



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of the year I have to admit it has been an amazing year. I thank all our members for your support and contribution to our work as we cannot do the work we do without you.


During the year we had 2 new staff members come on board. I thank Mia our Communication Officer and Carly our Senior Project Officer for their excellent work and dedication to advocating for our Women and Children, unfortunately, we will have to wish Carly all the best as she moves on to bigger and better things in the new year.

As I have traveled around the country, I have been fortunate enough to connect with many of our members. I thank you all for your warm welcome to your country and for sharing your stories, a meal, and a laugh at times.

I also welcome our new members, the more members we have the stronger our voice is to effect change. I look forward to connecting with you in the future.

We held our AGM in Tasmania this year and we wish to thank the Tasmania Elders Council members for hosting our meeting and for the very warm welcome to Lutruwita.

We were fortunate to be shown around the beautiful Kanamaluka, whilst in Launceston. We all thank you for the privilege to walk on your land.



We welcomed 3 new board members Delia Summers - Tasmanian rep Delia Summers whose heritage is from Cape Barren Island, Delia is a direct descendant of Mannalargenna, an elder of the Plangermaireener nation,

Shantelle Thompson - our new Victorian rep is from the Barkindji and Ngiyampaa nations.

We also briefly welcomed Joanne Nasir to the position of Northern Territory director. Unfortunately due to other commitments Joanne had to step down and we welcomed Nicole Brown to the position of Northern Territory Director. Larrakia, Nicole is from Larrakia Malak Malak and Yanyuwato.

As we welcome 2025 it is good to know that we have secure funding for the next 5 years, this gives us the opportunity to continue the work we have started, and to plan ahead for the work to come.

We know that there are many issues within our communities that we need to seek solution to address, we also know that this can not be done in the short term. We need to work to make change for our future generations, so they do not have to have the issues in community that we have now.

I look forward to working with you all next year and thank you for your support during 2024.

Please have a very happy and safe Christmas and new year, be kind and generous to each other and I will see you all in 2025.

Warmest regards

Wendy

Keep up to date
with our socials!



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON JOSLYN EADES TASS



The past year has been one of growth, resilience, and dedication. Despite challenges, NATSIWA has continued to uphold its mission of advocating for the voices and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Our collective efforts have ensured that critical issues affecting our communities remain at the forefront of national dialogue.

We are in a growth space with internal reviews and evaluative activities to elevate NATSIWA to its rightful national and international platforms for our Women and Girls.

NATSIWA has achieved several significant milestones this year. Highlights include:

- **Advocacy Efforts:** NATSIWA contributed to housing, family violence prevention, and economic empowerment initiatives. Open letters to government addressed systemic issues, including housing crises and over-representation of Indigenous children in care systems. Actively contributing to advisory processes with the Office for Women, ensuring that the voices of our women and girls are central to policy and program development.
- **Representation:** NATSIWA participated in forums such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing +30 Asia Pacific Forum, and partnerships with organizations like the Coalition of Peaks. Local engagement included visits to Badu Island and Launceston Elders Council.
- **Governance and Financial Health:** Efforts to strengthen governance frameworks have ensured transparency and cultural integrity. NATSIWA remains in a strong financial position, thanks to diligent resource management by our Treasurer, Sara, and CEO, Wendy. Their efforts ensure that NATSIWA can sustain its advocacy and programs well into the future.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** Issues such as housing, systemic barriers to economic participation, and family violence remain priorities for advocacy and innovation.
- **Future Outlook:** NATSIWA is dedicated to expanding its policy influence, enhancing community engagement, and addressing critical issues affecting First Nations women at local, national, and global levels.

VOICES FOR PEACE: EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SHAPE SOCIETY

Our Chair Joslyn spoke in November at the annual peace symposium in Canberra, hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This event focussed on the need for women's leadership to instigate social harmony and positive social change. During times of social conflict and violence, these events are crucial in building bridges between our diverse community groups.



On behalf of NATSIWA, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members, staff, and partners for their unwavering support and dedication. It is through our collective wisdom and shared commitment that we continue to create meaningful and lasting change for our communities. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will build a future that honours the resilience, strength, and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Thank you for standing with us.

Yours in solidarity,
Joslyn





NATIONAL WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FORUM

From the 2nd to the 4th of December, our CEO Wendy Anders attended the National Women's Alliance Forum held on Ngannawal Country in Canberra. This meeting of the five different alliances which are funded by the Office For Women is important as we are required to collaborate to implement the to the Gender Equality Strategy



The AGM was an important platform to hear from our new and existing directors, to connect with our members and discuss some future changes for NATSIWA. Following our board members, directors, and CEO participated in traditional jewellery and weaving workshops.



Our CEO, Wendy with Clancy Hall, Assistant Secretary, Office for Women at Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

NATSIWA Advisory Groups

We are still looking for expressions of interest from our members who would like to be part of our advisory group.

Our Advisory Group provides advice and lived experience on issues affecting Aboriginal women and girls.

We strongly encourage LGBTIQ+ people and Women with disabilities to apply.

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.



MERRY
Christmas



NATSIWA X THE HATCHERY

In collaboration with the Hatchery we held four First Nations Leadership summits across four states in November. We were privileged enough to have the presence of staunch trailblazers like Marcia Langton, Stan Grant, Yvonne Goolagong Cawley and Nova Perris present and speak.

Creating these spaces and providing these platforms for our mob, remains as some of the most rewarding and fulfilling work we have done at NATSIWA. Many of our members attended, finding strength and solidarity.

PHOTOS FROM OUR FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON LARRAKIA COUNTRY - DARWIN



REFLECTING ON A DEADLY YEAR AT NATSIWA

Reflecting on a big year for NATSIWA, we feel proud of the advocacy work we have achieved for our people.

In the space of advocacy we continued to participate in consultations with government bodies, including contributing submissions and open letters on housing, family violence prevention, and economic empowerment.

We advocate and ensure government and respective Ministers are aware of complex challenges as far from the Torres Strait Islands and across the nation in all states and territories. Housing and the over presentation of our children in the out of care system are a few examples.

We continue to represent our people on national and international levels and have had the privilege of attending the Women's Alliances 'Womens Symposium' in Naarm, the Commission for the Status of Women, United Nations in New York City in March 2024. Most recently we attended the the Beijing +30 Asia Pacific Forum in Bangkok .

Building relationships to other alliances, organisations and communities remains critical in deepening the impact of our work. Our collaboration with the Hatchery which led to several First Nations Leadership Summits across this continent was a powerful moment. Central to the work we do is elevating the voices of our women, so to have academics and activists like Marcia Langton speak at our events was a real honour. Providing you, our members with scholarships is something we are also proud of, as accessing these spaces of connection and inspiration should remain open for mob.

As always we remain guided and committed to our members. The launching of our new Advisory Group is an exciting advancement which we can't wait to continue into the new year.

We acknowledge the challenges that remain and the ongoing impacts of family violence require sustained advocacy and innovative solutions. NATSIWA is committed to tackling these challenges head-on, with a focus on empowering our women and amplifying their voices.

DEADLY EVENTS



**WOMEN'S CLIMATE VICTORIAN
CONGRESS 2025**
**28TH - 30TH OF MARCH DJA DJA
WURRUNG COUNTRY, CASTLEMAINE**

The Women's Climate Congress (WCC) invites women of Australia, in all our diversity, to come together with other women to explore how women are leading a national and international paradigm shift to promote more rapid action on climate change based on compassion, kindness, and care for all life on Earth.

Buy tickets [here](#)

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

RESPECT IS

BELIEVING

VICTIM SURVIVORS

Recently we participated in [the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#), a global campaign to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, running from 25 November to 10 December.

The 16 Days of Activism began with the annual [Walk Against Family Violence](#) on [Friday, 22 November](#).

Our activism against gender based violence and family violence of course continues beyond these 16 days, but during this time we joined the international spotlight.

The Conference will explore ways to move beyond principles, and into practice. This internationally significant event will feature keynote speeches, presentations, workshops, collaborative sessions, and will culminate with a Communique on the Conference resolutions.

The first two full days of the conference will be exclusively for Indigenous peoples and communities and we are welcoming Governments and other non-Indigenous organisations and individuals to join the conference on the third and final day.

Read more about it [here](#).

SAVE *the* DATE Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty Conference

31 March 2025 - 3 April 2025

Kamberri, Ngunnawal Country (Canberra)

The GIDSov Conference 2025 will bring together Indigenous Peoples from across the globe to reflect on successes and map future pathways to advance Indigenous Data Sovereignty. Hosted by Maiam nayri Wingara and Yardhura Walani (ANU)



The Conference marks ten years since the first Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) event hosted by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), where attendees discussed the implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) for data.

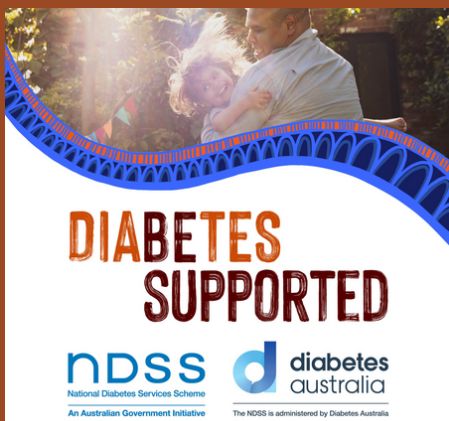
The GIDSov Conference 2025 will bring together Indigenous Peoples from across the globe to reflect on the advances in IDSov and Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov), map future pathways and aspirations for the next decade.



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](#)



COPWATCH COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM

The National Justice Project have developed a community training package to help inform all communities, and particularly those who experience police violence and discrimination, about their rights and responsibilities when filming and interacting with police.

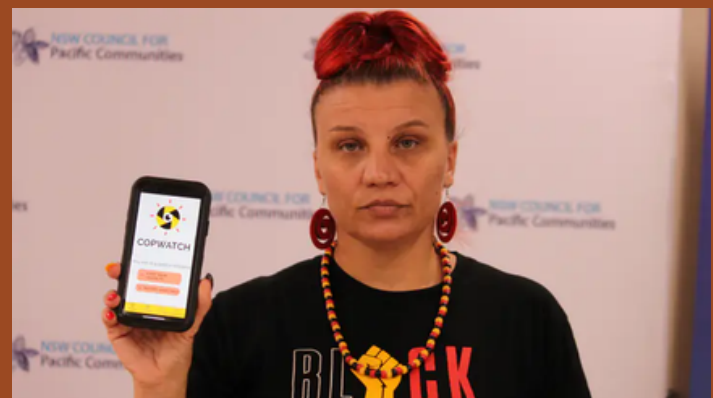
CopWatch provides tools and information to help individuals and communities stay safe when coming into contact with police.

CopWatch has 3 components: [Copwatch App](#), [Website](#) and Training Program.

Download the Copwatch app, which allows you to send a text message alert to up to 3 pre-selected contacts together with a map showing your location if you are in trouble.

It also allows you to film incidents with police, and provides instructions to keep your videos safe, and contains information on individual rights and responsibilities when filming and dealing with police.

Links to more information are available on the [CopWatch website](#)



Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung woman **Lizzie Jarrett** told community members that using mobile phones during police interactions "is a survival tactic for our youth today."

A VOICE OF HOPE IN WA

A Voice of Hope, is an Aboriginal Corporation based in WA facilitating important healing workshops for First Nations women. Their ambition is to provide holistic support and services for incarcerated women and sistergirls. Every Monday, they welcome up to 40 women to these workshops.

Founder Lorraine Pryor draws on her lived experience and ensures First Nations women's ways of being and knowing guide and direct every aspect of this organisation.

Read more about this deadly community work [here](#).



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Don't miss out on this opportunity to accelerate your career with a scholarship to the hipages Empower, women in leadership program!

Empower exists to accelerate the careers of emerging and experienced female leaders by giving them the training, support and network to progress into the next stage of their careers.



 **Empower Women in Leadership Scholarship 2025**

Why?
Women are consistently underrepresented in leadership positions

OPPORTUNITIES

- Seven fully sponsored scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and/ or female tradies
- Personal and professional development
- Career development coaching session
- In person group training sessions
- Plus many more opportunities

Apply before the 17th of January

APPLY HERE

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY



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.



Mums, have your say about how the child support system is working.

SUHREC Approval Number: 20247997-1876

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





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.



2024 NATSIWA MOMENTS















MERRY
CHRISTMAS

&

Happy
New Year

*From the Staff & Board
of NATS&WA*