

NATSIWA / AWAVA Framework

Purpose of the framework

This framework guides NATSIWA's and AWAVA's work together on issues relating to violence against women. It builds on the positive relationship between the two Alliances and lays the foundations for constructive work together over the coming years. The benefits of the framework will include:

- Advocacy and policy development to better reflect experience on the ground.
- Stronger campaigning on issues of violence against women.
- Generating evidence together to have a more powerful impact.
- Creating a platform for future collaborative project.
- Building mutual support between groups.

Principles for working together: shared understanding

- We recognise that the history of colonisation and dispossession underlies and contributes to the ongoing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- We acknowledge the intersectionality of oppression across the full range of dimensions, which requires a whole-of-community approach locating the privilege and power embedded in all our institutions and social structures.
- We aim for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' self-determination and power transformation.
- We understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are subjected to violence at higher rates than non-Indigenous women, and that this violence occurs not only in rural, regional and remote areas but also in metropolitan areas.
- We know that the people who inflict violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women come from a range of backgrounds, and we actively oppose the characterisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in general as perpetrators.

- We believe violence against women arises from structural drivers including colonisation and racism as well as gender inequality.
- We recognise that violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait women intersects with the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, including high rates of child removal, police issues, incarceration, the power and discretion of police to decide charges, and the different responses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's reports of violence as compared with those of non-Indigenous women.
- We support and aim to embody collaboration between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous women in the spirit of sisterhood, inclusivity and mutual respect.
- We seek justice and aim to lead on issues of violence against women: to advocate, speak up and be strong together.
- AWAVA is a forum for all women: we work to amplify voices, not speak for people.

Steps we will take to put these principles into practice

- Advocate for resourcing to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women together.
- Invite additional NATSIWA representatives to attend AWAVA Face to Face meetings.
- Meet together (including Board / Advisory Group members and others — not just staff).
- Be attentive to timing: as far as possible give enough notice for each organisation to engage broadly when consulting with each other.
- Read and utilise each other's existing work.
- Seek each other's input for submissions.
- Draw on each other's strengths and areas of expertise when doing relevant work.



natsiwa

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

