

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION TRAINING AND PROJECTS

NAAJA provides a range of legal education and training programs designed to help Aboriginal Territorians and communities develop an increased understanding and capacity to interact and engage with the mainstream legal system. These programs include a pre-release program at the prison, a public speaking project at the youth detention centre, various education sessions at men's and women's safehouses in remote and urban communities, the Department of Justice's Indigenous Family Violence Offender program, youth-focused culture camps, rehabilitation centres and various government and community organisations across the top end. NAAJA provides a range of legal education and training programs designed to help Aboriginal Territorians and communities develop an increased understanding and capacity to interact and engage with the mainstream legal system. These programs include a pre-release program at the prison, a public speaking project at the youth detention centre, various education sessions at men's and women's safehouses in remote and urban communities, the Department of Justice's Indigenous Family Violence Offender program, youth-focused culture camps, rehabilitation centres and various government and community organisations across the top end.

NAAJA regularly delivers education on a range of topics including:

- how laws are made, parliamentary democracy and the separation of power
- the criminal justice system
- interacting well with police
- domestic violence orders
- compensation for victims of crime
- police misconduct
- mandatory reporting
- child protection
- motor vehicle accidents
- car and other property seizures
- housing, and
- Centrelink

The Legal Education team also conducts intensive community engagement projects in several remote communities. In its engagement with communities, NAAJA places an emphasis on community development principles which has led to working with elders and other community members to identify and develop initiatives that have promoted community safety, enhanced understanding of and participation in court process and assisted community members to engage in policy debates. NAAJA has developed a legal education methodology – [Strong Foundations – NAAJA's Legal Development Methodology](#) that draws heavily on aspects of adult learning, bi-lingual education, two way learning, traditional Aboriginal learning styles as well as activity and narrative-based learning.

One of our core projects is working in partnership with Night Patrol services in a number of remote Aboriginal communities to provide legal education and training to Night Patrol staff. The aim of this project is to build greater knowledge and understanding of the laws and legal system. The project also aims to improve access to justice for Night Patrol clients by equipping Night Patrol to assist with timely and appropriate referrals and enhance collaboration with police, service providers and the community to improve community safety.

We have developed a range of legal and cross cultural communication resources and training to support NAAJA staff to continue to deliver high quality, specialist legal services to Aboriginal people and communities across the top end. If you are interested in speaking to us about community legal education programs that we could provide to your service, organisation or community, please contact us on **(08) 8982 5100** or email cle@naaja.org.au.

Here is a terrific article about the trans-formative power of community legal education written by former CAALAS CLE Lawyer, Tanya Pass – [The Power of Community Legal Education](#).