



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium

Aboriginal Corporation

NATSIEHC NEWSLETTER

April 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Meetings

NATSIEHC Executive President Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Vice-President Professor Peter Anderson on 14 March 2019 met with Matthew Hardy, Senior Adviser to Education Minister Dan Tehan, and Luke Sheehy, Higher Education Adviser to Shadow Education Minister Tanya Plibersek. The President on 19 March 2019 also met with Alistair Webster, Director Social Policy & Indigenous Affairs Adviser to Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.

The purpose of these meetings was to ensure maintenance of NATSIEHC's key advisory role to Government and articulate NATSIEHC's priorities within the higher education sector, in particular, identifying and addressing opportunities for improvement in specific areas.

Professional engagement

President Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Vice-President Professor Peter Anderson on 12-13 March 2019 travelled to Canberra to attend a 'Closing the Gap Refresh' workshop as part of a strategic review of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) program 2.2 (Children and Schooling). The purpose of the workshop was to draw on the expertise of participants to contribute to the development of a draft theory of change for numerous outcomes in relation to children and schooling.

On 13 March 2019 Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson and Professor Anderson also met with DET staff providing input to a taskforce looking at ways to improve tertiary education participation and outcomes in regional and remote areas, in particular, specific action to improve outcomes for Indigenous students, including strategies to support aspirations, choice, access, retention and completions.

Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson on 15 March 2019 attended a 'Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) Research Infrastructure Scoping Study Impacts' Workshop. Discussions centered upon:

- Economic and social benefits currently being enabled through HASS national research infrastructure (NRI);
- New or increased benefits that could be realized through investment in specific HASS research infrastructure;
- Opportunities in the Australian HASS NRI landscape that can help realise these benefits;
- Specific investment priorities/themes for HASS research infrastructure.

PRESIDENT

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson
Professor of Indigenous Studies

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr Leanne Holt
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy)
Walanga Muru

IMMEDIATE- PAST PRESIDENT

Professor Peter Buckskin PSM FACE
Dean
Aboriginal Engagement and Strategic Projects

SECRETARY

Maree Graham
Deputy Director, Students & Community Engagement
Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education & Research

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Victoria Park Road
KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059
P: (07) 3138 3791
E: a.moreton-robinson@qut.edu.au

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

NEW SOUTH WALES 2109
P: (02) 9850 8634

E: leanne.holt@mq.edu.au

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GPO Box 2471
ADELAIDE SA 5001
P: (08) 8302 0036
E: peter.buckskin@unisa.edu.au

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

PO Box 123
Broadway, NSW 2007
P: (02) 9514 7657
E: Maree.Graham@uts.edu.au

A key outcome of the workshop was to undertake a scoping study to identify the technology platform and capabilities needed to establish HASS and Indigenous research platforms.

On 28 March 2019, Vice-President Professor Peter Anderson, on behalf of the President, met with Universities Australia DVC Research committee, to present key points from NATSIHEC's submission in response to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification Review (ANZRC) 2019 discussion paper. Foremost in NATSIHEC's submission is achieving a four Digit Code status for 'Indigenous Studies' with new six FoR and SEO Digit Codes thereunder.

Professor Anderson also participated in a workshop with the UA DVC Research committee focusing on HE Research recommendations arising out of NATSIHEC's 'Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education' Report.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ER) REPORT released

Australia's universities continue to produce high-quality research, according to international benchmarking.

Minister for Education Dan Tehan on 27 March 2019 released the *State of Australian University Research 2018–19: ERA National Report* by the Australian Research Council (ARC) available at

<https://dataportal.arc.gov.au/ERA/NationalReport/2018/>

The report found Australia is increasingly performing above world standard in terms of research quality. Highlights include:

- More than half (57 per cent) of units assessed in broad discipline areas were rated above or well above world standard.
- Australia exceeds international standards in 11 broad disciplines including technology, mathematics, medicine, engineering and in sciences relating to our earth and environment.
- The number of publications submitted for ERA assessment exceeded 500,000 for the first time.

LONDON'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM returns Aboriginal remains to elders

It has been a long journey, but after more than 100 years, 37 sets of Australian Aboriginal ancestral remains are set to be returned to country and laid to rest. The Natural History Museum in London officially gave back the remains during a sombre ceremony in London on 26 March 2019.

"*The healing can start,*" Doug Milera, an elder with the South Australian Narungga community, told ABC News.

The passage of time had not lessened the emotion.
(continued.)



Photo: The ancestral remains are returned during a smoking ceremony in London (Supplied: Australian High Commission).

“The fact that our old people were taken without our permission and that information has been passed down through the generations, and knowing that they’ve been sent to other countries for research. It (the anger) still runs very deep in our community,” Mr Milera said.

They will be cared for by the South Australian Museum and the National Museum of Australia until they can be reburied.

The Indigenous Repatriation Program has so far led to the return of more than 1,480 ancestral remains, with more than 1,200 coming from the UK.

Professor Peter Buckskin, also from the Narungga community, said after the ceremony returning ancestral remains was about *“healing and moving forward”*.

“It is really important that those who have been taken are returned so they can rest eternally and spiritually,” Professor Buckskin told ABC News.

AIATSIS RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is seeking additional members to join its Research Ethics Committee [REC].

The main function of the REC is to review and advise upon the ethical dimensions of research projects, including ethical suitability and oversight as appropriate during the course of a project. The REC assesses AIATSIS research projects as well as external applications from universities, the private sector, government and Indigenous community organisations in a range of disciplines. AIATSIS is seeking individuals with an interest in impactful research as well as ethical practice in Indigenous studies research.

For more information visit the AIATSIS website <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research> or email ethics@aiatsis.gov.au, please feel free to pass onto your networks.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL NATSIHEC MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE

We are always looking to broaden our membership base to enhance NATSIHEC’s ability to contribute to the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Higher Education sector. All Indigenous staff within the higher education sector can now become members in their respective capacities as professional or academic staff. Broadening and maximising our membership means strengthening our voice to achieve substantive change in the sector and make Indigenous higher education core business.

Please encourage any Indigenous person you know currently working in the higher education sector to join and become actively involved in NATSIHEC.

We would be particularly happy to receive from members news of Indigenous HE Sector appointments and achievements by emailing natsihec.ac@gmail.com

More info is available here: <http://natsihec.edu.au/membership/> or email NATSIHEC Treasurer Jason Brailey: jason.brailey@rmit.edu.au

EVENTS CALENDAR

The venue for the NATSIHEC National Caucus meeting scheduled for 07-08 Nov 2019 has just been announced for Southern Cross University Gold Coast Campus, Southern Cross Drive, Bilinga QLD 4225 (adjacent to Gold Coast Airport).

So lock this into your calendar NOW along with the forthcoming 2019 NATSIHEC National Caucus meeting 13-14 June 2019 at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus, Victoria Park, Kelvin Grove.

Contact NATSIHEC to register your attendance by emailing natsihec.ac@gmail.com

SECTOR APPOINTMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Jason Brailey NATSIHEC Director/Treasurer for receiving the Dean's Award Monash University for Academic Excellence Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy in recognition of his achievement as the top graduating student of his course for 2018.

Congratulations also to NATSIHEC Director/Vice-President Professor Boni Robertson for her appointment with Mick Gooda as the inaugural Co-Chair of the Queensland First Children and Families Board (QFCFB) established by the QLD Government to guide and oversee the [Our Way strategy: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037 \(PDF\)](#) (Our Way) and all associated action plans including [Changing Tracks: An Action Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2019 \(PDF\)](#) designed to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.