

Message from the Chair

It has been a busy few months for NATSIWA Directors and Staff. We had a fantastic meeting with June Oscar the Social Justice Commissioner and look forward to her report which comes out in the coming months.

Sandra Creamer CEO has taken leave and Christine Ross is temporarily in the position. Christine has been kept busy attending significant conferences and Roundtables on behalf of NATSIWA.

As our Directors are from the States and Territories it is difficult to be able to attend as much as we would like due to costs, distances and limited funding so we take the opportunities where we can.

Karen Parter ACT Representative attend the UN, Earlier this year on behalf of NATSIWA.

We have a fabulous Facebook page that will fill you in on the work that we do.

Our next AGM will be in November with positions in South Australia, Torres Strait and New South Wales becoming vacant. I encourage members to be on the lookout for this information.

I would like to say welcome to all our new members and encourage ladies to pass the word on that we would like to see more Aboriginal and Torres Strait ladies join our Organisation.

It is almost a year since joining the Organisation and being selected as a Director for Queensland. I live on Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria and still working on how to reach Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women. I am aware that Women's' groups in our vast State are working hard in all fields to improve the lives of our children and families. Day by day there are so many challenges.

I joined this wonderful Organisation as we need a National Forum where the voices of our women are heard to support us on the ground. It has not been easy with the limited resources as our disposal; however, we must keep going as changes will happen however small.

Susan Sewter, QLD Director and Chair.

Visit our website - www.natsiwa.org.au

Our Board

Chairperson
Susan Sewter
(QLD)

Deputy Chairperson
Karin Williams
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Anna Strzelecki
(SA)

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Board Member
Bronwyn Penrith
(NSW)

Board Member
Tanyah Nasir
(NT)

Note from our Acting CEO. Christine Ross

Hi everyone,

It's been a crazy last few months with a lot of fabulous NATSIWA Meetings held all around Australia and as a result we are particularly pleased with our huge increase in Membership both in person at the meetings and online. So, a huge thank you to those of you who are new and receiving your first NATSIWA Newsletter, we send a very warm welcome to you.

I would like to share some of the meetings and events I have represented NATSIWA at in the last few months. The first being a National Reconciliation Week Breakfast in Perth on 31 May 2019 to celebrate the Theme – Grounded in Truth. This was a huge gathering and the first public speech by our new Minister for Indigenous Australians Hon Senator Ken Wyatt MP.

I attended a Meeting on 13 June 2019 in Canberra with the other 5 Alliances, the purpose of the meeting was to greet the new First Assistant Secretary for the Office of Women Catherine Hawkins and staff from the Office of Women our funding body. It was a good opportunity for the Alliances to then go through and map out what each of us is proposing to put in our Activity Plans for 2019/2020 and where there may be synergies with each other. I found the meeting extremely productive as it's in our benefit to work closely with some of the other Alliances.

A huge thank you to the following Directors Karen Parter (ACT) Bronwyn Penrith (NSW) and Tanyah Nasir (NT) for hosting very successful Forums in their respective State and Territories to promote NATSIWA and actively increase the membership of our new members. I met with ladies at Langford Aboriginal Association in Perth on 20 August 2019 so lots of new members, I am hoping to organise a lunch in Broome on Saturday 7 September 2019 to meet with members up there so please save the date.

We set up a NATSIWA Stand at the Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 18 – 20 June 2019 in Darwin. So, great to promote our organisation and sign up new members. Tanyah Nasir and I attend a Presentation

by Sandra Creamer at this Conference on the work both she and Wendy Anders have been doing with University of Queensland and NATSIWA's involvement.

NATSIWA was invited along with the other 5 Women's Alliances to Sydney on 8 July 2019 to meet with the new Minister of Women the Hon Senator Marise Payne. All of the Alliances were represented as well as other key Industry bodies, it was great our NSW Director Bronwyn Penrith was also able to attend with me. We both provided an update to the Minister and group of the role of NATSIWA and the Projects we are involved with. From what I gather this is the first time such a roundtable discussion such as this has been held with a Minister to provide direct feedback, she has committed to hosting them each quarter and it is definitely worth us attending.

It was fabulous to meet the American Marathon Runner Liz Warner whose goal is to run in 30 Marathons before she turns 30 in June 2020. Liz chooses a Charity/NFP in each of the countries to raise awareness about issues affecting women. So, whilst in Australia and competing in the Outback Marathon held 27 July 2019 at Uluru/ Yulara NT each year, Liz chose the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) as the recipient of any donations to support the work NATSIWA is doing in supporting our women across Australia. I flew to Uluru to meet and personally thank Liz for supporting and raising awareness of some of the issues affecting our woman on an International level. Whilst at Uluru/Yulara I also introduced Liz to some local Anangu and other Aboriginal woman from across Australia.



I recently attended the 14th National Indigenous Law Conference and concurrent Conference 1st Indigenous Health Justice Conference held 13 -14 August 2019 in Darwin NT. As the Chair of a Session featuring all female Aboriginal Leaders from key organisations, she had an opportunity to promote NATSIWA and as we cover all areas. It was an excellent 2 days in hearing from many of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lawyers about key topics.

NATSIWA is looking forward to working with Dee Lightfoot CEO of WA Interpreters Service and Corina Martin CEO of Family Matters WA. We have scheduled a 'roadshow' in November 2019 to Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra for all parties involved to meet with local Aboriginal women. The purpose of these meetings is to seek input from them when they are accessing the legal system particularly when dealing with domestic violence and providing evidence.

Don't forget to check out and like our NATSIWA Facebook page as we post a lot of positive and up to date stories on there, plus we love receiving your feedback.



It was great for some of our NATSIWA Leadership Team to attend the Roundtable Consultation on the 19th of July for a proposed future National Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership by the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Business School. The room was filled with many of our key

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business People from across Australia, so lots of fabulous ideas, knowledge and experiences shared throughout the day.

We looked at 'What does Indigenous Business Leadership mean'? What is working and what's not, as a Gen 6 Murra Alumni we were well represented as there is a lot happening in this space.

So well done to Dr Michelle Evans and her Team for convening this Forum as always great to reconnect with so many of our successful Aboriginal Businesses/ Consultants operating around Australia.



As a lot of the work we do is focused on our women and children we will have 3 NATSIWA Directors attending the Secretariat of National Aboriginal Islander Child Care Conference (SNAICC) 2-5 September 2019 in Adelaide. So please come and say hi to us and encourage any friends to sign up as members.

NATSIWA has been heavily involved in Share the Dignity Program for a few years and we work with organisations to ensure sanitary products are distributed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women across Australia. This year several boxes were sent to Central Australia to be forwarded to remote Aboriginal communities and last year they were sent to Redfern in Sydney to be distributed.

So a very worthwhile Program to support as it's not a given our women have easy access to Sanitary products, thank you to Woolworths for supporting this initiative.

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Christine, Acting CEO of NATSIWA flew to Uluru to meet and personally thank Liz for supporting and raising awareness of some of the issues affecting our women on an International level. Whilst at Uluru/Yulara Christine also introduced Liz to some local Anangu and other Aboriginal woman from across Australia. Our new NATSIWA members are pictured with Christine below. For more information on Liz Warner go to her website www.runtoreach.com



On behalf of the Chair, Directors and Staff of NATSIWA we would like to congratulate Melissa Lucashenko a proud Goorie/Bundjulong woman for winning the highest accolade in literary merit that focuses on a phase of Australian life The Miles Franklin Award for her novel 'Too Much Lip'.

Melissa is the second Aboriginal woman along with Alexis Wright and brother Kim Scott to win this prestigious Award, we are all very proud of her for this wonderful achievement.



On the 8th of July 2019, Christine Ross alongside our NSW Director Bronwyn Penrith attended the Roundtable Discussions with the new Minister for Women Senator the Honourable Marise Payne. It was great to hear so many other women and organisations representing the diversity of women across Australia.

It was a great opportunity to promote the important work NATSIWA is doing to assist our women dealing with Domestic Violence, homelessness and incarceration.

It was great to get a photo of some of the other Aboriginal delegates at the meeting with the Minister especially the WA Delegate Dorinda Cox as well as catching up with one of our emerging leaders Florence Drummond.

CEO Christine Ross attended the Darwin 2019 festival and shared some pics of the events she attended.

Mangkaja X Gorman Fashion show.



On the 4th of August 2019 we celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children's day. This day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support as well as learn about crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

The theme this year is: We Play, We Learn, We belong. We play on our land, We learn from our ancestors, We belong with our communities.



Month of August

4th of August - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

5-11 August - National Homelessness Week

12th August - Health Information Conference, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Wharf, VIC

15th- 17th August - International Health Symposium, Brisbane QLD

19-25 August - Healthy Bones Week

20-21st August - Kimberley Chronic Disease Workshop, Kimberley Grande Resort, Kununurra WA

30th August - Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament, Townsville.

Do you have an event or would like to share or events happening in your community? Then send us an email to seniorprojects@natsiwa.org.au and we will include in our next newsletter.

NATSIWA NSW Director Bronwyn Penrith has been out and about attending numerous meetings and events in her community, here are a few pics.



Possum Skin Cloak Making



Reclaiming Women's right, Preparing for Ceremony



For Members in Victoria.

Women's Health Week- Carers Event

Women's Health Week is a week dedicated to all women to make good health a priority. Now in its 7th year, Women's Health Week is the week to do something for your health and start making positive changes that can last a lifetime!

For carers, it is important to look after your own health and wellbeing. Come along, take some time out for you and celebrate good health and wellbeing with other women! Enjoy morning tea at the Fairfield Boathouse and hear from our award winning health and wellbeing team at CarerLinks North, before enjoying a walk around the beautiful grounds of the boathouse.

Morning Tea will be provided so let them know your dietary requirements.

When: Thursday 5th September 2019

Time: 10.30am - 1.30pm

Where: Fairfield Park Boathouse

Fairfield Park Drive

Fairfield 3075

RSVP: Friday 30th August 2019

Phone: 039495200

email: CarelinksNorth@merrrihealth.org.au

If attending please wear comfortable clothing and shoes as well as wet weather gear.



Visit our website - www.natsiwa.org.au

A few special events in September

4 September



Indigenous Literacy Day

Organisation: Indigenous Literacy Foundation

Indigenous Literacy Day aims to help raise funds to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions. We need your support to help raise funds to buy books and literacy resources for children in these communities.

National/State: National

Website: www.ilf.org.au



1st to 7th September

National Child Protection Week

Organisation: NAPCAN

National Child Protection Week has been coordinated by NAPCAN, with the support of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs since 1990.

The campaign aims to engage and educate all Australians to understand they have a part to play in keeping our children and young people safe from violence, abuse and neglect.

National/State: National

Website: napcan.org.au



Women's Health Week 2nd to 6th September.

Organisation: Jean Hailes for Women's Health

Jean Hailes Women's Health Week is a week aimed at encouraging women to take the time to focus on their health and wellbeing. The week includes events in communities around Australia as well as online resources including motivating videos and practical tips and information from experts and ambassadors.

National/State: National

Website: www.womenshealthweek.com.au

Become a Member of NATSIWA

Go to www.natsiwa.org.au

and fill in the online application or download application and email to seniorprojects@natsiwa.org.au

Visit our website - www.natsiwa.org.au

World Suicide Prevention Day



World Suicide Prevention Day on **Tuesday 10th September** provides an opportunity to raise awareness of suicide prevention. Working together to prevent suicide is critical and your support will make a big difference in raising awareness and encouraging conversations.

World Suicide Prevention Day is organised by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP).

Help us shine a light on suicide prevention and download materials from the Communication Toolkit to spread this important message.

<https://www.suicidepreventionaustralia.org/world-suicide-prevention-day-2019/>

There are services available 24/7

Lifeline 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467