

NATSIWA

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SPRING EDITION: Newsletter November 2016

A Note from Our CEO

Hello everyone. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the NATSIWA Board, Denise and myself, to thank you all for the support we continue to receive from you, our loyal members, throughout the year and are pleased to advise that our membership has grown to 552, an increase of approximately 200 from the previous year. Obviously this means we are doing something right especially given the numbers of women who wish to join our organisation.



NATSIWA like many other organisations has had its share of up's and down's, and the first few months of this financial year has found us getting all 'our ducks in a row' so to speak. We will be setting aside time in the remainder of the year to review our Rule Book, Policy and Procedure manual and Governance charter. These are living documents and as such need to be constantly reviewed to ensure we can fulfill the expectations of our membership and meet any and all legal obligations.

NATSIWA is grateful for the ongoing support that we have received from the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), since we relocated our registered office from NSW to an office within VAHS Preston St offices early in 2015. VAHS has provided financial administration and practical support to NATSIWA in order for us to utilise the office in Preston. NATSIWA approached VAHS seeking to obtain the use of the *Minajalku Healing Centre* to hold our AGM. VAHS were happy to accommodate our meeting, and the staff of Minajalku provided gracious and practical support both prior and throughout the day.

NATSIWA would humbly like to thank April and staff at Minajalku, and VAHS for their generous support.

Our members are extremely important to us and as such we welcome any emails or phone calls to answer any questions, provide information or listen to your concerns. I thank you for the confidence you have shown in us and we trust that our relationship with our members will become stronger and mutually beneficial.

Kind Regards

Tracey Currie-Dillon



General Meeting

Under our constitution directors and indeed members, are afforded the right to call a general meeting to deal with issues. This was the case recently when two Directors actioned clause 14 'Calling A General Meeting' to discuss on number of resolutions they had put forward. This meeting did not obtain a quorum, but out of respect and consideration for those who had travelled great distances at personal financial costs, and for those who had set aside time to be available on the tele link-up, conversations were had regarding some of the items noted. ORIC were asked to attend and facilitate this meeting. ORIC provided advice in regards to explanation/interpretation of NATSIWA Rule Book and the CATSI Act.

Annual General Meeting

NATSIWA held its AGM at Minajalku Healing Centre 11 Rossmoyne St Australia on the 19th October 2016 4-6pm. Members were invited to attend in person and via tele phone link in. Given that there were items that may have needed clarification in regards to the NATSIWA Rule Book and the CATSI Act ORIC was asked to be in attendance to provide clarification.



AGM AGENDA

Welcome to Country

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous general meeting:
2. Presentation of directors' reports, general reports and financial reports:
3. To receive notice of the election/appointment of Directors;
4. Checking the register of members and register of former members.
5. Election results and endorsement of NATSIWA Board

NATSIWA does not have the funds to assist persons to attend the AGM, so telephone link-up enables members to partake of the meeting regardless of where they are in Australia or the Torres Strait.

The minutes of the AGM will be presented at the next AGM 2017 for endorsement. **Item 5** on the agenda is of interest to many of our members, particularly those in the NT, SA and Qld.

NATSIWA had received one nomination from the Northern Territory, Ngarla Kunoth-Monks. Members discussed and voted for Ngarla Kunoth-Monks to remain the NATSIWA NT Director until such time as they, the NT, have established an Affiliate, who would then elect their representative on NATSIWA.

Discussions were held regarding the representation of South Australia. The timing of the call for nominations, the establishment of the SA Affiliate was noted and NATSIWA members present agreed that South Australia would go back to their state and SA would resolve/confirm their representation. SAATSIWA is to host their AGM in November.

NATSIWA received one nomination from Qld and respected that the Director who had filled this position via an Expression of Interest (EOI) also wished to re-nominate. The new nominee withdrew her nomination on the day of the AGM. The membership voted against the current director remaining in the seat. Discussion ensued that Qld would go back to their state with a view to establishing an affiliate. This should hopefully resolve representation of QLD.

NATSIWA may need to call for EOI for vacant directors positions from these or any State or Territory vacancy that remain vacant for any length of time.

Other Activities

NATSIWA has been involved in many activities directly and indirectly, providing input into programs, reviews and forums that inform key stakeholders and influence policy. These include but not limited to:

- SNAIC Family Matters Forum- Melbourne
- Qld members meeting held at FAIRA
- The Social Change Summit- Overcoming Indigenous Family Violence in Australia
- Meeting with Pam Meers re Young Women Tasmania
- International Women's Day Parliamentary Breakfast -Canberra



Women's Forum and meeting with Dr Mary Graham- Jagera Hall Brisbane

- CSW60New York- Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, and presentation



- Domestic Violence and Gender Equality- Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee- submission
- Keynote presentation NFVPLS national Forum- Qld
- Native Title Conference- Facilitated Women's Talking Circle
- National Women's Alliance Forum -Canberra
- Representation and Input into the Our Watch Advisory Group
- Attendance and input into the Domestic Violence and Gender Equality Consultation- Melbourne
- Provide issues from members to Parliamentarians for consideration pre- election
- Media Releases in response to Law and Order for Children in Detention
- Liaison with international social entrepreneur Lisa Witter at the NCOSS a New Year for Women Program (Economic Empowerment) at the same forum sat on the Indigenous women panel.
- Conduct survey and provide feedback to SA Domestic Violence Discussion paper
- CEO convened the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stream at the AWAVA Our Watch 'Prevalent & Preventable International Women's Conference on Violence Against Women. Liaison with international activist Marai Larasai and former rapporteur Rashida Manjoo from the conference. As well as CEO involved in two panel discussions on intersectionality and the closing panel.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Chair Mary (Mariette) Cowley who won the 2016 WA Seniors Award (Community) for her outstanding work in WA.



Mariette is an Aboriginal elder who was born in Broome and raised in Derby with a strong cultural connection with Bardi, Worrora and Ngarinyin country. Of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders origin she has spent her lifetime working to improve health, social and justice conditions for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples. She is now living in Perth although she still has strong ties to the North-West of WA. In her voluntary capacity she sits on a number of Boards Chair of the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance Director of AADS.



Pictured here with Daniel Morrison CEO of the Aboriginal Alcohol Drug Services at the Awards night.

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