



Dear Members,

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2024.

The year has proven to be a busy one so far and does not look like it is going to slow down. We have lots of interesting things to share so grab a cuppa and enjoy having read.

Activities

The NATSIWA Board and Staff met in Canberra on 8th March to finalise our Strategic Plan for the next 5 years. It was a fantastic opportunity to discuss the future of NATSIWA and to set the priorities for the year. We are keen to do more member meetings around the country and will be taking a trip to Tasmania soon. So, keep an eye on your emails as we will let you know when and where we will be.

Whilst in Canberra we took the opportunity to meet with members from the Office of Women to discuss our funding and other matters. NATSIWA is funded through PMC.





Whilst in Canberra we celebrated International Women's Day by partnering with Sisters in Spirit to host an International Women's Day Lunch.

It was a great to meet up with some of our members and to join other like-minded women to celebrate the IWD theme 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress', "When we inspire others and value women's inclusion, when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment.

A big thanks to Rachelle Kelly-Church CEO and Tracy Harris Chairperson for hosting us.

discrimination". The member-based organisation has been established under a model of community control and will be governed by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander board of directors. The four founding Directors are Diane Collins, Rachelle Kelly-Church, Patrice Soward and Tracey Harris. Sisters in Spirit is a "space for women to share, to grow, to heal, to acknowledge and to be".



Sisters in Spirit objectives are "to affirm the human rights of Aboriginal women in the ACT and surrounds, including the right to maintain our own institutions, to self-determination, and for protection against violence and

Wiyi Yani U Thangani

I was invited to attend the Launch of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations gender justice in Canberra on the 19th of March.





June Oscar AO, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner has launched a dedicated Institute to elevate the voices and solutions of First Nations women and girls – the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations gender justice.

The Australian-first Institute, housed at the Australian National University (ANU) on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country, ensures the continuation of Commissioner Oscar's ground-breaking systemic change 'Women's Voices' project.

The Institute takes a First Nations gender lens to pivotal issues ranging from housing and education to environmental conservation and economic engagement.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar AO said: "The Institute is the first of its kind in Australia. No other dedicated space like this exists for First Nations women and girls and gender diverse mob, where they determine the collaborations and the research approaches, on their own terms."

The Institute and [Wiyi Yani U Thangani Change Agenda](#), are a combined 'Blakprint' for transformation, showing how change on the ground has the potential to guide national and international agendas.





Whilst attending the Launch, I had the pleasure of running into a previous NSW Director Bronwyn Penrith. It always nice to catch up and have a chat with ex Board members and members.



CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

NATSIWA is currently working with the Office for Women and the other Women's Alliances on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Shadow Report 2024 that Australia will send to the United Nations.

We would like to hear your opinions and experiences on 15 issues impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Girls. Your information is important to the report.

NATSIWA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NATSIWA - CEDAW Discussion
Time: Mar 28, 2024 02:30 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6846910490?omn=83472869290>

Or email ceo@natsiwa.org.au

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. We hope you can join us.

Download the Brochure: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/8410-brochure-natsiwa>

Members of NATSIWA can get a \$200 discount, which you can use when registering.

Register for the Summit: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/8410-rego-natsiwa>

Discount Code: 'NATSIWA' for \$200 off (the current advertised price)

We look forward to seeing you there.





NATSIWA Chairperson Update...

Our Chairperson Joslyn has just returned from attending the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, that took place from 11 - 22 March under the priority theme, "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective".

We will add a report from Jos in our next newsletter as she literally has just got home and we felt that she needed time catch up with her family and to get over the JET lag from such a long trip. Here are a few photos Joslyn sent.





Items of Interest

National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality

The Australian Government's *Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality* was launched by the Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher on 7 March 2024.

This Strategy outlines the Australian Government's vision for gender equality – an Australia where people are safe, treated with respect, have choices, and have access to resources and equal outcomes no matter their gender.

It sets out a path to make progress towards this vision over the next 10 years, with a focus on five priority areas:

1. gender-based violence
2. unpaid and paid care
3. economic equality and security
4. health
5. leadership, representation and decision-making.

It outlines the need for everyone to work together to shift the attitudes and stereotypes that drive gender inequality.

The Strategy is the centrepiece of the Government's gender equality policy. It clearly sets out Government's priorities and current actions for gender equality and articulates future areas for effort.

The Strategy acknowledges that gender equality can't be achieved by Government alone. Every institution, organisation, community and

individuals have a role to play. This Strategy is a call to action for every part of the community. It outlines practical actions everyone can take to help achieve gender equality in Australia.

The Strategy is informed by the lived experience, knowledge and expertise of thousands of individuals and groups from across Australia, including women's advocacy groups, businesses, unions, and civil society.

Visit [Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality](#) to read and download a copy.

BUSY at Work



WOMEN IN TRADES - REDEFINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

At BUSY At Work, we are dedicated to supporting women in trade careers and strive to empower them to achieve success in fields where they are traditionally underrepresented.

By starting your apprenticeship with BUSY, we will help you every step of the way by providing support that's right for you. When you choose BUSY, you gain access to a range of benefits and career-enhancing opportunities.





FREE Career Mentoring: Our dedicated team of specialised women in trades officers is here to guide you. Benefit from personalised career mentoring tailored to your unique aspirations.

Comprehensive Pastoral Care: Throughout your apprenticeship, enjoy the assurance of free pastoral care mentoring. Our team, comprising women with firsthand experience, is committed to supporting you as you navigate the challenges and triumphs of your new career.

Expert Matching: We understand the importance of the right employer match. Let us assist you in finding the perfect fit, ensuring a smooth and fulfilling apprenticeship experience.

Tailored Support in Male-Dominated Industries: Excel in traditionally male-dominated industries with our tailored support programs and inclusive networks. You're not just joining an apprenticeship; you're becoming part of a community that values and celebrates your success.

<https://www.busyatwork.com.au/>

Brisbane Domestic and Family Violence Forum.

The 2024 event will be held on **Thursday 9 May at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre** and aims to increase knowledge and connections with services across the Brisbane region. These relationships are important to enhance the safety of women, children and communities.

The overall outcome of the event is to build capacity of the community and the community services workforce to provide referrals, support recovery, and engage in domestic and family violence prevention.

To remain up to date with the DFV Forum head to our [website](#). There is a link to register here, too.



YWCA has just opened applications for our Board Traineeship program for 2024. The program offers young women and gender diverse people the opportunity to join the Board of YWCA Australia as an observer and participate in discussions and governance activities, without the duties and responsibilities that apply to Director positions. The program runs for a 12-month period, commencing on 1 July 2024 and concluding on 30 June 2025.



Here is a link to the [program page on our website](#), and I've attached a zip file with social images and some copy to use 😊

1800RESPECT

1800RESPECT is currently looking at ways to continually improve the service.

They are currently undertaking work to make sure the service is more accessible for First Nations communities. This survey aims to inform part of their approach to becoming more culturally safe.

The survey should take between 5-8 minutes.

Please take the time to provide feedback through [Front Line Practitioners Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

If you would like to connect further around service recommendations please email 1800RESPECTenquiries@health.telstra.com or email me back directly.

Please share with your networks

Organisations of Interest.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL EDUCATION
AND TRAINING

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (WAAETCC)

The primary purpose of WAAETCC is to provide an independent community-controlled organization that is a collective representative voice on education and training matters for First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)

people of cultural and language groups who reside across

regions of Western Australia in metropolitan, urban, regional and remote locations.

The key aims of WAAETCC are to:

1. Empower First Nations families and communities to be involved in education and training matters across the across all three school systems – Government, Catholic and Independent Schools, and TAFE colleges and institutes.
2. Improve attendance and equitable educational opportunities for First Nations students.
3. Assist the achievement of successful education outcomes for First Nations students.
4. Promote and support First Nations employment at all levels in education and training.
5. Participate on State advisory groups, committees and reference groups to ensure Closing the Gap outcomes for First Nations education and training are achieved.

Generally known as Indigenous Education Consultative Boards (IECBs), WAAETCC is one of four consultative groups across Australia namely New South Wales Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (NSW AECG), Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI), South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Group (SAAETCC). The Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, and Tasmania are working towards establishing an IECB. A peak body, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



Education Corporation (NATSIEC) has been established as a representative body for Aboriginal Education and Training matters at a national level.

Isabelle Adams Chairperson - WA Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Group

Protect yourself and your community from scammers.

Be aware of what you share and stay safe from scammers. Don't share any personal information such as your Tax File Number (TFN), bank account details or passwords with anyone.

Remember:

1. **Stop** – don't give money or personal information to anyone if you're unsure.
2. **Think** – ask yourself could the message or call be fake?
3. **Protect** – act quickly if something feels wrong.

Learn how to keep your personal information safe and what to do if you've been targeted by a scam on the ATO website at ato.gov.au/Scams.

You can also find more tax and super information on the ATO website at ato.gov.au/Indigenous

In The News

1. [Victims of crime feel "silenced and sidelined" from the moment they speak to police through to when the courts finalise their case,](#) with a landmark Victorian inquiry calling for sexual assault survivors in particular to have legal representation.

2. Western Australia has become the second state to be subject to an [Australian Human Rights Commission complaint for the discriminatory removal of First Nations children from their families.](#)
3. [The Inaugural NSW Women's Safety Commissioner Strategic Plan,](#) Working together to address domestic, family and sexual violence, has been released, providing a roadmap for the Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner's activities between 2024 and 2027.
4. UniSA has published [National Review into Work Conditions & Discrimination among Pregnant & Parent Workers in Australia](#)

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing Easter break.

If you have anything you would like us to share or an event in your community, or want to highlight your organisation, send through the information and we would be happy to add to our next newsletter.

