

June 2019

President's Welcome

Welcome to the June newsletter. Much has happened in the last couple of months.



A Federal election has seen the re-election of a Coalition Government with a number of new Ministers in a range of portfolios. Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds is the new Minister for Defence. Linda is a member of NCWWA and I am sure all NCWA members wish her well as she takes on the significant responsibility for the organisation, implementation and formulation of government policy in defence and military matters for the government.



Congratulations to two members of NCWW who were named in the recent Australian Queens Birthday Honours list. Dr Deborah Towns for services to education and gender equality and Dr Patricia Phair for Services to women, medical research and to the community. Both ladies received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM).

Congratulations to Mary Kirk who was awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to midwifery and nursing and to professional standards. Congratulations also to Doreen Todd who, for services to women, received the Medal of the Order Of Australia in the General Division (OAM). At the NCWA Triennial Conference in 2018 Doreen was awarded the NCWA Woman of the Year Award- a very deserving award given her services to women. Congratulations to all recipients who were named in the 2019 Australian Queens Birthday Honours List.



Many women who are members of NCWA Constituent Council in all States and the and the ACT have worked tirelessly over many years for the advancement of women and their families - unfortunately someone has to nominate them for an Honours Award and we all should be looking to nominate women who demonstrate outstanding volunteer service.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Melbourne and speak at a general meeting of NCWW. I will be trying to visit a number of Constituent Councils over the next few months. It is not only an opportunity to meet members but a great opportunity to hear first hand of the work being undertaken by the Constituent Council. It is also an opportunity to talk about some of the work being undertaken by NCWA.

In my view there is still much work that needs to be done in the housing space especially for older women. While the National Older Women's Housing and Homelessness Working Group paper "Retiring into Poverty-a National Plan for Change: Increasing Housing Security for Older Women" contains a number of recommendations. I am not sure if consultations were undertaken with civil society across all states, ACT and the Northern Territory. This important issue cannot be addressed with a one size fits all approach as there are very different issues in many locations across Australia especially in regional rural and remote communities.



For older women, an increase in adequate stock alone will not resolve the issue. The numbers of single women are increasing, women are more likely to be on lower incomes and have fewer financial resources than men, older women are more likely than older men to have no superannuation coverage at all with older women already disproportionately represented in public and community housing.

Many of the issues associated with housing and homelessness are State and Territory Government responsibilities including community housing, building and zoning and funding crisis services. There is an urgent need for a National Housing Strategy which should consider the whole housing system and it is an issue NCWA will advocate for when I have the opportunity to meet the new Minister for Housing the Hon Michael Sukkar MP.

The National Council of Women Victoria Geelong Branch is celebrating seventy five years. A lunch celebrating seventy five years will raise money for North Geelong Secondary College students. Barwon Heads CFA captain and renal practice manager Helen Woods are the keynote speakers. It is my understanding that the branch is the only group in a rural community outside Constituent Councils in each State Capital and Canberra.

In a recent letter to NCWA, responding to a letter from NCWA first written late last year regarding government support for temporary and provisional visa holders who are victims of family violence, the Hon David Coleman MP Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs has advised that the Department of Home Affairs provides support by regularising a person's visa status while they remain in Australia. The Minister advised that there is now a range of options for victims of family violence seeking to regularise their visa status in Australia. Specific family violence provisions are available for temporary Partner visa holders, Prospective Marriage visa holders who have married their sponsor and dependent applicants for a Distinguished Talent visa. The family violence provisions now allow eligible visa applicants to leave a violent relationship without the risk of losing their right to residence in Australia.

Robyn Nolan

President NCWA

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AUSTRALIA
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 June**

Since the last NCWA Board Meeting a Federal election has been held and a re-elected Coalition Government is in place for the next three years. I would like to place on record my thanks to Kelly O' Dwyer, the former Minister for Women who did not seek re-election at the 2019 federal election for the great work she did during her time as Minister for Women. Kelly worked closely with National Council of Women Australia (NCWA), including attending and speaking at the NCWA Triennial Conference held last October 2018. As President of NCWA I was delighted to be one of two non-government delegates in the Australian delegation to CSW63 in March 2019 in New York lead by the then Minister Kelly O'Dwyer. Kelly also launched the inaugural "Women's Economic Security Statement" in November 2018 which was very well received by almost all NGO and Civil Society women's organisations.



The new Minister for Women the Hon Marise Payne, who is also Minister for Foreign Affairs. NCWA looks forward to a continued close association with the Minister for Women. Minister Payne was first elected to Parliament in 2001 and was appointed Minister for Human Services in 2013. She was appointed Minister for Defence in 2015 and Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2018.

There is also a new First Assistant Secretary Office for Women Catherine Hawkins. Barbara Baikie and I met with her late last week and look forward to working closely with Catherine and her team. Thank you to Trish Bergin who recently retired as the First Assistant Secretary Office for Women who also attended the NCWA Triennial Conference last year and was a speaker at the Conference. Trish was also a member of the CSW63 Australian delegation in New York in March 2019.

The Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) annual member's meeting was held in Sydney recently. Barbara Baikie and I attended the two day meeting as NCWA is a member of ERA. During the two days of deliberations a range of issues were discussed including the draft work plan 2019-2020. The priority areas for the three year contract were set out at the members meeting in May 2017. The five core priorities are:

- Bringing the diversity of women's voices to develop and resource policies and processes that will achieve equality for women
- Housing that meets the needs of women
- Women's health and wellbeing
- Economic policy and structures that meet the needs of women
- Development of an international agenda.



NCWA is also a member of ES4W. There is one other issues based Alliance, AWAVA and three sector based Alliances NRW, NATSIWA and Harmony Alliance. In my view it would be very beneficial for NCWA to find out a little more about the other Alliances and I will try and meet with their key representatives over the next two months.

There are a number of new Ministers in the Government. NCWA needs to meet with a number of them especially the Minister for Housing the Hon Michael Sukkar and the Assistant Minister for Community Housing, Homelessness and Community Services. Housing especially for older women in many states is a very urgent issue and I am keen to see what role the Federal Government can play in this space.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ACT

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 June 2019



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

May saw us hold our first ever movie night fundraiser Top End Wedding - this event was in lieu of our annual presidents lunch. The movie night raised over \$2000.

It is a mixed report on our efforts to find emergency overnight accommodation. With us first having confirmed a location, then to have it pulled from under us the next week - with the promise of a permanent 365 day shelter now in the works. Although still awaiting 'sign off' from the minister, it is with much frustration we march on with meetings and conversations to push this through. A request to meet with the minister for Women/housing is on the table I hope to have better news to report shortly.

On a positive note - executive members are also involved in the initial stages of a separate shelter on the south side of Canberra. However this project would be a minimum of 12 months away.

Juanita Flett
President NCWACT



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 June 2019

Since my last report we have held our annual Jean Arnot Luncheon at the NSW Parliament House. This event is co-hosted by the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Australia). Again this was an outstanding success. This year we honoured 18 nonagenarians and the State Library of NSW announced the winner of the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship. We thank each and every one of the 90+ year old ladies for their contribution and tireless work in making our state a better place. There was a very special welcome to our own Joan Elliston AM on the day and we were indeed fortunate to have Joan's friend The Hon Kay Patterson AO, the Age Discrimination Commissioner as our guest speaker.



Earlier in the year, on behalf of NCWA, I attended the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCN) meeting in Sydney. Separate report to NSW follows this report.

In April I attended, together with Doreen Todd, a fundraiser for one of our affiliated organisations. The Australian Federation of Graduate Women NSW hosted a gathering at Milsons Point to help support TAFE students.

Still in April, I represented the NCW at the Annual Thanksgiving Service at St Andrews Cathedral for the Mother's Union, followed by a light luncheon and their AGM. It is always very special to be able to attend these events put on by our affiliated organisations and to keep up to date with all their interesting activities. This day was also attended by our members Tricia Graham, Sally Fennell and Noelene Rannard.

Nola Barkl and myself were very fortunate to be invited by the NSW state Premier, Gladys Berejiklian to attend the State Dinner to farewell His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd) and Mrs Linda Hurley. This was a last social occasion before they take up their new roles and move to Yarralumia. It was a wonderful occasion held in the Utzon Room at the Sydney Opera House.

At the end of April and at the invitation of the National Council of Jewish Women NSW, I was very humbled to attend a Holocaust Remembrance event at the University of NSW, where Brendon Nelson AO was the guest speaker. It was a moving occasion with many thought-provoking moments. There was wonderful music and then, sadly, many recollections of the horrors of war which made everyone present resolve "never again".

Two weeks ago I attended the Janet Coombs “Welcome to New Barrister’s Luncheon at the NSW law society. This is something that our member Janet puts on twice a year to welcome new barristers in NSW. This time there were over 50 in attendance. Janet spoke of the early days of being a barrister in law when females were very rare.

On Monday last I was invited to attend Iftar Dinner to celebrate the end of Ramadam. After the Call to Prayer we indulged in a wonderful repast then guest speakers advised what Ramadam means to them. We learnt of the five pillars of Ramadam. There was a competition for children and the winning entry, by an 11 year old, depicted a map of Australia with all the church buildings (pagodas, temples, synagogues, churches) represented and linking back to the map. It stated “Hands across the Country - we are all different but the same”.

I was absent from our Council meeting last Thursday. I was attending a two day meeting with the Commonwealth Back Customer Advocate Community Council. Of which I am a member representing NCWNSW. Some subjects discussed were

- Encouraging customers to complain
- Changes to the bereavement process
- Ensuring that banking documents, leaflets etc are in a simple language
- Simplifying identification processes
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Our member Nikki Norris AM Chairperson of the National Child Protection alliance, advised of the recent work the Alliance has carried out. A copy of the recommendations etc has been sent to NCWA.



Photographer – Michael Mannington

Annie Kiefer
President NCW NSW

REPORT ON THE ACCAN MEETING

I recently attended the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) on behalf of the NCWA.

Also in attendance were representatives from other Associations and Organisations from each State and Territory, including the Country Women's Association of Australia (CWAA), Benevolent Society, Financial Counsellors Associations, Youth Action Network, Australian Privacy Foundation, Choice and Isolated Children's Parents Association to name a few.

Some of the items for discussion were –

- No Australian to be left offline – providing affordable Broadband to enable all Australians to be online regardless of their personal circumstances or where they live without putting them into financial stress
- Financial regulation
- What issues should be prioritised
- NBN rollout and switchover
- Emerging technologies
- Providing services for culturally and linguistically diverse peoples (including indigenous)
- What information do specific consumer groups (e.g. elderly) need?

It was mentioned that the average household spends approximately 3.5% of disposable income on communications whereas the bottom 10% of households spend just under 10%, the bottom 20% spend around 6% and 15.6% of consumers in the lowest income advised they were unable to pay their utility bills on time – this is an indicator of financial stress.

There are over 2.5 million older Australians relying on the age pension for financial support and over 1.5 million are full rate pensioners with limited financial means. There are 312,000 single pensioners who don't own their own home and who have less than \$50,000 in assets and 103,000 partnered pensioners who don't own their own home and who have less than \$50,000 in assets. ACCAN is concerned that many of these individuals and couples are financially vulnerable and are facing financial stress with the high cost of communication services as a contributor.

Affordable access to voice services is essential to ensuring that all Australians can remain connected. Access to a communication service is a lifeline to community as well as health and emergency services.

There are concerns that the elderly, disabled and pensioners are being taken advantage of by pay-day lenders as well as fast cash loan companies offering a quick fix. In the end the vulnerable are unable to make their re-payments.

I will keep you updated.

Annie Kiefer
President
NCW NSW



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN QUEENSLAND

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 June 2019

Annual Dinner

We welcomed His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland and Patron of the NCWQ & Mrs Kaye de Jersey to our Annual Dinner on 30 April, along with speaker Brigadier Susan Coyle CSC DSM and other dignitaries. The Governor presented an award of recognition to Mrs Val Cocksedge for her many years of work at both the Queensland and National level.



Brigadier Coyle inspired us with her journey as a career in the ADF. On that very day she was promoted to Major General and would be leading a deployment to the Middle East next year. Siblings Taylor and Madison Birtchnell, both bursary recipients, spoke of their achievements and assistance of the bursaries – living proof of the success of the program. Taylor and Madison now manage NCWQ Facebook, and especially busy at bursary time.



2019 Bursary Program

Team Bursary is hard at work, with assessment of all 34 bursaries to be finalised by Saturday 22 June. About 25% of all applications were submitted in the last 36 hours before the closing time. We expect a surge, but this was more of a tsunami! The presentation ceremony is on Tuesday 23 July, when most of the sponsors will present to their recipient. Seven of our bursaries this year are sponsored by affiliated organisations, a great way to enrich our relationships with them.

NCYWQ High Tea

The members of the National Council of Young Women of Queensland are very busy organising their biggest function for the year, a High Tea at a prestigious Golf Venue with speaker Manuela Whitford from Friends With Dignity, a national charity that assists families and individuals displaced by domestic and family violence. They will also have some musical entertainment and many raffles on the go.



The invitation has been sent out via the NCWQ data base and of course is on Facebook, the Webpage and the University groups they belong to. They are actively promoting this event and are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon where they can network and encourage others to join NCYWQ.

Chiou See Anderson

Acting President NCWQ



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 June 2019

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This April past, in the lead up to ANZAC Day, Dr Felicity Lewis was our Guest Speaker at our monthly Council Meeting and spoke about the "forgotten ANZACs"; the unrecognised sacrifice of Aboriginal indigenous soldiers in all wars Australia has participated in and peace-keeping missions. Dr Lewis has worked tirelessly to further reconciliation with Aboriginal people and support the settlement process for refugees and migrants for many years and has held many civic roles such as Mayor of Marion Council for 14 years and ALGA president from 2012-2014.

In May, we were heard from Guy Hedderwick, CEO Arena Stadium Management and Titanium Security Arena and General Manager of the Adelaide Lightning basketball team, Mandy Spear at the NCWSA Council meeting. Mandy and Guy enlightened the meeting attendees about the Adelaide Lightning, women in sport, the commercial environment of the Adelaide Lightning (women's sport, broadcast & non-East Coast teams) and how women can take control of directing commercial revenue to women's sport and their innovative commercial approach to diversify revenue streams.

In the lead up to the Federal Election, NCWSA asked a few key experts to reflect on what voting means and how we can think clearly in amongst the volume of information that is available to us. Of course, the National Council of Women is non-political, non-religious and has a foundation for inclusion and championing women's rights; importantly, the right to vote and thus we were thrilled to have comment on a range of topics and to publish these in our monthly newsletter.

Thilan Legierse, a speaker at our 2018 "Great Women of SA" Seminar has experience as a United Nations Human Rights Lawyer and expert in conflict resolution and communications. In Thilan's election message. Thilan explores the election process and how we might see humanity in each human during the process of electioneering. Dr Clare Wright, historian and author of "You Daughters of Freedom" generously sent NCW SA a message in the lead up to the election on the importance of voting and a look back at a suffragists' perspective. And, Professor Lisa Hill, professor of politics, wrote of the political equality in each vote.

NCWSA is proud to soon be awarding the **Lady Moulden Award 2019**, in celebration of 125 years of Women's Suffrage in SA. We look forward now to presenting the award to the winner in July and welcoming a new young member to our organisation.

In June, I as President, will be participating again in the South Australian Government's **"Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence partner Network"** Meeting in June. The Network is an initiative under the Government's framework to end violence against women and to work with grass-roots organisations in advocacy and service groups to end violence.

NCWSA Advisers are busy preparing for our next Seminar – to be held on Saturday October 19th 2019. This theme will be based around the topic of Human Rights. We look forward to hearing from a range of speakers from key community organisations and advocacy groups to learn and explore our rights, including specifically discussion of a Human Rights Charter; what it means, if a charter or human rights act was to be enacted at the national level, what would it look like, how would it protect human rights and that Australia is the only democratic nation in the world without a national charter of rights.

Our **NCWSA Facebook page** and Subcommittee continue to share stories, information, ideas and events with our social network. We are proud to be increasing our social network and now have 425 "likers" a reach of nearly 16,000 in the previous 2 months!

Fiona Dorman
President NCW SA



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN TASMANIA NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 June 2019

I have much pleasure in presenting this report. NCWT had the AGM on 15th May and I had the privilege of being elected President. The following office bearers were elected.

President:	Dorothy Kelly
Vice-Presidents:	Linley Grant and Fran Swiadek
Secretary:	Sally McGushin
Treasurer:	Dorothy Kelly



Listed below are the elected Advisors for your information.

Arts, Letters and Music: Maggi Storr
 Child and Family: Eris Smyth
 Economics: Eris Smyth
 Education: Sally McGushin
 Environment and Habitat: Linley Grant
 Legislation and Status of Women: Dorothy Kelly

The Guest speaker at the AGM was Olivia McTaggart Chief Coroner for Tasmania. Olivia gave a very informative talk on her role as Chief Coroner and detailed the instances when a coroner becomes involved in a death. Tasmania has around 600 cases that are investigated annually. There are three coroners and the cases are divided between them.

A presentation was also made to outgoing President Linley Grant. NCWT is extremely grateful for all the work Linley has done in the past. Linley has been a member since the 1970s and has served as Secretary and President on several occasions over that period. We look forward to her continued interest and participation in the future.

Dorothy Kelly
President NCWT

Following on from the My Vote My Voice event held last August, Pam Hammond, NCWV Secretary, and I have been visiting schools to present awards and certificates to all participants. We feel our visits around school schedules is beneficial for the schools as well as for NCWV. We have visited three schools with two left to visit by the end of June. We recently received an email from two students requesting further information about NCWV including how to join the Council. Another student spoke to us about a network she is involved with and is interested with the possibility of partnering with NCWV. It is encouraging to have such expressions of interest from young women – our future.

NCWV held a successful morning Forum on May 6th. This annual event promotes the work of the Standing Committees. This year the focus was on habitat and environment. In noting the ICW-CIF Triennial theme: **Social protection for all women and girls: Sustainable development for the world** the Forum's theme was: **Sustainable and Safe Cities, especially for Women & Girls, focusing on Safe Streets, conforming with SDG 11** *"... make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".*



What does make for a Safe City/Safe Streets.?

The following is a report prepared by Pam Hammond, NCWV Hon. Secretary

"Martin Hobgood and Phuong Chau, VicRoads presenters for Safe System Road Infrastructure Program (SSRIP), outlined the improvements to accessibility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists being delivered through the SSRIP – Pedestrian Area program, Safer Cycling program, Safe Travel in Local Streets program. On average there are 40 pedestrian deaths per year and over 500 serious injuries, almost half of which are female. Pedestrians aged 65 and over represent almost one third of the total, with females being just over 50%. This is far too high – we would like it to be zero.

To help promote active transport (i.e. walking and cycling), RRV encourages councils to:

- Map out safe routes for walking and cycling to schools and shops in their communities;
- Develop plans for improving the safety and amenity for active transport
- Improving quality of life;
- Talk to RRV about how these plans could be implemented.

SSRIP developed a hot spot map to target areas with highest densities of fatal and serious injury (FSI) crashes. There is a budget of \$31 million over 31 councils for this program, including development and evaluation to be completed by 2020. Councils were offered access to funding for development, so that they could engage consultants to develop projects without budget risk.

These include Bayside roundabout crossings, Wombat crossings, Countdown timers, strategic cycling corridors, protected intersections which provide a safe passage for cyclists to hook turn, let cyclists do left turns more easily, and make it easier for drivers to see cyclists. There is also a Blind Spot Mirror Trial to help cyclists and drivers see each other better and reduce risk of trucks turning into cyclist. Transport Accident Commission – TAC has made grants available to councils to help them provide better facilities for walking and cycling. VicRoads has grants for local community groups to promote road safety in local areas.

Hoa Yang, ARUP Design Consultant, outlined the findings from a research collaboration between Monash University's XYX Lab and ARUP. They have analysed lighting measurements across 80 sites in the City of Melbourne to determine how we can use lights to make our city feel safer at night time.

The research data collected begins a knowledge bank that gives designers understanding of how light impacts urban experiences in Melbourne. Lighting technology in the past decade allows lighting design to be

customisable and tailored to the individual. The amount of design decisions made, position lighting as a key enabler of smart design. New and retro-fitted lighting opportunities are presenting an opportunity for city design to use light to curate positive experiences. The current Australian lighting standards for pedestrians are in need of a re-think. The standards revolve around the amount of light falling on a surface.

The tendency, in designing for public spaces by stakeholders to de-risk, too often results in a poorly lit outcome. This design approach leads to over-lighting spaces and glare. Safe perceptions of spaces correlate generally with a higher level of colour rendering, suggesting that distinguishing shapes and colours makes people perceive spaces as safer. People feel more comfortable in warm coloured light. The research has created the largest sample of night time analysis known to the researchers globally. The findings have allowed definition of a baseline for the lighting qualities that contribute to a safe perception of space in Melbourne for young women and girls.

Contact: hoa.yang@arup.com

Nancy Pierorazio, Senior Policy Officer City Safety, Social Investment branch City of Melbourne; outlined the City of Melbourne's commitment to preventing violence against women, promoting women's safety and advancing gender equality in the municipality and workplace. City of Melbourne projects include: "Women in the life of the city." "Girls Walk, Melbourne CBD", Working with Plan International on the Free to Be campaign in Melbourne: Hosted Girls Walk of Melbourne CBD; Free to Be digital mapping tool; Design thinking (led by XYXLab).



"Women's Right to Walk Freely" Partnership with Victoria Police, Victoria Point Owners Corporation and Plan International to understand safety issues and needs of women and girls who live, work and visit the Stadium Precinct and Docklands. **The Project involved:** Day and night safety audit of precinct; Girls walk: Plan youth activists and local female residents took decision makers on a walk to share experiences; Safety audit report and recommendations provided to Victoria Point Owners Corporation

and Development Victoria. **"Safe Nights Out for Women (SNOW)"** Pilot of a gender and safety audit tool in five licensed venues to identify design elements and management practices that facilitate sexual harassment in and around licensed venues.

"Equality (Art) Works" Commissioned female artists to deliver public art work by and for women:

- "Princess" by artist Baby Guerilla in Russell Place
- "Make every place equitable" by artist Klara in Equitable Place
- "Throw like a girl" Gert Geyer at North Melbourne Recreation Centre (partnership project with WHV)

"Guide to reporting sexist advertising" Helps people navigate a process for formal complaints; provides links to online advocacy tools; encourages community to play an active role in challenging culture of violence against women.

Projects underway:

- Fact sheet on how to design events that are safe and inclusive for women and girls
- Access to training on sexual harassment and bystander action for licensed venues.
- Pilot walking tours and walking groups aimed at increasing women's safety and participation in public places.

Contact: Nancy.Pierorazio@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Q&A Session raised the following issues, responses included:

- Safety around public transport: more officers are being employed to assist safe walking to cars etc. also development of infrastructure to reduce speed and isolate trams.
- Children transported in carts behind/in front of bikes: VicRoads review allows these on pavements
- Men in lycra using road as speedway: needs more monitoring and education.
- Lights being checked regularly: there is a set schedule to check all lighting.
- Walking etiquette signs in city: CoM looking at using international symbols instead of words.
- Overseas visitors driving concerns: VicRoads data doesn't support an issue with this.
- Protective officers not always obvious at night: Need to put in a complaint
- Some road signs are not visible due to vegetation or damage: alert VicRoads."

Elisabeth Newman,
President NCWV



Since the last NCWA Board meeting at the beginning of April NCWWA has held two meetings (April and May) with two interesting and informative guest speakers. At the April meeting Angela Hartwig CEO Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) was the guest speaker and at the May meeting the new CEO Christine Allen COTA Western Australia was the guest speaker.

Christine spoke about a number of initiatives including holding a number of Cybercrime forums and the planned COTA Connections -talking with older Australians about their lives and the challenges which will be the subject of a series of focus groups over the next few months. Christine also spoke about the work of the COTA policy team. The team continues to work towards better health outcomes, affordable and suitable housing and employment options for older people.

As President of NCWWA I recently met with Holly Masters CEO McGrath Foundation and presented a small donation to the Foundation from NCWWA. While the McGrath Foundation has a number of Breast Care nurses in Perth and the WA regions there is dire need for additional nurses and I am working closely with Holly to try and obtain additional funding and/or sponsorship to enable this to happen. The work done by the breast care nurses is outstanding and really does help women and men with breast cancer navigate the often daunting journey.



The NCWWA STEM Bursary presentations will be held a little later this year with a date now obtained for the Morning Tea to be hosted by the Hon Simone McGurk MLA Minister for Women and held at Parliament House in Perth.

The Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia has now accepted the NCWWA invitation for him to become Patron of the NCWWA. The Governor attends many functions and ceremonies throughout the State and while patronage organisations may invite the Governor to attend significant events it is likely the Governor may only be available to attend one event or function during the term of patronage and does not attend annual general meetings. At this time it is hoped that such an NCWWA event will be held later in the year to have him meet NCWWA members.

NCWWA again this year participated in the City of South Perth RSL Sub Branch Anzac Day Service. A floral tribute was laid and NCWWA was included in the program of events. Thank you to NCWWA member Cecilia Brooke for organising the floral tribute and attending the event.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWWA