth Summit, helping them to advance the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. ATSIPP is also developing a partnership with MAYSAR, a youth community hub with a culturally safe drop in space and sports programs.



## INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

**Partners:** Close the Gap, Change the Record and SCCCFRAC

ATSIPP works on several Indigenous rights-based campaigns and advocacy initiatives. We work in partnership with Aboriginal-led coalitions and organisations to ensure that we are raising the voices of Indigenous communities to decision makers.

Oxfam Australia has been working on the Close the Gap campaign for 10 years, to raise awareness around the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Oxfam contributes funds, policy contributions, and organises events – for example Close the Gap Day.

Oxfam Australia is part of the Indigenous-led Change the Record Coalition, urging the Federal Government to adopt the 'Blueprint for Change' to change the record on soaring Aboriginal imprisonment rates. Oxfam Australia supports the Coalition with stories, policy advice and in-kind financial support.

Oxfam Australia has partnered with the Yuin Nation's South Coast Culture/Commercial Fishing Rights Aboriginal Corporation to support its native title

claim. This recognition of rights aims to end the incarceration of Aboriginal people for customary fishing and help promote healthy lifestyles. Oxfam is supporting a short film to help drive advocacy.

## GENDER JUSTICE

**Partners:** Aarnja

The objective of ATSIPP's gender justice program is to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access and influence the spaces and decision makers which impact their lives. Since 2009, ATSIPP's flagship project Straight Talk has improved the leadership and advocacy capacity of hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, facilitating a national gathering in Canberra and regional gatherings across Australia.

In October 2017 Oxfam partnered with Aarnja, a local Aboriginal community controlled organisation, to deliver Straight Talk to 36 participants, the biggest regional gathering yet. Women came from over 6 remote communities to learn about the political system, meet other women and share knowledge, challenges and change-making action plans.