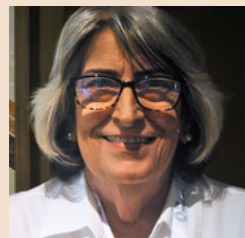




## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER #6



Dear Members,

Werete (hello).

As you may know, I come from Arrernte Country, Mparntwe (Alice Springs), although I now live on Gunditjmara land in Southwest Victoria. It is always an honour to live and work on other peoples' Country, I always acknowledge and pay my respects to them for allowing me the privilege to walk in their Country. It does not cost anything to show respect to the First Nations people of this land and acknowledge the traditions of one of the oldest, continuing cultures in the world. So, I will keep doing it and hope that others show the same respect.

Here we are at the end of October and only a few short weeks to Christmas, this year has certainly flown.

It has been very busy since our last newsletter, so we have lots to share with you.

It is election time for new Board members and nominations for the States of Victoria, Northern Territory, and Tasmania have been sent out. See below for more details and the timeline for voting, and the AGM.

The Board of Directors and I have made several trips around the Nation and have held multiple meetings in each of those places. It is so good to sit and yarn with a group of women to hear their stories and to share information and ideas. I thank each and every one of the amazing women who attended for your warmth and hospitality and for welcoming us onto your lands.

I would like to welcome all our new members, thank you for joining NATSIWA, we look forward to sharing our activities and hope that you will connect with us on issues we raise.

We are still looking for members to join our advisory groups, please do consider signing up, all you need is lived experience. Meetings will be bi-monthly unless needed.

Check out the information on the collaborative NATSIWA and Hatchery Summit coming up on the 12th and 13th of November. We are super excited as they are being held across four locations, Darwin, Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne. Make sure if you do attend to say hello to one of the NATSIWA team in attendance.

We have two tickets available to members who live in those locations, so keep your eye on our emails as to how to apply will be sent out soon.

Warmest regards, Wendy Anders



@natsiwaorg



National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance

keep up to date  
with our socials



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON JOSLYN



As always at NATISWA we maintain an ongoing commitment to 'Elevating the voices' of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for reform of our systems and processes. This important work of becoming self-determined and present across our people's issues in all sectors of our nation enabled through listening and continuing relationships. Only through elevating and listening to the voices of our people can we create culturally safe and secure spaces to contribute and lead discussions. We thank and applaud those who collaborate and hold space with us.

Recently a few Board Members and our CEO were invited to visit the Torres Strait Islands, meeting with women on the island to be guided by their lived experience and knowledge. We are so grateful for their generous invitation to learn from them and their Country. The culturally respectful reception on Thursday and Badu Island was most appreciated. The visit was opened with a Welcome to Country, and we thank the young dancers and ladies who came and met with us, talked, shared and connected. We look forward to future activity that will bring us back to support our Torres Strait peoples and continue these relationships.

NATISWA Board and Executive continue to reflect and review what we do to ensure that we are continuing to grow. We engage with your feedback and invitations to meet new collaborators and advocates. NATISWA's membership continues to grow, a testament to the diverse Countries and communities our women come from.

As the NATISWA Elections is upon us, we look forward to filling all vacancies to complete our board and organisation to prepare for the new 2025 calendar year. I encourage those of you who would like to put forward membership forms to support us here at NATISWA and absolutely those who would like to put forward a nomination for a vacant board position. We welcome you...

# NATSIWA BOARD TRIP TO THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS



In August, Joslyn our chair, Vena our QLD director and I, travelled up to the Torres Strait Islands to meet with our TSI board member Julia.

We had an incredible experience being hosted by Julia and Georgina. We met with several groups of women and discussed the issues and concerns raised. Thank you to everyone for sharing your stories and making us fully aware of how those issues are impacting your communities.



## OUR TRIP CONTINUED...



Whilst we know housing is a huge issue across the nation, it is so much more evident in small communities. We will be working to raise the issues with councils, local and state governments.



However, we did have some fun, lots of boat rides from island to island, the water was beautiful, and no we did not go too near the water, even as tempting as it was. LOL.



We took a small plane trip to Badu, the scenery was so beautiful. A huge highlight was seeing these incredible kids dancing.



## NAATSHWIP CONFERENCE PERTH.

Sarah and I travelled to Perth to the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Practitioners conference in Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar (Perth).



## NAATSHWIP BOORLOO (PERTH) CONFERENCE

We were pleased to be able to offer a ticket to the conference to our member Evelyn. She said it was the "best conference in ages", I think we all agreed. Sara, Wendy, and Evelyn received a certificate for having a stall at the event, it was a very nice gesture. We partnered with the HealthInfoNet to have a table, it was awesome talking to so many people and signing up lots of new members.



This is a picture of our shared stall, also of me and my big sis Michelle, Michelle is a manager/researcher at the HealthInfo Net, Michelle came along to woman the table, so we got to spend lots of time catching up after a long time no see.



Whilst at the conference, I ran into the new CEO of Lowitja Institute, Paul Stewart. Paul was a student of mine when I was teaching many years ago. Congratulations Paul. I also attended the Lowitja Members' dinner and met some great people.



## THE HATCHERY-TRANSFORMING JUSTICE CONFERENCE



I attended The Hatchery's Transforming Justice conference in Sydney (Gadigal Country) in September. It was an insight into what is happening around men's programs and ways forward to end violence against women and children from a justice perspective.

Whilst there I ran into Bronwyn Penrith, a previous NATSIWA board director for NSW. I seem to run into Bronwyn quite often and it is always great to catch up.

## NATSIWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Voting Opens - Monday 23rd October 2024.  
Voting Closes - Monday 6th November 2024.

## NATSIWA AGM

Will be held in Launceston at the Elders Council, 163 St Johns Street on Friday 22nd November 2024.

At 11am, details will be sent out on the 1st of November. You can attend in person if in Tassie or online.



# AFAC24 CONFERENCE



Our Senior Projects Officer Carly Forrest accepting AFAC24 generous Donation  
Photo from: AFAC

On Wednesday 4th September Carly our senior Project officer attend the Opening Ceremony of The AFAC24 Conference & Exhibition. AFAC24 is the largest Fire and Emergency Services conference in Australia, it spans across all areas of emergency services, recovery, resilience from disasters and natural hazards research.

In lieu of gifts to speakers at the event, AFAC makes a donation of \$5,000 to their chosen charity. The conference steering committee selected NATSIWA as the Conference Charity Partner for 2024.

Binowee Bayles performed a heartfelt Welcome to Country for the Opening Ceremony including a special ceremonial fire-burning song shared with permission of her elders for the event. Following the ministerial addresses and AFAC, IFE and ADRC presidential addresses, NSW Fire Commissioner, Jeremy Fewtrell presented Carly with the donation for NATSIWA.

On behalf of NATSIWA Board of Directors and Members we thank AFAC24 for their generous donation.

Following from the AFAC24 conference, we received a donation from the Stewart & Heaton clothing company had an exhibition at the conference and during the conference people had the opportunity to purchase Firey the Bear a small plush bear dressed in a fire fighting Jacket

Stewart and Heaton decided that all proceeds would go to NATSIWA. They raised \$1000 through the sales and then decided to match it bringing the total to \$2000. We can not thank Jock Stewart and his family for such a kind and generous donation.

Joslyn met with Jock to receive a bear and to say thank you to him in person.

I want one, that's a cute little bear.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONER

We welcomed Katie Kiss, a Kaanju Aboriginal woman from Cape York, to the role of Social Justice commissioner recently and our incredible Chair, Joslyn Tass in her recent trip to Boorloo, Perth, met with Katie, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, to discuss the urgent representations to the WA Premier, the Hon Roger Cook MP, regarding youth detention and youth justice arrangements in Western Australia after the deaths of a 16 and 17 year old boy in youth detention facilities within 12 months.

We highlighted the need for Government to be proactive in engaging with First Nations Peaks and community-controlled sector to support reform.



Our ACT Director Karen Parter, also met with commissioner Katie Kiss for a community discussion on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, hosted by the ACT Human Rights Commission. We are grateful for these opportunities to continue to show up and elevate the voices of our women.



## NATSIWA X THE HATCHERY

At NATSIWA we are so excited to collaborate with the Hatchery on our First Nations Leadership Summit Series, which will provide a platform for current and emerging First Nations leaders to come together and share their stories, learnings, and advice with peers and others on the path to leadership.

This event will be held concurrently across four states where attendees will hear from renowned speakers including, Stan Grant, Evonne Goolagong Cawley AC MBE, Nova Peris OAM OLY MAICD, Professor Marcia Langton AO & June Oscar AO.

Shining a bright spotlight on the excellence and strengths of First Nations leaders, reflecting on themes of healing, resilience, reconciliation, and Closing the Gap, this is your unmissable opportunity to hear first-hand from groundbreaking leaders who are making significant contributions to Australian organisations and society.

Download the event program here: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/l/1030561/2024-08-21/38hvk>



## MORE DEADLY EVENTS ON AT THE HATCHERY





## **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).



**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](https://swinuw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebcWdEvZboNSd2m)

**More info:** contact Kay Cook at [kcook@swin.edu.au](mailto:kcook@swin.edu.au)

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## HEALTH PROMOTION OFFICER / PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER WITH QUEENSLAND HEALTH (IDENTIFIED FIRST NATIONS POSITION)

### Some Key Responsibilities

- Support effective community engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including with young women, adolescents, and girls.
- Contribute to development of healthy public policies and services that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, adolescents and girls, and their communities to promote and protect their own health and wellbeing.

Salary: \$2,941.70 - \$4,459 per fortnight + super

Apply By: Tuesday, 1 October 2024

### Contact Details:

Melissa Rowland  
melissa.rowland@health.qld.gov.au  
0429 870 788

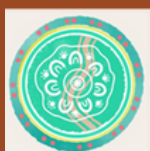
## EOI : INDIGENOUS RANGER TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM - SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK PROGRAM

For First Nations youth between 18-21 years old.

The Traineeship is for six (6) months and is based in Townsville.

As a trainee you will be undertaking a Certificate 1 in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (AHC 10120) and having practical experiences in on-ground land and sea management.

Please contact [info@gudjuda.com.au](mailto:info@gudjuda.com.au) for more information on application process



# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Community Services Leadership  
Scholarship with Women and Leadership  
Australia

Opportunity for a range of different  
scholarships across different leadership  
positions in the Community Services  
Sector.

Partial scholarships of \$1,000 - \$6,000 are  
available to help women in select  
industries participate in our world-class  
leadership courses.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#)



**AURORA**  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

Check out the incredible scholarship portal for  
a range of education opportunities across the  
nation.

Especially relevant for those pursuing higher  
education.

Follow the link here for more info:

<https://aurorafoundation.com.au/our-work/indigenous-pathways-portal/scholarships/>

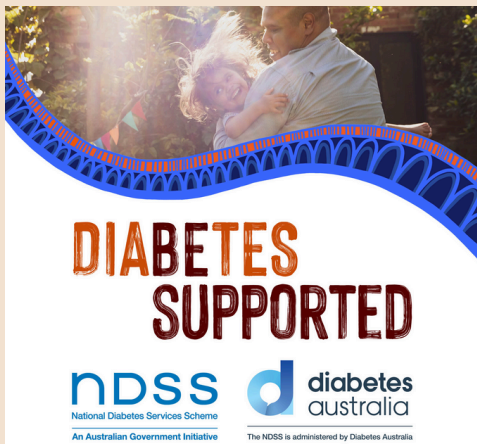


## SOME AMAZING SUPPORT SERVICES

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/>



## SOME AMAZING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

**JOIN THE**  
**WALK AGAINST**  
**FAMILY**  
**VIOLENCE**

Friday 22 November, 11am  
Birrarung Marr (Upper Terrace), Melbourne

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, running from 25 November to 10 December.

The 16 Days of Activism begins with the annual Walk Against Family Violence on Friday, 22 November. By joining the Walk in solidarity with victim survivors, you can take action to prevent gendered violence.

People of all genders welcome.

## YOORROOK JUSTICE COMMISSION

Make a short submission on education:

[HERE](#)

Short submissions are a quick and easy way to help put the true history of Victoria on the public record. Together, we can create a historic document that will shape our state's future.

You can make a short submission using an online form on a range of topics:

- General
- Land, Sky and Waters
- Education
- Health and Healthcare

Find examples of past short submissions here: [Your paragraph text](#)

Submissions close 22 November.

Make history. Make a submission.



Learn from leading Australian and international researchers and practitioners about:

- Emerging and better practice in supporting people and animals experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Different ways that human and animal services and law enforcement can support and protect people and animals.
- How the safety of people and animals is interconnected and why it's important to enable people and animals to heal and recover together.

Get Tickets [Here](#)

**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.

