



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Catholic Council

Annual Report

2015 / 2016



His Holiness expresses his esteem for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture

In addition to providing his blessings for our celebration of the 30th Anniversary of St John Paul II's speech in Alice Springs, Pope Francis shared his esteem and Spiritual closeness to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a letter and blessing to Indigenous Australians.



To Mr John Lochowiak
Chairperson

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

I send cordial greetings and best wishes to you and the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the visit of Saint John Paul II to Alice Springs. I assure you of my spiritual closeness as you reflect on the many ways in which Almighty God has blessed your community through that historic visit.

This anniversary affords me the happy opportunity to express my deep esteem for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and for your ancient cultural heritage. Uniting my voice to that of Saint John Paul II, I encourage you in his words: "Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear. Do not think that your gifts are worth so little that you should no longer bother to maintain them. Share them with each other and teach them to your children. Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost." For when you share the noble traditions of your community, you also witness to the power of the Gospel to perfect and purify every



society, and in this way God's holy will is accomplished. I pray that this occasion will provide an opportunity to deepen your love for Christ and for one another, offering a convincing and tangible sign that we are "no longer strangers and sojourners, but... fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Eph 2:19).

Commending you and all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the intercession of Saint Mary of the Cross McKillop, I willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

From the Vatican, 29 November 2016

Francis

Francis

* See page 10 for full report on celebrations



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The logo of NATSICC depicts a willy willy, the wind force as a symbol of God's spirit in the centre. At the top are concentric circles as symbols of God and life while at the base are depictions of men and women receiving the Holy Spirit. The logo was designed by O. Boddington

CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE



2016 has been a very busy year and it has also been a sad year. Many of us have lost loved ones this year and we should use our faith and our culture to come together and draw strength from one another.

In 2016 there have been many achievements, including the Alice Springs retreat, Saint John Paul II Resources, our most successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday package and the Elders video program.

Via media releases and the NATSICC News (which is up to 20 pages this year!) we have been vocal on many national issues including Constitutional Recognition, Closing the Gap, and the WA Community closures.

The new NATSICC website was launched in 2016 with a full resource hub, interactive calendar and individual State and Territory pages (which many have begun using as a point of contact in the community). The 'traffic' through the website has

increased strongly as a result.

The wider Church is not oblivious to our actions. NATSICC has facilitated the inclusion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices on several national bodies including the Council for Australian Catholic Women and the Catholic Youth Council. Our peer organisations such as Caritas and Catholic Mission have been working closely with us on developing policy and programs for our people. We are also grateful that the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference walk alongside us on our spiritual journey.

The Acknowledgment and Welcome to Country brochure has been a success and has resulted in the ceremony becoming commonplace across the country.

The most important aspect of our operations has been our Councillor activities - their tireless efforts on a local level. Many have travelled far and wide and others have worked to make their States and Territories more united. All have represented NATSICC proudly and with passion.

Please enjoy the 2016 Annual Report.

John Lochowiak
NATSICC Chairperson

ABOUT NATSICC

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. The council was founded in 1992 and the Secretariat is based in Adelaide.

Each State and Territory nominates a representative via their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry. The council meets monthly via teleconference and twice yearly on a face to face basis. NATSICC advises the Bishops Commission for relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics.

NATSICC is a not for profit organization that is funded by the Catholic Church, Caritas Australia's First Nations program and Catholic Mission.



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council members

1. John Lochowiak is a Wadi (initiated Man) who has strong ties to many language groups throughout Australia including but not limited to Pitjantjatjara, Kurna, Ramindjeri and Arerrnte. His strong cultural grounding is complemented by his deep Catholic faith. John is the Manager of Aboriginal Services at Centacare and leads the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) in Adelaide. John and his family have been involved with the Adelaide ACM for 3 decades and have seen 3 generations receive the sacraments and practice their faith at the iconic South Australian organisation.

2. Shirley Quaresimin is the NATSICC Deputy Chairperson. Shirley is a Nyikina person from the Kimberley and was involved in the establishment of NATSICC over 20 years ago. She brings vast experience of regional and urban Aboriginal Catholics to NATSICC.

Shirley attended the first Catholic School in Derby and it is here that the Sisters of St. John of God and the Pallottine Fathers played a part in developing her faith journey. The Sisters prepared Shirley for life, to have the ability to be part of church and for young Aboriginal girls a message/creed for living.

3. Jaimi-Lee Armstrong has worked in Catholic Education for the past five years and is the Tasmanian Representative for NATSICC. She is proud to be able to represent the Tasmanian Catholic Indigenous Community. Jaimi-Lee is passionate about her work and

determined to continue to strive in these areas. Her experiences to date has provided a solid foundation for the future.

4. Sally FitzGerald is a Muruwari woman from the north west of NSW including towns such as Bourke, Brewarrina and Lightning Ridge. Sally was born and raised in a tiny town in Murrumburrah where her father was also born.

Sally works at Calvary Hospital in Canberra as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer and visits all the Indigenous patients whilst also doing administrative work. Sally is the Coordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Canberra.

5. Dolly McGaughey is the NATSICC representative for the Torres Strait Islands. We are very happy to have a representative for the Torres Strait and look forward to making the most of Dolly's experience and knowledge. She is passionate about climate change, her family and culture and her Catholic faith

Now retired, Dolly has worked closely with the Catholic Education Office for many years in many different roles. A talented musician, Dolly's music has been included on a number of CD releases. Dolly has a large family, located on the mainland as well as on the Islands.

6. Evelyn Parkin is a respected Elder and Theologian from Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah). Having completed a Masters of Arts in Theology at Brisbane's

Australian Catholic University campus in 2006, Evelyn shared this knowledge for two years as a lecturer at the Cairns ecumenical Wontulp-Bi-Buya College for the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Church and community leaders.

Evelyn is involved in preparing children for baptisms (where required) and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Community to express their faith and traditional culture.

7. Sherry Balcombe is a Western Yalanji, Djabaguy / Okola woman from Far North Queensland but was born on Wurrundjeri Country and has worked at Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria for the past 13 years. She is currently the Coordinator of the Ministry.

Sherry is passionate about cross cultural education of students and adults and regularly visits Indigenous Youth in detention. The weekly liturgy services conducted for Elders brings her much joy. Aboriginal heritage, culture and Catholic faith form the cornerstones for Sherry - a proud mother of 4.

8. Sabrina-Ann Stevens is an inspiring young Yidinji and Kuku Yalanji Catholic leader from Cairns, North Queensland.

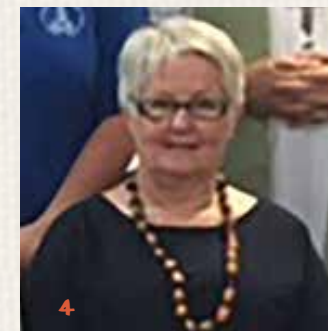
She is currently studying at University and sits on several National boards including the Council for Australian Catholic Women. Sabrina Ann has been integral in the planning and leadership

of several youth events including NATSICC leadership gatherings, Catholic Youth festivals and World Youth Day pilgrimages.

9. Dean Chisholm is of Aboriginal decent, a proud husband and a father of 5 children, 2 grandsons and a discerning Deacon with the Catholic Church. He has been brought up in a loving environment with strict family values and my family is from Central Australia Arrente country. We have been taught to respect others, their values, to understand and value our Aboriginal heritage as well our European side.

Dean has extensive knowledge and understanding of the environment and Aboriginal Cultures, and the ability to communicate with a range of stakeholders. He is passionate about human rights, Indigenous issues, and helping to break down generational trauma to create strong families and positive pathways for future generations.

10. Doreen Flanders a proud Aboriginal woman born and raised at Bowraville, part of the Gumbaynggirr Nation. Doreen is the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Lismore's Aboriginal Education Advisor, a role she has held for 21 years. The role involves addressing Indigenous education and issues effecting Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students in mainstream classrooms. Doreen has vast experience in developing theology studies for students and incorporating spirituality into the classroom.



PROJECTS

Safeplace

Safeplace is a program that provides average Australians the opportunity to donate Cots and Mattresses to parents in remote Indigenous communities of Australia.

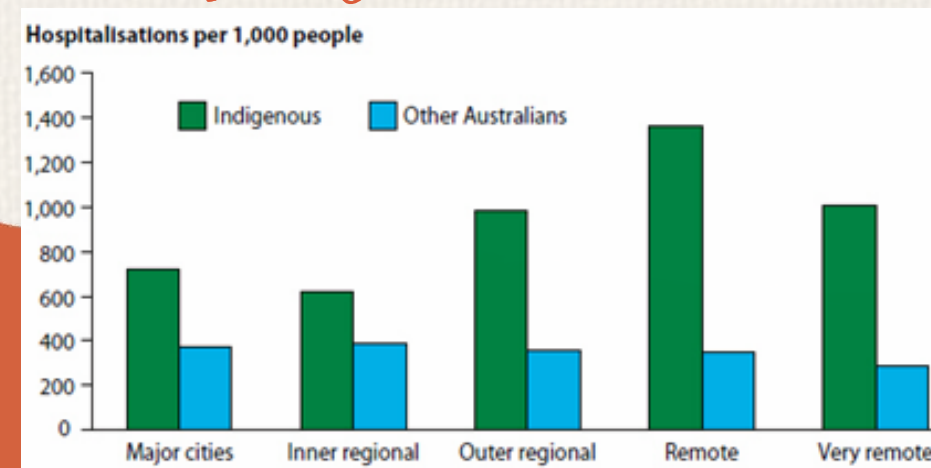
The program is essentially a series of networks and partnerships formed to deliver and set up the items and provide education and educational materials to Indigenous parents with new babies. 100% of donations go towards purchasing the item. Administration and delivery of the item is paid by NATSICC and corporate partners.

Many Aboriginal families in remote areas do not have the means (both financial and geographical) to purchase such items. Not only are these items critical in providing a safe sleeping environment, they also become a community resource and can be shared with other families.

So far NATSICC has provided over 50 Cots and Mattresses to families in and around Alice Springs.



Toiletry Bags



The NATSICC Toiletry bag program provides staple items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people staying in hospital. The bags are distributed via Aboriginal Catholic Ministries nationally.

In many cases, people travel for hundreds of kilometres on short notice and have nothing with them. The items contained in

the bags provide them with the basic necessities and make a hard time a little easier.

In Australia there is a large gap between the health of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people are more likely to get preventable diseases and life expectancy is much lower. As a result Aboriginal people are in hospital more often. The graph above shows this and also explains why the toiletry bags are important.

State and Territory Grants

The NATSICC State and Territory Grant scheme aims to support local Aboriginal and Islander Ministries to maintain local networks and deliver projects that are designed and tailored to community needs. In larger States and Territories, these funds are critical to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics can meet regularly and develop faith and cohesion across Dioceses.

The NATSICC funds are also used to support local Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministries to continue their work on the ground level.

The program's ethos is deeply rooted in the Principle of Subsidiarity and it empowers local communities to support their NATSICC Councillor and staff by funding local events and programs. State and Territory grants uses:

- Arts and Crafts workshops as part of healing programs
- Line dancing for Elders
- Visits to the Torres Strait Islands as part of consultations
- Assist Youth in attending local and National events
- Funding Statewide Gatherings of community leaders
- NAIDOC Awards for local Ministry workers
- Jewellery making programs to assist in fundraising
- Visits to remote communities

PROJECTS

A National Day of Celebration

30th Anniversary of St John Paul II's address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Alice Springs.



Jesus spoke directly to the hearts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on 29 November 1986 in Australia's heart – Alice Springs. The message was delivered to our people by his devoted apostle Saint John Paul II. We had travelled along our well-worn trade routes from every corner of Australia to encounter God on that day.

As Saint John Paul II spoke, a wind storm picked up the red soil from the Earth and swirled it amongst our people. The dust seemed to intertwine with the words of love, hope and empathy. The message touched our souls and it touched our skin. Never before had we felt so welcome in the house of Jesus as when Saint John Paul II said:

'You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.'

We were filled with hope when he said:

'If you stay closely united, you are like a tree standing in the middle of a bush-fire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree you

have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn. The time for this rebirth is now!'

The impact of this day on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics cannot be measured. It provided the encouragement for the establishment of Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministries all over Australia and it lit the fire our hearts which still provides the warmth, energy and strength for us to continue. We now have over 120,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in Australia and the support of our Australian Catholic Bishops on our journey of faith.

2016 marked the 30th Anniversary of Saint John Paul II's visit to Australia and we need his words now more than ever - our people have the worst health in Australia as well as the highest incarceration and youth suicide rates in the world.

In partnership with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) called for a day of celebration on 27 November 2016 where Parishes and Catholic School's held a celebration of the visit.

Pope Francis wrote to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and provided a blessing and shared his spiritual closeness. His words (full letter on pages 2 and 3) were uplifting and reaffirming of St John Paul II's hopes for Australia's first people to be welcomed and nourished by the Church.

30th Anniversary Celebrations

National Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra



Aboriginal Catholic Ministry - Adelaide



Perth Cathedral - WA



Townsville - Fr Frank Brennan



PROJECTS

NATSICC Spirituality Retreat

50 people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry come together in Alice Springs for the first NATSICC Formation retreat to renew their spirit and receive formation of their faith. We were welcomed by local Elder Felicity Hayes and were blessed to have several other Elders share the week with us, including 'MK' from Santa Teresa. Their wisdom and spirituality provided us with a wonderful foundation for the event.

Reconciliation – with God, with Each Other and with the Land was the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholic Council's inaugural Spirituality and Formation Retreat. The opportunity to sit and listen to our own thoughts and heart rarely arises in everyday life. In Alice Springs, delegates learned that the ability to look within is not only a gift from God, but also a necessity. They learned that even Jesus took to solitude to pray and reflect - "Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5:15-16). Led by Bishop Don Sproxton, WA Elder Shirley Quaresimin, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Aboriginal Theologian Evelyn Parkin, the first day of the retreat utilised the Lectio Divina method of praying Scripture. On the second day, attendees experienced "receptive listening" where Archbishop Prowse and Evelyn Parkin discussed Christian concepts and the similarities and differences with Aboriginal concepts. "It was like listening to two interesting people have a discussion in their lounge room and there was a deep sense of appreciation to be able to experience their thoughts on the various topics" stated a delegate.

On the final day a Mass was held at Blatherskite Park to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Alice Springs. Hosted by local Elders, it was a deeply spiritual moment that bound the retreat program together. John Lochowiak shared his cross cultural program and then facilitated a tour of sites around Alice Springs culminating in a visit to Emily's Gap.

The response for participants was overwhelmingly positive and shows NATSICC that there is a deep yearning for formation and spiritual growth in the community.



Bishop Hurley (right) and Deacon Ralph Madigan celebrating Mass at Blatherskite Park during the Retreat.

PROJECTS

New NATSICC Website



In 2016, it was decided that the council needed a new home on the Internet. With a larger focus on electronic resources and media, the previous version had outgrown its intended use. Designed from the ground up to be user friendly and to act a a home for information regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics on the web, the new www.natsicc.org.au was launched in early 2016.

Key elements to the new site include:

Resource Hub

Containing links to Liturgy, prayers, articles on faith, the resource hub is continually updated with content from all over Australia. Special occasions such as Reconciliation week, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Liturgies are available to download as area wide range of children’s activities. It is already receiving a large amount of ‘traffic’ and many organisations and parishes are finding it useful.



UNDERSTANDING CULTURE AND FAITH
How Aboriginal Spirituality and Catholic Faith interact

NATSICC Resources
Media Releases, Liturgical Resources, NATSICC Newsletters and more

interactive calendar
An Online resource of important Indigenous dates and events

Your State/Territory Page

This page is accessible via the ‘About NATSICC’ > ‘Your State/Territory’. Moderated by your State/Territory Councillor, this page is used for advertising events, providing information to the community and keeping local people informed. Each State and Territory page has some brief information on the history and make up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics and organization in the area along with handy statistics sourced from the ABS.

NATSICC Youth

The youth have a dedicated page on the new site. A link on the home banner takes users to the home of the NATSICC Youth programs. With videos, stories, profiles and upcoming events, the council hopes the youth page becomes a vibrant and educational space for young people to interact and share their faith and experiences.

Interactive Calendar



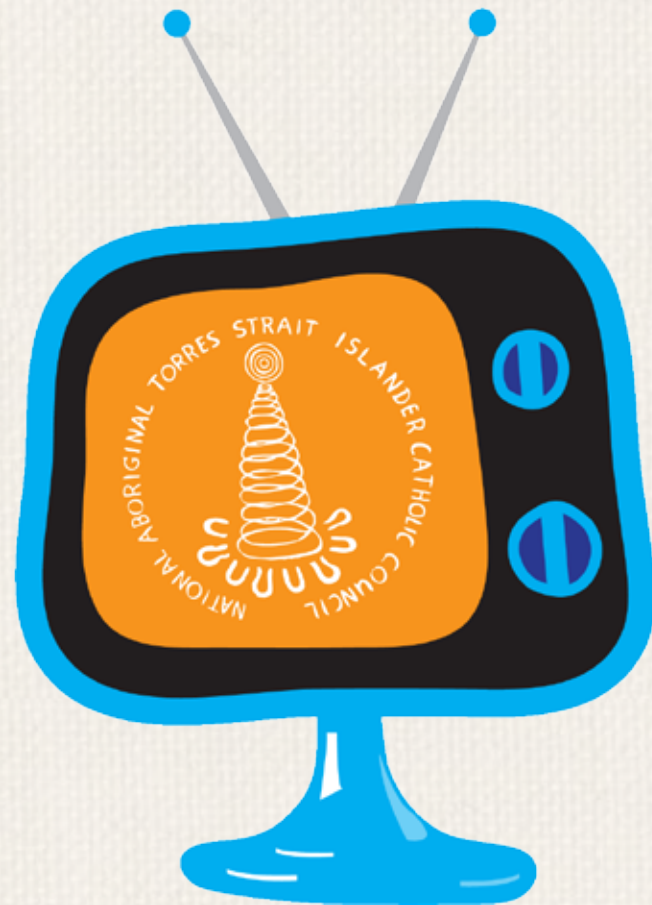
The Calendar (in the Resources Hub area of the website) is the first to combine important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates along with Catholic dates of significance.

Local events and dates of significance can be included (get in touch with the NATSICC Office). Based on the Google Calendar platform, users can download the calendar to their own computers or devices and have the dates integrate with their current calendars.

Given the wide range of significant events included, the calendar is an excellent tool for education and respecting important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates.

PROJECTS

NATSICC TELEVISION



NATSICC TV has been a popular addition to the NATSICC website and hosts a variety of programs designed to educate, entertain and most importantly of all share the gifts and stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics.

Included programs:

- Elders Story Sharing project
- Youth Gathering presentations and proceedings
- NATSICC Assembly Keynote speeches
- NATSICC project overviews



Inculturation

The 2015 - 2018 Council has placed a strong emphasis on the Inculturation of the Catholic Church in Australia. For NATSICC the term 'Inculturation' means the creation of a welcoming, respectful and understanding place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics to worship, participate and share their gifts. There are many ways in which this can occur - symbolism and artwork within the Parish, acknowledgments, involvement of first nations people on boards and importantly, the integration of Traditional ceremonies and customs within the Liturgy.

Inculturation has been on the NATSICC agenda for some time, however the current council have set definite goals for their term and are working with the Bishops of Australia towards realising these aims.

Inculturation progress in 2016:

- Appointment of a dedicated Inculturation working party
- Released Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment to Country guide to all schools and Parishes (in partnership with the Bishop Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders)
- Developed a strategic plan with achievable goals for the 2015-2018 council
- Begun consultation process on revised Principles of Inculturation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries

PUBLICATIONS

Culturally, communication plays an important role in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As NATSICC has evolved, so too have the ways in which we communicate with the community and our stakeholders. NATSICC has embraced technology by offering online copies of the NATSICC news along with a presence on social media.

We have continued to produce the hardcopy edition of our newsletters and media statements because not everyone has access to the Internet or is comfortable using it. Several hundred copies are sent to communities around Australia



NATSICC News

The NATSICC News is the core publication that the council produces to inform, educate and publicise the work that is being done on the ground by Aboriginal and Island Catholic Ministries.

Produced quarterly, it is full colour and consists of up to 20 pages. Regular columns include:

- NATSICC Councillor Profile
- Prayer
- Grassroots Worker profile
- Community events
- Diary dates
- Youth views

NATSICC Online News

The Online Newsletter is delivered electronically to over 1000 subscribers and shared with many more via the Catholic Education and Diocesan networks.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Resources

Annually, NATSICC produces a comprehensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Resources kit and is sent to every Parish and School in Australia.

In addition to Liturgy Resources, the kit includes:

- The faith stories of Elders
- Multimedia Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art downloads
- Statistics
- Resources that teach young people the history of Australia's relationship with its first peoples

In 2016, the theme was Let the Earth cry out to God with Joy and Compassion for all, and the resource kit was sent out to every Parish and School in Australia. The online version was widely accessed and downloaded.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is an important tool in reaching and engaging with young people and it been used effectively to promote upcoming events and gather support for causes. The 'immediacy' of the technology allows for quick turnaround of news and facilitates two way communication and network building.

NATSICC's presence on Social media:



<https://www.facebook.com/natsicc/>



<https://twitter.com/natsiccofficial>

Regional Meetings

"Those 'streets' are the world where people live and where they can be reached, both effectively and affectively."

Pope Francis (World Communications Day 2014)

NATSICC is an advisory body in liaison with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference - namely the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Historically the council has met with the Bishops in Sydney biannually.

Mutually it was decided that the meetings should take place in a different location each time and, ideally in a regional area. By meeting in regional Australia the council and Bishops have the opportunity to engage with people in their own communities. Pope Francis has been a strong advocate and leader on a spiritual level.

Each regional NATSICC/Bishops meeting has hosted a community Mass - organised in partnership with local Parishes and Diocese. An informal 'catch up' proceeds the Mass.

NATSICC and the Bishops Commission have built a strong relationship based on trust and mutual respect and we hope that this will bear fruits over the next 2 years, particularly in the areas of INculturation of the Liturgy, Sacramental preparation and making the Catholic Church in Australia a welcoming place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



NATSICC and the Bishops Commission in Darwin

2015 / 2016 Financials

NATSICC receives core funding via a Voluntary Contributions scheme where schools and Parishes are asked to contribute \$50 per annum. Catholic Mission is a partner to NATSICC and their support is invaluable. In addition, Caritas Australia (via our long term partnership) provides a yearly grant to the council and their support is imperative to the long term future of NATSICC. Additional funding is sourced via external grant opportunities and fundraising.

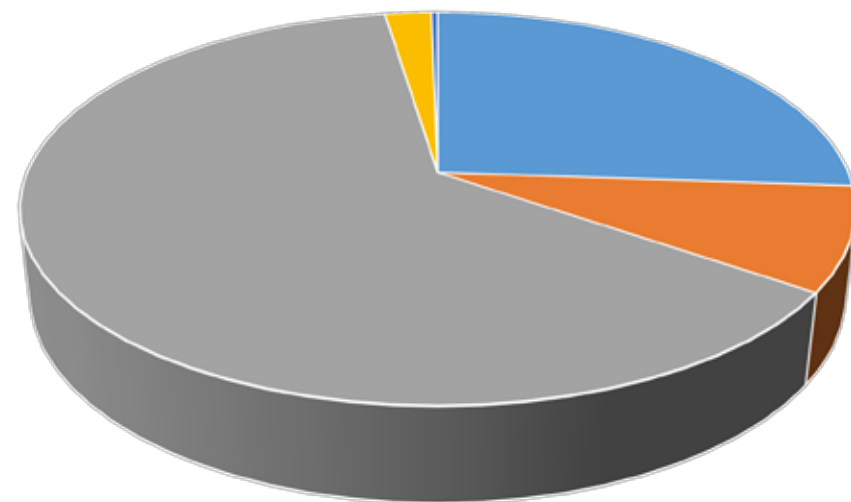
From a base of modest income the council is proud of what it is able to achieve - much of which is documented throughout this annual report. We have a single staff member in our Adelaide office and all NATSICC Councilors fulfill their roles on a voluntary basis and strive to base all council operations on a basis of efficiency and transparency.

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016			
	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
INCOME			
Caritas Partnership Grant		50,000	50,000
Voluntary contributions	1(c)	120,561	198,211
Assembly Revenue		16,270	176,743
Interest received	2	4,121	6,949
Other revenue	3	550	30
		<u>191,502</u>	<u>431,933</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Accountancy fees		-	750
Administration costs		103,894	105,116
ATSI liturgy costs		8,624	6,591
Auditors' remuneration	4	3,950	3,950
Chairpersons reimbursements	1(e)	7,245	2,784
Conferences	5	-	3,825
Consultancy fees		-	7,506
Depreciation	6	11	11
State and territory grants	1(d)	9,669	57,504
Gifts		253	194
Insurance		8,398	6,144
Postage, printing and stationery		5,188	7,536
Program expenses		6,634	34,082
Retreat Costs		5,389	-
Subscriptions		550	120
Sundry expenses		210	5
Telecommunications		3,215	5,357
Travel	1(f)	21,270	2,898
National assembly		153,038	81,279
		<u>337,538</u>	<u>325,653</u>
		(146,036)	106,280
NET OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)			
		(146,036)	106,280
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year		388,832	289,004
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION			
		242,796	395,284
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR			
		<u>242,796</u>	<u>395,284</u>

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Catholic Development Fund Account		173,062	303,556
Catholic Development Fund Assembly Account		-	24
People's Choice Credit Union Term Deposit 63499371		58,565	56,848
Cash on hand		76	76
Trade debtors		9,551	32,188
		<u>241,253</u>	<u>392,692</u>
FIXED ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	7	-	(11)
		-	(11)
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>241,253</u>	<u>392,681</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
ATO integrated client account		(4,919)	(6,041)
GST adjustments	8	3,376	3,438
		(1,543)	(2,603)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>(1,543)</u>	<u>(2,603)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>242,796</u>	<u>395,284</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Profits		242,796	395,284
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>242,796</u>	<u>395,284</u>

2015/ 2016 Income



■ Caritas Australia ■ Assembly Revenue ■ Voluntary Contributions
■ Interest Received ■ Other Revenue

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are a special purpose report prepared for use by the committee. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets. No Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations View or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.

(b) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST. GST is reported to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on a cash basis.

(c) Voluntary contributions

Parishes and schools contribute a voluntary contribution to support the operations of NATSICC.

(d) State and Territory grants

State and territory grants are used to support local Aboriginal and Islander Ministries to maintain regional and urban networks. In 2016, grants were predominately used to attend the NATSICC Assembly in Darwin.

(e) Chairperson reimbursements

The reimbursement costs' are used to support the Chairperson to fulfil the responsibilities of the role. These include: travel, attendance and presentations at conferences, and visiting ACMs and peer organisations. Funds are allocated on a calendar year basis and can result in large variances over a financial year period.

(f) Travel expenses

The NATSICC Council meets on a face to face basis twice per year. In 2016 these meetings were held in regional centres to help build stronger links with communities.

2. Interest received:	2016	2017
Catholic Development Fund	2,404	2,907
Catholic Development Fund Assembly Account	-	1,091
People's Choice Credit Union Term Deposit 63499371	1,716	1,947
People's Choice Credit Union Term Deposit 90112448	-	1004
	<u>4,121</u>	<u>6,949</u>

3. Other revenue:

Other income	550	30
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4. Auditors' remuneration:

Auditing or reviewing the financial statements	3,950	3,950
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5. Conferences:

External conferences	-	3,825
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6. Depreciation:

Office furniture and equipment	11	11
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7. Plant and equipment:

Office furniture and equipment	35,297	35,297
Less accumulated deprecation	35,297	35,308
Low cost immediate write off	9,000	9,000
Less accumulated depreciation	9,000	9,000
Total plant and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(11)</u>

8. GST adjustments

To actual BAS's lodged	3,376	3,438
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Indigenous
NATSICC
through Church
Resources Francis
Come Jesus
need Mother Australia Bishops
because Year forgive water
son pray only Lord land Amen
heart nation work God's like new
see back forgiveness local blessing ask
Father say St joy Gospel home world love
now hope house here reading visit place
rejoice today John after before peace
Spirit time one all feel Creator many
Luke first remember words hear Holy
life good over listen native hear Holy
Catholic children go things great together Let
about Ministry Pope brothers Christ Torres
reconciliation peoples praise
Mercy Strait others prayer hearts earth
people Aboriginal

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

ABN: 79 045 319 587

80c Payneham Rd. Stepney SA 5069 | 08 8363 2963 | www.natsicc.org.au