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NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

ceo@natsiwa.org.au

APRIL EDITION 2017: Newsletter May 2017



Sandra Creamer

A Note from Our interim CEO

We are updating our website and we will be making changes to the site. We will be providing more information on womens issues. We are also open to your suggestion and what information you would like to receive on the website.

Wishing all women a Happy Mothers day for the 14th May. Whether we are a mother or not a mother, as women we are loving some child/children. Enjoy your day.

Our Staff

Chief Executive Officer (Interim)

Sandra Creamer

For operational matters including requests to work collaboratively with NATSIWA, please email

ceo@natsiwa.org.au

Project Officer (Interim)

Ms Kadie Aaskov

For all enquiries, please contact Kadie Aaskov via email

analyst@natsiwa.org.au

Our Board

Chairperson

Mariette Cowley
(WA)

Deputy Chairperson

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A message from the Chair- Mary Cowley

Update on NATSIWA.

NATSIWA have applied for their three year fundin and we will receive information of this outcome by the end of June 2017.

NATSIWA are in negioation on a project with 1800RESPECT- The National sexual assault domestic violence counselling service. We will continue to update you on this project.



WHATS NEWS IN AND AROUND THE COUNTRY

REAL TIME MONITORING OF DOMESTIC VIOLNCE PERPETRATORS SET TO BEING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS PART OF A THREE YEAR TRIAL.

The Correction Department in South Australia is preparing to begin monitoring 90 domestic violence offenders who will be fitted wih GPS ankle bracelets.

Authorities will set the devices with no-go zones which the offenders cannot entre. Data recorded from the bracelets about breaches will be used in court prosecutions.

Huge Victory for victim of domestic violence

Alleged perpetrators of domestic violence will be banned from cross examining their victims in court under changes to be introduced by the Turnbull government. The Attorney-General

George Brandis announced in Tuesday's budget that the government will launch a major review of the Family Law Act, the first since it was introduced in 1976. The changes was in response to concerns that family violence victims were experiencing further trauma by being directly cross-examined by their attackers.

Though in Victoria a judge can already declare an alleged victim 'a protected witness' in sexual offence and family violence cases, which prevent an accused from being able to cross-examine them, even if the accused person does not have a lawyer. Full story below.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/a-huge-victory-domestic-violence-perpetrators-banned-from-crossexamining-victims-20170510-gw1nsi.html>



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Jamie Cave- Tasmania NATSIWA rep (with glasses) sharing information on of a side event which she attended while in New York for the Commission on Statues of Women (CSW) the meeting was 13-24 March 2017.

Jamie at the "Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women as a step towards empowerment: side event.

Of major concern is the disappearing of Native women and sex trafficking. Also of note was the correlation between expoloratory industries (such as mining) and sex trafficking.



Upcoming Event

Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival 2017

The 35th Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival will be held on 30th of June to Sunday the 2nd July 2017

The Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival is an exciting biennial gathering in Cape York Peninsula, highlighting the many diverse Communities, language, song, dance and stories. Witness the passing on of Culture across the generations, along with showcasing the strength, pride and uniqueness of Aboriginal people. Over 20 Communities participate across the region.

For further information and to buy tickets:

<http://www.lauradancefestival.com/>

Press release from the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Coruz who visited Australia from the 20th March to the 3rd April 2017

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21371&LangID=E>



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Members profiles – Tammy Solonec – and Cassie Lang



Tammy Solonec – Indigenous Rights Manager – Amnesty International

Tammy is a Nigena woman from Derby in the Kimberly of Western Australia who has lived in Perth for over 25 years. She currently the Indigenous Rights Manager at Amnesty International Australia and a convening member of the Western Australia Aboriginal Lawyers Committee. Tammy was formerly a Director of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and held various roles as a convening member of the NAIDOC Perth. Tammy was awarded Young Female Lawyer and Young Lawyer of the Year for WA in 2012. Tammy studied law at the University of WA, and



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completed her legal qualifications through the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, where she worked for four years including as Managing Solicitor of the Law and Advocacy Unit. Throughout her career, Tammy has been involved in advocating for Indigenous people, on a local, state national and international levels, including at the United Nations. In 2017, Tammy was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of her work.



Cassie Lang – Senior Legal Office at the Torres Strait Regional Authority – doing Native Titles

I am a Bundjalung woman from the north coast of New South Wales. I grew up in Brisbane. I hold a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Justice and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Queensland University of Technology, and am admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia.

I have spent the past eight years specialising in Indigenous law, with a particular focus on native title and cultural heritage matters.

I am currently employed as the Senior Legal Officer at the Torres Strait Regional Authority and reside on Thursday Island a remote island in the Torres Strait.

For the past 4 years, I have been the Vice President of the Indigenous Lawyers Association



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of Queensland. In this capacity, I co-chaired the committee which organised the 2nd World Indigenous Legal conference hosted by the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland in June 2014 which was attended by over 200 delegates.

I am constantly seeking opportunities to build on my 8 years of progressive experience as a native title practitioner. I share my knowledge and experience of Commonwealth, State, Local government regulations and other laws to empower grassroots Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' communities to implement change.

I hope my work as a native title lawyer can assist in the continued transfer of traditional knowledge, language and cultural practices to the next generations.



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NATSIWA is a member of the
Indigenous Peoples Organisation Network of Australia



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