



Welcome to Our First Edition Newsletter

A Note from Our CEO

Hello to one and all!! On Monday 12th May 2014 I was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NATSIWA. I am so honoured and very proud to have been given this exciting opportunity by the NATSIWA Board to take our organisation into the future, and I sincerely thank them for their confidence in me. I have worked in *Aboriginal Community Control Services* for almost 25 years, from childcare, to health, to research and now NATSIWA. I will also continue my Post Doctorate in Public Health at the University of New South Wales in partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service, Western Sydney.

It is exciting times for NATSIWA as we move from strength to strength to further establish ourselves, and this **First Edition Newsletter** is testament to that.

We aim to circulate our Newsletter on a quarterly basis, to advise you of future events, report on previous events, and we would also like to encourage our Members to share their stories with other NATSIWA Members, and others who wish to receive our Newsletters.

Any feedback on conferences attended, items of interest, publications that you have found useful are most welcome for inclusion. If you would like to include them, please contact our Website Administrator at media@natsiwa.org.au.



Associate Professor
Dea Delaney-Thiele MPH

Our Board

Our Current NATSIWA Board Member

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Chairperson | Sandra Miller (SA) |
| Deputy Chairperson | Maxine Goldie (NT) |
| Secretary | Becky Hollis (TAS) |
| Treasurer | Karin Williams (VIC) |
| Board Member | Dot Henry (WA) |
| Board Member | Lee-Anne Daley (ACT) |
| Board Member | Sandra Creamer (QLD) |
| Board Member | Ivy Trevallion (TSI) |
| Board Member | Dulcie Flower (NSW) |

We have been in receipt of funding since December 2013 from the *Office for Women*. Our Board, who have a wealth of expertise and skills, graciously volunteer their time, to ensure NATSIWA operates as efficiently and effectively as we can, within the resources we acquire. In February 2014, our Board were very proud to complete a governance training session with *the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations*.

In the near future, we have our first compliance review, which will be conducted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and we are looking forward to the recent appointment of consultants *MATRIX On Board* who will assist us with strengthening aspects of our governance and strategic planning.



Dea & some of our
NATSIWA Board

New Corporate Image and Website



You will notice that NATSIWA now has a new Corporate image, which also includes a newly enhanced website which can be found at www.natsiwa.org.au

Our new website was recently launched with our new vibrant colours and aside from being aesthetically pleasing, we hope you, especially our Members, will find it more agile, interactive, and easier to scan, read and navigate for those important and relevant documents you may need to find quickly. We' are very proud of it, but we know there is still work to do to fill it with information that is relevant to our Women in communities across Australia.

The Board are exploring ideas and opportunities to have a relevant clearing house of information and thematic forums for our Members on matters such as violence against women, gender equity issues and the development and posting of our own Position Statements. So WATCH this space!!

Strategic Planning

NATSIWA works to facilitate the empowerment of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women to have a strong and effective voice in the domestic and international policy processes.

To assist us with our work, our Board have recently endorsed the following key documents:

Strategic Framework which highlights our: Vision; Guiding Principles, Values and Strategic Priorities.

- **Board Governance Charter;**
- **Conflict of Interest;**
- **Confidentiality Agreement;**
- **Code of Ethics and Conduct; &**
- **Board Delegations Policy.**

We are also in the process of developing our **corporate policies and procedures to assist us** with our policy and advocacy agenda, as well as a **matrix** in respect to any expertise our Members may have to assist us with our strategic priorities.



UNPFIIIs

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

The thirteenth session of the UNPFIIIs took place at the United Nations Headquarter in New York from 12th to 23rd May 2014. Principles of good governance consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular *Articles 3 to 6* were this year's theme.

Our delegate at the UNPFIIIs was our Acting Chairperson, Ms Sandra Miller, who attended the first week of the meeting with support from FIMI's *Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women*. Sandra attended FIMI's workshops (See picture below) which gave her additional insights into human rights issues around gender equity, violence against women and strategies to call for more effective political participation for our Women.



Sandra Miller far right presenting at FIMI's training session in New York.

NATSIWA's Vision

'To protect the health, human rights and fundamental freedoms that are significant to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women, through cultural preservation, health education and coalition building'.



natsiwa

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



**Dot Henry and Ivy Trevallion
NATSIWA Board Members
at CSW58**

NATSIWA Delegates at CSW58

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from the 10th to 21st March 2014.

More than thirty *Indigenous Women* from across the globe attended the session, including NATSIWA's delegates, Dot Henry (WA) and Ivy Trevallion (TSI).

Women in attendance raised their perspectives, needs and aspirations in respect to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Subsequently, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on *'Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls'*. NATSIWA will place this important outcome documents on our website in the near future for those who are interested.

International Women's Day

NATSIWA held its inaugural International Women's Day event on the 3rd March 2014 at Parliament House in Canberra.

Board Members and others who attended the event reflected on its success. It was a great day, fantastic, positive, and an 'eye opener'. 'Old Freedom Fighters', such as Dulcie Flower and Kathy Malera Bandjolan were truly inspirational, and Antoinette Braybrook's stole the event with her moving speech, which highlighted the real impact of funding cuts to grass roots organisations such as hers, the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria. The lives and experiences of Aboriginal Women who attended our inaugural IWD event, was absolutely amazing.

Ministers and Senators that met with us during the day were very supportive of our issues, and a number invited us to their electorates. Senator Cathy McGowan has placed a request with NATSIWA to visit her electorate of 'Indie' to meet with some Aboriginal Women in her electorate in May/June 2014.

Board Members sincerely thank:

- Senator Michaelia Cash for hosting and opening our event on behalf of Prime Minister Tony Abbott;
- Senator Nova Peris for her advocacy, participation and gracious hospitality back in her chamber at 7:00pm for a chat and a cuppa; and
- Karla Grant's expert compering which topped off an awesome event.

We look forward to seeing more of our Members at next year's event in March 2015.



Senator **Michaelia Cash**
Minister Assisting the
Prime Minister for Women



Ivy Trevallion, Antoinette Braybrook
Sandra Creamer



Some of the Women attending our
IWD event



Sandra Miller, Senator Nova Peris and
Dea Thiele

NATSIWA's Third Strategic Priority is to develop strong and effective coalitions with all major stakeholders to achieve our other Strategic Priorities and thus, we are pleased to report

Our First MoU



NATSIWA attended the National Council of Women of Australia 's (NCWA) National Conference in Alice Springs in late May 2014.

The NCWA has been operating for 115 years. They are a national non-government umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. They seek to raise awareness of women and girls to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage the participation of women in all aspects of community life.

We will be signing our first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the national organisation to explore shared issues to work collaboratively in the near future.

Key For more information on the NCWA please visit their website <http://www.ncwa.org.au>

Highlights ... of the Conference were:

Dr Pat Miller AO Pat's gracious *Welcome to Country* opened the conference with a moving overview of her journey through life in Alice Springs and beyond.

NT Minister the Honourable Bess Nungarrayi Price (MLA)

Bess believed the theme of the NCWA Conference, '*Caring for Women is Caring for the World*' was a very important message for us all. Her inspiring words moved everyone, especially when she shared an Ann Frank quote which guides her in her day-to-day life: '*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world*'... then Bess quietly said....So.. Why wait, let's start now!!

NATSIWA are right behind you Bess!!

The Honourable Senator Michaelia Cash's passion and commitment for Violence Against Women and Leadership was well received, fantastic and much appreciated!! Michaelia responded very well to questions from the floor, including issues around the current budget, which is currently circulating in the media, amongst businesses, NGOs and the wider general public.

Dea Delaney-Thiele delivered a keynote address to the Members of the NCWA on a number of issues, which included violence against women, gender equity, economic participation, human rights and the political empowerment of our Women.

Pat Turner presented a workshop on the **R** Campaign and invited NCWA Members to get on board with the campaign to **RECOGNISE** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's Constitution, because ...It's the right thing to do!



Karin Williams, Dulcie Flower, Bess Price and Dea Delaney-Thiele at NCWA's Conference 2014



Karin, Senator Michaelia Cash, Dea & Dulcie



Karin, Dulcie, Pat Turner and Dea.





UN Women Australia

NATSIWA Board Members welcomed Julie McKay, the Executive Director of UN Women Australia (UNWA) to have a dialogue with the NATSIWA Board at their March 2014 meeting.

Matters discussed were, an overview of UNWA and their operations, CSW58, CEDAW, their corporate partners and the desire to explore potential opportunities that our two organisations might work collaboratively on in the future.

Julie also invited the NATSIWA Board to use their premises for future Board meetings, which we might hold in Canberra.

Members of the NATSIWA Board were duly impressed with Julie's welcome professionalism, knowledge on the UN system, *Violence Against Women* matters and noted her in kind support to NATSIWA whenever we are in Canberra.



Julie McKay with some
NATSIWA Board Members



Upcoming Events

- **14 June 2014**
NATSIWA Board Meeting
Adelaide
- **23-24 June 2014**
National Women's Alliance Forum
Canberra
- **24-27 June 2014**
 **See Below**
World Indigenous Legal Conference 2014
Brisbane
- **7-11 July 2014**
7th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Geneva
- **22-23 September 2014**
UN General Assembly
High Level Plenary Session
World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
New York
- **22 November 2014**
NATSIWA Annual General Meeting
Cairns
- **9-20 March 2015**
CSW59/Beijing+20
UN Headquarters New York



The Indigenous Law Association of QLD is hosting the biennial World Indigenous Legal Conference (WILC 2014) from 24-27 June 2014, at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. The conference theme is '*past, present, future*'.

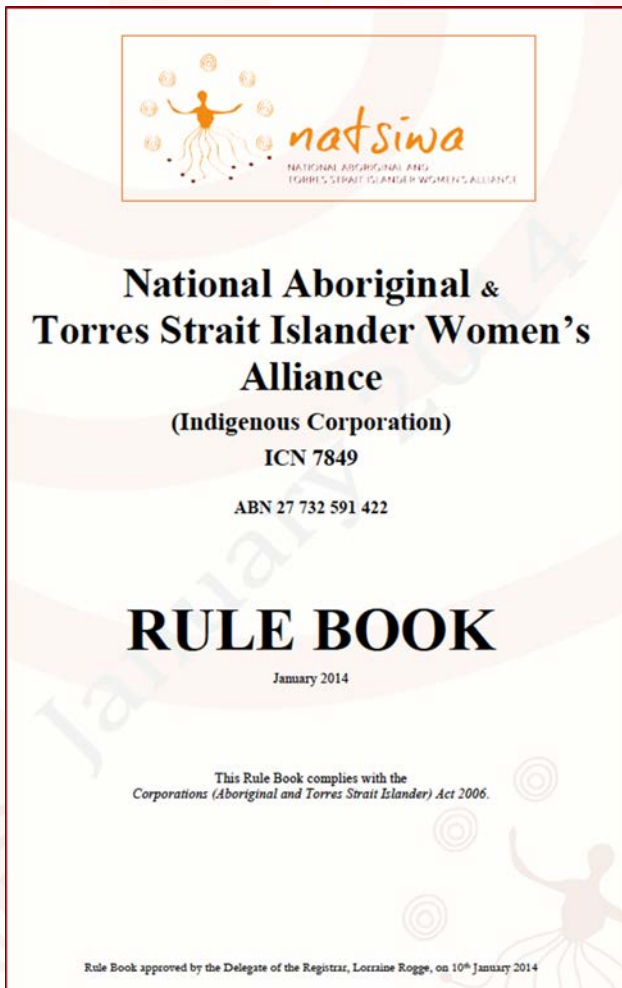
The WILC 2014 will be an important worldwide event for Indigenous lawyers, academics and any persons with an interest in the legal issues that affect Indigenous Peoples.

For more information please visit ILAQ's website
www.indigenouslawyersqld.com





NATSIWA's Rule Book



After NATSIWA's Annual General Meeting in November 2013, our *Rule Book* went through changes to reflect our Vision, Guiding Principles and also had clauses inserted to strengthen our *Wind Up* clauses.

The current version is now January 2014.

If Members would like a copy of our current *Rule Book* please email Jodea in the Secretariat.



Our Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Dea Delaney-Thiele

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

ceo@natsiwa.org.au or
mobile 0448 123 444

Executive Administration Officer

Ms Jodea Delaney (Part-time)

For Board diary enquiries and information on our Membership, please contact Jodea via email

exec.admin@natsiwa.org.au or
mobile 0418 658 732



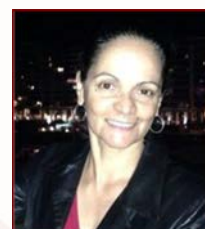
Jodea

Website Administration Officer

Ms Sheilah Hure (Part-time)

For further information regarding our Newsletter, please contact Sheilah Hure via email

media@natsiwa.org.au or
mobile 0409 691 695



Sheilah

Organisations wishing to work collaboratively with NATSIWA that have a shared agenda are welcome to contact the NATSIWA Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer to develop a Memorandum of Understanding.