

August 2019

Dear Members

Much has happened since the last NCWWA Newsletter. Thank you to the Hon Simone McGurk MLA who hosted a most enjoyable Morning Tea and Presentation for the two NCWWA STEM Bursary recipients at Parliament House recently. It was great to finally meet the two young women, Nikki Regnard and Elizabeth Cusack. Nikki is studying a Bachelor of Science at Murdoch University and Elizabeth is studying Mechatronics Engineering at Curtin University.



I recently had the opportunity to attend the Australian Church Women Fellowship Day which was held at the Maylands/Mount Lawley Uniting Church in Mount Lawley. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with members after the service at a light lunch.

Girl Guides Western Australia recently held its Youth and Adult Awards Ceremony at the Perth Town Hall. I was delighted to receive an invitation to the event. Congratulations to all the recipients of Awards including NCWWA Executive Committee member Linda Elezovich who received a Good Service Award, Emu at State Level. Linda served Girl Guides WA as State Commissioner over the last three and a half years and continues to be involved in NCWWA as an Associate member.



In July 2019 the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety released the Decision Regulation Impact Statement - the report represents the third and final stage of the combined Review of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973 (MVDA) and the Motor Repairers Act 2003 (MVRA). The review makes twenty recommendations - one refers to "Cooling Off Period".

Many NCWWA members will remember that NCWWA called for a cooling off period for linked finance contracts and that the MVDA be amended for a termination fee to apply to linked finance contracts cancelled within the cooling off period.

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This was after I received a number of representations from NCWWA members.

Recommendation 12 of the review is as follows:

- that the MVDA be amended to allow for a cooling off period for linked finance contracts;
- that the MVDA be amended to allow for a termination fee of \$100 to apply to linked finance contracts cancelled within the cooling off period;
- that the maximum 15 per cent pre-estimated damages as provided for in the Motor Vehicle Dealers (Sales) Regulations 1974 be reduced to five per cent.

As President I have now written to the Minister for Consumer Protection urging that recommendation 12 from the review be implemented.



Earlier this year the Australian Human Rights Commission released the Older Women's Risk of Homelessness: Background Paper.

As stated by the Hon Dr Kay

Patterson AO, the Age Discrimination Commissioner, the paper explores the issue of older women's homelessness and a range of opportunities which may facilitate secure, ongoing housing arrangements for this cohort, including ways to capitalise on the financial assets and the capacity of these women to work to increase the possibility of them achieving more permanent housing outcomes.

The Pay Gap Statistics from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency released in August 2019 have the Gender Pay Gap in Australia at 14%. However Western Australia has the widest gender pay gap at 21.8%- the highest in Australia while South Australia and Victoria have the smallest gender pay gap at 9.2% and 9.6% respectively.

The latest results from the agency relating to women in leadership indicate that women hold 13.7% of chair positions and 25.8% of directorships, 17.1% of CEOs and 30.5% of management positions.

Breast Screen WA celebrated thirty years of service with the launching of the new Client Results Portal. The portal provides clients with the opportunity to receive result letters electronically. It is an opt in system with the portal providing a secure delivery of the result letter. Women receive an SMS with an embedded link to their result letter.

NCWA recently raised a number of issues regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) after a resolution from NCWWA was received with the Hon Stuart Robert MP. David Tune has now been appointed to conduct a review of the NDIS legislation and rules which will in turn inform the development of the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee. The review will also focus on streamlining the NDIS process. My understanding is that it is proposed the Participant Service Guarantee will take effect from 1 July 2020, and that consultation will include an online survey and discussion paper.

The Federal Government recently announced a reform to better support Australia's 2.7 million carers. From April 2020 the new Australia-wide network of regional Carer Gateway Service providers will have shopfronts, service outlets and a mobile workforce. It is proposed that carers will have access to a range of initiatives including carer support and in-person and phone based coaching, counselling and in-person peer support.



Congratulation to Pamela Govender the recipient of the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award. I have invited Pamela to be the guest speaker at the NCWWA September meeting. Changes are underway for the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award. From next year the Award will be for Leadership – a Girl Guide 18-35 years of age. I will be working with the State Commissioner to develop the relevant criteria.

Kathleen Johnston General Manager Peel Community Legal Service was the guest speaker at the NCWWA July Meeting. Kathleen spoke about the role of the Peel Community Legal Service. She spoke about the huge client numbers accessing the service and explained the service provided generalist services.

Cheryl Edwardes AM was the guest speaker at the August NCWWA meeting. Cheryl spoke about her role as a Member of Parliament and her interests since that time. Cheryl also spoke about her role as Chairwomen of the National Apology Reference Group and the proposed museum and research centre.

Robyn Nolan
 President NCWWA
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2019 NCWWA STEM Bursary:

Congratulations to the 2019 NCWWA STEM Bursary recipients. Nikki Regnard and Elizabeth Cusack recently received their Awards at a Morning Tea hosted by the Hon Simone McGurk MLA Minister for Women at Parliament House.

Nikki Regnard is studying a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science at Murdoch University and Elizabeth Cusack is studying Mechatronics Engineering at Curtin University.



2019 Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award:

Congratulations to the winner of the 2019 Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award Pamela Govender. Pamela is the founder of a not for profit organisation called Restore a Smile Foundation. Pamela set up the organisation to help people move from crisis situations to stability. Her aim is to help rebuild self-confidence and self-esteem. Pamela also owns and runs a coaching and mentoring business.

STANDING COMMITTEE ISSUES

Human Rights Legislation and Implementation of Conventions:

Adviser: Jeannine Son

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) finalised a review – *Family Law for the Future* and inquiry into the Family Law System with sixty recommendations.

Habitat- *Adviser:* Laurel Pearce

1. Over 9,000 people considered homeless in WA – Homelessness Australia

Reasons include:

Financial difficulties 28%

Accommodation issues 19%

Domestic and family violence 34%

Health reasons 5%

Other 14%

2. Bankwest Curtin Economics (BCEC) twelfth report on its *Focus on WA* highlights difficulties that low income earners and single parents were facing in securing affordable housing.

Economics, Women in Employment and Consumer Affairs: *Adviser:* Robyn Nolan

1. Financy Women's index June Quarter

- Index rose 0.5u to 123.9 in the June quarter
- Moderation in female employment record improvements in superannuation gender pay gap helped progress

2. Women in the majority as solicitor numbers grow except WA

3. Changes for boarding fees for non-government school students 2020

Youth - *Adviser* Dawn Butterworth

Suicide – the leading cause of death in young people, accounting for one-third of deaths of 15-24 year olds.

The Federal Government has launched a \$503.1 million Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan in a bid to provide coordinated government services

ADVOCACY ACTION

Resolution:

Robyn Nolan

NCWWA calls on the State Government to introduce an Endometriosis education program in Western Australian High Schools similar to the program in South Australia.

Resolution:

Elizabeth Re

NCWWA calls on the State Government to investigate if one of the state owned unused government building, eg school, could be converted into a safe rehabilitation centre for women leaving prison to be reunited with their children and learn skills to better prepare themselves to stand on their own in a safe and friendly environment.

Resolution:

Deidre Lyra

NCWWA through NCWA calls on the Federal Government to implement a Federal Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry to investigate the workings of Family Law Legislation (or specifically the Family Law Act 1975) which came into operation in January 1976

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

REMINDER: Renewal of NCWWA membership fees.

NCWWA membership fees for the 2019-2020 membership year are now due.



Payment : can be made by direct transfer

Account Name: National Council of Women of WA Inc

BSB: 066 110

Account number: 1015 7530

Please ensure you identify your name in the "comments" field

Payment: can be made by cheque: National Council of Women of WA Inc

P O Box 6224 East Perth WA

If your details have changed in any way please complete the:

2019-2020 Associate Members Renewal form or 2019-2020 Affiliate Members Renewal form on the NCWWA website. http://www.ncwwa.org.au/main/page_about_us_membership.html

FUNDRAISING

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE :

Get access to hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do and support National Council of Women WA at the same time. Cost of the book either digital or hard copy \$70.00

For more **information or enquiries**, please contact

Daphne Thacker on **0411 705 056** email daphne016@bigpond.com



NCWWA

Date of next General Meeting

Monday 23 September 2019

160 Hay St East Perth

1.00pm

Guest Speaker

Pamela Govender

Winner of 2019 NCWWA

Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award



WEB PAGE

www.ncwwa.org



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN WA

50th Anniversary of Equal Pay Legislation -
2019 are we there yet?

Join us for our 2019 Equal Pay Day Event



When: 4 September 2019

Time: 5.30pm-7pm - Bookings are Essential

Please arrive by 5.15pm for security screening

Venue: Aboriginal People's Gallery, Parliament House WA

Entry is via the main entrance

RSVP: 28 August 2019

Dietary issues: please let us know if you have any allergies

2019 - the 50th Anniversary of Equal Pay Legislation

Minister Simone McGurk will provide an update on the progress of gender equity in Western Australia.

Sandra Cook, Economic Security 4 Women and BPW WA Policy Officer will present Equal Pay Day 2019.

Carol Hanlon, BPW WA State President will report on how BPW raises awareness in local communities.

Our Speakers for Equal Pay Day 2019



HON. SIMONE MCGURK MLA,
Member for Fremantle, Minister for
Child Protection; Women's Interests;
Prevention of Family and Domestic
Violence and Community Services.



SANDRA COOK
Economic Security 4
Women and BPW WA
State Policy Officer



CAROL HANLON
BPW Western Australia
State President

Book at www.bpw.com.au/wa