



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER #5

Dear Members,
July certainly proved to be a busy month. I hope you all had an incredible NAIDOC week. I certainly did, it was so good to catch up with friends and make new ones, as we celebrated “Keeping the Fire Burning, Blak, Loud, and Proud”.

Joslyn our Chair and I traveled to Lutruwita (Tasmania) to meet with several organisations and raise our profile. We also caught up with members in both Launceston and Hobart.

Thank you to everyone who came along and met with us, it was great to catch up with members we have met before and to meet some new ones.

Thank you to Renee for showing us around Karadi Aboriginal Corporation. It is always nice to see what services are doing and gain some insight into the issues impacting on services. One thing that always comes up is funding. There are very few organisations that do not need more funding.

One visit that stood out was to the Elders Council in Launceston, I have been there a few times and I always love going there and catching up.



I would like to congratulate our past Tasmanian Director Bianca Templar and her partner Jackson on the birth of her daughter Katina Jane. NATSIWA Directors and Staff are so happy for you both. It was great to catch up with Bianca whilst we were in Tassie, unfortunately it was just before the birth so we didn't get a cuddle.



We are still looking for Members to join our Advisory Groups. It is really important that NATSIWA has these groups to guide us with their lived experience on issues that impact us all. Community guidance gives us a really strong voice to advocate and create change.

We have submitted several submissions these past few months:

Standing Committee on Social and Legal Affairs: Inquiry into Family Violence orders.

Australian Law Reform Commission inquiring into: justice responses to sexual violence.

Victorian Legislative Assembly's Legal and Social Issues Committee on the: 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.



@natsiwaorg



National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance

Keep up to date with our socials!



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO CONTINUED



I would like to thank the members who took the time to provide and share their knowledge, feedback, advice, and guidance with the submissions, I really appreciate your contribution to our work.

As you will see in this newsletter there are some exciting things happening with The Hatchery and some great stories and lots of information on things you may be interested in. We are always happy to hear from you, so if you have something to share send it through and we will include it in our monthly newsletter.

Stay well and keep warm and those lucky enough to be in a warm climate stay cool. Until next time, Wendy Anders CEO

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON JOSLYN



On closing our national official NAIDOC season's theme: "Keep the Fire Burning, Blak, Loud and Proud" it has been an amazing experience of seeing many community, mob, individuals and families showing up with their 'blak, loud and proud' stance to ensure collaborative cultural pride celebrations reaching far and wide. As a diverse community we are moving into greater standards which promote our continued growth.

The commitment to nurturing the fire in our bellies, to being present to share, learn and teach principles of our ways and our being, despite such setbacks and disappointment as the failed referendum. We at NATSIWA acknowledge and honour those who tirelessly commit to, teaching, sharing, promoting and celebrating us.



MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!



Carly Forrest is a Mandandanji woman and a dedicated advocate for First Nations women, she draws upon over a decade of professional experience to empower community.

With a Bachelor of Business Management & HRM, Carly's journey began in community engagement at The University of the Sunshine Coast and moved into leadership roles at Queensland University of Technology. She later contributed to vocational education in high schools for TAFE QLD and supported First Nations education research at the University of Queensland.

In May 2023, Carly launched her own consultancy, The Dreaming Collective, aiming to bolster First Nations-owned businesses' growth through strategic operations while promoting cultural respect in non-Indigenous sectors.

Carly is working with NATSIWA in the Senior Project Officer role in support of its vision and commitment to empowering First Nations women.



MEMBERS DINNER ON KAURNA COUNTRY

Joslyn and I visited Adelaide and whilst we were there had dinner with some members. It is always a pleasure to meet new members and to connect with our current members and friends who have supported NATSIWA for many years.



From left to right, Karen, Naiomi, Aunty Pat our SA director, Joslyn our Chair Sarah, Kim and me.



OUR CEO WENDY WITH WADAWURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNER CORINNA ECCLES



TAHNEE EDWARDS, LJ PHEONIX AND LEE COUCH

A panel conversation followed between three inspiring First Nations women, business owners and health practitioners, Tahnee Edwards, LJ Pheonix-Singh and Lee Couch. They all spoke to the importance of Country and culture in sustaining the deadly work they do. This panel reminded us of the diverse range of experiences inherent to being a First Nations woman, and the power our stories bring to this world.

We were treated to a delicious feed throughout the day and concluded with a weaving circle, an opportunity to relax and deepen our connections with all the mob there. Thank you to Weenthunga and Ngarrimili for bringing us together, this day was a beautiful reminder that blak joy and rest is a crucial form of resistance.

SISTERS IN STRENGTH 2024!

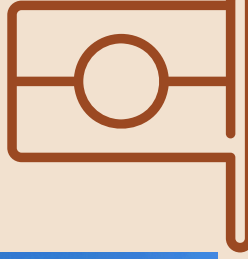
A few weekends ago on Wadawurrung Country, we were lucky enough to attend the Sisters in Strength Event, a collaboration between Weenthunga (A First Nations led health network) and Ngarrimili (A First Nations business and entrepreneurship community).

Held in the Murran Centre, an impressive hub for First Nations people in Geelong, this day was designed by First Nations women to celebrate First Nations women's excellence, strength and wisdom. We were welcomed to Wadawurrung Country by traditional owner, Corinna Eccles and then led in movement and meditation practices by First Nations women Lee Couch and Thaedra.





BLAK, LOUD, AND PROUD ON BUNDJALUNG COUNTRY!



Jingi Wallah from Arakwal Jogun. I was lucky enough to attend NAIDOC celebrations on Arakwal Country part of the Bundjalung Nation. We had a beautiful march down the Main Street, before gathering at the beach, listening to different traditional custodians speak, sing and dance their sovereign relationships to their creators, ancestors and Country. The sun was shining, and jargums were running about having a feed, and taking part in facepainting, weaving and dancing. Our mob were blak loud and proud on that day like everyday!

Bugelbeh Mia (Communications Officer)



Bundjalung and Arakwal mob!



Aunty Delta (Arakwal) and Aunty Michelle (Bundjalung) - two strong tiddas



Me and my Mum!!!



BLAK, LOUD, AND PROUD IN THE TORRES STRAIT



Congratulations to Betty Tekahika on being awarded a Community Tributes Award for Excellence in Community and Cultural Services.

Betty is a cultural leader in her community. She is always willing to teach people oior cultural ways, through singing, dancing, story telling, weaving and through Meriam Mir Language.

Her illness is no obstacle for her, she is an active community member who always ensure that her voice is heard throughout public and community meetings and gatherings.





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.



Research opportunity for mothers: Swinburne University is conducting a survey of single mothers’ and parents’ experiences of applying for and receiving child support, and how this has been affected by Government benefits and taxation systems.

Your involvement in the research will help to identify experiences of financial safety and how government policies and programs help or hinder financial safety.

They are looking for single mothers and parents who have interacted with the Australian Child Support System.

If you agree to take part in this research, please click through to this short online survey. It should take about 30 minutes to complete.

Survey Link:

https://swinuw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebcWdEvZboNSd2m

More info: contact Kay Cook at kcook@swin.edu.au



FAREWELL LINDA BURNEY!

For over 21 years Wiradjuri woman, Linda Burney has represented her people and community in politics. A powerful leader who embodies courage, grace and dedication. Representing many firsts, Linda Burney has paved the way for countless mob to follow in her footsteps. We thank Linda for her tireless advocacy, and are excited to see the next evolution of her journey.

Congratulations to Malarndirri McCarthy, a Yanyuwa Garawa woman, and our new minister for Indigenous Affairs. Excited to see how McCarthy will keep advocating and showing up for our mob.



DEADLY EVENTS ON AT THE HATCHERY

Focusing on prevention, intervention, diversion, and recovery, the Transforming Indigenous Justice Conference will inform and enable knowledge sharing on critical topics including justice reinvestment, empowering communities, alternatives to remand and incarceration, and preventing continuing harm to young people.

Through storytelling, reflection, and connection, this conference will elevate the voice and choice of First Nations women, children & men.

Download the event program here: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/l/1030561/2024-07-23/33t2c>



The Partnerships in First Nations Policy & Programs Conference uniquely brings together leaders from Government and the Community Controlled Sector in a united forum to unpack the critical action needed for progress in Closing the Gap.

This forum will showcase examples of meaningful partnerships and ways forward for First Nations Communities to self-determine the pathways to achieve better outcomes.

Download the event program here: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/l/1030561/2024-07-23/33t2n>



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Research and Partnerships Manager

The Equality Institute is seeking a highly experienced violence against women and girls researcher.

Full time ongoing role
Salary between: \$95,000 - \$104,000
Based in Naarm (Melbourne)

Learn more here:
<https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/theeqi/research-and-partnerships-manager?keywords=The%20Equality%20Institute&locations=1>



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

First Nations Director Scholarship Program.

Aimed at developing a cohort of First Nations directors to contribute to both First Nation and non-Indigenous boards across Australia.

Entails 12 month programs, including the Foundations of Directorship™ for Indigenous Organisations, Company Directors Course™ for Indigenous Business Leaders, and placement on The Observership Program's 2025 program.

Applications close: Sunday 25 August 2024

Learn more here: <https://www.aicd.com.au/organisational-culture/business-ethics/change/first-nations-director-scholarship-program.html>

First Nations Cancer Research and Study Scholarship

Cancer Australia, in partnership with Aurora Education Foundation, has opened scholarships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to complete postgraduate study or research in cancer-related fields.

The scholarship will see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars receive up to \$120,000 per year over three years, as well as academic, wellbeing and community support. Up to four scholarships will be awarded each year from 2024 – 2027.

Applications are open until Friday 30 August 2024.

Learn more here:
<https://ruralhealth.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c38e2f4fb55da61ef7dd1d00b&id=240b5c198a&e=91f3d2fa34>



SOME AMAZING SUPPORT SERVICES



The welfare rights centre is conducting an online training session, to explain the complex Disability Support Pension (DSP) rules that determine eligibility by working through the multi-layered assessment process, including eligibility criteria, evidence requirements, and key steps in the claim process. Speakers will cover manifest eligibility, Impairment Tables, Programs of Support and job assessment capacity.

Register Here:

<https://welfareinrightscentre.org.au/civcrm/event/info/?reset=1&id=14>

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/>



INDIGENOUS

FAMILY COURT LIAISON

What do they do and how can they help you?

Indigenous Family Liaison Officers (IFLOs) work for the Courts and are located in many locations across Australia. IFLOs are there to help and support families to understand and engage with the Court process. They can also help people who are involved in a family law issue by connecting them to legal and other support services.

IFLOs are impartial which means IFLOs can help all sides of the family coming to Court – IFLOs do not take sides.

Some ways that an IFLO may assist.

IFLOs are essential links between the community and the Courts and are available to assist at any time during the process.

IFLOs can:

- attend court hearings or other court events to provide support and explain the process
- assist with accessing court information and filing documents
- connect you to legal and other community based services
- assist with connecting you with Court Ordered programs
- talk to community about family law and the Court process
- explain practical reasons that may affect you doing what the Court has asked, and
- visit services, legal profession and community to talk about the Courts and the IFLO role.

It is important to know that there are some things an IFLO cannot do for legal reasons. Most importantly, IFLOs cannot give legal advice, represent or argue for you and IFLOs do not have any power to make or change decisions of the Court.

View Video here:

<https://www.fcfoa.gov.au/resources/videos/iflo>

view Factsheet here

https://www.fcfoa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-06/iflo_factsheet_national_0124v3.pdf



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.

