

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Development Fund

Every year through your support of the Martung Upah appeal, NATSIEC is able to disburse small grants to organizations for community based projects.

For example, NATSIEC supported five Aboriginal Catholic women to attend the canonization of Mary Mackillop in Rome in October 2010. The women found that the journey was an enriching personal faith journey. In addition to the Canonization itself the women were able to visit the Vatican museum to view Aboriginal Artefacts held there. They were also part of a group that located and commemorated the grave of Conaci, an Aboriginal boy who had travelled to the Vatican with Benedictine monks from New Norcia. He died at age 13 in the Abbey by St Paul's Outside the Walls. The women reported that it was a significant cultural experience to be able to pay their respects in this way.

NATSIEC also supported the launch of *Our Generation*, an independent documentary film about the Northern Territory Intervention. The financial assistance meant that the film makers could bring Elders from affected communities to speak at forums held after each showing in different States; thus enabling the audience to directly hear from and talk with senior Elders.

Our Generation is a unique film which tells of the problems with the Intervention from the perspective of those affected. It has been a useful resource to support our own work and advocacy in this area. NATSIEC also bought and distributed several copies of the film to Indigenous organizations and individuals and encouraged people to hold public viewings of the film. Copies of the film are available from www.ourgeneration.org.au.

Indigenous Theology

NATSIEC aims to give voice to Indigenous peoples through a better understanding of Indigenous theology and spirituality. One way we do this is through the biannual *Christ and Culture Conference*. The third conference was recently held in Sydney.

The theme of 'Mother Tongue Theologising' explored the interpretation of the Gospel from an Indigenous context and perspective. The conference was facilitated by Dr Anthony Reddie, a Research Fellow in Black Theology in the UK. Dr Reddie expertly led the conference participants through several fun and participative exercises exploring identity, objectivity and subjectivity and which helped participants understand more about their perceptions and how they influence their understanding of the Gospel.

Recordings from the conference and Dr Reddie's speaking tour are now available on the NATSIEC website.



Participants at the third
Christ and Culture Conference

To find out more about NATSIEC

Web: www.ncca.org.au/natsiec

Blog: www.natsiec.wordpress.com

NATSIEC is a commission of the National Council of Churches

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National Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Ecumenical Commission

MARTUNG UPAH
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Student at Maparu during the Living Letters
visit. Photo credit: Hanna Grace

martung upah appeal

