



**Resolutions Passed
At
Triennial Conferences
and
Mid-Term Conferences
2000 - 2018
RED Book**

TRIENNIAL AND MID-TERM CONFERENCES 2000-2018

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference	President	Year	Venue	Page
Annual (Triennial)	Gracia Baylor AM <i>Victoria</i>	2000	Melbourne	
No Conference 2001				
Mid-Term	Judith Parker AM <i>Western Australia</i>	2002	Canberra	
Triennial		2003	Perth	
No Conference 2004				
Mid-Term	Leone Christopherson AM <i>Victoria</i>	2005	Canberra	
Triennial		2006	Melbourne	
No Conference 2007				
Mid-Term	Hean Bee Wee <i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	2008	Sydney	
Triennial		2009	Adelaide	
No Conference 2010				
Mid-Term	Margaret Findlater-Smith <i>Queensland</i>	2011	Brisbane	
Triennial		2012	Canberra	
No Conference 2013				
Mid-Term	Julie Morris <i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	2014	Alice Springs	
Triennial		2015	Melbourne	
No Conference 2016				
Mid-Term	Barbara Baikie <i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	2017	Canberra	
Triennial		2018	Canberra	

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. COMMUNICATION

Education
Mass Media
Arts & Letters
Music

2. GENERAL WELL BEING

Health
Environment
Habitat
Nutrition

3. SOCIAL ISSUES

Child & Family
Youth
Ageing
Migration

4. STATUS OF WOMEN

Legislation
Implementation of Conventions
Human Rights
International Relations & Peace

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economics
Consumer Affairs
Women & Employment
Regional Rural and Remote
Women

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD AT MELBOURNE 2000

Disadvantaged Rural and Isolated Students

The National Council of Women of Australia strongly urges the Commonwealth Government to:

- a. Ensure that information about the culture of tertiary establishments and the career opportunities arising from university courses are disseminated and easily accessible to school students in rural areas, and
- b. Make financial assistance available to disadvantaged rural and isolated students to ensure that they have equal access to university education.

Reaffirmation

TEACHER EDUCATION IN HOME ECONOMICS (Hobart 1999)

Advocating To Reduce Tobacco Smoking

Taking into account the proven and only too well known detrimental effects that tobacco smoking has on the health and general well-being of the entire population, the National Council of Women of Australia urges the Commonwealth Government to seriously support all measures to reduce tobaccos use which include:

1. The immediate repeal Section 18 of the tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992
2. To enact legislation to ensure tax concessions and grants are not give to companies and other bodies to undertake research that in any way enhances any tobacco related products
3. To channel moneys collected from tobacco taxes into researching innovative ways to reduce tobacco use and to minimise the devastating effects that tobacco smoking, both active and passive, has on the health and well-being of the population.

Support for the 'Framework Convention on Tobacco Control' as proposed by WHO. To become a signatory of this Convention and encourage other nations to become signatories.

Treatment of Cancer

That the National Council of Women of Australia urges the Commonwealth Government to continue to increase funding for research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer in women.

Concession Rates for PBS Medicines

That the Commonwealth Government be asked to consider allowing prescription medicines outside the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to be supplied to pensioners and holders of the Commonwealth health Cards at the equivalent of the PBS cost.

Support For a Moratorium on Genetically Engineered/Modified Crops

THAT NCWA support for a five-year moratorium on genetically engineered/modified crops and products in Australia.

THAT this Meeting resolve to ask the government to introduce an immediate five-year moratorium on the following -

- a. The release of genetically engineered/modified crops into the environment
- b. The importation of genetically engineered crops and/or genetically engineered foods
- c. The export of genetically engineered crops and/or genetically engineered foods
- d. The patenting of genetic resources for food and farming.

Ethics

The National Council of Women of Australia applauds the Commonwealth Government presenting the Gene Technology Bill with respect to establishing appropriate committees to advise on non-laboratory trials, particularly with regard to transgenic substances and urges the Government or ensure that such committees are comprised of scientific experts as well as well informed community members, all of whom should be free of vested interests, and that appropriate information is made available for members of the community to be confident that products are safe.

Register of Unnatural Deaths

Move that the Commonwealth Government establish a National Register of Unnatural Deaths of Disabled Persons in Care, similar to the Register established in NSW in November 1998.

This Register .investigates unnatural death resulting from malnutrition, maltreatment, assault, burning, drowning, suffocation, lack of appropriate medical and residential care, exposure to trigger factors causing convulsions and death, exposure to unsuitable employment opportunities, lack of appropriately trained carers, etc. These conditions exist Australia-wide.
CR: Social Issues

Strategic Plan For Water

The National Council of Women of Australia urges the Commonwealth Government:

1. Via the Council of Australia Governments, especially those responsible for environment and water, to develop a national strategic plan to coordinate all authorities which have management and distribution control of water and waterways throughout the island continent of Australia, and
2. to review the legislation for buying and selling of water, which has resulted in the formation of 'water banks', to ensure that Australian sovereignty over all its water resources is not forfeited.

Support For The International Federation of Ageing

- a. **THAT** the National Council of Women of Australia commends the International Council of Women for its action to support the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Montreal Declaration and draws the attention of the ICW to the Sixth Global Conference on Ageing to be held in Perth (The 5th Global Conference has just concluded in Argentina).
- b. The National Council of Women of Australia commends participating Ministers for the Commonwealth, State and Territories Strategy on Health Ageing (March 2000) and calls upon the Federal Government to support the Declaration of a UN Decade of Old Persons.

Internet Gaming

The National Council of Women of Australia

- i. affirms its absolute opposition to the hosting of Internet gambling sites in Australia
- ii. calls on the Commonwealth Government to urgently develop ways of banning access to overseas gambling sites to people in Australia, and
- iii. calls on the Commonwealth Government to explore ways of using international treaties and obligation to control Internet gambling.

Age Discrimination Legislation

That the National Council of Women of Australia urge the Federal Government to give urgent consideration to the introduction of Age Discrimination Legislation and in particular to Recommendation 9 as printed in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report (May 2000).

Portable Funding for People With Disabilities

That the National Council of Women of Australia

- a. calls on the Commonwealth and State Government to recognise direct and portable individual funding to enhance consumer control in the provision of services for people with disabilities and
- b. to acknowledge assistive and adaptive technology focusing towards the attainment of independence for people with disability to engage in employment and building business using 'consumer-direct' values within the purchase of their services.

Support for Youth Leader Training

That NCWA Ltd and its Constituent councils urge the Commonwealth and State Governments respectively to provide increased support for quality youth leader training in established youth training programs, by

- a. studying the effectiveness of such programmes in established voluntary youth organisations in assisting young people to grow into good citizens;
- b. funding quality leader training programs on the basis of that information.

Warning Label on Alcohol

The NCWL requests the NCWA to reinstate with the National Food Authority Application A306 submitted by the NCWA in 1996.

- a. That a warning be printed on all bottles, casks and cans containing alcoholic beverages drawing attention to the permanent birth defects that may result from the consumption of alcohol. For example 'Women should not drink alcohol during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects'. And that such warning also be displayed in places where alcohol is sold or served, and in doctors' surgeries and women's centres.
- b. That educators and healthcare professionals be urged to include in the curricula, and advise the general population, that alcohol consumption by pregnant women can adversely affect foetal development.

Reaffirmation

ALCOHOL ABUSE (Collaroy 1976)

MID TERM CONFERENCE HELD AT CANBERRA 21-24 APRIL 2002

Indigenous Family Violence

THAT NCWA urges the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to give priority to action to meet the objectives of reducing criminal, anti-social and self destructive behaviour, increasing levels of education and employment and promoting health and well-being among the members of indigenous communities, and to ensure that the processes of reaching these objectives is inclusive and appropriate.

Specific Learning Disabilities

NCWA urges all Australian Governments to increase funding for specific learning difficulties in planning and provision of an appropriate education for all Australian children.

Protection of Superannuation and Employees' Entitlements

The National Council of Women of Australia urges the Australian Government to bring about the following changes to protect workers' funds in failed companies:

1. All Superannuation to be placed in Superannuation Funds against which Companies cannot borrow, with the exception of those funds which are the Personal Benefits of a small Company's owners.
2. Employees to be paid entitlements before other creditors.

Youth Suicide

In view of the high incidence of reported youth suicide and child abuse in Australia, the National Council of Women of Australia urges its constituent Councils to approach their State Governments for the provision of regular access to appropriately trained, qualified and supervised professionals in all primary and secondary schools.

Liability of Not-For-Profit Organisations

THAT the Federal Government be requested to consider drafting legislation which sets a level of cover which is deemed adequate for public liability exposure and Directors/Officers omission limits for Community based Organisations and Not-for-Profit Groups and these levels be the limit of liability exposure of public liability and Directors/Officers omission liability, except where the claim which constitutes the liability is as a result of wilful negligence on the part of the Organisations, through the Members or their Directors/Officers.

Mechanisms would be entrenched in this Legislation to index the level of required cover and to clarify and define the classes of persons to be the subject of this protection.

Promoting Positive Family Life

NCWA urges all Governments to increase funding for programs in responsible parenting for appropriate groups, eg Neighbourhood Houses and organisations supporting all parents. Effective policy and legislation is needed to support the family.

SAAP Program Review

THAT NCWA request that the Federal Government to include an investigation into the impact of the restructuring of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (a National program which is jointly funded by the Federal Government and administered by the States, aimed at alleviating homelessness) on the viability of shelters for women and children and of the impact of the restructuring on the women and children as part of the evaluation process.

Driving With Headlights On

THAT the National Council of Women of Australia write to relevant Commonwealth and State Ministers and Federal Authorities to encourage travellers in rural areas (defined as outside metropolitan and town limits) to drive with their headlights on at all times.

Federal Funding for Dental Care & Extension to Medicare Cover

We, NCWA, urge the Government to implement Medicare Number to cover treatment for oral and dental care for those whose health is further at risk through Drugs and/or treatment in Cancer, Cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, Diabetes and other ageing areas.

THAT the National Council of Women of Australia ask the Federal Government to provide significant funding for Dental Care in addition to that already provided by the States and Territories.

Females On Boards and Committees

THAT the National Council of Women of Australia urges the Office of the Status of Women and National Councils of Women to monitor the number of female representatives on Government Boards and Committees and advocate policies designed to ensure an increase in such representations.

Age Of Children In Armed Conflict

THAT the NCWA urges:

- A. The Federal Government to ratify the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict without delay. (Optional Protocol raises the age of Conscription from 15 to 18 in the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Article 38 (2)).
- B. We further urge the Federal Government to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which defines as a war crime, the conscription and/or enlisting children under the age of 15 years and/or using them to participate actively in hostilities in both international and non international armed conflicts.

Restriction on Alcohol Advertising

The NCWA urges all Governments to subject the advertising of Alcohol to the restrictions modelled on those of advertising of Tobacco products.

Optional Protocol To CEDAW

THAT the NCWA continues to urge the Federal Government to sign the Optional Protocol of CEDAW (Convention for the elimination of all Discrimination Against Women).

Reaffirmation – Strategic Plan For Water

The National Council of Women of Australia urges the Commonwealth Government to:

1. Via the Council of Australian Governments, especially those responsible for environment and water, to develop a national strategic plan to coordinate all authorities which have management and distribution control of water and waterways throughout the island continent of Australia, and
2. To review the legislation for buying and selling of water, which has resulted in the formation of 'water banks', to ensure that Australian sovereignty over all its water resources is not forfeited.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD AT PERTH 8-9 SEPTEMBER 2003

By-Laws

THAT the By-Laws of National Council of Women of Australia Inc Ltd be and they are hereby rescinded and that the Draft By-Laws circulated prior to this meeting be and they are hereby adopted.

A History of NCWA

THAT NCWA:

- publish a history of the organisation to celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2006, and
- take immediate action to seek sponsorship for that purpose.

AND THAT the history be launched by Constituent Councils in all States/Territories during 2006.

Australian Law On Trafficking

BELIEVING that women are being illegally brought into this country to be employed as prostitutes and that firm action is required to deal with those involved in this form of trafficking;

AND RECOGNISING that factual information on the extent of trafficking would heighten awareness of the problem and help to discourage its spread.

This Conference of the National Council of Women

CALLS UPON the Federal Government to enforce laws designed to prevent the illegal entry of women for purposes of prostitution and to punish those involved in arranging such entry or in employing or harbouring such women for the purpose of prostitution.

AND URGES the Government to publish statistics indicating the numbers of women found to have been brought here for the purpose of prostitution.

Violence Against Children

THAT NCWA request the Federal Minister for Family and Community Services, and that each member Council request the relevant State/Territory Minister, to urgently address the high incidence of violence against children and to:

- implement protection programs which define violence, and
- promote programs aimed at the prevention of all violence against children.

Accommodation Options for Mental Health Clients

THAT all member Councils of NCWA request their respective State/Territory Governments to address with great urgency the issue of accommodation for mental health clients together with case management and transition planning with a view to providing a range of accommodation options, including supervised accommodation, to facilitate the wellness of such clients.

Public Housing

THAT NCWA urge the Commonwealth Government to establish a National Housing Strategy and review its present funding position in relation to public housing to ensure the availability of adequate affordable housing for all Australians in need of it, including those on low incomes (particularly women and children), the disabled, the elderly and others with special needs.

Parenting Support

THAT NCWA recommends that the Federal Government fund a national scheme that strengthens the support for children through enriched parenting skills of Australian citizens.

Violence Against Women

NCWA urges all Australian Governments, in recognising the Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration issued from the Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing China September 1995, which was endorsed by the National Government, to undertake to apply Strategic Objective D.I, viz:

'Strategic Objective D.I. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

Actions to be taken ...

124. By Governments:

(1) Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms so that women and girls can report acts of violence against them in a safe and confidential environment, free from the fear of penalties or retaliation, and file charges.

Osteoporosis

The National Council of Women of Australia urges the Federal Government

- to formally adopt osteoporosis as a National Health Priority with commensurate funding, and
- to implement a National Osteoporosis Prevention and Management Strategy as detailed in the position paper submitted by the Australian Women's Coalition, providing those at high risk of developing osteoporosis with subsidised bone density tests and osteoporosis drugs prior to the first fracture occurring.

Ethics in Schools

The National Council of Women of Australia by its member Councils advocates to the various State and Territory Ministers for Education that school curricula include programs designed to teach children:

- ethical and moral standards of honesty, loyalty, compassion and national pride;
- empathy with other citizens in their community and tolerance towards other religions and beliefs, and
- moderation and self-restraint in their own actions and the ability to accept responsibility, with the object of equipping them to achieve success and happiness as adults.

Importance of Child and Family

THIS Conference of the National Council of Women of Australia urges all Australian Governments to give consideration whether by way of taxation relief, maternity allowance or homemaker allowance, and provision of services to providing incentives for all women with young children, who wish to do so, to remain at home. This assistance would help to provide quality home based child care, thereby enhancing the place of the family in the Australian community.

Trafficking in Women and Children

THIS Conference of NCWA calls upon the Federal Government to sign the Optional Protocol on the Trafficking of Women and Children; and work with State Governments to devise and put in place laws which will effectively discourage the illegal entry of women into this country for purposes of prostitution.

Environmental Policies

Bearing in mind that Australia is not living in harmony with its environment, and in keeping with the current strength of our economy it is suggested that now is the time and opportunity for Australians to confront issues that go well beyond the present and has profound implications for future generations.

This Conference of the National Council of Women of Australia calls upon the Federal Government to:

- develop advocacy programs to make known the economic benefits of sustainable development practices in business and on the land;
- develop policies which will require business, industry both manufacturing and mining, as well as rural, to lower environmental impact and improve environmental management systems.

In this consideration should be given to:

- pollution limits which are set according to health, both human and ecological, and not on the cheapest available technology;
- less waste generation;
- mandated effective disposal of waste, both household and industrial, especially by manufacturers of computers and white goods containing dangerous components, such as lead, cadmium and arsenic, as well as precious metals, like platinum;
- the channeling of waste to recycling rather than dumping.

Such policies to be reinforced by developing new policy tools ranging from environmental tax benefits and other innovative incentives to heavier penalties.

Dementia Care

NCWA recommends to the Federal Minister for Ageing that urgent action be taken in respect of the following matters related to dementia care:

1. Development of a common assessment tool and case management model to avoid over assessment and improve service coordination.
2. Acknowledgement of the role of carers and recognition that carers require emotional and financial support, education and training: domiciliary and respite services; and funded packages of care for the unpaid carer to establish and implement their "plan of caring" by the provider, this interface with the care planning for the dementia client ensuring a sustainable holistic approach.
3. Advocacy services covering not just disability but also elderly people, which are readily available to both rural and metropolitan areas and are independent external services easily accessible by the client.
4. Encouragement of service providers to develop dementia specific Day Care Centres with secure areas in rural community centres.
5. Development of a Nurse Practitioner model for early assessment with timely management for simple medical issues that can have a profound effect on the dementia client, the model being capable of being provided in both the residential and community setting.

Structure and Operation of NCWA

The Triennial Conference 2003 of the National Council of Women Australia requests the incoming Board to take steps during the next triennium to examine in the light of the objects of N.C.W.A.

1. The structure of NCWA with particular regard to any alternative to the company structure.
2. How existing channels of communication (eg between National Advisers, State and Territory Advisers) and the National Executive of NCWA can be improved so that current and future issues can be considered reasonably quickly.
3. The resources - both personnel and financial - available at National, State and Territory levels.
4. How NCWA will retain its unique voice as a representative of its affiliated organisations in making representations to Governments and how such representation will be heard and heeded when working with other groups such as the Australian Women's Coalition.

Well being of Australian Children

That the incoming Board of NCWA consider formulating a National Strategy on the well-being of children throughout Australia in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be developed by National Advisers in consultation with State Advisers and circulated among the member Councils prior to being presented at a general meeting of NCWA.

Support for Breast Care Nurses

The National Council of Women of Australia requests all Governments -Federal, States and Territories - to recognise the role breast care nurses have in the multidisciplinary care of women with cancer and to fund positions for specialist Breast Care nurses.

Training of General Practitioners

This Conference of NCWA recommends to the Federal Minister for Health that the Government re-directs the current General Practice Training Program to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and that General Practice Education and Training Ltd (GPET) remain the fund holders and administrators on a national basis.

Government Support of National Cultural Icons

WHEREAS National Cultural Institutions and groups make a critical contribution to the mental health and self esteem of the nation and cannot be expected to be totally self-sustaining in the manner of the commercial entertainment industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference of NCWA request the Federal and State Governments to accept a higher level of financial responsibility for the support of the ABC, State Orchestras, Dance and other major performance groups.

Liberal Drug Policies and Legalising Drugs

WHEREAS proposals are being made to relax laws for the possession and cultivation of cannabis despite mounting evidence of the dangers, mental and physical, of this drug:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference of NCWA urge all Australian Governments to strongly support the United Nations Convention on Drugs (1961,1971 and 1988) and to have regard to the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (in particular Article 33).

Medicare System Process

THAT NCWA informs the Federal Government of its concern that the Government's proposed changes to the Medicare system will have the effect of denying its benefits to any but the very poorest in our society, and accordingly urges the Government to reconsider its proposals in order to preserve Medicare as a universal medical insurance system for all Australians.

Nominations for Awards

That all member Councils of NCWA adopt a policy fostering the nomination of women for awards in the Order of Australia and other appropriate awards and encourage all women who are offered an award to accept it as a National recognition of their individual contribution and as a collective honour to their field of employment or voluntary service.

MID-TERM CONFERENCE HELD IN CANBERRA 20-22 MAY 2005

Amendment to Constitution

THAT the Constitution be amended by renumbering paragraph (d) of Article 54 as subparagraph (d)(i) and by adding subparagraph (ii) as follows:

- (ii) Where there is only one nominee for the position of President-Elect, that nominee must attain a minimum of 51% of the voting strength to be elected.

Amendment to Constitution

THAT the Constitution be amended by renumbering paragraph (c) of Article 58 as subparagraph (c)(i) and by adding subparagraph (ii) as follows:

- (ii) Where there is only one nominee for a particular position of National Coordinator or National Advisor, that nominee must attain a minimum of 51% of the voting strength to be elected.

Amendment to By-Laws

THAT the By-Laws be amended as follows:

9. By adding subparagraphs (d) and (e) to By-Law 9. **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS I.** Triennial Conference as follows:

- (d) For the purposes of the ballot the Executive Committee, each NCW and each National Affiliate shall have the number of votes allotted to it under Clause 26(a) of the Constitution.
- (e) The nominee receiving the highest number of votes on the preferential system, as used by the Australian Government under the Electoral Act, shall be chosen and shall hold office until the next following Triennial Conference.

Amendment to By-Laws

THAT the By-Laws be amended as follows:

1. By adding to By-Law 9. **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS I.** Triennial Conference an additional subparagraph (f) as follows:

- (f) Where there is only one nominee for a position, that nominee must attain a minimum of 51% of the voting strength to be elected.

2. By renumbering paragraph (e) of By-Law 9. **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

II. Casual Vacancies as subparagraph (e)(i) and by adding an additional subparagraph (ii) as follows:

- i. Where there is only one nominee for a position, that nominee must attain a minimum of 51% of the voting strength to be elected.

Amendment to By-Laws

THAT the By-Laws be amended by adding to By-law 9. **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS** a new part III. as follows:

iii. Criteria for Nomination

Nominees to such positions must:

- (a) have the ability and intent to present a balanced viewpoint consistent with the views of the members;
- (b) have the ability and intent to consult widely in consideration and preparation of all papers, documents etc. on behalf of NCWA; and
- (c) be prepared to include material not of their own convictions if that is the considered view of NCWA.

Trafficking - Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

THAT this Conference of NCWA urges the Australian Government to review the guidelines regulating the granting of visas to women entering the witness protection program from sex work. The present provision (denying the grant of special visas to such women unless they are deemed likely to provide evidence leading to the successful prosecution of the traffickers) fails to bring into account the claims which such women have to protection and assistance on purely humanitarian grounds.

Murray-Darling Basin

THAT this Conference of NCWA, while it applauds the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth for setting up the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and notes that the Council has recently approved projects submitted by the NSW and Victorian Governments to secure the first 240 gegalitres of water for the Living Murray initiative, nevertheless:

1. expresses the view that those projects and others to follow should receive the highest funding priority consonant with the importance of the Murray-Darling Basin to the ecology of the eastern States, and
2. urges all participating Governments to use the utmost diligence in implementing projects now approved and in formulating further projects to advance the environmental health and continued productivity of the Basin, while firmly placing the national interest ahead of State/Territory local and political advantage.

Implementation Of Kyoto Protocol

PART 1

THAT this Conference of NCWA urges the Federal Government:

1. To implement the principles embodied in the Kyoto Protocol and to cooperate with developed and developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere in an attempt to reverse the current catastrophic world-wide climatic changes;

PART 2

THAT this Conference of NCWA urges the Federal Government:

2. to increase the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target to at least 10% by 2010 and to increase subsidies and support for research and development in renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind power, geothermal energy and the hydrogen economy.

Child Pornography

THAT this Conference of NCWA, recognising the evil of child pornography distributed through the internet, calls upon the Federal Government to prosecute with the utmost vigour all measures required to punish those infringing the criminal law by the making, publication or possession of pornographic images involving children; and further, in order to protect children from exposure to such images, to investigate all possible measures having the effect of preventing or restricting access to pornographic images on the internet.

Children In Detention Centres

THAT this Conference of NCWA request the Federal Government, in order to conform with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, to release all children presently held in Immigration Detention Centres, whether on the mainland or in Christmas Island or Nauru, pending investigation of their claims for refugee status, provided that satisfactory safeguards are in place for the children's welfare.

Prevention of Abuse – Early Childhood

THAT this Conference of NCWA urges both the Federal and State Ministers for Health to have regard to the importance of ensuring proper care for children in the first year of life, which requires provision of trained home nurses, access to Baby Health Centres and education for mothers and fathers, together with services to identify babies at risk of abuse.

Mental Health Funding

THAT this Conference of NCWA urges the Federal and State Governments to implement immediate action to increase the funding allocation for Mental Health to a level reflecting the extent to which mental health problems have been shown to affect the population, in order to provide essential supportive policies which include the following:

- Appropriate supervised accommodation on hospital discharge.
- Community housing with appropriate services.
- Respite facilities for both carers and sufferers.
- Appropriate training for service providers.
- Continuation of education programs to reduce stigma.
- early intervention programs for young people suffering mental illness.
- Innovative workplace employment schemes.

This requires a coordinated approach between State and Federal Governments, service providers, NGOs and other community groups.

Emergency Contraception Pill

THAT this Conference of NCWA request the Federal and State Departments of Health to ensure that information on the emergency contraception pill, Postinor 2, is widely distributed in an easy-to-read format which will be readily understood by the lay person and that appropriate translations be included with the information for the benefit of non-English speakers.

Unplanned Pregnancy and Sexual Health

THAT this Conference of NCWA request the Federal Government to consider the setting up of national programs aimed at reducing by education and information the rate of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, particularly among young people; such programs to be implemented in schools and the wider community in conjunction with community based agencies.

Maternity Payment and Overseas Adoption

WHEREAS the Maternity Payments of \$3000 per child provided by the Federal Government may be claimed only in respect of children born to the parents or adopted by them within a period of 26 weeks of the date of birth or the date on which the child comes into the applicants' care **AND WHEREAS** in the case of adoptions from overseas the time frame allowed for claims effectively excludes the adopting parents from eligibility for the payment

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference of NCWA request the Federal Government to extend Maternity Payments to Australian citizens adopting young children from overseas in all cases where it is equitable for them to receive such payments to assist in meeting the initial costs of the new child entering the family.

Poverty and Inequality in Australia

THAT this Conference of NCWA calls upon the Federal Government to hold a National Summit, involving all levels of Government, NGOs, University Research Centres, Unions and the marginalised, for the purpose of creating a National Strategy to address inequality and poverty issues in Australia, as recommended in the Senate Report on Poverty of March 2004.

Portability of Seniors Card

THAT this Conference of NCWA require each of its Constituent Councils to request the relevant State/Territory Minister to reintroduce discussion on accepting portability of Seniors Cards throughout Australia at the next national meeting of Ministers responsible for the Ageing; a copy of this resolution to be submitted to the Federal Government for information and monitoring.

War Widows

THAT this Conference of NCWA calls upon the Federal Government to end the Veterans Entitlement Act to remove the present discrimination against war widows who fail to make a claim under the Act before remarrying but who would otherwise have a valid claim.

Funding for the Australian Broadcasting Commission

THAT this Conference of NCWA request the Federal Government to adequately fund the ABC so that it can fulfil its Charter requirements and offer the best quality content in educational, cultural, sporting and entertainment programs.

Reaffirmation - Osteoporosis

THAT this Conference of NCWA reaffirms the Resolution passed at its Conference held in September 2003 in the following terms:

The National Council of Women of Australia urges the Federal Government to implement a National Osteoporosis Prevention and Management Strategy as detailed in the position paper submitted by the Australian Women's Coalition, providing those at high risk of developing osteoporosis with subsidised bone density tests and osteoporosis drugs prior to the first fracture occurring.

Re Annual Dues

THAT Clause 11 (iv) of the NCWA By Laws be rescinded.

The cost of at least one visit by the President to each NCW during her term of Office must be financed.

Re Standing Orders

THAT where a secret ballot is required by the Constitution, it will be conducted as follows:

Voting papers will be given to the voting member of each voting block, each National Adviser and Coordinator and each proxy.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN MELBOURNE 6-8 OCTOBER 2006

Amendment to Constitution Section 54

THAT Section 54: Election and term of office of the President be amended as follows, namely -

Section 54(b) reads as follows:

(b) Nominations for the President Elect must be called at least 18 months before a Triennial Conference. Each nomination must be:

- (i) in writing;
- (ii) signed by the Presidents of two (2) Constituent NCsW and by the nominee;
- (iii) accompanied by the written consent of the Executive Committees of those Constituent NCsW; and
- (iv) forwarded to the Secretary at least 15 months before the Conference.

Music Education

THAT this Conference of NCWA urges the Federal, State and Territory Governments to implement as a priority the recommendations of the report "*Augmenting the Diminished*" resulting from the National review of School Music Education, by providing the appropriate funding to:

- improve the overall status of music in schools;
- improve the equity of access, participation and engagement in school music for all students;
- improve teacher pre-service and in-service education;
- improve curriculum support services (advisory), instrumental music, vocal music and music technology;
- improve music education in schools through supportive principals and school leadership, adequately educated specialist teachers, increased time in the timetable, adequate facilities and equipment;
- improve levels of accountability, and
- support productive partnerships and networking with music organisations, musicians, the music industry and the Australian community.

Supported Accommodation

THAT having regard to reports indicating an increase in the numbers of people leaving family situations because of domestic violence, and to the likelihood that many of these will be left homeless unless they can be assisted through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), this Conference of NCWA urges the Federal Government to increase funding for that Program by 15 per cent in each of the next 3 years.

Food Advertising

THAT this Conference of NCWA, being concerned at the influence on children of advertising during children's television programs, urges the Federal Government to legislate stricter guidelines for the advertising of foods, particularly snack products and beverages, during the hours of children's television programming.

Primary Health Care

THAT this Conference of NCWA, being concerned at substantial and long-standing inequalities of access to primary health care, including dental care, by disadvantaged groups, such as low income earners and residents in rural and remote areas, urges Ministers for Health in the Federal and State/Territory Governments to work with the Health Care industry to promote more equitable access by disadvantaged groups to adequate primary health care, so reducing the 'inverse care' effect caused by the present inequality.

Sustainable Water Supply

THAT this Conference of NCWA, recognising the urgency of securing the future of the National water supply, urges the Federal Government to implement the following:

1. A Review and monitoring program of water allocations from underground sources.
2. Assistance to State Governments for the repair of all faulty water infrastructure to minimise water loss and the replacement of open water channels with piping.
3. Provide financial and technical support to irrigators to allow them to take advantage of the latest irrigation technology.

Monitoring of the trade in water assets to ensure ownership of these assets is limited to legitimate users of the water.

Global Warming

THAT this Conference of NCWA, **ACKNOWLEDGING** the urgency of measures to reduce the effect of global warming; **NOTING** that the implications of global warming are recognised worldwide and that many negative effects can already be seen, and **CONSIDERING** that export and marketing opportunities exist for products developed as a result of the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target and related programs:

Urges the Federal Government to take action enabling it to play a key role by means of best practice incentive schemes in the establishment of a renewable energy industry for the purpose of reducing the impact of greenhouse gases.

Cyber Safety

THAT this Conference of NCWA, concerned that children should receive protection from abuses and from exposure to harmful images and messages resulting from internet technology, urges the Federal Government to develop policies to ensure responsibility in the industry, to facilitate international legal cooperation to combat online child abuse, and to have legislative processes applied to regulate the rising number of chat rooms.

Palliative Care

THAT this Conference of NCWA, noting that in some palliative care wards with 24 hour nursing care, the present low staffing levels require increased reliance on family members to provide care for patients, and that this has adverse consequences for the well-being and mental health of patients, family members and staff, calls on its State and Territory Councils to urge their respective Governments to take action to address the problem of low staffing levels in this area of medical care.

Stem Cell Research

THAT this Conference of NCWA, recognising the health benefits capable of arising from stem cell research as referred to in the review by the Lockhart Committee, urges the Federal Government:

- (i) to act on the recommendations of the Committee and to promote stem cell research, and
- (ii) to ensure that no prohibitions are enacted designed to prevent the States and Territories from legislating to allow stem cell research.

Renewable Energy

THAT this Conference of NCWA calls for the Federal Government to act urgently on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by:

- funding continued research and development in renewable energy technologies,
- increasing Mandatory Renewable Energy Targets,
- signing the Kyoto Protocol,
- developing emission trading,
- issuing financial incentives for uptake of solar energy systems, both commercial and domestic, and

- introducing carbon taxes.

Water and Land Management

Acknowledging the rights of the States and Government National Water Initiative, the Murray Darling Commission and the Snowy Hydro Electric Authority:

THAT we, the NCWA, urge the Commonwealth Government to initiate

- A Ministry of Water with a Department to investigate, through the Council of Australian Government (COAG), A National Strategic Management Plan to cover all waters of Australia (ie artesian, sub artesian rivers, coastal catchments, storm water, ground water, aquifers, wastage and sewerage water), in order that full governance transparency and accountability of all usage (ie agricultural, environmental, mining, urban, residential and manufacturing enterprises), can be ascertained and long term sustainability be recognised and acknowledged.

- We further ask that the community be represented on all Boards and Committees, as well as scientists, planners, agriculturalists, environmentalists and business., but believing that the whole range of impacts on water use needs to be considered, strongly urges the Federal Government to formulate a National Strategic Plan with all necessary guidelines and protocols for the management and usage, in conjunction with land management, of all waters contained within coastal, inland, artesian and sub-artesian reserves; such National Strategic Plan to include waste management and the re-usage of such water.

Trafficking

THAT this Conference of NCWA,

COMMENDING the Australian Government for its work in combating the trafficking of women for work in the Australian sex industry and in assisting other countries in the region to address the trafficking of women for the purposes of sexual servitude; and

NOTING that the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 34th Session February 2006 recognised the Australian Government's commitment to assess the effectiveness of regulation of the sex industry set out in the Australian Strategy to Combat Trafficking of Women for Sexual Servitude 2004-2006, **CALLS FOR:**

- (1) the publication of an annual impact assessment of strategies adopted in relation to demand abatement and prevention of recruitment into the sex industry and for rehabilitation and support for those wishing to exit prostitution, and
- (2) the tracking of the impact of changes to the temporary protection visa system and support services on victims of trafficking, including those who are unable or unwilling to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers, as set out in the 2006 concluding comments of the CEDAW committee.

Adaptable Housing

THAT this Conference of NCWA encourages its Constituent Councils to advocate to their respective Governments the advantages of Adaptable Housing principles, to include those principles in the design of public housing and to facilitate their adoption by the private sector by including them in building regulations.

Register of Schizophrenia

THAT the Constituent Councils of NCWA urge their respective State and Territory Governments to make mandatory the notification of schizophrenia and allied disorders by hospitals and health services for the purpose of setting up a Register of those diseases to enable collection of Identified data to be used to:

1. monitor the number of cases in the State population;
2. compare local and regional trends in the incidence of the diseases;
3. assist in planning services to combat the incidence of the diseases and provide for care of sufferers;
4. monitor and evaluate the quality of treatment, outcomes of care and performance of control programs;
5. provide data for research;
6. assist with studies to determine cause and improve the quality of services, and
7. by so doing to lay the basis for a National Register to contribute to national monitoring.

Alcohol Advertising

THAT this Conference of NCWA, noting that the Australian Alcohol Guidelines are in process of being updated with a view to issuing a revised version in 2007, requests the Federal Government to legislate for control of alcohol advertising, particularly in association with sporting events, along the lines of current provisions relating to tobacco advertising.

MID-TERM CONFERENCE HELD IN SYDNEY 24-25 MAY 2008

NCWA Constitution

THAT PART 1 – OBJECTS, Section 1. Objects of the Constitution of NCWA be rescinded and replaced with the following:

1. Objects

The objects for which the Company is established are:

- a) To work for the empowerment of women and to promote equal status for women and men in law and in fact.
- b) To link the Constituent Councils of Women in Australia.
- c) To develop national policies and responses on behalf of women on an Australia-wide basis.
- d) To act as a voice on issues and concerns of women at National and International levels.
- e) To maintain an affiliation with the International Council of Women and work for the implementation of its plans of action and policies.
- f) To work for peaceful settlement of disputes by arbitration, conciliation and mediation.

NCWA Mission Statement

THAT Section 1. MISSION STATEMENT of the NCWA By-Laws be rescinded with the following to take its place:

1. MISSION STATEMENT

NCWA is a national non-government, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, seeking to raise the awareness of women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encouraging their participation in all aspects of community life.

By-Laws

THAT the following additional paragraph be inserted as subparagraph (f) in Article 8 of the By-Laws dealing with Urgent Representation:

“(f) Where no expressed policy exists which covers the representation, the Board shall consider the matter on its merits and decide whether to accept, modify or reject the representation for forwarding to the Government or other body intended to receive it and shall notify its decision without delay to the submitting Constituent Council. In the case of the representation being rejected the Board when so notifying shall set out the reasons for its rejection.

Completion of the Register of the National Estate

NCWA urges the Federal Government to complete the compilation of the Register of the National Estate; to confirm the importance of Australia's cultural environment as well as the natural environment; and to ensure that responsibility for Heritage be retained federally.

International Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs

NCWA urges the Federal Government to sign the "International Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs" so banning the supply and use of cluster bombs, and to ratify and immediately bring into force the provisions of the treaty.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder

In light of the growing social problem of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), NCWA urges the Federal Government to immediately legislate to have warning labels placed on all alcohol containers stating:

'DRINKING ALCOHOL WHEN PREGNANT CAN CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS'

Electronic Gambling

NCWA calls on the Federal Government and through its Constituent Councils, the State and Territory Governments, to address the major social problem of electronic gambling by legislating to commit to the removal of all electronic gaming machines from Pubs and Clubs within five (5) years.

Review of 457 Visa - Temporary Skilled Migration Program

NCWA strongly supports the Federal Government in its review of the functioning of 457 Visa requirements and urges the provision of funding:

1. to provide more effective monitoring of the program, especially in rural areas, including any breaches of occupational health and safety requirements;
2. to ensure, should employment be terminated, appropriate remuneration and support of these workers and their families, and assistance in locating further employment within the term of the visa.

Support for Human Rights of Trafficked Persons

GIVEN that Australian Law upholds the Human Right to protection for all trafficked persons, NCWA strongly urges that Protection Visas be supplied to those people identified by the Federal Police as trafficked persons, regardless of their ability or willingness to assist with convictions.

Carers and the Need for Respite Facilities

NCWA urges the Federal Government to recognise society's dependence on those who provide full-time home care of the frail aged, physically and intellectually disabled and those with mental health issues, by ensuring that sufficient respite facilities, including adequate and appropriate accommodation places and staff numbers, are made available to allow all carers access to the regular respite they deserve and to which they are entitled.

Science Education

NCWA and its Constituent Councils urge all governments, State and Federal, to ensure the future well-being of Australia in an ever more technologically oriented age, by ensuring that:

1. Incentives be made to attract teachers to enter and to remain in service in the science/mathematics/technology disciplines; and
2. Present teachers, particularly those in primary areas, have adequate in-service seminars/work-shops etc to upgrade their teaching skills in technological areas.

ATMs

The National Council of Women of Australia calls on the Federal Government to legislate to remove every Automatic Teller Machine situated in near vicinity of poker machine rooms, OR to place the limited amount of withdrawal from ATMs to a maximum of \$200 per 24 hour period if they are required by banking authorities to be situated within the building which houses poker machines.

National Housing Policy

NCWA acknowledges the Federal Government's recently announced plans but calls on the Federal Government to implement the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing, Miloon

Kuthara, in the report to the UN Human Rights Council May 2007, by putting into place a comprehensive national housing policy based on human rights.

Paid Parental Leave

NCWA urges the Federal Government to establish a national scheme to achieve a cost-effective system of paid parental leave for Australian families, and for its urgent implementation.

Cage Fighting

NCWA urges the Federal Government, and through its Constituent Councils, the State and Territory Governments, to introduce legislation to ban Cage Fighting.

Grandparenting – Financial Support

NCWA urges the Federal Government to collaborate with State and Territory Governments to provide equitable financial support to grandparents who are primary carers for their grandchildren.

Storing Radio-Active Waste

NCWA urges the Federal Government to abandon the proposal to store radio-active waste at Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory.

Housing Affordability

NCWA urges the Federal Government, and through its Constituent Councils, the State and Territory Governments, to urgently address the housing affordability crisis by developing a coordinated policy and implementation plan which will:

- support residential development;
- reduce the costs involved in new housing developments;
- reduce government charges and taxes relating to new developments and housing;
- increase stocks of public housing; and
- address the labour shortage in the housing industry by providing more apprenticeships and incentives to study trades.

Women Held in Detention Centres

NCWA urges the Federal government to release some 37 women held in Australian Detention Centres into community detention while their cases are being considered.

Servile Marriage As a Form of Trafficking

National Council of Women of Australia calls on the Australian Government to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in relation to servile marriage as a form of trafficking by:

- ensuring that information about the prevalence of servile marriage in Australia is gathered and made widely available, and
- introducing into the Criminal Code a specific offence of engaging in conduct causing another person to enter into servile marriage (similar to the debt bondage offence in section 271.8), using the definition of servile marriage in the Supplementary Convention on Trans-national Organised Crime.

Micro-Credit Schemes

NCWA strongly supports the micro-credit schemes which allow the needy of the third world to borrow money at minimal interest for projects which lead to sustainable development.

NCWA will ascertain what micro-credit schemes are available within Australia, actively encourage the introduction of such schemes to the financial institutions, and promote their availability through all means available to it.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN ADELAIDE 24-27 OCTOBER 2009

Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Given the serious adverse effects that climate change will have on Australia, NCWA urges the Federal Government to increase its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, bring forward all action and promote a low carbon economy.

Child Protection Data

NCWA urges the Federal Government to underpin the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children with a consistently applied national data set to measure child protection indicators, prevalence and incidence in order to accurately ascertain the effectiveness of the strategies utilized to address the issues of child abuse and neglect.

Health – Nursing Homes Staff

NCWA urges the Federal Government to urgently legislate to increase funding to ensure that the ratio of trained nursing staff to that of residents of nursing homes is increased to a level equivalent to that required by law in public hospital medical and surgical wards, so ensuring that no resident is cared for in unsafe conditions or suffers neglect, particularly on evening or night shifts.

Domestic Violence – Data Collection

NCWA urges the Federal Government through its National Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Women, to work with the States and Territories to establish an effective, nationwide means of collection and collation of accurate statistics about the nature and frequency of domestic violence throughout Australia, in order to assist in achieving a comprehensive and national approach to addressing the many consequences of domestic violence.

Call for a Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy

NCWA urges the Federal Government to implement a National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy based on the Background Paper "*Time for a national sexual & reproductive health strategy for Australia*" Feb 2008, and which is adequately funded to cover rural as well as inner suburban areas.

Chronic Wound Management

THAT NCWA urge the Federal Minister of Health and Ageing to provide funding and support campaigns to address the problem of management of chronic wounds in Australia.

Child and Youth Homelessness

NCWA urges the Federal Government to incorporate the needs of children and youth who are without family or parental support when directing resources to the alleviation of homelessness.

Future Food Crises

NCWA urges the Federal Government to substantially increase its investment in agricultural research and development to cater for the future food needs of Australia and the world.

Standardisation of Nurses Salaries

NCWA urges the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to provide increased funding in order to standardise the salaries of all nursing staff, whether in any type of aged care facility or public hospital covered by Federal and State Awards and/or Enterprise Agreements.

Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of The Right of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

NCWA urges the Federal Government to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Right of all Migrant Workers and members of their families.

National Maternity Services Plan

NCWA urges the Federal Government to act on the 18 recommendations contained in the publication, 'Improving Maternity Services in Australia', The Report of the Maternity Services Review, 2009.

Emergency and Transitional Housing Needs

NCWA commends the Federal and State Governments on steps taken to increase stocks of community housing, but urges the Federal government and through its Constituent Councils, the State and Territory Governments to ensure that:

1. Sufficient emergency housing (for singles, couples and families) is provided to reduce the turn-away rate from emergency shelters and refuges.
2. Sufficient transitional housing of various sizes is provided so that people exiting emergency shelters and refuges have affordable housing while waiting for public housing.
3. Sufficient support services (particularly after-hours services) are provided for the chronically homeless.

MID-TERM CONFERENCE HELD IN BRISBANE 27-29 MAY 2011

Amendment to Constitution

That Section 54(e) of the NCWA Constitution be rescinded.

Human Rights Commissioner

NOTING that it is 20 years since Australia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: and that the Federal Government is responsible for ensuring that Australia meets its obligations under that Convention: but

GREATLY CONCERNED that there are still over 22,000 young people between the ages of 12 and 18 [1] who are homeless, and even more concerned that there are an additional number of children under 12 years of age left homeless when whole families are homeless [2]; and at the high level of child abuse and health problems in Australia.

BELIEVING that we have failed to meet our responsibility under Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely to ensure the survival and development of every child in Australia; and

HEEDING calls by the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and other national organisations:

The National Council of Women of Australia endorses plans to establish a National Commissioner for children, operating under the National Human Rights framework to:

- Act as a National Advocate for Children's Rights, ensuring that Government decision making processes and outcomes are consistent with the best interests of children,
- Develop mechanisms to ensure that children participate in the decision making processes on matters which impact on their rights, and
- Coordinate a National approach to Children's Rights.

Sustainable Living

NCWA urges the Federal Government to

- a) acknowledge the necessity for moderate population growth within limits compatible both with the sustainability of natural resources and of environmentally sustainable living standards; and
- a) develop planning policies which address housing and transport strategies to support a stable and sustainable population.

Centrelink Information for Rural and Remote Students

NCWA urges the Federal Government to ensure that the dedicated Centrelink phone line pertaining to the allowances available to rural and remote students, who have to live away from home in order to complete their education, is given maximum publicity.

Reduction in Alcohol Consumption

NCWA, in view of well documented evidence of alcohol abuse and related violence and health problems, car accidents, murders and suicides, urges the Federal Attorney to convene a meeting of State Attorneys-General to devise a strategy for reducing the amount of alcohol consumption in Australia, which would include:

1. earlier closing times for hotels

Reduction in the Advertising of Alcohol

NCWA urges the Federal and through the Constituent Councils, the State Governments, to initiate and implement:

- (a) legislation by degrees to significantly reduce the advertising of alcohol; and
- (b) the banning, within 12 months, of the advertising of alcohol at, and in association with, sporting events.

National Land and Water Plan

NCWA urges the Federal Government to develop a national land and water plan, which includes the extension of the Foreign Investment Review Board's mandate to include land and water, using evidence based criteria that support benefits to Australia's environment (including biodiversity and water), its society and economy.

Funding for Youth Organisations

NCWA urges the Federal Government to provide funding by grants to properly resource and support youth organisations that currently operate in Australia to engage youth and children for the future.

No Cost Pertussis Vaccinations

NCWA urges the Federal Government to provide pertussis (whooping cough) vaccinations, at no cost to high risk groups in the community, including adults planning a pregnancy or both parents as soon as possible after delivery of an infant, other household members, grandparents and carers of young children, adults working with young children including childcare workers, healthcare workers and any adult requesting a vaccination. This will increase herd immunity in the population and prevent increasing morbidity and mortality as a result of pertussis infection in unvaccinated infants and children.

Funding for Early Intervention on Youth Mental Health

The National Council of Women of Australia

REAFFIRMS the May 2005 resolution on the need for adequate mental health programs for all Australians including support for early intervention programs for young people suffering from mental illness, and

CALLS for additional funding for early intervention programs for young people with mental health problems through establishment of additional non-hospital, drop-in community centres and community based facilities for young people across Australia known as 'Headspace' and 'Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centres'.

Mental Health Diversion List Program

NCWA urges the Federal Government, and through the Constituent Councils and the other State Governments, to support the expansion of programs similar to the established Mental Health Diversion List Program already in operation in Tasmania to all States and Territories.

Trading of Australia's Water Entitlements

NCWA urges the Federal, State and Territory governments to legislate to disallow all trading of Australia's water entitlements, unless there is clear provision for on-going, provable benefit for Australia's environment. This protection includes conservation of water resources and benefit for Australia's society and economy.

Anti-Discrimination Laws

NCWA welcomes the Federal Government's plan to consolidate anti-discrimination law so as to remove un-necessary regulatory overlap and to make the system more user-friendly;

BUT urges that Consolidation Acts should recognise the need to

improve human rights education,

monitor systemic inequality,

recognise cases of intersectional or multiple discrimination,

allow for temporary exemptions, and

expand the scope for pro-active measures to promote substantive equality. AND further

calls for the Consolidation Acts to provide for improved institutional and reporting

frameworks including adequate funding for the Australian Human Rights Commission to carry out these responsibilities.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN CANBERRA 5/6/7 OCTOBER 2012

Ratify Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrants

Affirmation

The National Council of Women of Australia:

NOTES that migrants in many parts of the world face severe human rights abuses including in some cases slavery-like conditions,

EXPRESSES concern that Australia has not yet ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and

CALLS ON the Australian government to ratify the Convention and promote realisation of the rights set out in the Convention internationally and domestically.

Bone Density Scans

That bone density scans be covered by Medicare for all persons over the age of 40 years.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

That NCWA continue to urge the Federal and State Governments to put on hold all development proposals in planning, within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) and World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) until the strategic assessment of the GBRWHA and adjacent coastal zone is completed and to develop an overall preservation and development plan for the GBRMP and GBRWHA.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Safety Net

The NCWA urge the Federal Government to alter the conditions of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Safety Net so that conditions required for single people – self-funded retirees; concession card holders; recipients of Department of Veteran Affairs' pensions; or single-person households, are reduced from those conditions required for family units of two or more people.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

- 1 a) That NCWA endorses the Australian Federal Government and its State counterparts in their decision to introduce a National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 2 b) NCWA urges the Federal Government to ensure that sufficient financial measures are taken to enable that not only NDIS trials proceed, but sufficient provision is made to ensure the rollout of the full scheme, in accordance with the Productivity Commission's recommendations and timelines.

MID TERM CONFERENCE HELD IN ALICE SPRINGS 27/28/29 MAY 2014

Sports Betting

National Council of Women of Australia Ltd. meeting in Conference requests Minister for Communications, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, to revisit the "Broadcasting Services Amendment (Advertising for Sport Betting) Bill 2013" with a view to reintroducing it and strengthening its provisions with particular reference to the banning of live betting advertisements and gambling advertisements on television during recognised children's television viewing times.

Gambling

That NCWA urges the Commonwealth Government to immediately develop strategies to reduce problem gambling in our society. Such a strategy should incorporate recommendations such as those of the Australian Medical Association in order to address the needs of those most at risk, our youth and children through:

- education to demoralise gambling in society
- intervention programs to redress the rapidly growing youth gambling problem
- elimination of cultural practices in schools whereby children are encouraged to participate in pseudo gambling associated with major sporting events

Forced Marriage in Australia

That NCWA, noting the 2013 criminalisation of forced marriage, calls on the Federal Attorney-General to take further action to:

- a) better document the incidence of forced marriage in Australia and monitor the effect of the legislation;
- b) encourage increased community awareness of the law through educational, faith-based and civil society organizations; and
- c) facilitate culturally sensitive training to state and territory departments of justice, existing service providers and support agencies.
- d)

Renewable Energy

The NCWA urges all levels of Governments to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by investing in and subsidising renewable energy production while stopping subsidising fossil fuel powered electricity.

Water Mapping

That NCWA urge the Federal Government to coordinate through COAG:

- A National Mapping and Strategic Management Plan to cover all water in Australia (artesian, sub-artesian, rivers, coastal catchments, storm water, ground water, aquifers, wastage and sewerage water).
- Formulate mapping procedures and a strategic plan to identify all water sources.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN MELBOURNE 11,12,13 October 2015

Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Emissions:

“The NCW Australia urges all Federal, State, Territory and local governments to maintain clear, consistent and long-term support to the renewable energy industries, along with emissions reduction support, so as to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by the recommended 40-60% reduction based on 2000 levels by 2030.”

Microplastics:

“That NCW Australia urges the Federal Government to tackle the threat of microplastics by:

- supporting research and monitoring programs
- engaging with industry to decrease plastic waste which involves decreasing production of throwaway packaging and increasing the content of recycled material in new plastic products
- engaging tightening biodegradability standards
- promoting consumer educational”

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):

“That, in light of recent reports including the February 2015 Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory Select Committee on Action to Prevent Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, NCW Australia calls on the Australian Government to work through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for effective strategies:

- to aim to prevent the ongoing incidence of this disorder and provide for those affected by adoption of better training in health, education, justice and child protection sectors.
- to allow individuals diagnosed with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder full access to disability and social security supports, including Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services and Medicare reimbursements and eligibility for government-funded support and services includes criteria that reflect the functional and behavioural deficits of developmental disorders including FASD”

Mental Health Management:

“That NCW Australia acts to encourage all members of the Constituent State/Territory Councils are informed about the poor quality of mental health management in Australia and are acting upon this information to improve mental health care in their State or Territory”

Referendum for Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the First Australians

“That NCW Australia acts to encourage all members of the Constituent State/Territory Councils to be well informed about the issues involved in the proposed referendum for recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the First Australians”

Medical Use of Cannabis:

“That NCWA Australia requests the Australian Government :

- to provide funding to develop independent research of the medical use of cannabis and to continue these trials for a sufficient number of years until it is scientifically accepted that long-term use is safe for Australians and in particular the effort on children”

Housing Homeless Young People:

In recognition of the work being done by the Federal Government in providing housing for the homeless:“That the government's attention be drawn to the need for making economically substantial provision for young people (children up to the age of 18 years) who are without family or parental support”

MID TERM CONFERENCE HELD IN CANBERRA 14,15,16 JUNE 2017

Strategies Combating Global Warming:

NCWA urges the Federal Government to give priorities to strategies combating global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy, whilst ensuring energy security, given the implication for Australia's environment and such ecosystems as the Great Barrier Reef.

Heart Disease:

NCWA noting that the 2016 Women's Health Charter call for more research on gender differences in the diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable disease and chronic conditions including heart disease.

Economic Security in Retirement:

NCWA urge the Federal Government to make concerted action to provide economic security for women in retirement, as outlined in the Senate Inquiry Report "*A husband is not a retirement plan*" *Achieving Economic Security for Women in Retirement April 2016*. That actions to address the gender pay gap and to provide incentive to employers to have a "no gender pay gap" policy and assist women to maintain superannuation contributions during times of time out of the paid workforce, so that the outcome of "no woman being disadvantaged at the time of retirement" be achieved.

Residential Aged Care Inquiry:

NCWA calls on the Federal Government to conduct a House of Representatives Committee of inquiry into residential aged care, the inquiry to be wide ranging and include all aspects of residential aged care.

"Catch Up" Promotional Immunisation Program:

NCWA calls on the Federal Government to introduce a "Catch Up" promotional immunisation program, to be part of the immunise Australia Program to encourage adults over 20 to become, and continue to be fully immunised.

Affordable Housing:

NCWA urges all constituent councils in Australia to write to their State and Territory Governments requesting they put in place increased financial incentives and remove disincentives for affordable housing to alleviate housing stress and homelessness.

Adequate Rental Assistance:

NCWA requests the Federal Government to introduce adequate rental assistance to assist those who are in recognised need, to keep them from becoming homeless and equate more reasonably with the average wage earned by the majority of women, recognising that this is lower than the average wage earned by men.

Sporting Organisations to Provide Gender Equality:

NCWA calls on federally funded sporting organisations to provide gender equality for travel, accommodation and remuneration for male and female sporting teams.

Modern Slavery Act:

NCWA supports the adoption of a Modern Slavery Act similar to that operating in the United Kingdom, at the earliest opportunity by the Australian Parliament.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN CANBERRA 17,18,19 OCTOBER 2018

Plastic Waste:

NCWA urges the Federal government through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to develop policies which encourage new and different packaging material, the participation of the public in sorting their plastic waste by resin type, the development and expansion of businesses converting plastic waste to a useful product in a manner which safeguards human health and the environment.

National Housing and Homelessness Agreement:

NCWA urges the Federal Government to work with the States and Territories through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to amend existing legislation to:

- 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 in need, very often older 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
- 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

Gun Legislation:

NCWA urges the Federal Government at the next COAG meeting to review the current gun legislation and in the spirit of the 1996 legislation incorporate a strategy for ensuring that all States and Territories adopt uniform gun legislation.

Census of Population and Housing:

NCWA calls on the Federal Government to include a question or set of questions in the next Census of Population and Housing to identify those households in which kinship carers have primary responsibility for children or young people and the carers relationship to that person.

Cyberbullying in Society:

NCWA urges the Federal Government through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to strengthen the laws to eliminate the damage of cyberbullying in the society, to bring in and pass legislation to make cyberbullying a criminal offence at the national level where the State and Territory laws are not adequate.

Superannuation:

NCWA call on the Federal Government to introduce superannuation reform to:

- remove the \$450.00 monthly threshold from one employer to ensure everyone in employment receives some superannuation
- include superannuation in the government parental leave payment.

Family Court:

NCWA urges the Federal Government through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG):

- to replace the principle of shared parenting, which currently underlies the Family Law Act with a principle of responsible and protective parenting. All decisions of the Family Courts should therefore accept such principle as the basis for all decisions regarding the “best interested of the child”

- to refer to the State Child Protection authorities all matters which report or disclose to the Family Court that children have been abused or neglected and DEFER Family Court proceedings, subject to the findings by the State Protection authorities
- where it is the finding of the State Child Protection authority that such reports/disclosures are substantiated, then those matters be properly brought to the State/Territory Children's Courts and Tribunals for their determination as to whatever actions the State/Territories Children's Court may deem necessary and within their powers under State/Territory laws.

Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO):

NCWA urges the Federal Government to work with the States and Territories through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to amend existing legislation to provide additional form of safety to women seeking Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO). A risk assessment should be conducted at the time of the application of the AVO.

Respectful Relationships:

NCWA urges the Federal Government to maintain and increase investment in holistic and comprehensive respectful relationships education for children of all ages in all Australian schools.

Compulsory reporting of Sexual Abuse in Aged person Units”:

NCWA calls on the Federal Government through COAG to encourage the State and Territory Governments to:

- provide appropriate education for government employees and service providers dealing with sexual abuse of older women
- remove barriers that exist for an appropriate resolution to curb the growing incidence of sexual violence of older women
- introduce accreditation of, including criminal history checks, on the staff and management of “Aged Person Units” and private retirement facilities
- introduce compulsory reporting of any incident of sexual abuse in “Aged Person Units” and private retirement facilities along the lines of legislation covering Residential Aged Care facilities.

Penalties for Employers:

NCWA urges the Federal Government to amend existing legislation to increase penalties for employers who fail to invest the correct portion of their employees superannuation.

Hague Convention:

That NCWA records its concern to the Federal Government about the current working of Australia's system of compliance for the Hague Convention: International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) regime and call on the Federal Government to

- continue to work for reform of the Hague IPCA system internationally as part of its current review of the Australian Family Law System