



## Completion Report

AUS-SUR-BUR-N04, Australia  
Reporting Period: August 2016 – July 2017

### Indigenous Leadership Development - Australia

**Budget:** \$10,000 – fully funded!

**Update:**

This project has completed its three years of support from Entrust Foundation. The project has provided bursaries for emerging and current indigenous leaders to attend and present at a key development conference in Melbourne. It has provided an important forum for indigenous as well as church leaders, lay leaders, community development organisations and others interested in indigenous affairs to get together to share experiences and learn from each other.

This year at the 2017 conference, Entrust provided funds to support 80 indigenous leaders ranging from 18-80 years of age from Northern Territory, NSW, WA, QLD, SA and Victoria. This included transport, accommodation and meals for emerging and current leaders, often from quite remote communities. The conference provided a voice for indigenous leaders especially, through the Yarnnig Circle workshops, a dinner and special night as well as through display stands. Indirectly this has spread to the wider Surrender network and community of 1200, increasing the awareness of issues facing indigenous organisations and their communities.



A well-known indigenous activist Auntie Jean said, “Surrender gives opportunity for indigenous people to express ourselves. It’s about people connecting and re-connecting. We feel at home. I like it for our folk in the way they were accepted and share the platform.”

Another said of an indigenous leader, “I was really impressed with Auntie Di’s leadership and sharing in the Welcome to Country ceremony. I believe she was touched by the genuine expressions of recognition of her, and her people’s special place and role in the country, and by the vulnerable offerings of love, confession, respect and celebration that various people offered.”



Many commented on the wonderful shared experiences that only come by meeting each other face-to-face and sharing time together over a few days. Many leaders have taken what they have learnt from Surrender back to their communities across the breadth of Australia.

Entrust has now completed its 3-year project pledge and is confident that it has helped provide a good outcome for the Surrender conference. Indigenous affairs are integral to who we are as a nation and it has been a privilege for us to share in this space. We thank you for making it happen and your support for Australian affairs.