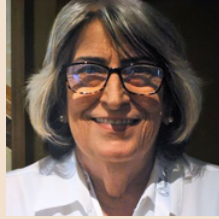


## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2025



Dear NATSIWA Members,  
Werte (hallo).

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2025, this year is already flying by, and we are really excited about what the year holds for us, and the work we do. I hope you had a very happy and relaxing holiday season.

As you are aware we held elections last September where we had three states up for election TAS, VIC, and NT. We have welcomed three new Directors to the NATSWA board.

We also had a change of leadership with our previous chairperson Joslyn stepping down and our NSW Director Sarah taking up the position, we have also had changes to our Deputy Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer positions, I would like to thank Karen, Sarah, and Aunty Pat, for the great work whilst they held these positions.

Read on and meet our board.

We said goodbye to our Senior Project Officer, Carly in early Jan. We wish Carly all the best with her new endeavours. We will soon be advertising the position so keep your eyes out, it may be just what you are looking for.

We are excited to be once again partnering with The Hatchery to host the First Nations Women in Leadership Summit.

Last year's summit was absolutely incredible with over 200 Aboriginal women in the room. We hope that you can join us in Meanjin (Brisbane) on the 7th to 8th of May.

Having received funding in December for the next 5 years, the staff and Board met in Naarm (Melbourne) to review our strategic plan, it's always great when the Board can meet in person, as most of our meetings are online. We are looking forward to holding members' meeting throughout the year in different locations across the continent.

Last year we held members' dinners in Tarntanya (Adelaide), Garramilla (Darwin), and Kanamuluka (Launceston) to name a few. I look forward to holding many more throughout 2025 and hope you may be able to attend, so keep an eye on your emails from NATSIWA.

We are always looking for items for our newsletter so if you have any events or happenings, you would like our membership to know about please forward them to Mia, at [analyst@natsiwa.org.au](mailto:analyst@natsiwa.org.au).

Until next time, urreke arrityenenge and thank you for being a part of NATSIWA.



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## MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON SARAH CORRIGAN



Yaama,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the Chair of NATSIWA Board for 2025. Firstly I thank our outgoing Chair and Deputy Chair for their ongoing dedication and commitment to NATSIWA.

I am a proud Darkinjung woman with family ties to Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi and a mother of two sons living and working on beautiful Awabakal and Worimi Country (Newcastle/Port Stephens).

As the Chair of NATSIWA I am committed to ensuring our Board, through good governance and member consultation, can strongly and effectively advocate for the changes and solutions wanted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children at state, national and international levels.

NATSIWA has a full board of strong, deadly women with a range of cultural, community and professional skills, knowledge, experience and expertise and lots of passion for our women.

Our board is committed to prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values and ways of working to ensure recommendations from NATSIWA are holistic, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and are place (community) based.

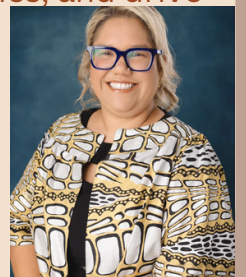
I am excited to shape and lead the direction of NATSIWA with our CEO, Board and membership and excited to see where 2025 takes NATSIWA.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome some new faces to our Board.

### NICOLE BROWN NORTHERN TERRITORY DIRECTOR

Nicole Brown is a distinguished Indigenous leader, strategist, and advocate dedicated to empowering women, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, in business, leadership, and community development. With expertise in corporate strategy, communications, and Indigenous affairs, she leverages her influence to amplify women's voices, create opportunities, and drive systemic change.



## DELIA SUMMERS TASMANIA DIRECTOR

I am a proud pakana saltwater woman born on truwana (Cape Barren Island). And part of the Stolen Generation. I am the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer at the local hospital supporting the wellbeing of Aboriginal women, young people, children and community, advocating and ensuring they are provided with culturally appropriate services.

I am a cultural knowledge holder and practice my culture through my arts, sharing with community women and young girls.



## SHANTELE THOMPSON VICTORIAN DIRECTOR

I am Shantelle Thompson OAM, a proud Barkindji/Ngiyampaa woman known as the Barkindji Warrior, Warrior Heart. I am a mother of five, a black belt and world champion in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and a Dream-weaver—walking the path of reclamation, sovereignty, and leadership

Now, as the Victoria Director and Deputy Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA), I step into a role that aligns with my Dreaming—to be a protector, advocate, and voice for our Tiddas.



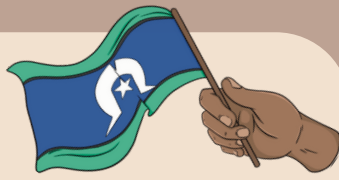
## UPCOMING SIGNIFICANT DATES AND EVENTS

Some significant events are approaching, and we would love to hear about what you are doing or have done in your local communities.

Email through or tag us on facebook and instagram.

- International Women's Day on 8th of March – Accelerate Action.
- Harmony Day/International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. 21st of March - This year's theme is 'Harmony: We All Have A Role To Play!'
- National Close the Gap Day 21st of March - A Day focused on achieving Indigenous health equality.
- National Sorry Day 26th of May
- National Reconciliation Week 27th of May - 3rd of June Including:
  - 27th of May - Anniversary of 1967 Referendum
  - 28th of May - Anniversary of the 2000 Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk for Reconciliation
  - 29th of May - Anniversary of the Torres Strait Islander Flag
  - 3rd of June - Mabo Day. The theme for this year's NRW is 'Bridging Now to Next'.





# SURVIVAL DAY INVASION DAY DAY OF MOURNING

We acknowledge that this time of year can be hard for mob, and we hope you took this day connecting with Community and Country, in whatever capacity was possible for you.

Our Comms officer Mia, spent this Invasion Day at the rally in Naarm. Joined by tens of thousands of people the power of community was powerful. We heard from a range of activists, community leaders and elders such as Uncle Robbie Thorpe. Afterwards she joined the flow of mob to Share the Spirit, a beautiful community event, where the power of our survival felt tangible.



# CONGRATS TO DR IVY TREVALLION



Congratulations to Dr Ivy Trevallion for receiving an Achievement Award at this years Torres Shire Australia Day Awards Ceremony.

Dr Ivy Trevallion was a previous Board Member and long time member of NATSIWA.

She is a distinguished social worker and community leader, who has been honoured with an Honorary Doctorate from UQ for over 30 years of advocacy for Indigenous rights and wellbeing. As one of UQ's first Torres Strait Islander graduates in 1986, she played a key role in passing the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Act 2020, Australia's first legal recognition of a traditional custom.

We are proud of Ivy's dedication to fostering unity and empowerment in her community.



## STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING IN NAARM



During January, our Board Members and CEO met on Wurundjeri Country at the Koori Heritage Trust. We were lucky to be welcomed by Wurundjeri Elder Perry Wandine. The Strategic Planning Meeting was an incredible opportunity to re-envision our priorities for NATSIWA. As well as introduce and get to know our new board members better.

After the two busy days, we stepped away feeling strong in our ambitions to keep advocating for our women and children, through keeping our priorities strong in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being.

## BREAKFAST AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Our CEO Wendy, spent Wednesday at Parliament House, representing NATSIWA, at the 2025 UN Women Australia International Women's Day Parliamentary Breakfast, co-hosted by the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia and the Leader of the Opposition and other ministers.



## NATSIWA X THE HATCHERY

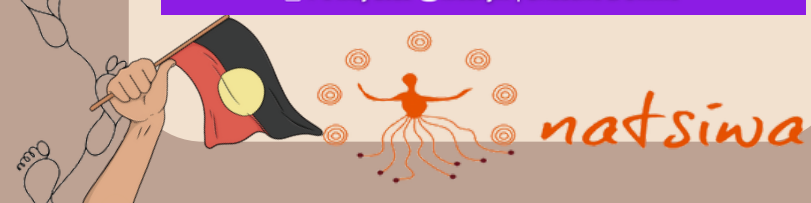
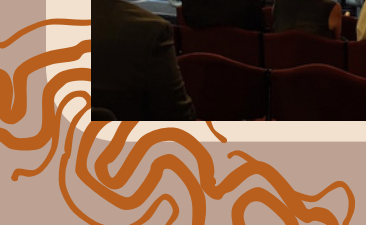
At NATSIWA, we are proud to once again collaborate with The Hatchery on the 2nd First Nations Women in Leadership Summit, a powerful gathering designed to celebrate, uplift, and empower First Nations women in leadership.

This year's summit, held on 7-8 May 2025 in Meanjin, Brisbane & online, will bring together trailblazing leaders to share their stories, wisdom, and insights.

Attendees will hear from Courtney Fewquandie, Donna Murray, Wendy Anders, Professor Odette Best, and many more, as they explore the strength, resilience, and leadership of First Nations women across generations.

With a focus on storytelling, connection, and transformative leadership, this summit is your opportunity to learn from and connect with a powerful community of leaders who are shaping the future.

As a valued part of the NATSIWA community, we invite you to join us with a special offering: use code NATSIWA when registering & save. Download the event program here: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/natsiwa8554>



# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM ON AWABAKAL COUNTRY

## OUR CONNECTION TO THE MOTHER TREES IN THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS

THIS IS A COLLECTIVE STORYLINE OF OVER 50 WOMEN, CHILDREN AND MEN FROM OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND AS FAR AS GADIGAL, DHARUG, YUIN, BUNDJALUNG & NOOGAR NATIONS. WE STAND WITH OUR ALLIES IN STRENGTH AND UNITY.

EACH TREE TELLS A STORY AND HOLDS THE MAGIC OF OUR HEALING, WHILST HONOURING OUR PAIN. WE INVITE YOU TO CONNECT THROUGH YOUR HEART AS YOU ABSORB THE SYMBOLISM ON EACH TREE.

WE GATHER AS ONE CREATIVE SPIRIT IN CELEBRATION OF OUR CONNECTIONS TO COUNTRY, OUR ELDERS, OUR YOUNG ONES, OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND TO OURSELVES.

WE STAND FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR WOMEN WHO HOLD STRENGTH IN UNITY AND BELONGING. OUR ENERGIES REMAIN DEEPLY CONNECTED THROUGH OUR TRADITIONS AS A Matriarchal Society. OUR WOMEN ARE THE NURTURERS OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

\*We acknowledge the Awabakal people and all the clans of this land. We acknowledge the neighbouring clans from Worimi, Wonnarua and Darkinjung Countries. We pay respect to all the Elders - past, present, emerging and infinitely into the future. We acknowledge that Aboriginal people have cared for this land and waterways for thousands of generations and give thanks to those who continue to do so.

We acknowledge the hurt caused by stolen land, colonisation and intergenerational layers of cultural dispossession.

We acknowledge our responsibility within the community to uphold and honour healing: to provide a place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to feel safe and respected...

We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded- beneath the concrete, the roads, buildings this always was and always will be sacred Aboriginal land.

Ngayin bangayi Awabakal-a barayi-dha ngayin Ngayin ngarrakal yalawa-a, yalawa-n, yalawa-nan.



## OUR HOMES

This tree represents our homes and community. We have safe homes and healed homes. We have homes where healing has begun. We have unhealed and unsafe homes. Some homes are entangled with perpetrators who weave themselves into our life. Our mob gather around us, sharing healing and pain. Outside of community are people in power who should help. There are services and systems - some supportive, whilst others are damaging.



This tree honours the strength and agency women have to protect their children. We acknowledge all the ways women shelter their children in times of immense adversity and fear.

How we, as a society respond to domestic and family violence now, will determine the future of our next generation.

## Embarking on the Reconciliation Journey

At its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

Reconciliation is an ongoing journey that reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, we must apply more effort everyday to ensure there's lasting change in future generations to come.

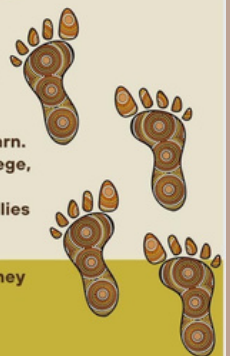
(reconciliation.org.au)



## ALLIES

This tree is decorated by the allies who show continuous respect towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Allies take time to listen and learn. They understand their position of privilege, whilst acknowledging the historic and contemporary contexts of inequality. Allies support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in diverse ways, everyday and call out injustices when they encounter them.

(yarn.com.au)



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## TWO YEARS OF PAID DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE LEAVE



The 1st of February marks two years since the Labor Government introduced paid family and domestic violence leave.

This legislation ensures that all 12.4 million workers in Australia – including casuals – received a minimum legislated entitlement of up to 10 days of paid leave each year.

This was an important act, which helps mitigate the financial barriers of leaving violent situations.

An independent review of this policy, showed that of the victim-survivors who had taken paid family and domestic violence leave, 91 per cent surveyed said it helped them maintain their income, and 89 per cent said it helped them to retain their employment. 41 per cent of victim-survivors using the leave to arrange for their safety, 43 per cent to arrange for their children's safety, 39 per cent to access police services, 22 per cent to access medical services, and 24 per cent to access legal services.

This is a critical step in the Labor Government's priority to end gender-based violence in one generation.

We will keep advocating for more initiatives like this.

## DEADLY EVENTS

The Women's Climate Congress (WCC) invites women of Australia, in all our diversity, to come together with other women to explore how women are leading a national and international paradigm shift to promote more rapid action on climate change based on compassion, kindness, and care for all life on Earth. Buy tickets [here](#).



The Conference marks ten years since the first Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) event hosted by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), where attendees discussed the implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) for data. The GIDSov Conference 2025 will bring together Indigenous Peoples from across the globe to reflect on the advances in IDSov and Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov), map future pathways and aspirations for the next decade.



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### ROBERT DANN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Up to \$1,000 will be awarded to ten successful applicants!

#### Eligibility

- Studying an identified Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker or Health Practitioner course (a full list of courses is provided in the guidelines).
- A Full Member or Student Member
- If you aren't a member but qualify, please sign up [here](#) before submitting your scholarship application.

**FIND OUT MORE [HERE](#)**

### 2025 ANZMHA STUDY GRANT

The Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association is offering three mental health study grants worth \$5,000 to students enrolling (or already enrolled) in a course leading to a mental health qualification (Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree). Applications close on Wednesday 26 February 2025

**Find out more [HERE](#)**

## GRANTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### 2025 NAIDOC Local Grants

**Opportunity** - This grant provides funding to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations to contribute to the costs of local and regional NAIDOC activities across Australia that align with the 2025 theme, The next generation: strength, vision and legacy.

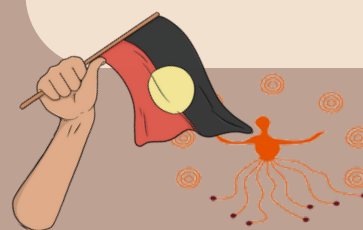
Application close on Thursday 20 February 2025

**Find out more [HERE](#)**

### PATHWAYS TO POLITICS FOR WOMEN TRAINING NATIONAL

This program provides practical training for women from all backgrounds who want to drive change through political leadership. Participation is fully funded. The program prioritises creating a culturally safe and inclusive environment where First Nations women and women from diverse political, cultural and professional backgrounds can thrive, share their unique perspectives, and build their political know-how. Registration and further information:

**[CLICK HERE](#)**



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## GREAT IDEAS GRANTS ARE OPEN

Providing grants of up to \$2,500 to support women, girls and non-binary people in the ACT and surrounding regions.

Since 2010, have helped over 95 individuals and organisations fund grassroots organisations.

Find out more [here](#)



## SOME AMAZING SUPPORT SERVICES

If you're living with diabetes, the National Diabetes Services Scheme can provide access to free services, support and cheaper products. All of which can really help you look after your diabetes in between appointments with your doctor, health worker or practitioner. It helps you be healthier, be able to confidently manage your diabetes, and really be supported. Learn more here: <https://www.ndss.com.au/about-diabetes/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/>

## MANY RIVERS

Many Rivers supports Indigenous and financially disadvantaged people to achieve their business and economic goals.

Their service is FREE for eligible clients and there is no limit on the length of time the business coaching journey takes, providing there is active and intentional growth from the client.

Find out more [here](#)

## NATSIWA ADVISORY GROUPS

We are looking for expressions of interest from our members who would like to be part of our advisory groups.

Youth 18 to 30. This group will provide advice and lived experience on issues affecting Aboriginal girls. General advisory group 31 to 50 This group will provide advice and lived experience on issues impacting on Aboriginal women. Elders and respected persons 51+

This group will provide advice and information on issues impacting older Aboriginal women. We strongly encourage LGBTIQ+ people and Women with disabilities to apply. Each group will have 10 members and be supported by our staff.

You do not need "professional" experience, as you already have understanding of the issues impacting our people from the lived experience of being part of your community. If you are interested or would like more information, please email [ceo@natsiwa.org.au](mailto:ceo@natsiwa.org.au).



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**NEED SUPPORT?**



**QLife: 1800 184 527**

QLife provides anonymous and free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral for people in Australia wanting to talk about sexuality, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships.



**Rainbow Sexual, Domestic & Family Violence Helpline: 1800 497 212**

Professional trauma counselling for anyone in Australia who are from LGBTQ+ communities who have recently or in the past experienced sexual, domestic or family violence



**Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1800 880 052**

A free, independent and confidential service for reporting abuse and neglect of people with disability.



**13 YARN: 13 92 76**

24/7 support for First Nations people



**1800 RESPECT: 1800737732**

The national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

