

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering 2008



## What is NATSIWG?

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering (NATSIWG) is an annual Gathering that provides an opportunity for about 36 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (about four from each of the States and Territories) to come together to consider issues of importance to Aboriginal women. The Gathering's recommendations are presented to Women's Ministers from across Australia. In past years, the Gathering has focused on topics like leadership and community-led solutions to family violence.

In 2007 the Gathering made a number of recommendations to the Ministers for Women to improve the economic status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. These included developing a resource kit to assist Aboriginal women in business; developing affordable low interest business loans for Aboriginal women; increasing support for Aboriginal women in senior and leadership positions; and encouraging Aboriginal women through mentoring and on-the-job training programs. In response, Women's Ministers around Australia are now working on a national resource kit for Aboriginal women in business.

## Be involved!

The topics for NATSIWG 2008 are safety and wellbeing, and housing and homelessness. The NSW Government is currently looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with experience or an interest in these areas to represent NSW at NATSIWG 2008. The NSW Government will send four delegates to the Gathering being held in Hobart on 21-23 May.

To find out more about the Gathering, or how you can represent NSW at the 2008 Gathering, visit the Office for Women's website ([www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au)) or phone or email Shelley Booth at the Office for Women on 02 9228 3141, [ofw@dpc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ofw@dpc.nsw.gov.au)

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