

# **SUPPORT BY QUAKER SERVICE AUSTRALIA OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES COMMUNITIES in Australia**

**Unit 14, 43-53 Bridge Road, Stanmore NSW 2048**

QSA seeks to include projects with First Nations Peoples communities in Australia in its funding program. First Nations communities are welcome to submit for QSA's consideration projects that support QSA's *Statement of Purpose* and the goals of the First Nations Peoples Program, and fit within the selection criteria outlined below.

It is important for the effective outcome of a project, that QSA be able to establish a good rapport with communities and individuals with whom it is working. It therefore seeks to have person to person meetings with representatives of the community. Although QSA is based in Sydney, members or associates of its Management Committee are willing, whenever possible, to travel to meet with a community's representatives, and seeks ongoing communication in the form of reports, phone conversations and visits, whenever possible. Because of limited finances and personnel, and the importance of having ongoing contact with the communities with which it is working, QSA needs to limit the number of projects with which it is involved at any one time.

## **QSA's Statement of Purpose is as follows:-**

*The purpose of QSA is to express in a practical way the concern of Australian Quakers for the building of a more peaceful, equitable, just and compassionate world. To this end QSA works with communities in need to improve their quality of life with projects which are culturally sensitive, as well as being economically and environmentally appropriate and sustainable.*

**The goal of the First Nations Peoples program** is to assist Indigenous communities within Australia to achieve and promote

- a holistic approach to health and healing of the body, mind and spirit;
- closing the gap on social inequalities affecting Indigenous communities;
- increased Indigenous leadership and participation in sustainable community development; and
- Environmental sustainability as a key cross cutting issue.

## **The Selection criteria QSA will be using**

QSA will consider funding a project proposal which

- Is designed, submitted and will be implemented by either the First Nations Peoples community or by those working in close collaboration
- Accurately and fairly represents the relevant community
- Is able to show community consultation and support for the proposal
- Includes clearly stated objectives and plans for carrying out the project to meet those objectives

- Ensures that the project is striving towards sustainability (in other words how the project can continue after the funding period has ended without the need for additional assistance) and includes the acquisition of skills for future use to benefit the community
- Contributes to redressing social justice issues and to respecting and strengthening Indigenous identity and spirituality
- Promotes the dignity and respect for human rights for all members of the community, including the children
- Encourages sound environmental and ecological practices where relevant
- Encourages and facilitates community self-reliance
- Funds or supports an individual if the outcome is clearly for the benefit of their Indigenous community.

**QSA will not fund**

- Projects which involve proselytising activities; welfare support or major building work
- Retrospective funding for work already done
- A project which does not have the support of the community, or will only benefit an individual.