



National Council of Women Australia

Newsletter No 1

JUNE 2018

PRESIDENT REPORT- Barbara Baikie

This is a very exciting as it the commencement of our national newsletter, where the President will provide a report along with eh the constituent councils to inform the members and public of the work of the National Council of Women of Australia and the Constituent Councils.

So here goes NCWA

Our main focus of work continues to be the organisation of the Triennial conference. The conference location has been booked for 18, 19 October at QT, 1 London Circuit, Canberra www.qthotelsandresorts.com/Canberra/Hotels. The title of the conference is the **NCWA – Finding Solutions**.

The conference subcommittee has continued to meet weekly until the program and speakers are finalised. We have made several adjustments based on last year's feedback. We have included a face to face board meeting, and an optional board dinner on Wednesday night. The Official conference dinner will be on Thursday night, this will include the inaugural NCWA awards. Please see information and timelines for the awards at the end of the newsletter.

We have included training for the NCYWA but also open to other members if they are interested. The first session is for mentoring – this is an opportunity to participate. If anyone is interested in mentoring one of the young women, please let me know. It is not a concurrent session to allow the NCYWA to participate in all the conference. We have built in breaks in between speakers with either morning tea, lunch or table discussions. These table sessions will be very helpful to gain input from participants but also prepare for our conference report. We will have Genevieve Jacobs chair the conference, this will include the resolution section. Genevieve is a journalist in print and radio with 30 years' experience behind her. She worked for over 10 years for ABC radio in Canberra.

The costings for the conference are:

Early Bird Rate Conference Fees (by 31 August 2018):

- Members \$330
- Non-Members \$375

Conference Fees - Post 31 August 2018:

- Members \$350
- Non-Members \$395

Optional conference dinner:

- Members \$70
- Non-Members \$75

ADVOCACY WORK UNDERTAKEN

As noted in the NCWWA report there were changes announced in the Federal Budget regarding Superannuation. Certain fees are to be capped at three per cent for accounts with balances less than \$6,000 (low balances); exit fees will be banned, insurance will only be offered on an opt-in basis for young members, inactive accounts and low balance accounts. In 2015-2016 nearly two million women held low and inactive accounts.

In the Federal Budget there was an announcement that Ribociclib (Kisqali) will be listed on the PBS from 1 July, 2018. Kisqali will provide unmet treatment need in younger women diagnosed with premenopausal advanced breast cancer. This listing is expected to benefit over 3,000 patients.

My thanks to Robyn Nolan and NCWWA for the work to bring the two important issues forward. It is very pleasing on two accounts. It was great to see a result on these two important issues that we had advocated for change on and working together with NCWWA to achieve it.

NCWA has prepared a report to the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Regarding the Review of Australia's Progress Under the Convention at the 70th Session CEDAW Plenary sessions – at Geneva in July, which I will be attending to represent NCWA. **See Attachment 1**

The other major exciting news is at the last board meeting the board agree to go ahead with the inaugural NCWA awards. Please see attachment 1 for further information. There will be three awards:

- Senior service
- NCWA Woman of the year
- Encouragement Award

Nominations to be to info@ncwa.org.au by 13 August 2018 on the nomination form, through the NCW Council. See Attachment 2

MEETINGS ATTENDED

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Discrimination Against Women - CEDAW



Yvonne and I attended a consultation day organised by the Office of Women ahead of Australia's appearance before the CEDAW Committee in July 2018.

It was held at the office of the Australian Human Rights Commission, in Sydney on 12 April 2018. ERA played a major role in the organisation. A report is being prepared and I will provide it to you all soon. The Australian government will submit a report, but NGOs are invited to present a shadow report with alternative information to the CEDAW Committee. I will be attending the UN to represent NCWA and to participate in presenting shadow report from NCWA.



The 2018 ERA Members Meeting

This was held on 23, 24 May in Canberra. I was unable to attend as I was still overseas, but Robyn Nolan and Margaret Findlater-Smith attended to represent NCWA. Kate Wright also participated in the youth panel representing the NCYWA.

ERA wrapped up the annual member's meeting with a resolution expressing our concern at the lack of focus on housing in the budget. The attendees are calling on the Government to rectify its neglect by:

- Increasing capital funding for the NHHA;
- Implementing tax reform to reduce investment pressure on the housing market; and
- Ensuring sufficient coverage of the Remote Housing Partnership Agreement to include WA, SA and Qld.

National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC)

As a member organisation of the Economic Security 4 women I attended the 2 day National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) round table 15 – 17 April. This was very collaborative and informative. Please see my report attachment 2.



Thanks again to everyone for their hard work across Australia. It is obvious from the reports and newsletters that there is a lot of wonderful work going on.

My thanks as always go to the executive Yvonne, Robyn, Angela, Margaret, Julie, Kate and Debra as well as the rest of the board for your support

Until next time, Regards Barbara

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND

The focus for NCWQ has been our bursary program with 33 bursaries available for Queensland women to assist with their educational expenses.



A past recipient and now NCWQ Secretary, co-ordinated a High Tea which attracted many younger women with the guest speaker sharing her research into *"The Experience of Women Domestic Violence Victims as Respondents in International Parental Child Abduction Cases"*. *The Hague Child Abduction Convention (1980)* establishes international law for handling cases in which children are abducted by a parent from one country to another.

Noela O'Donnell

Past President NCWQ.

NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NCWWA has held monthly general meetings in April and May. The guest speaker at the April meeting was the State Director of Mission Australia Jo Sadler. Jo spoke about the wide range of services provided by Mission Australia in the Perth

Metropolitan area and Regional Western Australia including the Southwest, the Midwest and Gascoyne, Carnarvon and the Pilbara regions. Services include children and family support, housing and transitional housing support, family and domestic violence co-ordinated response. Mission Australia also provides outreach support for grandparents living in. Mullewa, Northampton, Greenough and Meekatharra who are the sole or primary carer of their grandchildren aged up to 16 years.

Guest Speaker,



Jo Sadler state Director Mission Australia, second from left

The guest speaker at the May meeting was Leanne Barron CEO of Starick who spoke about the multilayered support services in Perth's south-east metropolitan area to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence.

Leanne Barron CEO of Starick (centre) pictured here with – (R)President NCWWA Robyn Nolan



NCWWA has been advocating on a range of issues including "women and Superannuation", issues involving Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren, Vocational and Training issues and the PBS listing of Ribociclib (Kisqali)-a breakthrough cancer drug which and (L) Secretary NCWWA, Helen McDonagh, will contribute to a significant unmet treatment need in younger women diagnosed with premenopausal advanced breast cancer. Thank you to NCWA for supporting NCWWA in advocating for this very important initiative. It was announced in the Federal Budget that the new drug will be listed on the PBS from July 2018.

I recently attended the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) members meeting in Canberra representing NCWA along with Margaret Findlater-Smith. The ERA three year work plan was discussed and the two day meeting included a number of members speaking a wide range of topics involving women and family.

(R) President NCWWA Robyn Nolan with Margaret Findlater-Smith of NCWA at the recent ERA Meeting

Robyn Nolan

President NCWWA



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF VICTORIA

Life at NCWV remains busy. Work on the Constitution and the website are progressing. Planning for the annual My Vote My Voice is under-way and thought has been given to the a.g.m

The annual May Forum, ably moderated by Elida Bereton, NCWV Board Member, was extremely well received. The topic this year was *Families: Support for Children*. which has added another dimension to the Respect programme NCWV has been running for several years. Anne McLeish, CEO Grandparents Victoria and Kingship Care Victoria. Dr Alison Cox, a child psychotherapist and an occupational therapist from Berry Street and Liana Buchanan, Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People (Victoria), gave excellent presentations. With a marked increase in the number of children requiring protection and the situation for children traumatised by family violence and breakdown being dire, all three speakers were critical of the services and care offered to young children. Liana stated it is imperative early intervention occurs. A suggested outcome is a day's symposium where issues can be fully discussed with concrete proposals made to present to the Government of Victoria.

Central Gippsland Regional Branch, inaugurated on 10th June 1964, was formally closed on 7th June 2018, one week short of its 56th anniversary. 10 of the 12 members were present including Mavis Lynch, the only founding member still with us. The Branch can be proud of all that has been accomplished during its 56 years of existence.



Mavis Lynch,
founding member of May Forum

Panellists 1-r
Central Gippsland Regional Branch
Anne McLeish, Alison Cox, Liana Buchanan



ICW-CIF: Preparations for the General Assembly, 13th -18th Sept. in Yogyakarta, are underway. An invitation to attend and registration papers have sent. Dr Jung-Sook Kim, ICW-CIF President, is looking forward to welcoming representatives from all NCs as well as members of the wider ICW-CIF family.

Elisabeth Newman
President NCWV

June 2018

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF TASMANIA 2018

Our Council has continued to struggle in terms of numbers. There has been more interest since the Forum in November and we are reaching more interested women. Several have become financial, but we have yet to increase affiliated organisations.



Around 30 women attended the 118th AGM held on 16th May. The same Officers were elected:
Linley Grant OAM President,
Fran Swiadek, Vice-President,
Sally McGushin Hon Secretary,
Dorothy Kelly Hon. Treasurer,
Eris Smyth OAM Life Member's Representative.

The Guest Speaker Dr Catherine Robinson spoke on homelessness amongst children under 15 years.

We held a special general meeting on 30 May to discuss resolutions for the NCWA Conference and are working on these.

We have booked the Atrium in JamPacked for lunch with the NCWA President on June 27th.

Linley Grant OAM

President



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ACT

In March Wendy Rainbird the ICW's (International Council of Women Environment Adviser spoke about some of her many activities as an environmental activist including her experiences at international meetings. Wendy always keeps the ACT fully informed on all environmental issues and her reports, both written and oral, are extremely interesting and informative,

In April Cindy Richardson CEO of L'Arche Geneset, and Eileen Glass, who established L'Arche in Canberra over 40 years ago, were our speakers. Eileen explained that L'Arche is an international organisation which began in France. She gave members a brief history of the origins of L'Arche and the various ways in which it adapts to different cultures. The ACT has five houses which house a community of people with, or without, intellectual disability, sharing life in the community. Cindy also highlighted the issues around adapting L'Arche to work with the NDIS.

In May Asha Clementi told us of her impressions of the CSW meeting in New York. She met a range of women from NGO organisations round the world. She found the problems of women in developing countries particularly concerning and noted how difficult it was for women in these areas to get an education. Asha commented that the majority of the government delegations were men. She also noted that many women who wished to attend the meeting were refused visas to enter the USA. A key phrase that she has taken away from the meeting is "If we're not at the table we're on the menu".

Preparations are well underway for our Seminar on the 18 July **Canberra – A Livable City for Whom?** Kate Muir has been working very hard to make this a successful event. We are hoping, as both our local and Federal parliaments are not sitting, that we can encourage some politicians to attend. It will also coincide with the school holidays and we shall reach out to all the high schools and provide a discount rate for students.



life

We held a successful Presidents' Lunch at the Canberra Southern Cross Club. Our speaker was Tammy Ven Dange who is the CEO of the RSPCA in the ACT. Her talk was most inspiring - **Walking in My Boots.** Tammy has led a very varied life and was married to an American marine and found herself working for NASA at one point in her



In my latest newsletter to our members I included a piece about the history of ICW and the formation of NCW in Australia. I was sure that many members were not sure of the relationship between the two organisations, and how it all began.

Helen Raymond
President NCW ACT

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF SOUTH AUSTALIA

At a Cocktail Reception Thursday 10 May 2018 Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Member for Adelaide and Minister for Child Protection, and a NCWSA Associate Member, opened the NCWSA's History Exhibition during the State's History Festival. She also unveiled a portrait of Lady Way, NCWSA's first President. NCWSA. Affiliated Organisations: Asian Women's Consultative Committee, The Mothers' Union, Women in Business and Agriculture and Zonta International Adelaide presented displays during the Open Days 11 and 12 May. There were displays from the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden Trustees, the Ruth Gibson Memorial Award Committee and on Adelaide Miethke OBE and Ruth Gibson CBE.



Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Member for Adelaide and Minister for Child Protection,

NCWSA History Open Days



NCWSA Executive & Advisers with Mrs Lan Le at Government House

Tuesday 29 May 218 NCWSA Executive Members and Advisers were delighted to attend morning tea at Government House, Adelaide at the invitation of Mrs Lan Le, Patron in Chief NCWSA. Mrs Le gave a tour of Government House following morning tea and led our shared discussion on the importance of women's organisations and the value to the community of women as volunteers.

Margaret Flint AM

President NCW SA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NEW SOUTH WALES

During May the NCW of NSW together with the Business and Professional Women Australia held its annual Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney. Presentations are made to women nonagenarians who have made an extraordinary difference in their community and who have advanced the status of women. This year 19 awards were presented by our Patron, Mrs Linda Hurley, the wife of the NSW Governor. The State Library also presented the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship to an innovative Librarian. The Award was made to Anna Shelmerdine, Librarian at the Australian Institute of Music.

*LEFT: NCW OF NSW PATRON
MRS LINDA HURLEY WITH
NCW OF NSW PRESIDENT
MS. ANNIE KIEFER*



In March our Guest Speaker was Natalie Er who spoke to us of her vast knowledge of Bees. We were all fascinated by the information she imparted about Bee Hotels, Bees who live underground, Bees who live in the grass, Bees who live in bushes and hollow logs. We even learned about Bees who perform the “waggle dance”. Did you know there are over 2,000 species of Australian Native Bees?

Our Adviser for Human Rights, Madeleine Banister, attended the UN 62 nd Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Madeleine is a member of our YNCW of NSW. She reported on an Australian panel discussion on the difficulties faced by domestic violence workers in rural Australia. Another session she attended was run by the Invisible Girl Project which identified that the UN estimated that 50 million girls and women are missing from India’s population due to ‘gendercide’. Gendercide is the systemic mass killing of females due to their gender. The Indian Government says their statistics show that the number is closer to 63 million. Madeleine closed her report by saying that **“education and awareness are key players in achieving an equal and better society and in order for women to be considered equal citizens within society, we must have a seat at the decision-making table, even if we have to kick the door down ourselves and at this stage, a polite knock won’t do”**.

Annie Kiefer
President NCW NSW

Appendix 1



National Council of Women Australia

**Report to the Committee on the Elimination of all
Forms of Discrimination Against Women Regarding
the Review of Australia's Progress Under the
Convention**

July 2018

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INTRODUCTION

National Council of Women Australia is a national non-government umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, which seeks to raise the awareness of women and girls to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage the participation of women in all aspects of community life. NCW Australia works to improve conditions for women and their families, especially the most vulnerable.

Our Vision: Equity and security for all

Our values: Integrity, Leadership, Advocacy and Representation

Patron: Lady Cosgrove, wife of the Governor General of Australia

We have been in operation for 122 years in Australia and a member of the International Council of Women (ICW), the world's oldest international women's organisation. NCWA is also a member of the Asia Pacific Regional Council of ICW.

Each state and territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have their own National Council of Women (NCW) that has an executive, members, affiliated and associate members. These NCWs come together to form the National Council of Women Australia. NCWA is self-funding and receives no on-going funds from the Australian Government to undertake its work.

ARTICLE 1-3 OVERALL APPROACH TO GENDER EQUALITY - STEROTYPES AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

The Australian workforce is highly segregated by gender and female-dominated industries – such as aged care, child care and health and community services – have been historically undervalued.^[1] Australian women are over-represented as part-time workers in low-paid industries and in insecure work and continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles in the private and public sectors.^[2]

More than half of women aged 18 or older have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime.^[3]

More than one in three Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime and one in two experienced sexual harassment.^[4]

On average, women spend 64 % of their working week performing unpaid care work.^[5] They spend almost twice as many hours performing such work each week compared to men.^[6]

It is estimated that violence against women and their children cost the Australian economy \$22 billion in 2015-16.^[7]

Pornography's influence is pervasive. It presents women in stereotypic roles and unrealistic expectations of sexual relationships.

- 30 % of internet traffic is about pornography
- 90 % of boys and 60 percent of girls have seen pornography online
- 10 % viewed it daily and 63 percent weekly. The average age of first access is 12.3 years
- Pornography is a \$24.9 bill US / year industry
- Gonzo porn (violence and rough sex emphasised) is now 95% ^[8]

Australia should:

- **Change cultural attitudes towards women through a community education program, legislation and an extensive media campaign similar to that used to change attitudes towards smoking;**
- **Develop legal and regulatory avenues to existing legislation regarding online pornography;**
- **Provide education for children and young people with programs such as Building Respectful Relationships: Stepping out against gender-based violence**
- **Instigate changes to policy measures including child protection, children's online safety, education and law enforcement regarding sexual harassment**
- **Review current policies on and responses to allegations of sexual abuse perpetrated by children within schools and the training on children protection matters provided to individuals employed in, or preparing for employment in, roles that could involve children**

- **Better promote the Office of the eSafety Commissioner's Iparent website to provide the necessary education and resources for teachers and parents.**

¹ Australian Human Rights Commission, Women in male-dominated industries: A toolkit of strategies (2013), p

² Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4125.0 – Gender Indicators, Summary – Economic Security (September 2017);

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4906.0 – Personal Safety, Australia, 2016, Experience of Sexual Harassment (2017)

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4906.0 – Personal Safety, Australia – Key findings (2016).

⁴ Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Gender pay gap statistics (February 2018)

⁵ Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Unpaid care work and the labour market(November 2016)

⁷ KPMG, The Cost of Violence against Women and their Children in Australia (May 2016)

⁸ Crabbe M., Reality and Risk Paper at the National Council of Women Australia Conference 2017

ARTICLE 7 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN - PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AND THE JUDICIARY

Across all levels of State and Federal government and in other areas of public life, women continue to be underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles.

| Federal Government (September 2017) | State/Territory Governments (September 2017) |
|--|---|
| 29% of Federal parliamentarians in the House of Representatives were women. This is an increase of 2% since January 2016. ¹ | 33% of State/Territory parliamentarians were women. This proportion has not shown much improvement since 2007. ² |
| Women made up 33% of the Senate, which is the lowest proportion that has been recorded in the last decade. ³ | 35% of State/Territory government ministers were women. This is a 7% increase since 2007. ⁴ |
| 23% of Federal government cabinet ministers were women. ⁵ | |

1

2

3

4

5

Women remain underrepresented as both Commonwealth and State judges. In 2017, only 24% of Federal Court Judges were women.⁶ On a State level, there were 131 male Justices and 42 female Justices across all Supreme Court and Court of Appeal jurisdictions.⁷

These barriers are exacerbated for women with disabilities, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) women, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Questioning (LGBTIQ) women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. *Source: Kingsford Legal Centre*

Australia should:

- **Support the development of a reliable evidence base on which the experiences of groups of women that are underrepresented in leadership and decision-making is utilised to inform effective programs and policies.**
- **Implement gender targets to increase the number of women in parliament.**
- **Implement targets for women's participation on government boards and committees for all publicly-funded bodies, and for the appointment of Justices on State and Commonwealth courts.**

ARTICLE 7 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN - PARTICPATION OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

Women in leadership and top management positions

While women's leadership positions are slowly increasing, the vast majority of senior roles are still dominated by men. Women's representation declines with seniority. However, the representation of women across all manager categories has slowly grown consistently since 2013-14.⁸

| | |
|---------|-------|
| 2016-17 | 16.5% |
| 2015-16 | 16.3% |
| 2014-15 | 15.4% |
| 2013-14 | 15.7% |

There is a lower proportion of women in manager positions, female chairs and female governing body/board members in the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) 200 than in non-ASX 200 organisations. The greatest disparities are found for governing body/board chairs and CEOs.⁹

Women made up 16.3% of CEO positions in 2015-2016.¹⁰

Nearly a quarter (24.7%) of the ASX 200 has a gender target set for their boards, compared to just 17.7% of non-ASX 200 organisations. One in 10 (9.6%) ASX 200 boards do not have any women, 6 compared to 38.0% of non-ASX 200 organisations.¹¹

Only 71.5% of organisations have an overall gender equality strategy, 0.9 increase over the past 12 months.¹²

There has been a significant increase in support for employee experiencing domestic violence with more organisations having a formal policy and/or strategy up 3.8% to 43.1% over the last year. Over eight in 10 (81.9%) employers offered other forms of support, especially flexible working arrangements (61.0%), access to unpaid leave (59.6%) and referral to appropriate domestic violence support services for expert advice (34.9%).¹²

Australia should:

- **Set a target of 50% of women on Government boards by 2020 and a National goal of 30% women on all boards by 2020. (Canada has a National Goal of 30% Women on Boards by 2019)**¹³
- **Invest in additional board scholarships for women including initiatives that will help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other culturally and linguistically diverse women and women working in the disability sector.**
- **Increase the promotion of the Government's BoardLinks program so that more Australian women are provided opportunities to be considered for Australian Government board positions.**

- **Set a target of 100% for organisations that employ more than 500 people to have a gender equality strategy by 2020**
- **Set a target of 100% for organisations that employ more than 500 people to have a strategy by 2020 for employee experiencing domestic violence.**
- **Require organisations that employ more than 500 people to report annually on these statistics**

1. Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in National Parliaments - World Classification* (1 April 2018) <<http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>>.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Gender Indicators, Australia' (Publication No 4125.0, September 2017) table 13.4.
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Gender Indicators, Australia' (Publication No 4125.0, September 2017) table 13.3.
4. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Gender Indicators, Australia' (Publication No 4125.0, September 2017) table 13.4.
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Gender Indicators, Australia' (Publication No 4125.0, September 2017) table 13.3.
6. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Gender Indicators, Australia' (Publication No 4125.0, September 2017) table 13.3.
7. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Gender Indicators, Australia' (Publication No 4125.0, September 2017) table 13.7
8. Workplace Gender Equality Agency- Australian Gender Equality scorecard :Key finding from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency's 2014 -2015Reporting Data (2015)
9. Workplace Gender Equality Agency – Gender Equality in ASX 200 organisations 2016
10. Workplace Gender Equality Agency - Australian Gender Equality scorecard :Key finding from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency's 2014 -2015Reporting Data (2016)
11. Workplace Gender Equality Agency – Gender Equality in ASX 200 organisations 2016
12. Australia's gender equality scorecard Key findings from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency's 2016-17, reporting data November 2017
13. Government of Canada's Advisory Council for Promoting Women on Boards ,Good for Business: A Plan to Promote the Participation of More Women on Canadian Boards (June 2014) cited by Catalyst, Quick Take: Statistical Overview of Women in the Workplace (August 2017).

ARTICLE 13 - ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS – HOUSING INVISIBLE VICTIMS: OLDER WOMEN IN THE HOUSING CRISIS

Single older women represent the fastest growing group among the homeless in Australia, where 17 percent of homeless people are aged 55 or over.¹

680,000 Australian women aged 45 and over who are single and do not or will not own their home by retirement age due to inadequate options for affordable, secure, accessible housing are the result of systemic gender inequities, low wages, little or no superannuation savings, job loss, relationship breakdowns, acquiring an illness or disability, family violence, any one of these life shocks can lead to homelessness.²

More females than males presented homeless in 2016–17. The number of females presenting homeless in 2016–17 (57,547) has overtaken the number of males (54,169) (up from 39,876 and 42,519 in 2012–13, respectively).

Between 2012–13 and 2016–17 there has been a small increase each year in people over 45 years from 18% (or nearly 45,000) in 2012–13 to 1 in 5 clients (20%, or over 58,000) in 2016–17.³

People 65 and over are the fastest growing group: The number of people aged 65 and over increased from nearly 6,000 in 2012–13, over 8,000 in 2016–17. **The average annual growth rate was higher for Indigenous peoples aged over 65, than non-Indigenous clients (18% each year compared with 11%, respectively).**⁴

In 2015-2016 the average Australian woman was reaching retirement with an average of \$113,660 less superannuation than the average male.⁵ As a result, women are more likely to experience poverty in their retirement years and be far more reliant on the Age Pension.⁶

Currently 220,000 women miss out on \$125,000 of superannuation contributions as they do not meet the \$450.00 monthly threshold (before tax) from one employer. Many women work more than one part-time job.⁷

Average lower earnings, time out of the workforce and longer life expectancy are just some of the reasons women are on the backfoot when it comes to superannuation.

Two in five clients of housing and similar services who were homeless had experienced domestic and family violence.⁸

Australia should:

- **Increase the capital funding in the new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement with State and territory Governments to increase the supply of new homes and improve outcomes for all Australians across the housing spectrum, particularly those most in need, very often women.**
- **Encourage State and Territory Governments to invest in a broader supply of housing options, eg shared housing**

- **Ensure the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement has dedicated homelessness funding with a focus on people affected by domestic violence**
- **Address the superannuation imbalance. Remove the \$450 monthly threshold to pay superannuation from one employer and include superannuation in the government parental leave payment (as happens with any other type of leave)**
- **Implement tax reform to reduce investment pressure on the housing market; and**
- **Ensure sufficient coverage of the Remote Housing Partnership Agreement to include Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.**

1. Aged Care Guide <https://www.agedcareguide.com.au>
2. Leemhuis Penny from Older Women Lost (OWLS), conference paper at National Council of Women Australia, midterm conference 2017
3. MyHealthyCommunities: Health risk factors in 2014–15 Web report | Last updated: 07 Jun 2018 | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
4. MyHealthyCommunities: Health risk factors in 2014–15 Web report | Last updated: 07 Jun 2018 | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
5. Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia Ltd., Superannuation account balances by age and gender (October 2017) p 5.
6. R Tanton, Y Vidyattama, J McNamara, Q Ngu Vu & A Harding, Old Single and Poor: Using Microsimulation and Microdata to Analyse Poverty and the Impact of Policy Change Among Older Australians (2008) p 15.
7. Women in Super
<http://www.womeninsuper.com.au/content/the-facts-about-women-and-super/gjumzs>
8. The specialist homelessness services 2016–17 web report is the sixth annual report from the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

ARTICLE 17 - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is rampant in Australia. This includes physical, emotional, psychological, sexual violence, social, economic abuse, and stalking, including technologically-facilitated stalking and abuse.

- On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner, according to the most recent analysis of homicide statistics in Australia.¹
- One in three Australian women has experienced physical violence, since the age of 15.²
- One in five Australian women has experienced sexual violence.²
- One in four Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.²
- One in four Australian women has experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.³
- Of those women who experience violence, more than half have children in their care.⁴
- Violence against women is not limited to the home or intimate relationships. Every year in Australia, over 300,000 women experience violence – often sexual violence – from someone other than a partner.⁵
- Eight out of ten women aged 18 to 24 were harassed on the street in the past year.⁶
- Young women (18 – 24 years) experience significantly higher rates of physical and sexual violence than women in older age groups.⁷
- There is growing evidence that women with disabilities are more likely to experience violence.⁸
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience violence at higher rates than non-Indigenous women.⁹

Australia should:

- **Change cultural attitudes towards women through a community education program, legislation and media campaign similar to that which was undertaken to change attitudes towards smoking**
- **Provide education for children and young people with programs such as Building Respectful Relationships: Stepping out against gender-based violence**
- **Challenging and addressing social norms around drinking culture**
- **Establishment of a specialist domestic violence court and provide training to strengthen knowledge in matters concerning domestic and family violence for all family law professionals including judicial officers and court officials.**
- **Perpetrators to be evicted from the family home, especially where children are living so they can maintain their schooling and friendship circles.**
- **Better Indigenous community funded support for housing and services, particularly in remote communities.**
- **Reduce Court delay and multiple adjournments and strengthen cross application and re-hearing processes where there is a history of the perpetrator applying for re-hearings, cross applications and appeals**

- **Ensure children's safety is always at the forefront when dealing with family and domestic violence**

1. Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) 2017. The 2017 National Homicide Monitoring Program report by the AIC showed that over a 2-year period from 2012/13 to 2013/14, there were 99 female victims of intimate partner homicide. Women continue to be over-represented as victims of intimate partner homicide, accounting for 79% of all intimate partner homicides.
2. Cox, P. (2015) Violence against women: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey 2012, Horizons Research Report, Issue 1, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), Sydney; and Woodlock, D., Healey, L., Howe, K., McGuire, M., Geddes, V. and Granek, S. (2014).
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2012.
4. National Crime Prevention (2001) Young people and domestic violence: National research on young people's attitudes and experiences of domestic violence, Crime Prevention Branch, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra; and Cox (2015), see note 2.
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) Personal Safety.
6. Johnson, M. and Bennett, E. (2015) Everyday sexism: Australian women's experiences of street harassment, The Australia Institute, Canberra.
7. Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) Personal Safety
8. Cox, P. (2015), see note 2; and Woodlock, D., Healey, L., Howe, K., McGuire, M., Geddes, V. and Granek, S. (2014), see note 2.
9. Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage: Key indicators 2016, Productivit

Appendix 2 National Council of Women Australia - AWARDS

Reasons for holding awards

- Acknowledge NCW women
- A way of recognising those who donate their time and demonstrate their contribution
- Provide positive role models and promotion of NCWA and their members
- Opportunity to demonstrate the strength and capacity of NCWA members

Three awards

Senior service

NCWA Woman of the year

Encouragement Award

Process

Diverse group to manage the Award process

Nominations from Constituent Councils – one for each category – if they choose to participate

Application form to be completed and submitted with 2 referees

Referees to be checked by management group and submitted with applications to judging panel

Applications to be judged by a Panel of three – including our Patron? first independently and then together

All those nominated will receive a certificate and be listed on an honour role, that will be both electronic on website and physical one to retained in the NCWA Office.

Perpetual plaque will be awarded to winners that will go back to their respective Constituent Council for one year

Winner will be given a miniature plaque to retain

Time frames

Application form to be submitted to the chair of the management group by 13 August 2018

Applications to be judged by a Panel of three by 24 September

Winners to be announced at Triennial conference dinner

Criteria

NCWA Woman of the Year Award

The NCWA Woman of the Year Award is awarded to a woman who has made or is making a major contribution to the success of NCWA through her Constituent Council.

The woman should be a person who has tirelessly devoted time and effort to the advancement of women, families and the community and given service to NCW beyond the “normal call of duty”

Membership of NCW for a minimum of five (5) year is required.

NCWA Senior Service Award

The NCWA Senior Service Award is awarded to a woman who has made or is making a significant and lasting contribution to the success of NCWA through her Constituent Council. The woman should be a person who has demonstrated she has worked effectively in contributing to the advancement of women, families and the community.
Membership of NCW for a minimum of ten (10) years

NCWA Encouragement Award

The NCWA Encouragement Award is awarded to a woman who is making a significant contribution to the success of NCWA through her Constituent Council. The woman should be a person who is demonstrating she is devoting time and effort to the advancement of women, families and the community.
Membership of NCWA for less than five (5) years

Award Nomination Form

NCWA Woman of the year award/ NCWA Senior Service Award/ NCWA Encouragement Award

NCW..... (Constituent Council) nominate..... (Name) for the.....(Award)

Approved and supported by:

President Constituent Council:

Name:

signed by..... Date.....

Executive of Constituent Council signed by Secretary

Name:

signed by..... Date.....

Name:

Member of NCW constituent council

Describe the nominee's contribution to the advancement of women and their significant influence beyond normal call of duty (200 words)

Outline their contribution to NCW

- Active service- positions held within NCW
- Length of service

Contribution to other community organisations

- Active service- positions held
- Length of service

Referees (One NCW and one non NCW Member)

Referee Name

Contact details

Phone number

Referee Name

Contact details

Phone number

