



Happy New Year and welcome to our first Newsletter of 2024. I trust that you all had a great holiday break and managed to take some time to relax and recharge for the year ahead.

NATSIWA is planning a big year, and we look forward to our members been part of the work we do.

CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

The National Women's Alliances have been asked to address the issues raised. NATSIWA is preparing a consultation paper to assist with our report to the Office of Women on the list of issues raised. We will be seeking members feedback in early February, if you would like to be involved, please get in touch at ceo@natsiwa.org.au.

To view the list of issues, click on this link.

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FAUS%2FQPR%2F9&Lang=en

First Nations Women in Leadership Summit 2024

We are delighted to announce that we are partnering with the Hatchery to hold the First Nation Women In Leadership Summit in Meanjin (Brisbane). You can attend in person or online.

Please find the event brochure attached and the link to the event website [here](#) for full details on the event.

We look forward to seeing and connecting with our members.

We also will be hosting members meeting in different locations around Australia, to engage with our members, so keep your eye on your emails as we would really like you to attend and get to know more about NATSIWA and meet the Director that is representing your state on the NATSIWA Board.

Check out our website and follow us on Facebook.

www.natsiwa.org.au



A message from our chairperson – Joslyn Eades-Tass

As we welcome in another year in 2024, I would like to share some of the exciting news of NATSIWA's commitment to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander across the nation.

We have recently completed an Expressions of Interest process to bringing on board two more Directors to NATSIWA for Queensland and the Northern Territory. A priority for both our CEO and Chairperson will be a planned visit with a series of community meetings



across Tasmania to promote and build on current membership. Our current board of directors consist of:

1. WA – Ms Joslyn Eades-Tass, Chairperson
2. ACT – Ms Karen Parter – Deputy Chairperson
3. NSW – Ms Sarah Corrigan – Treasurer
4. SA – Aunty Patricia Waria-Read – Secretary
5. VIC – Ms Nicole Atkinson
6. TSI – Ms Julia Yorkston
7. QLD – Ms Vena Beetson
8. NT – Ms Mara Prior
9. TAS – Currently Vacant

Our funders, the Office of Women annually sponsors up to two opportunities for our NATSIWA participation at this year's 68th Commission for Status of Women (CSW68). I have been successful in my application for 2024 and will be travelling to New York as a Civil Society Delegate. I have participated in a series of meetings and information sessions to date with a few more to come. I am focusing on three of our topic issues identified throughout our NATSIWA organisation that will be my focus during this experience and do intend to provide you all with a summary of my report upon my return.

A few exciting partnerships and collaborative commitments of our CEO and Board is ensuring that NATSIWA is present in the many spaces to be a voice for our women. If there is a particular space of interest that you would like to recommend, we are more than happy to consider, please reach out to our CEO.

Items of Interest:

Keeping up with the rising cost of living – Tuesday 27th February – 1pm (AEDT)

The rising cost of living is affecting many Australians and to some extent is largely beyond our control. This webinar delves into some of the simple actions we can take to become more mindful and in control of how we consume and

spend our money to help keep up with the rising cost of living.

Join via Zoom: [Keeping up with the rising cost of living](#)

For more information, please contact.

[Westpac Indigenous Business | Westpac](#)

Email: Indigenousbusiness@westpac.com.au

Or Visit [Help for your business | Westpac](#) and [Indigenous Hub | Westpac](#) |

Inquiry into Justice response to Sexual violence

This morning the Attorney-General signalled the commencement of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry into justice responses to sexual violence with the announcement of the co-commissioners, the Hon Marcia Neave AO and Her Honour Judge Liesl Kudelka.

The Terms of Reference for this inquiry were informed by the Ministerial Roundtable NATSIWA attended.

To read more: <https://ministers.ag.gov.au/media-centre/australian-law-reform-commission-inquire-justice-responses-sexual-violence-23-01-2024>

Earn \$60 and influence Australian gender policy!

Young Women's Policy Submission (YWPS) is seeking young women (ages 18-28) to complete a 45-minute interview about how gender affects their life and what policy changes they would like to see in Australia.

The questions include things like how being a woman affects your day-to-day; what problems you and your friends encounter; and what your wish-list to the





Australian government would include.

The interviews will be part of a policy submission to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, aimed at making Australia a better and safer place for women.

Everyone who participates receives \$60 and goes into a draw to win \$5, 000.

To note your interest in participating, please fill out the form (its simple & takes only 2 minutes): <https://forms.gle/VsGEYbsxi1Xp1kSm7>

The team behind YWPS (all young women) would be really grateful for your participation :)

International Women's Day – March 8th

The Theme for 2024 is “Inspire Inclusion”

For International Women's Day 2024 and beyond, let's **Inspire Inclusion**. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

The aim of the IWD 2024 **#InspireInclusion** campaign is to collectively forge a more inclusive world for women.

If you are planning an event let people know, go to <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Dates to remember.

21 February – International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goals' focus on leaving no one behind. UNESCO believes education, based on the first language or mother tongue, must begin from the early years as early childhood care and education is the foundation of learning.

The threat of language loss poses a serious risk to Australia's cultural inheritance, and to the wellbeing of many First Nations people. In Australia, there are estimated to be 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, but only around 120 are still spoken. Of these languages approximately 90 per cent are endangered.

Australians can take action to improve the preservation, promotion and learning of First Nations languages across Australia. As a nation we can work towards an Australia where First Languages are respected nationally and spoken by community members across our country.

This year's observance is a call on policymakers, educators and teachers, parents and families to scale up their commitment to multilingual education, and inclusion in education to advance education recovery in the context of COVID-19. This effort also contributes to the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), for which UNESCO is the lead agency, and which places multilingualism at the heart of indigenous peoples' development.

Source:

<https://www.commonground.org.au/article/2019-the-year-of-indigenous->

<http://www.un.org/en/observances/mother-language-day>





21 March – National Close the Gap Day

In 2006, more than 40 national organisations came together to form Close the Gap - Australia's largest ever campaign to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Every year, Australians are encouraged to hold their own event on National Close the Gap Day to raise awareness about the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Since 2006, the Close the Gap campaign has achieved an enormous amount through community support. For more information visit [Oxfam](#).

20 – 26 March – Harmony Week

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, people can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. For more information visit [Harmony Day](#)

If you would like to share any items of interest or events happening in your community, we would be very pleased to share in our newsletter. Just send to ceo@natsiwa.org.au.

