

Founded 1902 ~ Celebrating 120 years in 2022

Newsletter

May 2022

**From the President, Ronniet Milliken**

Ahead of the Federal and Victoria elections both due in 2022, at the April NCWV Individual Members and Council Meeting, following on from Professor Marilyn Lake's brilliant address about women's suffrage, standing as independents, and democracy in Australia, we heard two excellent speakers who also provided their views on democracy with a gender lens.

**Dr Vanessa Teague** is a cryptographer, CEO of *Thinking Cybersecurity* and Adjunct Associate Professor in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at the Australian National University. Her main areas of expertise are Computation Theory and Mathematics and Data Encryption. She works on openly available research and open-source software for supporting democratic decision making and empowering ordinary people make choices about their own data. Her current research focuses on cryptographic methods for achieving security and privacy particularly for issues of public interest such as election integrity and the protection of government data. Vanessa began her speech about election security with an intriguing question: "How do we know at the end of the election that all votes were properly counted?"

Vanessa went on to provide a fascinating overview of the different systems and processes available in different states, and the ways votes are counted, from paper ballots counted manually, to scanned, digitised and electronic counting. NSW state votes can be done over the internet, in ACT about 80% of people vote on a machine in the polling station (not backed up by paper), at different times in regions there have been phone and email votes and other processes trialled.

So how do we know the intent of the voter is correctly interpreted and counted? In the last 6 months, there has been major legislative reform at the federal level in the way senate voting process is audited, and a recent announcement by NSW that they will not use iVote in the next election. Vanessa described the challenges faced by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in counting Senate votes. Manually counting all paper Senate votes is no longer feasible, so a contract is now in place to scan and digitise Senate votes with AEC staff auditing and reviewing data. If samples match, data is classed as correct. In March 2021, the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee gave answers on error rate calculated for IBM vote counting software used in 2017 and 2019, with additional debate about manual counts and supplementary check mechanisms.

Dr Teague stated that a huge step forward for both real and perceived security and integrity of Australian Senate elections occurred with an amendment to the Electoral Legislation. Assurance of Senate Counting Bill, 2021 ensured that statistically significant samples of ballot papers must be checked throughout the process to ensure that electronic data used to count votes reflects the data recorded on the ballot papers.

Vanessa also gave an overview of the NSW iVote system, and how registration and voting server outages during the 2019 local elections resulted in litigation around 10,000 votes; determining that only three seats were affected. Vanessa assured us that for most councils, the number of vote changes sufficient to change the outcome would be less than the number of votes that would have been received by iVote. This system will not be used in the 2023 NSW State election. There are no plans to use electronic voting in Victoria. Legislation was amended in 2018 to potentially allow electronic *assisted* voting in the future.

Dr Teague provided detail on how counting in the room occurs, potential voter identification issues there being no universal ID to limit reduce fraudulent voting.



Dr Vanessa Teague

Alma Morton, Carolyn, Maree Quinn

**Carolyn Ingvarson** This is a precise of her speech: *Things started in the early 1970s my book club in Scotland chose Germaine Greer's 'Female Eunuch'. I was a teacher on leave with two small children. It blew me away. I carried the book with me for years. In the mid-70s, back in Australia when I was teaching at Sacre Coeur, we had a special week where girls could choose to do something different, I used this book to teach about women's issues. Those girls forgot lots of what they learnt in school, but this week wasn't one of them. I loved teaching, pushing girls to think, and later in high schools, challenging boys to mind how they treated girls... However, I left the classroom for the Director General's office when invited to cover Deb Towns maternity leave as Coordinator of the Elimination of Sexism in Schools, because I had stood for the Women's Party for the Senate in 1977!*

In 1972, now in Melbourne with a new sense of what it meant to be a woman, I joined the newly fledged Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL). So much to learn and to do, lobbying politicians on women's issues. After 5 years however the politicians were onto our surveys. No papers wanted to cover our stories. That's when WEL decided to stand for a Senate seat. Three of us, Alma Morton, Maree Quinn and I (see photo, Carolyn in centre) were the face of a hastily established 'Women's Party', standing on issues being raised by women about how our society should be run. We strutted on stages and wrote outspoken speeches covering all major portfolios. We were interviewed by the papers, radio and TV, and all sorts of groups invited us to speak. This was 1977 and we were on the same Senate paper as Don Chipp when he set up the Democrats to 'keep the bastards honest'. Our party had wonderful policies, the most brazen has never really gone away - a minimum wage for all. We took half of the defence budget to fund it and made huge savings in welfare spending. We gave everyone over 18 that minimum wage and allowed people to be taxed on their incomes above it. I loved it as an equaliser across society and an eliminator of the demeaning business of being a welfare recipient, the majority of whom were women. We planned to improve the health system by paying nurses a decent proportion of what doctors earned, and award child-care workers twice their wage in a free system for everyone who wanted it. We wanted systemic change in how society worked. We shocked ourselves at our audacity. We started with equal pay, child-care and legal abortion issues, then went for every portfolio. As you might imagine, we weren't taken seriously except ... by the 6000 who voted us number one on their senate ticket. Also some furious Labor women senators who berated us for our temerity and by Liberals... Both parties united in making a mockery of the nonsense of a women's party. But standing for the Senate for the Women's Party changed my life because by taking that risk ... not only did my view of the world change, but it left a blemish on my record sufficient to haul me into the public service, ... two years in the Director General's office before moving to the Ministry of Employment and Training to work on a state training scheme for girls and disadvantaged groups to have access to trades. I was also being tapped on the shoulder by Joan Kirner and others to consider running for a State seat. They were trying to recruit good women - I was interested until I found I didn't have the internal resilience to cope with attacks of other women, who felt I was standing on their shoulders to get favours for myself. I pulled back from the women's movement. ... After 15 years, I joined the Board of WIRE, chairing it for 7 years. It was so good to be working with a great bunch of women on issues affecting women and using my skills to help set that organisation up on a sound economic footing. I felt whole again.

In 2003 I retired from the public service, going out with a surprise award from the Australian Freight Industry (my AFI!). I undertook a diploma in writing and editing at RMIT and set about my third life phase as a community activist, this time on climate. I realised that the world as we knew it was to be changed beyond recognition by our own selfish acts of consumption and pollution - we had to change. I started 'Lighter Footprints'; the group grew, ... starting with a dozen members to now having a wide level of support of several thousand in the community. It has clout. I stood down in 2020 and Lighter Footprints is being run very well. It is a group that maintains a non-partisan approach to climate, insisting that all parties should be working together on an issue of such magnitude. It doesn't support individual candidates but analyses all parties' positions on climate change action and reflects them back to the community to help inform their vote (just as WEL did long ago on women's issues).

I work voluntarily with a climate candidate who does not want to join a party but offer an alternative way to do politics as an Independent.

And this is where my journey has taken me, at almost 80 years of age, working with a stand-out woman who is authentic in her convictions of support for a world of equality and openness, where a politician consults their community in a meaningful way and stands up for their beliefs, pushes for change to prevent corruption, ensures proper processes are followed which restrict the influence of vested interests, ... so that proper, serious and effective action to stop global warming will be taken. She stands up for women to be safe in their homes, at work and communities, and to be equally valued with men. She based her understanding of the usefulness of standing as an independent on ... other independents who have made such a mark in the Parliament. These women not only care deeply about women and have strong policies of support for them, but have a broad base of commitment to playing a different game of honesty and integrity outside the party system. This is what reminds me of the Women's Party approach. Systemic change to the way politics is done will be what improves life for women.

Cathy McGowan told me that her sister Helen ... had cut her teeth on feminism in that class I taught on Germaine Greer nearly 50 years. There I was, in 1974, talking with girls about how women could and must change the way the world worked, and here I am now - watching the work of Helen and Cathy, seeing their links back to the brave women who had stuck their necks out, ... those whom Marilyn Lake referred to recently ... But today, those who are fighting on women's issues ... are also fighting for integrity in government and to save the planet. We glimpsed a way to make politics work when we stood for the Senate in 1977 and have the chance to do now - put good women into positions to change systems. That will be when good government follows.

## Helping Ukraine - Ukraine Crisis Appeal:

<https://www.ukrainecrisisappeal.org/>

A collaboration between the AFUO, Rotary Australia World Community Service and [Caritas Ukraine](#), Ukraine Crisis Appeal is the largest Australian tax-deductible fundraising effort for Ukraine. With the invasion of Ukraine and the alarming rise of people in crisis, all funds received are going toward urgent humanitarian aid. Ukraine Crisis Appeal works with its partner Caritas Aid to deliver items such as food, clean water, blankets, emergency housing, clothing, medical assistance, and more.

**U-HELP:** <https://www.ozeukes.com/u-help/>

Donations to the AFUO U-HELP fund provide vital aid and protection including food, medical supplies and protective equipment such as helmets & bulletproof vests.

### Ways to Support Ukraine

1. Public show of support – make a public statement, fly the Ukrainian flag, display yellow and blue colours, use the hashtag #StandWithUkraine on social media.
2. Make a tax-deductible donation – Ukraine Crisis Appeal: <https://www.ukrainecrisisappeal.org/>.
3. Donate to U-HELP: <https://www.ozeukes.com/u-help/>.
4. Write a letter to your MP (as an individual or as an organisation) – asking the Australian government to support Ukraine. Sample letter: <http://cutt.ly/HelpUkraine>
5. Volunteer – register your interest to volunteer by filling out a form: <https://ukrainians.org.au/i-would-like-to-help/>
6. Provide support to displaced Ukrainian people, indicate level of support you would like to provide by filling out a form here: <https://ukrainians.org.au/i-would-like-to-help/>.

## NCWV Geelong

This regional branch of NCWV is holding its Annual Luncheon on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June, with speaker Tracey Slatter, Managing Director, Barwon Water. Details are below. Contact: Helen Rodd on 5222 7327 OR Anne Parton on 5241 9344



**June Council Meeting June 2, 12:15-2:00pm by ZOOM,**

**Speaker: Ms Jan Shuard PSM, Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor (FVRIM)**

Ms Jan Shuard served as Commissioner for Corrections Victoria for five years, overseeing the state's adult corrections system. Her outstanding contribution to the public service was acknowledged in 2011 with a Public Service Medal. She has worked on family violence rehabilitation and prevention and the coordination of prisons across the Victorian and Western Australian justice systems.

Ms Shuard was appointed as the new FVRIM, taking up her role on 2 October 2019.

After 4 years of progress in implementing family violence reforms, Ms Shuard will speak on *some* of the themes outlined in the last annual report and since that time, including:

- What has changed since the Royal Commission into Family Violence?
- Implementation reviews
- Workforce
- Children as primary victims of family violence
- Safe Housing
- Perpetrator accountability
- Adolescents who use violence in the home
- Voices of victim survivors
- COVID-19 response and any ongoing impact
- What remains to be done?
- Change to a Monitoring approach and reporting
- Opportunities for Continuous improvement.

Please feel free to distribute this widely to your network, family and friends.

An early announcement about the National Council of Women of Victoria annual **My Vote My Voice** student event to be held in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria on the morning of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, 9:15-12:30pm.

This year's theme is **My Vote My Voice: The Role of Treaty in achieving Reconciliation.**

This is designed to encourage students to investigate the issues around reconciliation and the opinions of indigenous people, their peers and others in ways to achieve reconciliation. Students may carry out research, and collect data from surveys, Students are invited to make a **group presentation** of their findings in the Legislative Council Chamber on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Reconciliation Week, May 27-June 3, with a theme of "Be Brave. Make Change." is an opportunity to start this research. Please alert teachers, students and schools to the event. More details will follow.

# Gender Lens on 2022 Budget and Budget Reply

## Introduction

NCWV recognizes, that with both federal and state election, 2022 is a defining year for Victorian women. We have shown our concern about many areas where women's lives should be improved by government intervention through our Forums, in our newsletter articles and by our submissions to government inquiries. This article is an introduction to ways, whomever wins the elections, could work towards improving women's and their families lives. Structural changes and attitudinal changes are urgently needed now to bring about gender equality. We are repeatedly informed that 'Leveraging women's participation and leadership is one of the most effective actions for business and government to boost the Australian economy. Economic modelling by KPMG shows that halving the workforce participation gap between men and women would increase Australia's annual GDP by \$60 billion by 2038. Improving women's lives not only supports them economically and their families, but also Australia's economy.

Carolyn Ingvarson spoke at the April Council meeting of work in the 1970s by WEL to rate candidates through a gender lens. The National Foundation of Australian Women (NFAW), an independent organisation that carries a voice outside of party politics, has undertaken an in-depth analysis of the Budget and Budget Reply papers through a Gender Lens. The NFAW, like NCWV, advocates for women's equality, leadership and the recognition of women's diversity. Both are members of the Equal Rights Alliance, an umbrella group of 61 women's groups in Australia.

This non-partisan overview of the NFAW analysis has been prepared for ease of access of members and the wider community, to independent data about the state of gender equity in Australia.

NFAW identified six core issues for women and compared the Liberal and Labor Party policies.

Federal Budget: <https://nfaw.org/policy-papers/gender-lens-on-the-budget/gender-lens-on-the-budget-2022/>

Federal Government Women's Budget Statement [https://budget.gov.au/2022-23/content/womens-statement/download/womens\\_budget\\_statement\\_2022-23.pdf](https://budget.gov.au/2022-23/content/womens-statement/download/womens_budget_statement_2022-23.pdf)

Labor's Women's Budget Statement: <https://alp-assets.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/documents/2022+Women's+Budget+Statement.pdf>

## NFAW individual papers on the six core issues.

### Employment

NFAW asked 3 questions of both parties concerning: Addressing job insecurity and forecast low wages in care sectors; supporting the case before the Fair Work Commission to redress the historical undervaluation of wages in the aged care sector; and what plans do you have to support the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector through better pay and conditions for early childhood educators?

See results: <https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/JM-GL22-Employment.pdf>

### Climate Change and Disaster Management

NFAW asked 6 questions in relation to assisting women in disaster management given that flood, drought and fire have brought heightened health risks to women in particular, increased their exposure to violence and economic insecurity: <https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/NFAW-Media-Briefing-Climate-Change-Final.pdf>

### Housing and Homelessness

NFAW raised 5 questions in relation to Women and children being overrepresented in homelessness data and single older women are the fastest growing group of homeless people nationally. NFAW stated "*at a time when Australia faces a growing housing crisis, it is concerning that this budget proposes no steps that will substantively address the lack of social housing or access to secure and affordable rental options for low-income households, including income support recipients. The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement is scheduled to conclude on 30 June 2023.*

*The forward estimates indicate a reduction in funding of nearly \$40 million from July 2023".* <https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/JM-GL22-housing-and-homelessness.pdf>

### Integrity, Gender and the Just Use of Power

The 2022-23 Federal Women's Budget Statement (WBS) does not try for Gender Responsive Budgeting. It examines the 0.3% of total expenditure in the budget that specifically targets women and broadly ignores the remaining 99.7%, where the big spending is on male dominated industries, male dominated skills training, and the implementation of tax cuts for those with high incomes, mainly men again. The Attorney-General's Department has had significant cuts, the impact of which can be expected to increase significantly in real terms:

- The Australian Human Rights Commission - budget cut by over one third over the forward estimates, from \$32.6 million in the estimated actual expenditure for 2021-22 to \$20.2 million in 2025-26
- Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman - budget cut from \$47.7 million in 2022-23 to \$41.9 million in 2025-26.

- The Information Commissioner - budget cut in half from \$29 million in 2021-22 to \$15.9 million in 2025-26.
- Law Reform Commission - budget cut from \$3.1 million in 2021-22 to \$2.75 million in 2025-26.
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal - budget cut from \$201.4 million in 2021-22 to \$181.5 million in 2025-26.

For further details see: <https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/JM-GL22-integrity-gender.pdf>

#### Welfare Reform

Women are over 50% cent of welfare recipients in Australia. Welfare policies are driven by an ideology which sees supporting vulnerable populations as a liability to the bottom line, rather than a way to reduce poverty and uphold human rights. COVID disproportionately affected women negatively. However, the introduction of the Coronavirus Supplement shows the effect that adequate payments can have on the poverty rate, which effectively reduced poverty in Australia by an astounding 33%. NFAW asked 4 questions about whether there will be an increase in the job seeker rate; take steps to address social housing; improve job seeker services; and apply a gender based approach and needs based approach to welfare reform.

See: <https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/JM-GL22-welfare-reform.pdf>

#### Tax and Superannuation Reform

Tax: The NFAW stated the stage three tax cuts should not proceed. They are regressive, with benefits flowing to high income earners. Inequality is growing post COVID with clear differences between people with secure jobs that can be performed remotely and others working part time or casually in a face-to-face role; such as retail or aged care workers, who are predominantly female workers. Australia is a low tax country. There is a clear need for additional funds to increase spending on child care and aged care, as well as to assist businesses and individuals in the economic recovery from the COVID pandemic. Tax reform, beyond tinkering with tax rates is vital to provide the level of, and equitable access to, services that Australian deserve. Governments have done little to address the high Effective Marginal Tax Rates (EMTRs) which continue to make it financially unviable for thousands of Australian women to increase their hours of work to full time participation rates. Six questions were asked. Questions of “budget repair” tend to fixate on cutting government services or raising taxes (or a combination of both) to reduce government debt. This approach overlooks the fact that fiscal sustainability depends on the debt-to-GDP ratio, not the level of debt itself. A short-sighted fixation on “budget repair” overlooks the value of investing in policies to boost higher participation and productivity as long-term source of economic growth and generator of tax revenue, leading to boosted GDP. This can be delivered by supporting women’s higher workforce participation, including expanding the provision of care services.

See: <https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/JM-NFAW-Election-Paper-Tax-.pdf>

Superannuation: Women have lower superannuation balances, on average, than their male counterparts. Women receive about a third of superannuation income compared to men and government benefits account for about 60% of their income. This reflects the gender pay gap, which results in lower lifetime earnings by women. This is compounded by the interrupted, casual and part time work patterns of many women during their childrearing years. Both issues must be addressed. Addressing pay rates for the caring professions and job insecurity, bias and discrimination in hiring will help to close the gender pay gap. Carer credits should be paid to top up the superannuation of people who have left the paid labour market to care for children, elderly parents and other family members. The main question asked was What steps would your government take to reduce the gender pay gap by addressing gender bias and discrimination in the workforce?

The World Economic Forum lists Australia at 50 in the Global Gender Gap Index 2021 rankings, a fall of 6 places from 2020. The Women’s Budget Statement notes that the gender pay gap has fallen, however the data must be qualified by noting the instability of employment and wages during COVID. The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) funding was increased prior to the budget to fund an expansion of data collection to include public sector data. There are a number of programs to support specific initiatives, including women in leadership; women in STEM and digital technology; and women in apprenticeships, however these programs miss the point and do not address the systemic issues in the service sector that affect the majority of women. The Labor Women’s Budget Statement states that the ALP will address the gender pay gap by introducing measures to address insecure work; reduce casualisation; enable the Fair Work Commission to address low pay rates in low paid, feminised industries; require companies to publish the gender pay gap and prohibit pay secrecy clauses.

<https://nfaw.org/storage/2022/04/JM-Superannuation.pdf>

## May Forum, May 5, 12:00 – 2:00pm by ZOOM

UN CSW64 Declaration, 2020, Action Plan for Education includes:

*... Supporting women's and girls' participation in all sectors, especially those in which they are not equally represented, in particular, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and strengthening international cooperation on these issues. - STEM*

There are many factors that affect student engagement in STEM, including views of the community, especially parents, about their relevance, particularly to girls and women, and the language used in discussing subjects and future directions with girls. There is also the perceived concern that 'they will not feel welcome' in these male dominated courses/occupations.

This Forum will address some of these issues, and offer possible solutions, with a panel of three exceptional women who are highly successful in their chosen occupations.

**Adrienne Fleming OAM**, Pilot and Head of Operations and CASA Flight Examiner for Tristar Aviation. She has held various state and national office positions in the Australian Women Pilots' Association, encouraging women to pursue their dreams in aviation. In 2012 she received the Nancy Bird Walton award for the most noteworthy contribution to aviation in Australia and Australasia, and in 2016 was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to the Aviation industry.

**Jennifer Rebeiro**, Chief Information Officer, Greater Western Water and was named as one of the top 50 CIOs in Australia in 2020. She has a Master of IT Management and Business Administration and has a range of ICT and project management industry accreditations. She sits on the Intelligent Water Networks Executive, SWAN Global Council and Wyndham Tech School Committees. She is passionate about sponsorship of young people to give them future opportunities.

**Alexandra Otzen**, Senior Machinery Engineer, Esso Australia, at the Longford Gas Plant in Victoria but also worked on Esso projects in Qatar, Japan and PNG. Alex oversaw machinery on Esso's oil-drilling platforms in Bass Strait. She was responsible for safe, reliable operation of gas turbines, compressors, generators and pumps, and scoped and executed a major upgrade project to 1970s era equipment, which improved both reliability and efficiency for remaining life of the equipment.

We hope that you can join us at this significant Forum. The ZOOM link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584300053?pwd=V1o3dVFTREJzWGVRM1F0aE1pQlBRdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 8430 0053

Passcode: 829687

One tap mobile: Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kVLtE9AnU>

Please feel free to distribute this widely to your network, family friends and schools.

*Ronniet Milliken*

Ronniet Milliken, President, NCWV

**Our Purposes:** *to provide a non-party political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.*

**Our motto:** *The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said "We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."*

## ADVISER NEWS

**Helen Bruchner, General Wellbeing & Mental Health Adviser, NCWV Standing Committee**

[NSSS | 2021 National Student Safety Survey](#)

The results of the 2021 National Student Safety Survey were released on Wednesday 23 March 2022. The Universities Australia findings are summarised here by Adviser Helen Bruchner and include disappointing results:

There were 43,819 students involved, commenting on sexual harassment and sexual abuse. One in six complained of sexual harassment and one in twenty of sexual abuse.

The gender breakdown was 10.5% women compared with 3.9% men. Unfortunately transgender, nonbinary and disabled persons had a disproportionately high percentage of abuse. The abuse occurred, in the majority of cases, on the campus with lecture theatres, clubs, social events and student accommodation also involved, particularly the latter. With sexual harassment, 50% knew the perpetrator and in the case of sexual abuse, approximately 60% knew their abuser. However, only a small proportion requested help or assistance, and the number of reported complaints in harassment was only 5% and sexual abuse only 20%. Younger students were more likely to suffer compared with the older cohort. Post graduate students reported increased sexual harassment.

Overall these statistics are disappointing and alarming in spite of the universities implementing support and reporting to the student cohort. Education and confidence in reporting is required at all levels of the universities.

The numbers had reduced in the last 6 months on both counts due to Covid and less students on campus.

You can find further background on the survey, access to the reports and national support resources at [nsss.edu.au](https://nsss.edu.au).

**Barbara Latham, Human Rights Correction and Prisons Adviser, NCWV Standing Committee**

***Stopping Stalkers, STACEY DOOLEY - New Series, SBS Viceland and On Demand (2 parts).***

This is compelling viewing and shattering at the same time. I hope that members and friends will make the effort to watch it at SBS On Demand, if they did not happen to catch it on SBS 22 March 2022. The Protection Against Stalking {PAS} movement in UK grew from the actions and campaigning of a mother, after her stalked daughter had been murdered. Laws against Stalking, and the widened and increased penalties, have been dramatically changed in possibly the fastest time that any action group has ever had with the law makers in UK.

PAS: <https://www.protectionagainststalking.org/what-we-do/> is a UK national charity working within communities to raise public awareness about stalking and support victims through providing specialist support services.

Here is some information about Personal Safety Intervention Orders in Victoria located on the Women's Legal Service Victoria website. [Women's Legal Service Victoria | PERSONAL SAFETY \(womenslegal.org.au\)](https://www.womenslegal.org.au/)

**Congratulations to NCWV Consumer Affairs Adviser, June Anderson:**



The Multicultural Honour Roll focusses on recognising unsung heroes who work at the grassroots level. We are pleased to advise that after consideration by a selection panel, June Anderson has **been selected as a 2022 inductee** and her name will be added to the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll.

## OTHER NEWS

**COTA Australia - Opportunities for next Federal Government to improve the lives of older Australian**

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Australia, the peak body and leading advocate for older Australians, released its Agenda on 14 April 2022 for the *next* Federal Government on the needs of older Australians. This wide-ranging policy agenda covers 12 public policy areas and includes 37 recommendations. The key public policy areas that need to be addressed include a Whole of Government approach to ageing, Aged Care, Retirement Living, Health, Older Workers, Housing, Age Discrimination, Older Women, Elder Abuse, Digital Inclusion, Social Inclusion, and Voluntary Assisted Dying Laws. The Agenda sets out a positive set of opportunities for the *next* Government to improve the lives of older people with a focus is on what can be achieved in the *next* three years:

<https://www.cota.org.au/news-items/policy-recommendations-for-the-47th-parliament/>



**Her Place Women's Museum Australia**, 210 Clarendon St, East Melbourne, open 11am to 4 pm Thursdays to Saturdays. The latest exhibition is *Emily's List Australia - Celebrating 25 Years*, curated by Penelope Lee. There are a number of copies of the booklet that accompanies the exhibition RRP \$30.

MAY: Thurs 5, Fri 6, Sat 7; Thurs 12, Fri 13, Sat 14; Thurs 19, Fri 2, Sat 21; Thurs 26, Fri 27, Sat 28

JUNE: Public program 6-7 pm *Why Affirmative Action? The difference between targets, quotas, and merit*. Thurs 2; Fri 3, Sat 4, Thurs 9, Fri 10, Thurs 16, Fri 17, Sat 18; Thurs 23, Fri 24, Sat 25; Thurs 30; JULY: Fri 1, Sat 2.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXSNO>

### The Australian Nurses Memorial



ANZAC Commemorative Service was held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022, a time of quiet reflection among the autumn leaves on St Kilda Road. ANMC is a 'living memorial' to the heroism and sacrifice of Australian nurses who gave their life or spent years in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps during World War 2. Arlene Bennett (President) welcomed all to the 80<sup>th</sup> ceremony and spoke about progress in memorialisation of the role played by the World War 2 nurses in whose memory the Centre was created. Others involved in the event were Chaplain Revd Emily Fraser, Colonel Jan McCarthy (Rtd) and Emeritus Professor Judith Parker AM, Patron of ANMC.

Students from the Melbourne Girls Grammar School read the names of the nurses who lost their lives in February 1942 when the hospital ship *Vyner Brooke* was bombed and sunk by Japanese aircraft, those who died afterward during the Banka Island massacre and at other times while in POW camps over the next three and half year. The Keytones Choir sang the *Captives Hymn & Like a River*, and Captain Lionel Boxer CD Royal Victorian Regiment played the lament. Representatives from organisations and the families of the nurses placed wreaths at the Memorial. For the second year there was *Collaborative Wreath* raising funds for an additional scholarship.

### NCWV Dates for 2022, venue/ZOOM to be notified for each meeting

May	Thursday 5	May Forum:12:15-2:00pm, Focussing on STEM education and work Brief Council Meeting, 12:00pm only by ZOOM.
	Monday 9	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm by ZOOM
	Thursday 19	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm by ZOOM
June	Thursday 2	Individual Members and Council meeting, 12:15-2:00pm, by ZOOM Ms Jan Shuard, Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor, 5 years on.
	Monday 20	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm by ZOOM
	Thursday 16	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon by ZOOM
July	Thursday 7	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm by ZOOM
	Monday 11	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm by ZOOM
	Thursday 21	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon by ZOOM
August	Thursday 4	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am, Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 8	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 18	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
	Monday 22	<i>My Vote My Voice</i> , Parliament House, 9:15-12:30pm
September	Thursday 1	NCWV AGM, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 12	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 15	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
October	Thursday 6	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am, Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 10	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 20	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
November	Thursday 3	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm
	Monday 14	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 17	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
	Thursday 24	End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00pm, venue TBA
December	Council, Standing Committee and Committee meeting dates TBA	