

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Elders Council

The NSWALC is looking for an Elders Council who can represent Aboriginal Elders views from a range of different perspectives. Places will be allocated on the Elders Council for Aboriginal Elders who have a strong passion for advocating on behalf of others and represent the diversity of Aboriginal Elders in NSW.



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BACKGROUND

As part of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (“NSWALC”) initiative to build productive and meaningful partnerships and to develop strong leadership, good governance, integrity and accountability, NSWALC is currently seeking applications from Aboriginal Elders who are interested in becoming part of the Elders Advisory Council (“the Elders Council”).

WHAT WILL A ELDERS COUNCIL DO?

This will be a diverse group of 18 Aboriginal Elders from across NSW who will:

- Provide information and advice to NSWALC on matters relating to Aboriginal Elders, with particular focus on Aboriginal Land Rights in NSW, Aboriginal culture and heritage, and engaging with Elders groups across NSW. This advice will be based on both individual experience and on consultation with other Aboriginal people;
- Provide information and advice to your local and regional communities on matters relating to Aboriginal Elders and Land Rights in NSW. This may involve assisting with and facilitating consultations with community within your respective NSWALC region, and advocating across communities on the needs and issues of Aboriginal Elders; and
- Undertake other projects and activities, as agreed by the Elders Council and the NSWALC.

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WHAT WE REQUIRE FROM YOU?

In order to make this a transparent and merit based process, the following conditions for applicants have been developed. Please consider them carefully before submitting your Expression of Interest (“EOI”):

1. Applicant must be a member of a Local Aboriginal Land Council, or is able to demonstrate they are in the process of becoming a member of a Local Aboriginal Land Council;
2. Is 50 years of age and over;
3. Applicant must demonstrate a commitment to actively participating on the Elders Council, (includes willingness to travel and attend Regional and State-wide meetings as required);
4. Applicant must demonstrate the willingness to mentoring and the personal development of young Aboriginal people (some training and mentoring will be provided to members of the Elders Council); and

WHAT AREAS ARE REREPESENTED?

Two places will be made available for an Aboriginal Elder from each of the following NSWALC regions:

Central Region, North Coast Region, Sydney / Newcastle Region, Central Coast Region, North West Region, Western Region, Northern Region, South Coast Region, and Wiradjuri Region.

Aboriginal Elders from these groups wishing to submit an EOI to be a member of the Elders Council can strengthen their EOI by providing letters of support or recommendation from individuals or organisations within their communities.

The selection process for Elders Council members will take into account the importance of including a range of experiences from Aboriginal Elders to ensure diversity on the Elders Council.

TIME COMMITMENT

This is a pilot project with the Elders Council established for a one year period. Throughout the pilot period the Elders Council will be reviewed on meeting its primary functions as described in the Elders Council Terms of Reference.

Being part of the Elders Council will require a time commitment from its members. The amount of work the Council undertakes will depend on the individuals involved and their interest areas. However, there will be a minimum requirement of:

- Up to five days of training (concessions may be provided in some instances):
 - o Governance
 - o Mentoring
 - o Media
- Quarterly meetings (3 day sittings) of the Elders Council, which will also require some preparation time;
- Regional forums within your respective Region, where required;
- Meetings or discussions (via email or telephone) with the Councillor from your respective Region, and other Elders Council members; and
- Time for any other activities or projects that the Elders Council agrees to take on.

It is important that you be realistic about whether you have the time to offer the Elders Council as it is something that needs to be developed as a group over the year.

WHEN WILL WE MET?

Important dates to note are:

- Elders Council 1st quarterly meeting in December 2009 – Induction workshop and training will be delivered at this sitting (15 to 17 December);
- Elders Council 2nd quarterly meeting in March 2010 (date TBC);
- Elders Council 3rd quarterly meeting in July 2010 (date TBC); and
- Elders Council 4th quarterly meeting in November 2010 (date TBC).

WHERE WILL WE MEET?

Meetings of the Elders Council will be held at: be held at the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council – Head Office at 33 Argyle Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150

Attendance at the Elders Council induction and training are a requirement for joining the Elders Council.

COVERING EXPENSES

The NSWALC will organise and cover the costs of Elders Council members travelling and accommodation. Elders Council members will be paid an incidental allowance for each day they are required to attend meetings or training as required by NSWALC.

WHERE DO I GET A EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM?

Expression of Interest forms are available from NSWALC's website at: www.alc.org.au or you can contact Patricia Laurie, Councillor for the North Coast Region of the NSWALC on (02) 66468490 or patricia.laurie@alc.org.au

WHEN DOES IT CLOSE?

EOI's must be received by post or email by Friday, 6 November 2009.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding the Elders Council please contact Patricia Laurie, Councillor for the North Coast Region of the NSWALC on (02) 66468490 or patricia.laurie@alc.org.au