

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance

ICN7849



AGM Alice Springs 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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WELCOME

We pay our respects to the custodians of the land where we work and visit. We honour Elders past, present and emerging. We thank you for the privilege of welcoming us onto your land throughout the past year

We acknowledge the commitment given by the First people of Australia in sharing their Knowledge and support for our organisation. We could not be the organisation we are without the sharing of knowledge and issues experienced by the communities we visit. They are the heart of our organisation and we thank everyone who has contributed to our organisation.

NATSIWA is the National Women's Peak Organisation representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women.

OUR Organisation

NATSIWA is an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation and is controlled by Aboriginal & Torres Straits Islander Women for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women. This allows our Women a say in the types of programs, initiatives and the employment of all relevant staff. As required by NATSIWA's Rule Book, a Board of Directors is elected annually by our members and the Board meets Monthly. Election onto the Board of Directors ensures that our Women lead the direction of NATSIWA and the implementation of programs by NATSIWA.



OUR Mission

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) was established in 2009 to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to have a strong and effective voice in the domestic and international policy advocacy process.

Our Vision

"To listen and represent the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by identifying community, cultural priorities and interests at a national level."

Our Guiding Principles

NATSIWA's Vision will be achieved through our Guiding Principles that will remain cognizant of the needs, health, wellbeing and development, and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women:

Recognition of different needs of communities

Universal access to basic health care, housing and education;

Women's strengths: recognition of the centrality of kinship

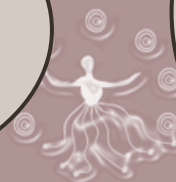
Equitable needs-based Funding

The Need for cultural understanding

The impact of racism and stigma;

The impact of history in trauma and loss;

The recognition of human rights and social justice;



Aims and Objectives

NATSIWA aims to work to advocate for and empower the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Australia.

NATSIWA's aims and objectives are to:

- provide national leadership and recognition of the status and of the rights of Aboriginal and Strait Islander women
- protect and advance the wellbeing and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- secure economic, political, social, educational, cultural and environmental futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by working with governments, service providers, communities and other stakeholders.
- build strong relationships with government, industry and among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, based on mutual respect and equality.
- identify issues, research solutions and educate government service providers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to achieve the above purposes.
- be an international voice by advocating on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.



NATSIWA Board Meeting March 2019 in Sydney

NATSIWA Board & Staff 2018 - 2019

OUR Board of Directors



Susan Sewter
Chairperson
Queensland



Tanyah Nasir
Northern Territory



Christine Ross
Acting CEO/Director
Western Australia



Karin Williams
Director Victoria



Karen Parter
Director ACT



Anna Strzelecki Treasurer
South Australia



Bianca Templar
Secretary Tasmania



Bronwyn Penrith
New South Wales



Regina Turner
Torres Strait Islands



natsiwa

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Past Board Members 2018-2019

Ivy Trevallion- Torres Strait Islander

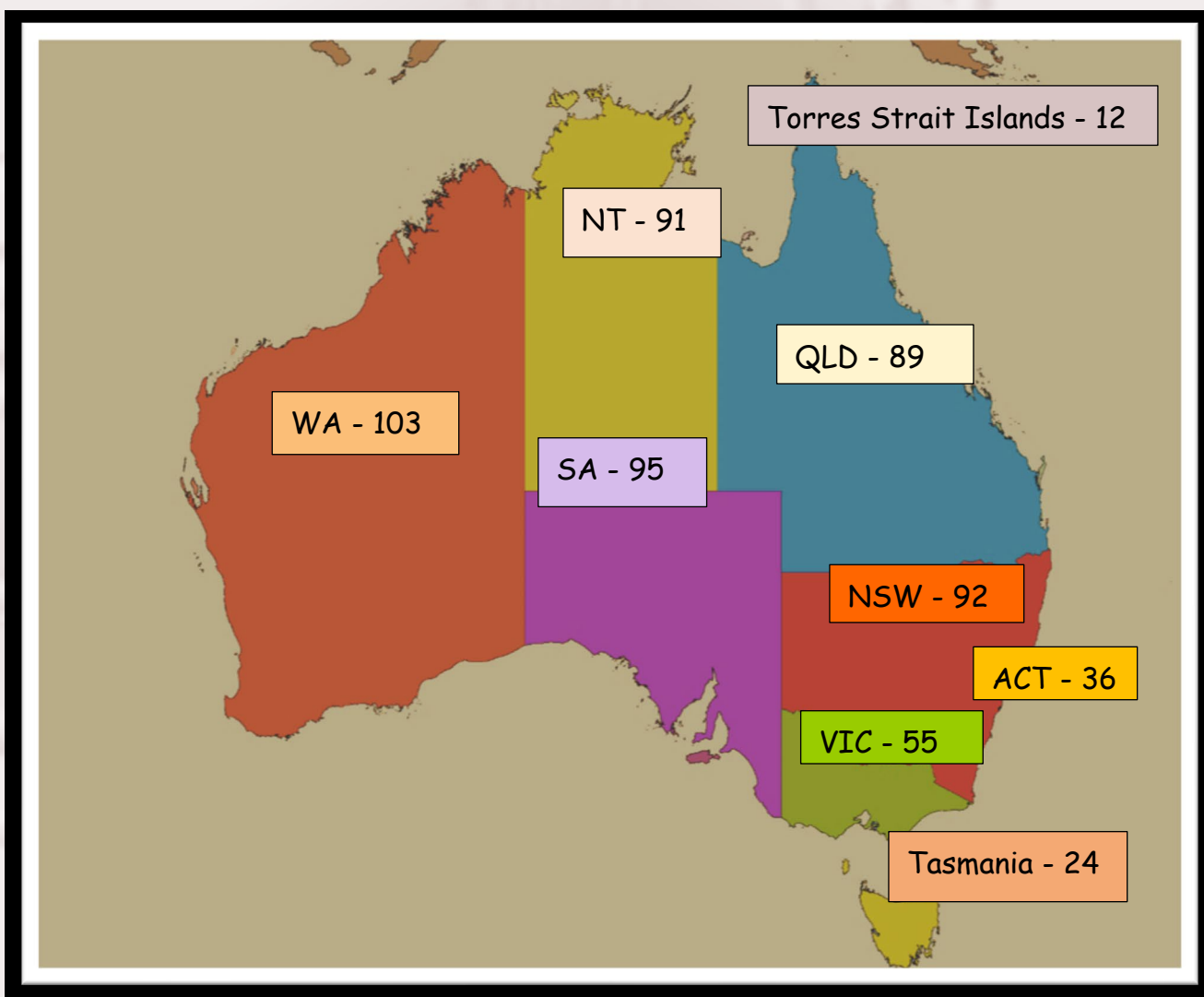
We wish to thank our past Board members for their dedication and commitment to NATSIWA. Not just for the current year but for years past as well.



Meeting with June Oscar - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

Members Profile:

Our Membership continues to grow.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women can become a member by Logging onto www.natsiwa.org.au. and fill in the online form or by contacting the CEO or Project Officer.

Patrons:

We thank our Patrons for their continued advocacy and support of the work NATSIWA continues to do.

Dr Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM



Jackie Huggins AM



Employees:

Sandra Creamer
CEO
July 2018- Current

Wendy Anders
Senior Project Officer -
August 2017-Current



Chairpersons Report - Susan Sewter

I am delighted as the chair for 2018/19 to have had the privilege of being in this position. It has been a very busy and eventful year, but before I get into the report on our activities, I would like to take the time to thank the Board members from each state for their unwavering support. Each Director brings a wealth of knowledge to the table, about the issues faced by the Women and Children in their State.

I wish to thank our Members for their continued support as they inform the work we do. Members issues become part of the review of our strategic plan, which will direct our future path.

We have made some changes to the Leadership Team in 2019. Our CEO Sandra Creamer has been approved to take extended leave without pay. The Board made the decision that the Deputy Chairperson and WA Director Christine Ross will be the Acting CEO on a full-time basis effective Monday 11 March 2019 to the end of October 2019. As per the corporation's Rule Book, Christine has stood down as a director of the corporation while she is Acting CEO. The Directors of NATSIWA have chosen to keep the WA Director's position vacant until the return of Ms Creamer from her leave, as is permitted under the corporation's Rule Book.

Over the year we have worked with many partners and organisations on a variety of projects, submissions and activities. Partnerships are crucial to bring to the fore the issues that need to be raised on a National, State and Community level. Having a collective voice allows us to be heard in unison and gives more power to the voice.

We have many projects that will decide future action that needs to be taken to address the many issues across our communities.

Below you will see that we have several very relevant activities planned to take us in 2020.

We carried out a survey of members regarding the issues they wanted raised and we have focused our Strategic plan and future activities around the issues expressed by our membership. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Survey.

NATSIWA continues to advocate on behalf of our women to represent the interests and the needs as identified in communities to government ministers, parliamentarians, and their advisors. We advocated on behalf of membership to enhance the National Domestic Violence Against Women Framework through consultations and attendance at forums.

The Board met in Sydney in late March 2019 to develop our Strategic Plan, this was a very rewarding and productive day. As we move forward, we at NATSIWA will endeavour to raise the issues that impact on our Members across the Nation.

We Continue to work closely with the Office of Women who fund the 6 Alliances. We met in March 2019 with Esther Bogart and Julie Lockyer, this was an extremely productive meeting as we were able to share feedback from our current Projects and future Projects for 2019/2020.

CEO Sandra Creamer being awarded an AM in the Queen's Birthday Honour List for 2019 for her amazing work in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Woman over many years. Thank you to everyone who posted beautiful congratulatory messages to Sandra, it is much appreciated.

Acting CEO Report - Christine Ross

I am happy to provide this CEO Report in what has been an extremely busy and rewarding 2019 for NATSIWA particularly as we increased our Membership across Australia with more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women joining and wanting to become active members. We had record turnouts at some of our NATSIWA Forums held around Australia and look forward to continuing this fabulous opportunity to meet our members in person and hear about some of the issues/ concerns and successes our women are facing in 2020.

I have personally enjoyed my tenure as the Acting CEO since March 2019 whilst Sandra Creamer was on LWOP, she will return to the role just before the AGM on Friday 15 November 2019.

We strengthened our working relationship with our funding body the Office of Women and held several face to face meetings throughout the year to look at the strategic direction of NATSIWA. I met with the new First Assistant Secretary PMC and Office of Women Catherine Hawkins who is very keen to support the work of NATSIWA and the other Alliances.

It was great to meet our new Minister for Women Senator Hon Marise Payne at a Roundtable in July 2019 with other key groups working to empower Women across Australia including the other Alliances. She is hoping this type of Forum will happen every year.

In 2019 we forged really strong and supportive bonds with the other 5 Women's Alliances as this is an imperative given we are all supporting women and there is a strong synergy with some of them particularly AWAVA, Harmony and National Rural Women's Coalition. We met with Victoria Tauli-Corpuz pictured below UN Special Rapportuer on Indigenous People and Dr Michelle Bachelet UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



I attended and Presented on NATSIWA at Forums organised by AWAVA, NRWC and Harmony so we now enjoy a collaborative relationship. NATSIWA ensures we have representation at the UN CSW Forums each year, so our voices are heard in the International arena.

Unfortunately, all of the Alliances are underfunded to do an important role in supporting our women and we have raised this with the Minister and Office of Women this year.

NATSIWA is able to seek funds from elsewhere to support some of our Activities and we have partnered with other Organisations, Alliances and will continue to do so.

Supporting our women across the board is incredibly important to NATSIWA and we were alarmed at the high number of tragic deaths of so many women killed in 2019 result by someone known to them. We have attended numerous Forums this year with a number of Stakeholders to look at ways we can attract more funding to support our women particularly with an increase in shelters/safe houses. Sandra Creamer and I participated in the Healing Foundations National Women's Knowledge Circle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men and Boys Violence Prevention Framework Development held 29 October 2019 in Brisbane. The purpose is to work collaboratively on violence prevention and positive behaviour change.

Sandra Creamer and I are both looking forward to working in partnership with the WA Interpreter Service and Aboriginal Family Law Service in WA to undertake a series of Workshops with Aboriginal women in the Kimberley WA in April 2020 in regards to a number of issues affecting them including understanding the court system better when providing evidence.

We have appreciated the opportunity to meet in person with June Oscar several times this year and eagerly await the release of her Report in 2020 from the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Consultations as there will be strong links in the Recommendations connected with the work NATSIWA undertakes.

In closing I am pleased to report NATSIWA is in a stable financial situation and we hope to increase our funds from outside sources in 2020.

I would like to thank our Chair and Board for your strong leadership as we continue to grow NATSIWA.

Thank you to our Staff particularly Wendy Anders our Senior Project Officer who constantly provides overwhelming support to me and the Board. Thank you to Kadie Aaskov our former Admin Officer and Jill Deakins our Bookkeeper for their support.

Activities July 2018 to June 2019

NATSIWA continues to work to enhance the skills Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have in telling their stories, identifying solutions, and advocating for powerful and long-lasting change. The strategic priorities of NATSIWA are:

Women's Leadership - To ensure and advocate for the principle of gender equality in governmental, social, cultural, economic, and political arenas to support and engender the meaningful participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in all facets of civil and political policy making that impacts them.

Human Rights - To protect, defend and advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in respect to all forms of violence.

Coalition Building - Develop strong and effective coalitions with all major stakeholders to achieve the above Strategic Priorities.

NATSIWA consults nationally with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women to build an evidence base to better inform, monitor and evaluate all policies that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women.

NATSIWA's advocacy role informs government thinking on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's issues.

Along with our regular monthly Board meetings the Board took the opportunity to meet in Sydney on 28/29 March 2019 to update our Strategic Plan As we have had a few new Directors join our Board in the last 12 months it was important to clarify with them the role of NATSIWA and our Vision for the future.

We were very proud of Karen Parter our ACT Director who represented NATSIWA at the Commission on the Status of Woman (CSW) at the United Nation in New York in March 2019. Karen noted her highlight was attending the International Indigenous Women Forum ((best known as Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indigenes (FIMI)) meeting. *'I felt truly empowered being in a room with a global network of strong Indigenous women who promote the vocalisation of Indigenous women leaders and human rights activists from different parts of the world. This is where the issues are highlighted, and agendas agreed to build capacities and develop leadership of women in their communities all over the world.*



We attended the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) Forum on 15-16 February 2019. As this Forum provided information for the Australian delegates attending CSW.



Our Acting CEO Christine Ross then met with Deanne Lightfoot CEO Aboriginal Interpreting WA and Corina Martin CEO Aboriginal Family Law Services WA to discuss working collaboratively on a Project for Aboriginal women in WA. This project will provide Aboriginal Women with information about attending court and the legal process. This project will commence in late 2019 and then will be rolled out at Different locations across Australia.

We continue to work closely with the 6 Women's Alliances in Australia that are funded by Office of Women through PMC. It was great to meet Catherine Hawkins First Assistant Secretary and her Team as they fund the Alliances. The meeting is always productive and builds strong relationships to Support Non-aboriginal organisations to work effectively with Aboriginal Women.



Members meetings.

We have held several members meetings around the country and attended and presented at many forums and conferences where we encourage new members to sign up, this can be done online at www.natsiwa.org.au. Or you can download the form and email to seniorprojects@natsiwa.org.au

Her are Just Few.

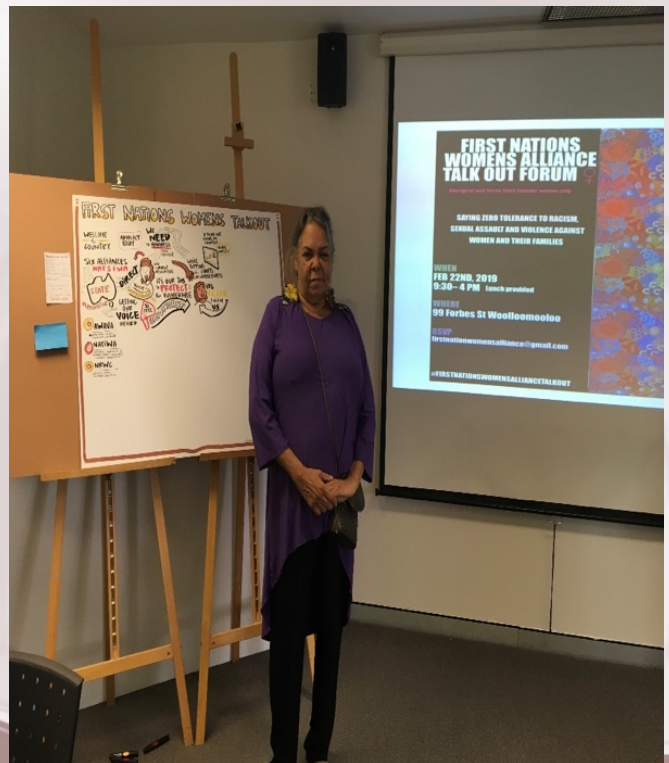
Norther Territory

Tanyah thanked the members who attended for an awesome first NATSIWA meeting in Darwin

- for your energy and happiness
- for your meaningful and respectful engagement
- for the rich and diverse conversations.
- And as discussed this is the first meeting of many.
- Ladies thank you for your time, commitment and passion.



Our NSW Director Bronwyn Penrith held a very successful members meeting.





Our ACT Director Karen Parter and Christine Ross met with Members in the ACT.

Future Activities 2019-2020

Priority 1: Increase Membership through communication.

KEY ACTIVITY 1. Undertake a range of activities to promote NATSIWA and engage members, including the development of a Comprehensive Communication Strategy.

Priority 2. Support Women's Leadership, including the development of an E- leadership Training Program.

KEY ACTIVITY 1. Develop and run series of E-leadership workshops for Members.

Priority 3: Reducing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls.

KEY ACTIVITY 1: Supporting and delivering information with Indigenous Interpreting services - focusing on engagement nationally, particularly Western Australia and Northern Territory.

KEY ACTIVITY 2: Working with AWAVA to develop a Domestic Violence Framework.

KEY ACTIVITY 3: Reducing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women - Domestic Violence Workshops - Pilot with TSI.

KEYACTIVITY 4: Wayi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices)

Priority 4: Working towards achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's equal place in society.

KEY ACTIVITY 1: Indigenous Leadership Forum - CEO and Board members and stakeholders Leadership Forum program.

Priority 5: Collaboration with NWAs

KEY ACTIVITY 1: Development of an International agenda.

KEY ACTIVITY 2: National Agenda for Women.

KEY ACTIVITY 3: Collaborate with NWAs on the development of an MOU to inform engagement and establish clear roles and responsibilities.

Priority 6: Emerging Issues

KEY ACTIVITY 1: Monitor and respond to emerging issues.

These activities are in-line with our Strategic plan and will be implemented over 2019/20.

We continue to address issues such as time and resources, so sometimes it takes a while to organise these activities, which at times means we have to delay the implementation. Funding is always an issue with a very limited budget, but we always manage to achieve our goals.

Thank you to our members for your continued support.

Financial Statements 2018-19

Name of Service - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance

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