

# Australian South Sea Islanders

Queensland celebrating 25 years of recognition



## Resilience & Beauty through the Sugarcane Fields

by Casey Coolwell-Fisher

“This artwork represents the resilience and beauty of our Australian South Sea Islander people, through the sugarcane fields. The hibiscus flowers and cowrie shells represent the island way of life in the South Sea.

The water is decorated in the flow of our waters and the teeth of sea creatures. The inner artwork that is situated in-between the sugarcane fields indicate entrapment of many South Sea Islanders through ‘Blackbirding’.

The upper red flowing line represents the blood that was shed during the misplacement and mistreatment of our people.

Our people are represented in the silhouettes in the traditional canoes signifying our resilience, knowledge of culture and how we are keeping it alive.”

Casey Coolwell-Fisher is an Australian South Sea Islander woman and a Quandamooka, Nunukul woman of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island).