

**April 2019**

## President's Welcome

Much has happened in the last couple of months and National Council of Women Australia continues to be actively involved in a range of activities to support women and their families. Each State and the ACT Constituent Council continue to work hard with a range of activities and a report from each State and the ACT is included in this newsletter.



As mentioned in the NCWA Report included in this Newsletter I recently returned from CSW63 in New York 11-22 March 2019 as one of the two non-government delegates included in the Australian Government delegation.

The Priority theme for CSW63 was: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The review theme for CSW63 was women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (CSW60 Agreed Conclusions)



During CSW63 negotiations were intense however new language was adopted in a range of areas including infrastructure and links between infrastructure planning, women's safety work and leadership. I was particularly pleased with the outcome regarding indigenous language and being able to retain an operative paragraph on indigenous women. Thank you to a large representation of Australian NGO's who attended CSW63 and their advocacy on a range of issues and to those who attended a number of side and parallel events. The hours during the negotiation days were long

with strong challenges in a range of areas however in my view the entire Australian Government delegation did an outstanding job even though small in number.

Negotiations finally concluded on Friday 22 March, 2019 and although Saudi Arabia and Bahrain announced that it was not possible to support the text when the vote was finally taken neither country raised an objection.





The Federal Budget was handed down recently and a Budget 2019-2020 Women's Snapshot was released by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP Minister for Women. The Women's Safety package included the recently announced \$328 million; \$68.3 million for prevention strategies; \$78.4 million for safe places; \$82.2 million to improve and build on front line services to keep women and children safe; \$64 million for 1800 RESPECT and \$35 million in support and prevention strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Measures also included are initiatives for Women's Economic security, health and sport initiatives and tax cuts. Also announced was \$527 million for the Royal Commission into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disabilities.

Later in the same week Barbara and I attended the launch of the Labor Women's Budget statement which focused on how Labor's taxation and revenue policies, workplace policies and investments in health, housing, education and families will work for all Australian women.

Last year, NCWA, along with a number of organisations, called on the Federal Government to add ribociclib (Kisqali) and palbociclib (Ibrance) to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Health Minister announced in the 2018 Budget that Kisqali would be listed on the PBS from 1 July 2018.

In the 2019 budget the Health Minister announced that Ibrance would be added to the PBS from 1 May 2019 for the treatment of hormone receptor positive locally advanced inoperable or metastatic breast cancer. Patients will now be able to access this medicine for just \$40.30 per script or \$6.50 with a concession card - without subsidy patients were paying more than \$55,000 a year for treatment. Hormone receptor positive tumors are the most common form of breast cancer and unfortunately account for the most deaths from the disease.

The Expert Review of Australia's Vocational Education and Training System "Strengthening Skills" by the Hon Steven Joyce was released last week. The Review considered ways to make the vocational educational system more effective in providing Australians with the skills they need to be successful throughout their working life. A significant number of submissions were received from organisations, including NCWA, and individuals. Stakeholder consultations were also undertaken.

**Robyn Nolan**

**President NCWA**

0417 917 294

[robynmn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robynmn@bigpond.net.au)



I have just returned from CSW63 in New York as one of the two non government delegates on the Australian Government delegation attending two weeks of events and activities. The delegation included the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP Minister for Women, Sharman Stone, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Libby Lyons, Director Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Kate Jenkins Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Trish Bergin First Assistant Secretary Office for Women and two other Office for Women representatives.

A small delegation in comparison to a number of countries, the negotiation team was lead by DFAT and the chief negotiator was from the Australian UN Post. Gillian Bird, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of

Australia to the United Nations hosted the delegation and other Australian NGO representatives at a Cocktail Party on the Sunday evening at the Australian Consulate, after our arrival. Liz Broderick and Troy Roderick from MCC (who attended and spoke at the NCWA Triennial Conference last October 2018) were also in attendance during the first week of CSW63

During the first week at CSW63 I had an opportunity to attend a number of side events including the three Australia side events, and attend events at the NZ and UK Mission.

I was also privileged to be invited to be a panelist at a side event hosted by the UK, attend a MCC Property Industry Roundtable hosted by EY and attend other events hosted by QBE and Macquarie Bank. I was able to attend one of the ICW-CIF side events held in the UN main building. Nicola and I also attended the NGO CSW Consultation Day held off site at the Tribeca-Performing Arts Center in Manhattan.



The two weeks were an amazing opportunity and I will be compiling a full report which will be provided to Board members in the next couple of weeks. It was also great to see a number of Australian NGO's in attendance and Women's Alliances ERA and the Rural Women's Coalition were also represented over the two weeks. To date I only have a copy of the Advanced Unedited Version of "Agreed Conclusions" - once I have a final copy I will provide the document to Board members.

Since the last NCWA Board meeting NCWA has made submissions to:

- The National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in the Australian Work Places
- The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Inquiry into the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management and Cashless Welfare) Bill 2019.
- Letter to the Hon David Littleproud MP, copies Hon Melissa Price MP and Hon Tony Burke- Murray Darling Basin
- Letters to seven Pharmaceutical Companies and the PBAS seeking expansion of the scope of Ondansetron. Conference reports have been posted or delivered to all speakers at the NCWA Triennial Conference held last October 2018.

The NCWA Executive has been invited to Morning Tea hosted by Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove during this coming week. The Morning Tea is being held for her patronage organisations at Government House in Canberra. Barbara Baikie and I will also be attending the launch of the Labor Women's Budget Briefing on Thursday at Parliament House Canberra.

**Robyn Nolan**  
**President NCWA**

A meeting was held on 3.2.19 where the coordinators roles were discussed and how we would work together. As a result, Suzanne Howarth, Wendy Rainbird and Barbara Baikie met together to establish how we work together to do the best to advocate for women's rights and raise the profile of the NCWA. The role of the National Coordinators needs to link the Constituent Councils, where relevant and provide information/brief to the President/Executive/Board via the National Standing Committee. They came up with a framework that will now be amalgamated with the yellow book.

It was agreed that the Coordinators would teleconference bi monthly. We will hold another meeting on the 31.3.19.

As mentioned in the Presidents report we have been very busy. We submitted the following:

- Submission to the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in the Australian Work Places
- Submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Submission to the Inquiry into the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management and Cashless Welfare) Bill 2019.
- Letter to the Hon David Littleproud MP, copies Hon Melissa Price MP and Hon Tony Burke- Murray Darling Basin
- Letters to seven Pharmaceutical Companies and the PBAS seeking expansion of the scope of Ondansetron.

Report on meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack 13.2.19

I was invited to have lunch with Michael McCormack MP. His national seat is the Riverina, and his electoral office is in Wagga Wagga. This is my home town. I have known Michael over many years, he was formally the editor of the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser. I presented him with a copy of our midterm conference report and promised I would send a copy of our latest conference report when it is completed. I gave him a briefing note for him to better understand the NCWA and the importance of having input from women into policy. I discussed a number of issues with him, including the lack of women in Parliament and he said he thought the next Parliament would be very different with a lot of women being preselected in safe seats. I hope he is right.



***Barbara Baikie***

***Standing Committee Co-ordinator NCWA***



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ACT

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 1 April 2019

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The National Council of Women ACT have continued our pursuit of having emergency accommodation provided for women in the ACT.

Meetings with Richard Griffiths from Safe Shelter (the men's only shelter) have been fruitful in that Safe Shelter would be happy to help coordinate the running of a women's only shelter if we are successful in finding a location to operate from.

Finding a suitable site in the short time frame that we have is proving to be an uphill challenge. Members of the Exec meet with the CEO and other heads of Catholic Care ACT who indicated they would also like to be involved and happy to support in finding a suitable location. We are however still waiting on something appropriate.

Regardless members of the executive are contacting other organisations including Uniting and United churches Anglicare and anyone else we can get in front of to try and establish this shelter before winter this year.

Nicole Wiggins from the Early Morning Centre spoke to us in February helping us lock down some statistics and the current services available to women. (more information on Nicole Wiggins can be found in the newsletter so I won't repeat myself here)

Alex Adorni-Dickson from Onelink Canberra spoke to us in March. Onelink is a 'hub' for Canberra homeless. Alex again stressed the need to have emergency overnight accommodation for women. At the moment people needing such service have nowhere to go and simply have to wait it out until longer term or short term accommodation can be found. This on average is a 2-3 MONTH wait.

Three of the Young NCW ACT members are organising a movie night fundraiser which has been set for the 5th of May. The expectation is to have a minimum of 70 people attend.

**Juanita Flett**  
**President NCWACT**

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES

### NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 1 April 2019

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Since our last Meeting in January we have been busy preparing for another luncheon. This is our annual Jean Arnot Award luncheon to be held in Parliament House on Friday 3 May. This celebrates the impact on the community of ladies aged 90 years and older. Jean Arnot had a distinguished career of 47 years in librarianship at the State Library in Sydney. She was very active in advocating for equal pay for equal work.

I attended a meeting of the State Roundtable on Aged Care of which I am a member. One of our members recently gave evidence at the Royal Commission on the role of Carers. I was invited to attend a meeting initiated by the State Premier in Wollongong to discuss the Royal Commission.

Discussions included -

- Avoidable hospital presentations and delayed discharges – resulting from patient transport not being available (or long waiting periods), travel distances in rural and remote areas, suitability of a person to receive the patient as well as the time (whether or not the patient is returning to a nursing home or their own home). It was stated that some nursing homes, due to religious reasons will not accept residents/patients on either a Friday or a Saturday and some will not accept a resident back after a certain time (6pm was mentioned).
- Prescribed drugs in nursing homes - it was noted that doctors often prescribe drugs for aged care patients on the recommendation of 'nurses' in the aged care facilities. Much concern is being shown due to over-prescribing.

I asked the meeting in Wollongong "what specifically are we asking for from this Royal Commission?" the response was "Respect, Quality and Safety".

NCWNSW recently participated in a Community Day event which saw the bringing together of women from Syria and Iraq to air their views and concerns as new refugees to Australia. They mentioned problems to do with the separation of families, non-recognition of overseas qualifications, housing, job seeking etc. Julie Morris spoke and answered many of their questions. Several of our own members attended and were able to discuss these issues. Michelle Pedersen ably organised this event and is continuing to be involved with women refugees and we look forward to participating in more of these days.

I was recently invited to run an all-day cooking class for Romanian and Afghani refugee women on 'How to Cook Australian'!! It was a fun day with the swapping of recipes such as Cottage Pie, which, with the addition of extra herbs and spices, is made in both these countries, as is Bread and Butter Pudding – they add liquor, star anise and many other bits and pieces. But the Lamingtons were all Australian!! They just loved them and all wanted the recipe. This was an excellent exercise in PR for NCW.

Nola Barkl, our State Treasurer, attended the latest of the Talking Women series put on by the State Minister for Women, the Hon Tanya Davies, MP. Discussions were held, among other items, in relation to women entering and re-entering the workforce.

We held a very successful visit from a group of women from Japan, who work in health care and for gender equality in that country. They were very interested to learn about women's roles and activities in Australia as well as gender related issues. Julie Morris and I addressed their issues. One of the visitors danced a Kabuki for us. The visit was arranged through the Australia Japan Healthcare Network. We served refreshments and the Japanese ladies were most impressed with our Tim Tams and were going shopping after the meeting to buy some to take home with them.

We have a new NSW Co-ordinator of Standing Committees, Karen Binstead, who is taking over from Julie Morris. Julie has stepped down from this role to step up to the role of Vice-President. I look forward very much to working with Karen and Julie in their new roles.

Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month (except April, which coincides with Anzac Day so the meeting will be held on 2 May). If you or your members are visiting Sydney on any of these dates, you are most welcome to come along. You will receive a very warm welcome.

**Annie Kiefer**  
**President NCW NSW**

### **NCWQ Bursary Program – now open!**

On Monday 25 March applications opened for NCWQ's Bursary Program, which has grown exponentially since its cultivation in 2009. This year, NCWQ are delighted to offer 34 bursaries to women in order to assist with their chosen path of study, by way of financial assistance for educational expenses.

We welcome some new bursaries and sponsors to the program this year, those being:

- Two bursaries sponsored by Quota International, for Audiology and Speech Pathology.
- One bursary sponsored by Queensland Medical Women's Society.
- The Hajera Bibi Seedat Bursary for an Emerging Female Leader, sponsored by Saalihah Seedat.
- The second bursary sponsored by NCWQ for regional and rural students.

The Bursary Program is just one of NCWQ's commitments to equality of opportunity for all women. Without the generosity and assistance of our sponsors, our Bursary Program would not be as successful as it is today. To read more on the program and to download application forms, please visit our [website](#).

It was delightful to hear from six of our 2018 NCWQ Bursary Program recipients recently, when they were asked to be showcased on our [website](#) during Queensland Women's Week. Farhana, Madison, Leah, Supre and Joelle provided some lovely words as to how their 2018 NCWQ Bursary helped them, each in a different but beneficial way.

### **Farewell to Senator Claire Moore**

On 16 February 2019, four NCYWQ members attended an event hosted by NCWQ and the Qld Women's Historical Association (QWHA) at Miegunyah House to farewell the much - appreciated Senator Claire Moore. Senator Moore has decided not to re-elect this Federal Election. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting Senator Moore and the rest of the NCWQ community – thank you to those members who took the time to chat with us and find out more about what we do. Congratulations to NCWQ and QHWA on a successful event.



### **International Women's Day - *Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change***

It was fantastic to see so many NCWQ members and affiliated organisations attending events, or hosting one themselves, across Queensland Women's Week from 2-10 March.

This year's International Women's Day theme resonated with me because I believe it encapsulates the ambiance of all of the recent media attention surrounding gender inequality and women across the world breaking the 'glass ceiling'. International Women's Day and Queensland Women's Week is an important time to recognise and celebrate the wonderful achievements by women and girls not only across Queensland, but throughout the world.

On Sunday 10 March I represented NCWQ and NCYWQ at a Creators of Change Brunch, hosted by the University of Queensland (UQ) Muslimah Society and the UQ Arab Students Association. The Creators of Change Panel, comprised of young Brisbane ladies Lujayn Hawari, Beengul Ali, Nadia Saeed and Rose Richani, was very inspiring to watch and it was uplifting to hear the stories of how each of these ladies have overcome so much. Most of the ladies had fled from their home countries at a young age, yet have still been able to reach outstanding successes in their careers and extracurricular passions.

### **Annual Dinner**

We invite all who are interested in the work NCWQ and NCYWQ does, to our Annual Dinner to be held at the United Services Club on 30 April 2019. Please contact [info@ncwq.org.au](mailto:info@ncwq.org.au) for more information.

**Erin Cunningham**  
**Acting President NCWQ**



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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### NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 1 April 2019

May I start by saying "Happy International Women's Day" for Friday 8th March. Across the world, we celebrated the rights that have been achieved for women and by women over decades but also took time to reflect on the rights that are still out of arms reach for so many.

NCWSA members had the opportunity to talk to **ABC Radio's Peter Goers on the ABC 891am "Evenings" program** on Wednesday March 6th about International Women's Day and NCWSA. We thank our member and strong supporter, Claudia Cream OAM, for extending the invitation and opportunity for NCWSA members Sandra Richards (Executive and Environment Adviser), Dr Nina Sivertsen (State Coordinator) and Fiona Dorman (President) to tell the community about our work and mission.



The **International Women's Day luncheon** was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. A special mention must go to the IWD Luncheon Committee and President, Joan Russell, and our very own Helen Pointon OAM, for putting on a wonderful luncheon. It was great to celebrate the day and have a chance to reflect on the past and plan for the future!



Congratulations must also go to our State Coordinator, Dr Nina Sivertsen, who received the **Irene Bell Award** at the International Women's Day Luncheon. The Irene Bell Award recognises and values service to women in South Australia.

The **Bangka Day Memorial Service** was held in mid-February at the SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields in commemoration of the 77th anniversary of the Radji Beach massacre. President, Fiona Dorman attended with Past President Betty Khor to commemorate this solemn occasion.

Every month, the National Council of Women SA are privileged to hear from diverse and expert speakers at our Council meetings. We started the year with the CEO from **Australian Lions Hearing Dogs** and had **Senior Constable Marilyn Miller** from SA Police in March to present on road safety. We are committed to our role as educators and disseminators of expert and interesting information to our network.

NCWSA is proud to have launched – and now closed - the **Lady Moulden Award 2019**, in celebration of 125 years of Women's Suffrage in SA. Details were shared to schools, universities, local government. We look forward now to reviewing the applications and welcoming a new young member to our organisation in the coming months.

The award was open to South Australian women (18 and 35 years), who have an interest in the activities of the National Council of Women (SA). This award includes a 2-year membership, registration to 4 x N.C.W. SA half-day seminars and a cash award of \$400.

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On 5th April, I, as President, will be participating again in the South Australian Government's **"Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence partner Network"** Meeting. The Network is an initiative under the Government's framework to end violence against women. NCWSA

The Advisers organised a wonderful outing for NCWSA members and friends to attend the **"Suffrage Soapbox"** on the last day of the Adelaide Fringe Festival. The group of around 25, heard a "soapbox monologue" convened by the Muriel Matters Society and the Centre of Democracy. The event commemorated the 125th year of Women's Suffrage in South Australia. The speeches by leading SA historical figure and suffragist, Elizabeth Webb Nichols (of Woman's Christian Temperance Union) of the 1880's and 1890's enlivened the ideas and illuminated the state of affairs of this historic time. We were also honoured to be guests of the Muriel Matters Society afterwards in joining them for afternoon tea with members of the society, the public, the President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Dawn Giddings and members, and Frances Bedford MP (Founder of the Muriel Matters Society).

On Monday March 18th, I was privileged to represent NCWSA at the **Joint Commonwealth Societies Council of South Australia Inc "Commonwealth Day" celebrations**, held at Pulteney Grammar School. Mrs Lan Le and Hieu Van Le, Governor and Patron, were in attendance to represent Her Majesty the Queen. I thank the Chairman, Mr Mark Bouchier, for extending the invitation to the National Council of Women of SA to attend and commemorate this occasion.



On Monday March 25th 2019, I, as President, was again privileged to represent NCWSA at the **Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Adelaide "Lady Day" service** held at St Peters Cathedral, North Adelaide. The service remembers the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, where he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I thank the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Adelaide for the invitation to participate.

**We welcome new members to NCWSA:** We recently welcomed three new members to National Council of Women South Australia and look forward to getting to know them.

Our **NCWSA Facebook page** continues to grow; now with 376 "likers" – an increase of 130 since November 2018! We are proud to share ideas, information of our community and our work with this engaged audience and have had a "reach" of over 50,630 in this time

**Fiona Dorman**  
**President NCW SA**



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN TASMANIA

### NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 1 April 2019

Three members from NCWT - Eris Smyth, Dorothy Kelly and I as well as two from Launceston - Dr. June Hazzlewood and Bernice McKenna, joined with us to attend NCWT's induction into the Tasmanian Women's Honour Roll on 15 February 2019.

The Conference Room at the Casino was filled, so around 200 were present and we were well looked after by the DPaC staff.

Dorothy went up on the stage to receive the award. I received the personal congratulations of a large number of community leaders and Members of Parliament.

Those from the south travelled home together and it was a very happy day.



We had 8 newcomers at our General Meeting on Wednesday including Mayor C. Johnson and representatives from, four other organisations.

The Guest Speaker was the CEO of the Integrity Commission - Mr Richard Bingham. He spoke for an hour and was really interesting. We had no time for our general meeting as these non-members all vanished when he left.

I have put forward a number of points we might make in our submission re the Royal Commission on Residential Aged Care and hopefully other members will now add to this.

We shall send a copy of our effort before long.

We are preparing for the 119th AGM on 16th May.

With my thanks and best wishes,

***Linley Grant***

***President NCWT***

March 8 saw International Women's Day, a day that is celebrated around the world. We rightly celebrate our achievements which we ought to be proud of but there is still a long way to go before true equality is achieved and women no longer suffer from all the injustices including violence in all its forms, levelled at them. NCWV did not hold its own celebration but members took part in at least one of the many celebrations held in Melbourne over several days. I attended. a celebration on 8th hosted by WIRE. The event was centred around "conversations" which have been found to be powerful in reducing violence against women and changing community attitudes. WIRE also launched their revamped website and an update was given on the many services now offered to support women. This was followed by a march from the State Library to Parliament House; unfortunately, I had another commitment so was unable to take part.

After many years of talking about it, it happened. The March Council Meeting held 7 March, the first true late afternoon one, was an historical event for NCWV. I say first true late afternoon meeting as in the past a few evening meetings were held to accommodate the young and those in the paid workforce but were not popular as they were not run as full Council meetings; a little business was mentioned and there was a speaker. The meetings, held at 7 pm, included dinner which did not suit many members. This meeting was a full Council meeting, held at 5.15 pm. a time that suited the majority of members, especially our young students and those in the paid workforce. It was deemed successful by those present, numbering about 30 or so persons, several of whom cannot attend during the day. We now look set to have two further meetings this year at 5.15pm., viz. in July and November and will then review the demand for next year. We cannot have late meetings every month as NCWV has regional members it does not wish to disenfranchise. Eventually it is hoped we can alternate between noon and late afternoon meetings thus doing our best to accommodate all members.

At the Council meeting we were delighted to have as guest speaker Dr Marissa Parrott, the Reproductive Biologist in the Wildlife Conservation & Science Department at Zoos Victoria. She has had 18 years' experience in wildlife field work, 5 years in molecular genetics laboratories, 14 year in captive breeding programmes and has been involved in a variety of wildlife and conservation programmes across Australia, Asia, Africa and the Americas.



Marissa has been named as an Australian Science Hero by the Australian Office of the Chief Scientist, a Global Wildlife Talent by National Geographic and is a member of Homeward Bound, a global leadership initiative for women in STEM set in Antarctica.

Marissa is part of a number of Threatened Species Recovery Teams with a strong focus on endangered native marsupial, rodent and frog species to aid Zoos Victoria's commitment that no Victorian terrestrial vertebrate species will become extinct. Marissa gave a most interesting and enlightening presentation "*Zoos Victoria, Fighting Extinction.*" With our focus, for March, on women of achievement we could not have had a more inspiring young woman as speaker.

Friday 15th Feb. Pam and I visited Lowther Hall to present certificates to the delightful 3 young girls who took part in My Vote My Voice last August. We learnt that the presentation was actually a team effort of six girls. It was terrific that the six girls were acknowledged at the School Assembly. Over the next few months we hope to be able to present the certificates to all the awardees. We are finding it to be most beneficial to visit the schools to present the certificates.

Tuesday 12th Feb. I attended an afternoon symposium "Behavioural Insights and Gender Equality" organised by Vic Health. Annabelle Crab was facilitator. Prof. Iris Bohnet from Harvard University and Julia Gillard were Guest Speakers. I attended the leadership workshop hosted by Women's Leadership Institute of Australia.

***Elizabeth Newman***  
***President NCWV***



Since the last NCWA Board Meeting NCWWA has met only once on Monday 25 February 2019. The special guest and guest speaker was Holly Masters from the McGrath Foundation. Holly timed her visit to Western Australia to speak at the NCWWA meeting. As I stated in my last report the McGrath Foundation funds breast care nurses who support women and their families experiencing breast cancer.

I was very surprised during the meeting as many women in the room did not know that not only did the McGrath Foundation provide a breast care nurse from time of diagnosis, throughout treatment and beyond if required. A referral is not necessary and a nurse is provided without cost for those diagnosed with breast cancer in both the public and private system.



Over 70,000 families have been supported since 2005 across Australia by the McGrath Foundation. Funds are desperately needed to continue their great work. NCWWA donated the meeting takings to the McGrath Foundation as every dollar can make a difference. Earlier this year the Federal Government announced additional funding of \$27 million which will add another 41 McGrath Breast Care nurses by 2022. In 2018 over 180,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer and just over 140 men. While the majority of women diagnosed are older women breast cancer is not uncommon in premenopausal women. To date the youngest person diagnosed with breast cancer was just eight years of age.



NCWWA passed a resolution at the February meeting calling on the expansion of the scope of the drug Ondansetron to be listed on the PBS when used to treat hyperemesis gravidarum (HG). The resolution was discussed at an NCWA Executive meeting and letters have now been written to the PBAC and to the seven drug companies who manufacture the drug. Severe HG can cause women to give up work very early in pregnancy, often placing financial

pressure on the family and then the cost of Ondansetron (a pack of ten tablets can cost up to \$60.00 and three per day are often needed) can further change the financial circumstances.

In February I had the opportunity to attend Aboriginal Family Law Services Ochre Ribbon 2019 "Working Together" day held in collaboration with Crown Perth. The Ochre Ribbon Campaign highlights the need to stop family and domestic violence in Aboriginal communities. Sadly there has been an alarming increase in family and domestic violence in WA over the past decade. Much more needs to be done in long-term support systems and early intervention programs. In WA 64 per cent of recorded assaults were family violence related in 2015-2016 (ABS). Family violence is a major health and welfare issue.

I was recently again guest speaker at the "Stay Sharp Program" Perth - a group of delightful women and men who do understand that exercise in general is effective at preventing cognitive decline with ageing. As a result a number of women are interested in joining NCWWA

The next NCWWA meeting will be held earlier in April (Easter Monday is the normal meeting date). The guest speaker at the meeting is Angela Hartwig CEO Women's Council for Domestic and Family Services WA. The NCWWA STEM Bursary applications have now closed and the panel will meet in early April to select the two successful applications.

**Robyn Nolan**  
**President NCWWA**