



[Register now for the Indigenous Forces at Work Conference March 21-23, 2012](#)

The **Indigenous Forces at Work Conference 2012** at the Crown Plaza Alice Springs is designed to:

1. Provide **concrete examples and case studies** of current experience, activities and challenges in advancing Indigenous learning, employment and well-being;
2. Give you time to **bring and share your experience, activities and challenges** in advancing Indigenous learning, employment and well-being;
3. Explore **Indigenous enterprise, microenterprise and social enterprise** through case studies and the work of enterprise developers; and
4. Take time to hear from **a range of Indigenous storytellers** talking about the impact of Indigenous policy and programs on their journeys through learning, employment and life.

Come and hear from:

- **Wendy Dawson, National Indigenous Manager, Sodexo**. Sodexo employs 6000 people in 220 sites around Australia in hospitality and facilities management. Wendy will talk about the company's commitment and delivery of its multifaceted Reconciliation Plan, developed in consultation over 18 months, with initiatives for direct employment; business enterprise, community and sustainability; sports, arts and culture; and education and training;
- **Charles Prouse, CEO National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy**, will talk about career paths into the sports and arts industries for indigenous school age kids;
- **Laura Egan, Enterprise Learning Projects, Toni Ah Sam, NT Indigenous Business Network, and Jason Quin, Desert People Social Enterprise Hub**, are contributors to our stream on enterprise and social enterprise development;
- **TAFE SA and Batchelor College** and will be talking about new projects embedding core skills into VET curriculum for Indigenous learners;
- **Will Sanders**, Deputy Director at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU, will reflect on 30 years of Indigenous Policies and People at Work;
- **World Vision** will show how *participatory* monitoring and evaluation frameworks enable the measurement of outcomes for specific projects in Indigenous contexts;
- **Phillip Morrissey, Academic Coordinator, Indigenous Studies, Melbourne University**, will talk about how its Masters in Indigenous Policy can recognise the professional experience of Indigenous people without tertiary qualifications and honour their knowledge in the university context; and

- **Barb McGillivray** and **Lyn Cullinane**, both longstanding workers and advocates for Indigenous advancement, will lead sessions on projects and ways to promote employment opportunities for Indigenous people.

Once again we also hear from a number of Indigenous storytellers who will share their personal stories and pathways in life.

Delegates to the 2010 Indigenous Forces at Work Conference told us that the storytellers illustrated the impact of training and employment programs on real people and encouraged many of them to rethink the way they ran these programs.

In 2012 we will again use this approach so that delegates can hear first-hand the stories of a number of Indigenous Australians who have successfully undertaken education and training and transitioned into employment.

Here are two of the storytellers you will hear from in from 2012:

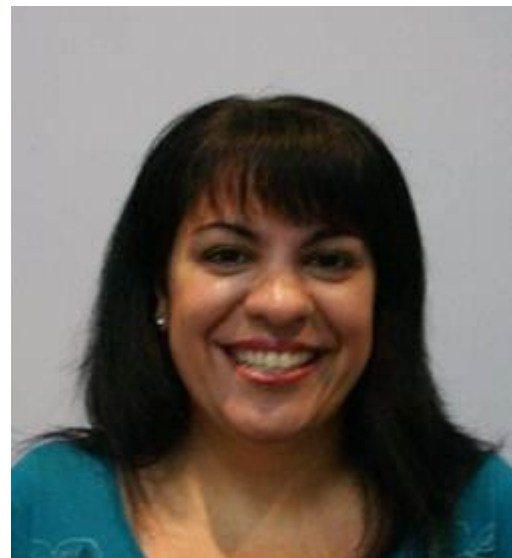
Nilus Vigona



Born and raised in Top End, Nilus went to schools in Darwin and Alice Springs and is very familiar with the diverse and giant expanse of the region. He speaks more than 3 languages proficiently (Tiwi, Gundjehmi, Yolngu, and English). He was raised and was taught by family members in the bush and saltwater country, very traditionally including hunting, gathering bushtucker and resources and learning many songs, dances and customs of the Top End Indigenous people.

The vast knowledge he has of the bush and the Indigenous people meant he was handpicked as a tour guide for the Indigenous Employment Program which ran 2009-2010 as part of Gagudju

Tina Pelucchi



Tina was born and raised in Cairns and has lived in South Australia since 2005. She has links to the Gungganyji people of Yarrabah and the Kalkadoon people of Mt Isa, and is also of Italian descent. Tina is passionate about making a difference for her people through employment and training opportunities. Tina has lived and worked in the UK, and she backpacked around Europe in her early twenties.

Tina holds an Associate Diploma in Business Management, and she is currently completing a Diploma in Impact Leadership. Tina has a grassroots approach to work and is now an accredited trainer, with her most recent role as a

Dreaming's tour team. He studied Cert II in tourism and 'Kakadu Knowledge', participated in Savannah Guides course and other accreditations that compliment his skill base and confidence. He participated in numerous 'familis' and opportunities to promote the business and the Top End which has had such an impact for the company, he was also present when they were awarded a Brolga Award for tourism and in particular Yellow Water Cruises.

Gagudju Dreaming prides itself on showcasing the beautiful country, the deep connection to land and the Indigenous people and the importance of having such a 'connected' and passionate Indigenous guide – such as Nilus. He is currently employed as an 'Interpretive Guide' and enjoys his role as a guide and is an ambassador for the Traditional Owners and their land.

Mentor for Aboriginal people with the State Government of South Australia. Other career choices include involvement in employment services, hospitality and training. She has been the only Aboriginal employee in many places where she has worked.

Tina is passionate about creating substantial employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through empowerment and mentoring. Tina's dream is to one day hold a senior leadership role that has influence and can facilitate change that will make a positive impact on the quality of life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

One of Tina's core values is respect; to treat others with respect and to lead by example and thus gain respect for oneself from peers, family, colleagues and the wider community.

Entertainers you will hear from in from 2012:

Naomi Pigram

This year the conference dinner will feature entertainment by one of Australia's most talented emerging artists

Naomi Pigram is one of the most exciting new Indigenous female artists to spring from the dynamic musical culture of Broome, and has fronted notable Indigenous bands – One Strum, and St Agnes and now leads the Naomi Pigram Band. Naomi is one of the children of Stephen Pigram from the Pigram Brothers and has been surrounded by music her whole life.

As well as being the entertainment at this year's dinner Naomi will also be featured as a storyteller.

Naomi Pigram Band was formed after the break-up of St Agnes which was fronted by Michael Pigram and Naomi Pigram and featured the musical talents of Bart Pigram, Lloyd Pigram, Marcel Wynne, Eddo Hine and Aaron Panaia. Naomi moved to Perth and the Naomi Pigram Band was formed. The Naomi Pigram Band then moved back to Broome and added Tristram Pigram on drums.

The band was nominated for two awards at the 2009 Too Solid WAMI awards best female vocalist Naomi Pigram and best guitarist Marcel Wynne with Naomi taking out the best female vocalist. Naomi has had stellar career. Over the journey she appeared in the Bran Nue Dae cabaret and toured nationally in Jimmy Chi's Corrugation Road. Naomi also appeared in Brendon Fletchers short film Kulli Foot and is arguably Broome's premier and most recognisable female artist.

Field trip and tour on Day three 2012:

After everyone has shared their experiences of what works in Indigenous education, skills, and employment and social enterprise development, you will have an opportunity to see first-hand how successful models of service delivery and programs operate in Alice Springs.

The field trip and tour on Day three will provide delegates with an opportunity to see in action some of the innovative and successful Indigenous enterprises and training/education programs that have been discussed at the conference.

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi



Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi has operated as an Aboriginal Association in Alice Springs since 1997. Waltja's objectives focus on providing support in areas of family and community training together with Indigenous educational programs. Waltja also provides advocacy and assistance to the local community in areas of Aged Care and Disability Services.

Visitors to Waltja will be able to speak with program and training staff and appreciate the dedication of Waltja staff to deliver Indigenous programs including the Long Walk Program which centres on integrating healthy lifestyle and cultural identity, the Reconnect Program for Youth at Risk, the Money Management Program for financial literacy education and Childcare which operates in the APY Lands, also Waltja's RTO which delivers courses in Community Services, Children's Services and Business. Waltja also has a robust Arts and Cultural Centre where you will be able to purchase hand made goods and relax in the newly developed visitor area.

This conference is sponsored by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs