

## MATRAVILLE



Jamie-Lee Rooke, Harrison McKimm and Cianna Walker.  
Picture: Robert Edwards

# Indigenous students speak up

**Melissa Seller**

INDIGENOUS students from Matraville Sports High School took top honours as they got a taste of what it's like to address state parliament during a public

speaking competition. The Year 7 and 8 classmates took on competitors from across Sydney at the Speak Up! event last month, delivering speeches on this year's NAIDOC week theme, Our Languages Matter.

MSSH student Cianna Walker won the Prepared Speech section and Carla Mitchell took the top prize in the Impromptu Speech category.

Jamie-Lee Rooke and Harrison McKimm were the

MCs for the event. Principal Nerida Walker said the school was very proud of the students.

"We encourage all our students in public speaking and debating as it develops their self-confidence, helps to

hone their critical thinking skills and makes them into more effective communicators," Ms Walker said.

Cianna and Carla also delivered their prize-winning speeches at NAIDOC celebrations earlier this month.