**NATSIPA** (formerly known as NIPAAC) is a national network of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander postgraduate students and non-Indigenous student supporters. Our goal is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders can access postgraduate education in a fair and equitable manner. We do this by working towards better support, greater funding, and improved opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in higher education.

**NATSIPA’s activities include**:

• Providing a national Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student voice to Federal and State Governments.

• Providing opportunities for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander postgraduate students to link-up, support each other, and share ideas.

• Advising universities on how to best support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students.

• Disseminating information to NIPAAC members, such as scholarship offers, upcoming events and relevant news.

• Assisting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students if they are experiencing problems at university

* Advise CAPA on all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols and issues.

**NATSIPA’s AIMs are:**

To ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians can access postgraduate education in a fair and equitable manner.

**NATSIPA’s VISION Statement:**

To ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians can access postgraduate education in a fair and equitable manner. This is achieved by valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders diverse cultures and histories, supporting their control over their own and their family’s education. NATSIPA will strive to create a comprehensive program to increase public awareness and commitment to partnerships that restore and retain Indigenous spirituality, cultures and languages, social systems, economic systems and self-determination.

To also provide strategic advice to the Australian Government that:

* is focused on achieving equal educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians;
* supports the partnership that drives the achievement of commitments made to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage;
* is focused on promoting accountabilities;
* promotes excellence and innovation;
* is proactive and strategic;
* is given with honesty, respect and integrity.

**Guiding Principles:**

* **Leadership:** We will provide leadership to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate involvement in Higher Education.
* **Collaboration:** We will seek opportunities for collaboration and shared leadership with individuals and organizations that share our vision and core values.
* **Integrity:** All of our actions will be conducted in accordance to the strict adherence to the highest standards of conduct.
* **Diversity and Respect:** We embrace diversity in all aspects of our organization, from the people with whom we work, collaborate, and serve, to the ideas and solutions we develop in support of our vision. We are committed to providing an environment in which people; their cultures, their ideas, their beliefs and their opinions are respected.

**Goals:**

* Engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in postgraduate studies.
* Implement and evaluate effective strategies to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in Higher Education.
* Evaluate and expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate support as a means of sustaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate student engagement within the sector.

**Objectives:**

The objectives of NATSIPA are as follows:

(a)       To provide a network for Indigenous postgraduate students;

(b)       To act as advocate for and to represent the interests of Indigenous postgraduate students at a National level;

(c)        To promote reconciliation between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples of Australia;

(d)       To promote research into Indigenous issues and the training of Indigenous researchers;

(e)       To educate researchers on appropriate protocols when dealing with issues of cultural and social significance to Indigenous Peoples;

(f)        To liaise with universities, governments and other national associations with a view to promoting these objectives;

(g)       To promote the participation by Indigenous Peoples as equals in a national community of postgraduate scholarship; and

(h)       To be a constituent organisation of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) and to adhere to the rules of CAPA and to resolutions of its Council and Executive.

If you are an Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate student, please fill in a membership form and be part of your national postgraduate students association…..