

November 2019

President's Welcome

Welcome to the latest NCWA Newsletter. In the last few months much work continues to be undertaken by NCWA and the Constituent Councils. It has also been a busy time with AGMs for Constituent Councils and many Affiliate organisations.



A number of NCW Constituent Councils recently held AGMs, NCWQ elected Chiou See Anderson, NCWV re-elected Elisabeth Newman, NCWNSW re-elected Annie Keifer and NCWWA re-elected myself as President for the coming year. I note NCWSA has an AGM planned for early November 2019. Thank you and congratulations to all Presidents for all that is done for NCWA members across Australia.

It is always a busy time in the calendar year as many of the NCW Affiliate members hold AGMs and Constituent Council Presidents try and attend when possible.



I will be attending the ES4W AGM in Brisbane in November and I am also hoping to catch up with the NCWQ Constituent Council President during my visit. I am also a participant in the Women Leaders Institute "Women in Leadership" 2-4 December 2019 Perth Conference. Leading speakers include Professor Lyn Beazley, former Chief Scientist of WA, representatives from Westfarmers, Fortescue Metals Group, BHP, Aurizon, the Managing Director of Bankwest, academics and government

departments. Over 40 speakers will participate during the conference and attendees include Tronox, Crown Resorts, Water Corporation, Orica, Perth Airport, Edith Cowan University, CSW Australia, Google, RSM, Suncorp, Western Australian Golf Club, Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation and a large number of government departments.

My involvement is in the panel session: “Owning the Strengths that Women Bring to Male-Dominated Industries”- it is a great opportunity to ensure National Council of Women Australia is better known within the Corporate community. The CEO Chamber of Minerals and Energy is also a participant in the panel session as is a representative from BHP.

NCWA will be preparing and providing a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System. Submissions close on 18 December 2019- if any Constituent Council would like to make a contribution then it needs to be with me no later than 6 December 2019. While the Australian Law Reform Commission recently released a report with recommendations this inquiry presents the opportunity to reform the Family Law System- many of us continually hear about the dreadful experiences from NCWA members, friends and family members who have or are going through the current system.



The interim report into Aged Care Quality and Safety was handed down on 31 October 2019. The report is shocking, describing suffering, abuse and neglect for many in residential aged care which is no surprise to me nor I suspect many, many Australians who have experienced poor care for a family member. Finally the Commission has found what many, many people already knew that the sector is failing to meet the needs of the nations most vulnerable. The system is in crisis and does need urgent attention, hopefully the government will respond with urgency. While an immediate significant boost in funding is needed for home care packages, I firmly believe there is a need to ensure consumer representation is included on all the government Aged Care Committees and Councils.

Robyn Nolan

President NCWA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 21 October 2019

Thank you to all Board members for agreeing to trial a change of date for the NCWA October 2019 meeting. It certainly does make it easier for me given my other commitments earlier in the month.

Since the last Board meeting I have visited Adelaide to organise a venue and date for the NCWA 2020 Mid-term Conference. A contract has now been signed with Rydges South Terrace Adelaide. The Mid-term Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday 15 and 16 May 2020 with a NCWA Board meeting to be held on the afternoon 14 May 2020. Thank you to Fiona Dorman who was very helpful during my visit to Adelaide.



During my time in Adelaide in September I was also able to attend a NCWSA General meeting, meet with some of the Executive members and then speak at the meeting. I was delighted to meet those NCWSA members in attendance and also take along a young woman who has now joined NCWSA.

I was also invited to attend the NCWNSW AGM in Sydney in late September and was able to attend and speak at the meeting. I was also scheduled to visit Hobart and attend a NCWTAS meeting. Due to last minute events I was not able to make the meeting. I am still hoping to visit Hobart, however it will now have to be early next year now. Congratulations to Annie Keifer on her re-election as President of NCWNSW.



I recently was invited to attend a debrief at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra on the outcomes of the 16th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue and the 6th Australia-Lao PDR Human Rights Dialogue which were both held in August 2019. I am concerned about some of the issues not raised in the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue- eg. in relation to the number of different minorities especially the lack

of recognition of the Khmer Krom, definition of disability (a very long way behind Australia) child labour and any development of domestic and family violence policy. Such a dialogue is very important however I do think that civil society should be involved in such meetings- it is certainly something that in my view NCWA should raise with the Minister for Foreign Affairs Unfortunately while I had a meeting with Senator the Hon Marise Payne in her capacity as Minister for Women recently- thank you to Julie Morris who attended with me- the debrief was after the meeting date.

White Ribbon recently went into liquidation. Where was the Board and its Directors? After a cursory glance it becomes very apparent that the total cost of administration and employee costs for White Ribbon accounted for 96 per cent of the Charity's reported revenue. My understanding is at June 2018 the workforce was 47 people and although the workforce was reduced to 28 staff at the time of liquidation- why would White Ribbon need 28 staff let alone the original 47.

White Ribbon described itself as a global social movement raising awareness of domestic and family violence and a not -for-profit charity. In the last twelve months alone, it raised 6 million dollars but spent 6.9 million dollars. A staggering amount for raising awareness- just think what 6 million dollars would do for front line services on the ground. It is time for a detailed mapping of all government funded domestic and family violence programs – programs must perform- while there are a number of excellent programs in operation, unfortunately there are many programs where administration and staffing costs swallow up most of the scarce resources.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWA

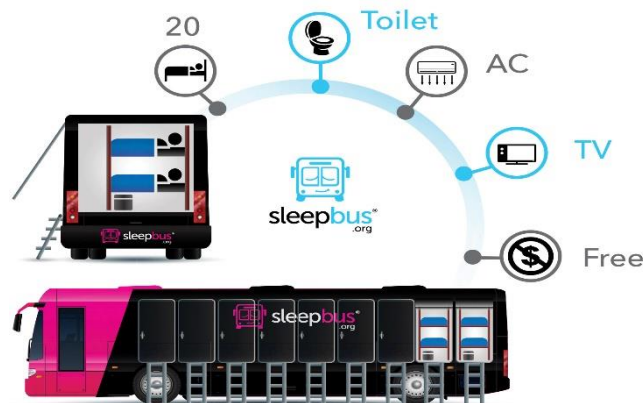


Tiny homes proposal-held up by ACT housing.

In September NCWACT headed a proposal for the implementation of tiny homes on existing women's community service providers land. This proposal however was rejected by ACT housing as they would not allow the committee to use the land as it was slated for future development (the purpose of tiny homes is for such land when not in use and then moved on!)

NCWACT continues to talk to stakeholders in this industry and will continue to pursue Tiny homes as an option for homeless women in the ACT.

Emergency shelter accommodation for women - NCWACT continues to make this a priority project



Sleep Bus - sleepbus.org

Sleepbus provides a safe, temporary overnight accommodation service, getting people off the street by offering an immediate, first stop, cost-effective solution for our society's most vulnerable; catching them early until they can get back on their feet.

Please click on the link above to view sleep bus website.

NCWACT has commenced fundraising for a women's only sleep bus to be brought to Canberra. The bus will be able to accommodate both pets and children. This is a huge advantage over the Safe Shelter proposal using churches as children or pets would not be able to use the church halls. \$100,000 in donations need to be raised to order the sleep bus and will take approximately 12 weeks until it is delivered. This service would operate 365 days year. This is a very exciting initiative I look forward to updating you on our progress.

Juanita Flett
President NCWACT



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 21 October 2019

Since our last newsletter NCWNSW have been busy. We were represented at the Annual Mass and lunch held by the Catholic Women's League.



Our Annual Foundation Day Luncheon was held at the Women's Club and was well attended by our members. Barbara Baikie was our guest speaker and she regaled us of tales of her life and her ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro. What an effort and what a stimulating life she has led - and is still leading!

The NSW Association of Ukrainian Women, together with other States, celebrated the seventieth anniversary of their camp at Cowra. I attended the day which commenced with a lovely ceremony in Europa Park followed by a lunch in Cowra. It was attended by many women and families from all over Australia as well as the Ambassador from Ukraine and his wife. I met two lovely ladies from NCWV at the luncheon. The women all dressed in their beautiful cross-stitched blouses and dresses. We had traditional dancing and singing.



Our Annual Dame Marie Bashir Peace Prizes ceremony was held once again at Parliament House. Some amazing students were presented with their Award by Dame Marie. Each year we present these Awards and each year the students come up with some marvellous ways of connecting with their communities and helping their fellow man.

Photo: Rowena Casey, CWA of NSW member, Leshia Bubniuk NCWNSW member, Ambassador to the Ukraine, Anne Kiefer, NCWNSW President.

We held our AGM with these results of office bearers for the next year.

President	-Annie Kiefer
Vice-President	-Julie Morris
Secretary	-Marlene Arditto
Treasurer	-Nola Barkl

We had the privilege of having our NCWA President, Robyn Nolan as our guest speaker. She spoke on a number of topics and answered all our varied questions.

We all look forward to the coming twelve months with renewed vigour and trust that we will serve our members well.

Annie Kiefer
President NCW NSW

The National Council of Women of Queensland (Inc)



NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 21 October 2019

NCWQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 114th Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc. (NCWQ) was held on 15 September 2019 in Brisbane.

Preceding the meeting we heard from Guest Speaker Judy Menary, Executive Principal, Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE). Judy, the first female in this role, spoke to us on the importance of education, especially for girls.

The formality of the Election of Office Bearers and Committee took place with the following results:

President - Chiou See Anderson

Vice-President - Noela O'Donnell AM

Vice-President - Kirsty Miron

Secretary - Avril Kent

Treasurer - Paula Ivanovic

Recording Secretary - Noela O'Donnell AM

State Coordinator - Dr Pat Pepper

Bursary Program

Coordinator-Kathy Cavanagh

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Supre Paleyanda Ponnappa

Saalihah Seedat

Sandy Smith



*Chiou See Anderson
with Judy Menary*

QUT STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Our recording secretary, Noela O'Donnell AM was honoured to be able to attend the Queensland University of Technology Student Leadership Awards on Thursday 17 October 2019, in support of two-time National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) bursary recipient and our volunteer social media manager, Madison Birtchnell. On behalf of the NCWQ, congratulations for your ongoing achievements and for receiving the 2019 QUT Excellence in Student Leadership Award!



Madison Birtchnell with Noela O'Donnell AM



MORNING TEA & FASHION PARADE

The National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) held its annual bursary fund-raising morning tea and fashion parade on Thursday 10 October 2019. With the theme of acknowledging women in medicine, the contributions of various women were highlighted by affiliated organisation Queensland Medical Women's Society

Leah Lever, previous recipient of the Elements bursary in 2018, charmed us with her beautiful singing. Ella Madigan, a recipient of last year's Ipswich City Council bursary for a secondary student, spoke about her activity with NCWQ and the Young Women's sub-committee. Currently studying nursing, she intends to then study medicine.



PERSUASIVE SPEAKING WORKSHOP

On Saturday 5 October 2019, our young women sub-committee hosted their first Public and Persuasive Speaking workshop, facilitated by Forum Communicators - a long-standing member of NCWQ. Attendees took away a lot of new skills and thoroughly enjoyed the networking opportunities provided throughout the day. A big thank you to Joy, Margaret and Jannene for taking time out of your weekend to pass on your valuable knowledge!

Chiou See Anderson
President NCWQ



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 21 October 2019

NCWSA was delighted to host National Council of Women Australia President, Robyn Nolan at our September 13th meeting. Our members and delegates at the meeting heard about the works of NNCWA, plans and strategy for the future and of President Nolan's attendance and participation at CSW in New York in early 2019.

Members of the N.C.W. SA Executive and long-time members of the organisation were invited by our Patron-in-chief, Mrs Lan Le to morning tea at Government House on Friday October 11th, 2019. Mrs Lan Le welcomed NCWSA and was gracious in her address to us regarding the work of NCWSA, our affiliated organisations and her belief that our good work continues to be important in the wider community.



Left to right: (L) Members of NCW SA at Government House with Mrs Lan Le, our Patron-In-Chief (second from left) in the Gardens of Government House. (M) Mrs Lan Le addressing the NCWSA members in one of the private sitting rooms. (R) The view of Adelaide city from the gardens of Government House.

Sarah Annicchiarico, Wallmans Lawyers was our Guest Speaker at the October 10th Council meeting. Her topic, "Good Governance Principle for Not-for-Profit Boards", covered topics such as Directors Duties, liabilities, dispute resolution, attendance requirements, Accountability of members, suitability of responsible persons, statutory duties and Constitutional reviews. The nearly 30 attendees from across our affiliated organisations had many questions, both specific and general, including topics such as "What is the maximum number of proxies a person can hold?" and what is the minimum number of persons that legally make a quorum?

Photo: Fiona Dorman, President, Sarah Annicchiarico, Wallmans Lawyers and Council attendees at the NCWSA October 10th Council Meeting.



The most recent **Key Partner Network meeting** was held on Thursday October 3rd, 2019. The Network is convened by the Office for Women and the Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services.

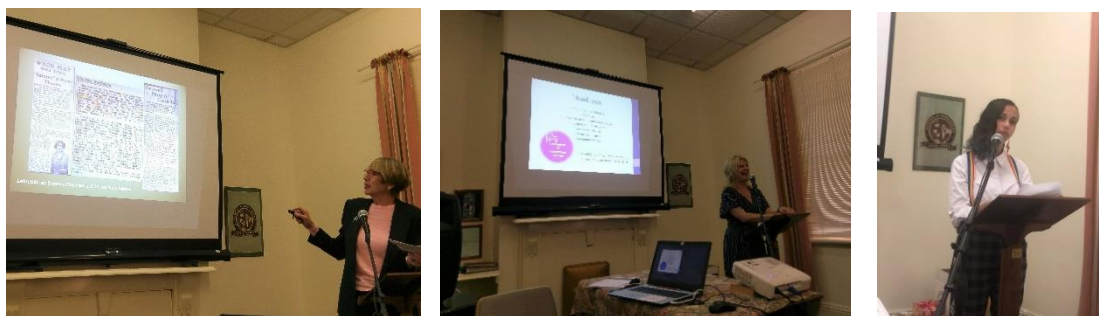
Representatives are from a range of service and advocacy organisations such as: Women's Legal Safety Services, Zonta International, National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Incorporated, KWW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Services, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM), Multicultural Communities SA, YWCA, Community Transitions, Working Women's Centre, Catherine House, Youth Affairs Council SA, Multicultural Youth SA, Women's Safety Services, Yarrow Place and Uniting Communities.

The aim of the network is multi-fold, one being to convene representatives of organisations and representative voices working in Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence services and supporting organisations, with the Fourth Action Plan as the basis for discussions.

Some key points from the most recent meeting included:

- The announcement of the Joint Parliamentary Inquiry into Family Law and Child Support. Since 2007 there have been at least 8 inquiries. Discussions covered the proposed scope of the inquiry and when the deadlines for submissions would be opened and closed (not available at the time of the meeting).
- There is debate in the community as to whether groups should participate in this inquiry. All groups are encouraged to participate to make their voices heard.
- The Office For Women are continuing work on the Women's Employment and Leadership Strategy. The focus being on working with Small to medium enterprises as there are many women working in SMEs whose roles are more vulnerable to changes on market forces.
- Discussions included the need for a fundamental change in thinking at a community level that "women need fixing" when faced with situations of gender inequality, gender violence, leadership and employment etc. Women are already confident, skilled and experienced in their work and personal lives but the barriers to achieving goals is influenced by persisting attitudes within workplaces and the wider community.
- The second Safety Hub has now been opened in Berri with services being co-located in the one place; the aim to reduce times in accessing crisis support and support services in general.
- These hubs serve also to provide information to people before a crisis point.
- The Office for Women encourages increased discussions on sexual violence. Sexual violence is perpetrated as a stand-alone offence and related to Family and domestic violence. The discussions were framed in light of the National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS). Data shows that "while Australians' attitudes to violence against women and gender equality are improving, there are some disturbing trends."

On Saturday October 19th, 2019, NCWSA held our seminar entitled **"Everyday Heroines: Drivers for Change"**. We were delighted to host approximately 40 attendees and hear from speakers Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM (Former NCWSA Patron, Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide), Leah Marrone (Vice President Australian Women's Lawyers), Felicity Birse (Year 9 Student, "Visions of her Future"), Ruby Eckermann (NCWSA Lady Moulden Award Winner 2019), Thilan Legierse (Former UN War Crimes Lawyer in the Hague) and Terese Edwards (CEO, National Council of Single Mothers and Their Children Inc). The day featured incredible presentations, robust discussion and insightful questions to our speakers.



Left to Right: (L) Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM, (Middle) Terese Edwards and (R) Felicity Birse.

NCWSA will hold our Annual General Meeting on Thursday November 14th 2019 at 7pm.

I, as President, was honoured to attend the Zonta Club of Adelaide October meeting as their Guest speaker. Thank you to the President, Wendy Bruce, for the opportunity to talk about the National Council of Women of SA and share information about our work and future plans.

Fiona Dorman
President NCW SA



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN TASMANIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 21 October 2019

Guest speaker at our August General meeting was Leanne McLean, Commissioner for Children and Young People (Tasmania).



Leanne McLean, the current Commissioner of Children, in Tasmania, was appointed in 2018. The legislation creating the role of the Commissioner for Children was updated in 2016 and strengthened the independence of the Commissioner, whose chief concerns are the rights and wellbeing of children in Tasmania. There are 112,340 children and young people aged between 0-17 in Tasmania.

They have :

- A right to non discrimination
- A right to have their best interests taken into account
- A right to life survival and the right to have a say.

The Commissioner began by giving us a snap shot of the situation of children in Tasmania at this time.

10% of young people aged between 0-19 in Tasmania identify as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders.

50% of young people live in local government areas with an index of relative socio-economic disadvantage.

88% of pregnant women attend ante-natal visits in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy

90% of families attend the 8 week child health assessment.

80% of Tasmanian children are developmentally on track. (Brief notes from her talk.)

Another area of concern for NCWT is Elder Abuse.

The Commissioner for Ageing, Kay Patterson was recently in Hobart to promote legislative changes to reduce elder abuse. The recently released bookmark is a step in the right direction. The bookmark is designed to be unobtrusive as against a fridge magnet. The bookmark asks questions on the elderly's personal situation and gives a phone number to ring for assistance. The Commissioner is also advocating for one document incorporating Power of Attorney's Australia wide to cover all issues including medical, financial and legal issues.

I note in the most recent issue of Women's Weekly an open letter was sent to the Prime Minister signed by the Australian Banking Association and Economic S4W. The WW article also requests an Australia wide Data Register to check if POA's documents are legitimate and current.

I recently attended a dinner of one of our members the Soroptimist International of Hobart, who were celebrating 70 years operation.

Dorothy Kelly
President NCWT

On the 19th August we held one of our major annual events, namely *My Vote My Voice* in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria. This year's theme was: *Male and Female Youth as Future Voters*, drawing on NCWV's partnership with Australian Local Government Women's Association, the Victorian Electoral Commission and the League of Women Voters' Bessie Rischbieth Trust. The event commenced in Queen's Hall with a welcoming speech from the Hon Gabrielle Williams, Minister for Women, Youth and Prevention of Domestic Violence. We then moved to the magnificent Legislative Council Chamber where Ms Amy Carpenter, Education Coordinator, Victorian Electoral Commission set the scene with a speech in which she stated how annoyed she gets when hearing people say that young people are apathetic and not interested in what is going on beyond their world. Students from 12 diverse schools made excellent presentations based on their research of the theme. It will be hard to select the award winners. The panel of eminent persons when commenting on the presentations, said the one common element that came through was the need for more 'Civics and Citizenship' content in the core curriculum.



The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP



NCWV Committee of 2019-2020

The AGM on held on 6th September. I was re-elected as President for a third term. Freda Kaufman was re-elected and Ronniet Milliken elected as Vice Presidents. Pam Hammond was re-elected as Secretary, Hean Bee Wee as Treasurer and May Hu as Co-ordinator of Standing Committees. Four ordinary members were also elected to the Committee. Unfortunately, we have no young member but the Committee can appoint a suitable young person during the year. We do have a core group of six young members but they are either in paid work or studying so not available for committee work.

Submissions have been made to the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health and to the Australian Government Royal Commission in to Aged Care Quality and Safety

Over the past few months there has been increased interest shown in NCWV and its work. As a result we have gained new individual members but, unfortunately, we have also lost a few, not as many as gained, through increasing age, frailty and/or poor health. We also have a new organisational member.

Asia Pacific Regional Council:

As Co-opted Ex-officio Board members, Hean Bee Wee and I will be attending the ICW-CIF Board meeting in Pune, India which is to be followed by the meeting, also in Pune, of the APRC of which Hean Bee Wee is President. The NCW of India and the Pune National Council, is organising the Regional Council meeting to be held 9th Nov with the GA of NCW India on 10th. The Council in Delhi is celebrating its 100th anniversary on 13th November. Information has been in recent APRC newsletters which are sent to NCWA. Members of NCWA and Constituent Councils are welcome to attend.

Elisabeth Newman,
President NCWV

Since the last NCWA Board meeting NCWWA has continued to hold monthly meetings with a meeting held in late August and September. At the August meeting the special guest and guest speaker was the Hon Cheryl Edwardes- Cheryl spoke about her role as a Member of Parliament, a former Attorney General for WA and her interests since that time. Cheryl also spoke about her role as Chairwoman of the National Apology Reference Group and the proposed museum and research centre.

The recipient of the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award (PFMA) - an NCWWA Award for a woman from industry, business or community service who has demonstrated leadership, exemplary achievement and an outstanding contribution to the advancement of women-Pamela Govender was the special guest and guest speaker at the NCWWA September meeting. Pamela Govender has a very interesting and diverse background and is involved in a number of business activities- a very deserving recipient.



An Honour Board listing all NCWWA Presidents since 1911 now hangs proudly in the NCWWA office. A very challenging task indeed as very rarely in the early days of NCWWA did women use their first name. However, after a number of hours spent at the Western Australian Library and help from a former member of NCWWA I was able to obtain all the first names and have the Honour Board completed.

As President of NCWWA I was invited to be a member of the judging

panel for the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee Awards. I was delighted to join the President of Graduate Women, a member of NCWWA and the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Western Australia as the other members of the judging panel. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Awards night as I have another commitment in Geraldton on that evening.



As President of NCWWA I was invited to a Reception with the Governor of Western Australia the Hon Kim Beazley AC and Ms Susie Annus – attending with me were a number of members of NCWWA and the two young NCWWA STEM Bursary recipients.

The reception attendees included a small number of his patronage organisations and it was also a great opportunity for me and the other Presidents to meet with the Governor prior to the Reception.

Plans are underway for the NCWWA Triennial Meeting to be held in late October 2019.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWWA