



Dear NATSIWA Members

Welcome to our Newsletter #3

We have certainly had a huge start to May. The tragic deaths of so many women, has finally galvanised a whole of Australia response. Enough is enough. Rallies have been held across Australia with a very clear message that things have got to change.

Women in Australia need to be able to live safe and free, it is our Human Right, yet so many are unable to exercise that right. The rate at which men are allegedly killing women in Australia has risen significantly higher in 2024 than in recent years. The deaths of at least [26 women in the first 114 days of 2024](#) is equivalent to one every 4.38 days, these figures are horrendous.

Whilst the Prime Minister has announced nearly \$1 billion to help women escape violent relationship, with \$920 million been allocated to the Leaving Violence Program over the next five years. It will allow victim-survivors to access up to \$5,000 in cash, services and support. It is a start as any funding is welcomed, it is not the only solution, there needs to be much more done. Changes to legislation in terms of Parole violation, providing victim-survivors with alternative reporting options, as well as establishing a specialist court that deals with domestic, family and sexual violence, having trauma-informed judges and lawyers specialising in domestic, family and sexual violence. The list goes on, we need to continue to keep the pressure on State and Federal governments to step up and support change.

We are becoming more and more excited about our very first Leadership Summit on 22/23 May in Meanjin (Brisbane). It seems like just yesterday we were talking and planning and now it is almost here. I hope that you can join us, it would be great to be able to catch up with some of our members. For more information we have attached the brochure **Download the Brochure:** <https://go.the-hatchery.co/8410-brochure-natsiwa> **Register for the Summit:** <https://go.the-hatchery.co/8410-rego-natsiwa> **Discount Code:** 'NATSIWA' for \$200 off (the current advertised price).

We are in the process writing several submissions and as always, really value your input, and knowledge. If you would like to get involved an contribute to any of the Submissions, please reach out.

1. ALRC inquiry into justice responses to sexual violence in Australia.

2. Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs - Inquiry into economic self-determination and opportunities for First Nations Australians.
3. Victorian Legislative Assembly's Legal and Social Issues Committee [Inquiry into the mechanisms for capturing data on the profile and volume of perpetrators of family violence in Victoria and barriers to achieving a full understanding of this cohort.](#)

Please remember to be good to one another, reach out and check that family and friends are Ok. Women in unsafe situations, won't or can't reach out so we need to reach out to them. If you or someone you know is experiencing FADV please call one of the services listed below.

Until next time.

Message from our chairperson Joslyn Eades- Tass

I respectfully acknowledge that our nation is constantly in mourning and impacted and challenged by the many systems and processes that support and at times appear to hinder our progress. Despite this, there is many spaces and amazing people who tirelessly working for betterment, improvement, solutions and outcomes. The saying resonates with me "we're all in this together" to reflect, review and make recommendations for change gives us hope for our women and girls.

NATSIWA is committed to reconnecting across our nation to improve the opportunity for representation of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls to have a voice and create those culturally safe spaces to enable us to come together to discuss high level options available to advocate and ensure our community voices, experiences, solutions and advise are being heard by those in decision making spaces. Watch this space!

As you may be aware I attended CSW68 in New York in March. It was an interesting experience. I appeared to have had a VIP experience. The full CSW68 Team Australia I attended with is below:

1. Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher - Minister for Women
2. Natasha Stott Despoja AO - Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
3. Dr Anna Cody - Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner
4. Padma Raman PSM - Executive Director of Office for Women
5. Fellow CSO Delgate, Khayshie Tilak Ramesh
6. Helen Dalley-Fisher – Convenor (Equality Rights Alliance)
7. Madeleine Clark



I was selected amongst a high calibre and volume of applicants alongside a successful CaLD representative Kayshie from Victoria, a Sri-Lankian woman who previously travelled to CSW67 in 2023. Kayshie provided excellent mentoring support to me during my time in New York city for the CSW68. I was informed about the expectations and Kayshie and I committed to represent Australia in our diverse roles as Australian women representing in a collaborative and uniformed manner.

This opportunity was embraced, honoured, and respected in every way with my commitment, knowledge and experiences in the Aboriginal affairs, evaluation & review, service delivery and governance spaces.

I am guided and supported by my ancestors; my people to represent our nation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women and girls on important issues:

- Gender Equity
- Human Rights
- Violence Against our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women and Girls.

There were many meetings before each day, some in the evening as well as social events to network, engage and collaborate in discussion and strategy to supporting various events and pursuits of all others across our Australian delegate team.



My three minutes of fame at the UN CSW68 with Dr Anna Cody - Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner at the front UN global platform that I am forever grateful for NATISWA for providing and supporting me with this opportunity given my current and ongoing commitment as the lead Chairperson of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance.

I was asked what was my **high and low of attending**:

My low was two recommendations not been accepted.

1. Remove the word 'target' and replace with a more of a descriptive word like 'budgeted or allocated resources'.
2. Decent – to be replaced with similarly or 'industry or sector opportunities' for Indigenous women.

My high was the overall contributions from all other Indigenous nations. There were more proposed improvements that were agreed and accepted by the majority. Despite my low fully understanding patience and progressive ongoing commitment, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls have more confidence going forward as a result of the proposed improvements that have been now globally endorsed.



I am very pleased to introduce to you to our new Communication Officer Mia Thom, we are so excited to have Mia onboard, she is going to be a huge asset



My name is Mia, and I am a proud Bundjalung woman who grew up on Arakwal Country. I live in Naarm on Wurundjeri Country and am currently at the University of Melbourne doing Indigenous Studies. I feel incredibly proud and honoured to have been given the opportunity to join NATSIWA, and become a part of this strong community of First Nations women.

Last Sunday on the 28th of May I attended the protest against gendered violence in Naarm. I joined tens of thousands of people who also turned out in solidarity that weekend. Helping my friend and organiser Frances Cheffins, we led the rally in chants such as, "Say it once, say it again, there's no excuse for violent men!", and "Whatever we wear, wherever we go, yes means yes, and no means no". We walked alongside prominent individuals like the Victorian Premier, Jacinta Allen.



These protests, were run by the community led organisation, "What Were You Wearing" who aims to end sexual violence and elevate survivor's voices. The organisation demands for extra funding to domestic and sexual violence services, improved reporting options for those experiencing family violence, and for the media to wait 48 hours before publishing photos of victims.

I was lucky enough to listen to speeches from staunch and powerful First Nations women like Palawa woman Maggie Blanden and Banjima woman Keshi Moore. It was important to see the voices of our sisters elevated and to witness their power in their truth telling. The rally was an important event of connection as many people of all genders and backgrounds joined in solidarity.

Bugalbeh (thank you),
Mia Thom, Communications Officer at NATSIWA
Analyst@natsiwa.org.au

Items of interest

Do you have to make a difference for young people?

The Office for Youth have opened applications for the Youth Steering Committee!

There are vacant positions for 7 enthusiastic young people to join the Office for Youth and the Minister for Youth to deliver [Engage!](#) our new strategy to include young people in the decisions we make.

The Office for Youth is looking for young people aged 12 to 24 from all across the country with a diverse range of experiences and insights to bring to the committee. Membership terms are up to 2 years.

Applicants do not need prior experience on an advisory group, board or as a volunteer to join. The Office for Youth is looking for young people with diverse backgrounds, experiences and skills.

Apply online before 5pm (AEST), 19 May 2024.

For more information and to apply, head to [the Office for Youth website](#).

Changes to Family Law ACT 2023

In October 2023, the Australian Parliament passed significant reforms to Australia's family law system, including to the legal framework a court will apply when making parenting orders, in the *Family Law Amendment Act 2023*. These changes commenced on 6 May 2024 and apply to all family law matters, except where a final hearing had already commenced.

Factsheets

These factsheets provide simple explanations for separating parents and family law professionals about how the changes to the parenting framework may impact them.

You can download and share the following factsheets when communicating the new changes:

Read more about these significant changes to keep children's best interests at the centre of the family law system: <https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/families/children-and-family-law>

<https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/publications/family-law-amendment-act-2023factsheet-parents>

1. This factsheet for parents provides a simple overview of the parenting framework changes and is available in twelve languages, and an Easy Read format for people with disability or lower literacy levels.

<https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/publications/family-law-amendment-act-2023-factsheet-family-law-professionals>

1. This factsheet for family law professionals provides a detailed overview of each schedule of the *Family Law Amendment Act 2023*.

Wiyi Yani U Thangani

As of 1 May 2024, Wiyi Yani U Thangani will move into the new Institute for First Nations Gender Justice, housed at the Australian National University.

In the meantime, if you would like to keep up to date with their work, we encourage you to [visit their website](#).

Reports and research discussed at the launch are provided on our 'resources' page, including: [Wiyi Yani U Thangani Change Agenda for First Nations Gender Justice \(2024\)](#) – our 'Blackprint' for change

1. [Caring about Care Report \(2024\)](#) – Making visible the care work First Nations women and carers do each and every day
2. [Face the Facts \(2024\)](#) – A collection of statistics on First Nations women and girls
3. [Wiyi Yani U Thangani Implementation Framework \(2022\)](#) – our response and set of actions responding to the [Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report: Securing our Rights, Securing our Future Report \(2020\)](#).



National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)

The [National Disability Research Partnership \(NDRP\)](#) is seeking the Chair of the NDRP Board through an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be led by [Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council](#).

The NDRP will fund research led by and with people with disability. This will help to facilitate a collaborative and inclusive disability research program that builds evidence for successful policy and practice.

Having recently been registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee, the NDRP's current [Interim Board](#) will be replaced by a full Board later this year. The Chair of the Board will be a person with disability and will lead a board comprised of up to 11 Directors (including the Chair) to uphold the NDRP [Constitution](#).

A full description of the position and how to apply, including Easy Read and Auslan interpretations, is available at <https://engage.dss.gov.au/ndrp-eoi> (EOI closes on 13 May, 5:00pm AEST)

We are promoting the EOI through a variety of media. However, in an effort to reach more people, we would appreciate if you could please distribute this opportunity among your network.

Please contact Australia's Disability Strategy Advisory Council Secretariat for any questions through ADSAdvisoryCouncil@dss.gov.au.



Student research project.

You are invited to participate in a research project being conducted by myself. My name is Lily and I am a Year 12 student.

I am working on developing a social media platform to highlight and share the experiences of women who have been impacted by Domestic and Family Violence (DAFV) or Sexual Assault. The aim of this project is to gather participants' testimonies and curate them into impactful narratives that highlight strength, resilience, and provide evidence to inform change.

Your participation in this project is vital as it will help raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of DAFV and Sexual Assault. By sharing your experiences, you can contribute to fostering solidarity among survivors and driving meaningful conversations that lead to positive change.

Your privacy and confidentiality will be respected throughout the process, and your voice will be honoured and valued. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to share your story and be a part of this important project.

Warm regards,

Lily, lily.quachberlioz@gmail.com



The Brain and Mind Centre, at the University of Sydney, collaborated with the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP) at the University of Western Australia for this important discussion on racism.

In this webinar the expert panellists examined the impact of racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities and discussed how to end systemic discrimination against Indigenous Australians. The conversation canvassed:

1. How First Nations people experience racism in 2024
2. How racism affects physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing
3. Systemic racism in policies, institutions and workplaces, and
4. Collective responsibility to recognise and challenge racism.

The following are some resources identified by the panellists that may help you to #BecomeAnAlly:

1. The CBPATSISP online Manual of Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention includes links to resources of all types - checklists, reports, posters, videos and podcasts - to promote wellbeing. They have all been developed by or with

Indigenous people and they celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and strengths.

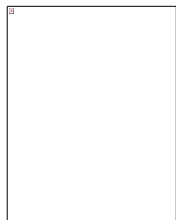
2. The Australian Human Rights Commission campaign website: Racism. It stops with us.

Panel Members are: Prof Pat Dudgeon, Tanja Hirvonen, Julia Robotham, Prof Ian Hickie
Prof Jakeline Troy. [View speaker bios here](#)

<https://brainandmindcomms.sydney.edu.au/pub/pubType/EO/pubID/zzzz6626097c55457063/?vid=SZD-dJgqEo0>

Early Years Strategy to provide Australia's children with the best start possible

A full version of the Early Years Strategy and the evidence used to underpin the Strategy is available at www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programs-services/early-years-strategy.



NATSIWA Membership. Sign up your friends and family, the more members we have, the more effective voice we have.

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

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