

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Catholic Church.

NATSICC seeks to encourage and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples spirituality and presence in the Catholic Church. NATSICC also aims to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their needs and aspirations and encourage others to support them in their struggle for justice.

NATSICC was formed in Queensland in 1989 at the first national conference of the Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Councils. In 1992, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference officially welcomed and recognised NATSICC as the national representative and consultative body to the Church on issues concerning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NATSICC acts as the official advisers to the Australian Catholic Bishops.

NATSICC represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics on a number of national organizations including National Council of Churches in Australia, Caritas Australia, and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Commission. It also participates in Nungalinga College, works in various working parties on significant projects.

To the wider community, NATSICC provides information and material to enable more thorough understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. It has promoted the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday in parishes around Australia for the past decade through supplying material to aid the preparation of Masses.

NATSICC COUNCILLORS 2000-2003

Chairperson
Vicki Walker
Councillor for Victoria

Vice-Chairperson
Joan Hendriks
Councillor for Queensland NATSICC Liturgy Team

Treasurer
Trent Cowen
Councillor for Tasmania

Secretary
Shirley Peisley
Councillor for South Australia

Members

Theresa Ardler
Councillor for Australian Capital Territory NATSICC Liturgy Team

Lorraine Erlandson

Councillor for the Northern TerritoryNATSICC Liturgy Team

Cecilia O'Brien
Council for the Torres Strait Islands

Robyn Albert
Councillor for Western AustraliaNATSICC Liturgy Team

Elsie Heiss
Councillor for New South Wales

Women of Balgo dance with Sr Alice Dempsey prior to her departure for Ireland after 14 years with the Adult Education Centre in Balgo. Photo supplied by the Diocese of Broome