

## President's Message July 2021

Dear Members

They say a week is a long time in politics- unfortunately this includes the City of Perth! After constant assurances from several people representing the City of Perth and indications of a licence for NCWWA to remain in 160 Hay with a small office space that decision has now been reversed by another representative stating that those people had no right to imply any such thing.



I was extremely shocked and disappointed to hear that after me making contact for access to the building that finally after several telephone calls and a visit by myself to the City of Perth that the Manager of Community Development has indicated that use of 160 Hay Street by NCWWA is no longer feasible.

I have tried unsuccessfully to date to obtain a meeting with the City of Perth CEO Michelle Reynolds. However, the NCWWA Executive members have come to the conclusion it is best

that NCWWA moves on rather than try and deal with the City of Perth. The



City of Perth under current management display no care nor consideration for community organisations especially for a voluntary community organisation working for the advancement of women and their families. Building work commenced back in February and from February to June the NCWWA Executive was always of the understanding that a small office space would be made available for NCWWA at a small yearly rent and the building changes were provided for such.

It has been extremely difficult to continue the work of NCWWA since February. I cannot understand why NCWWA was not advised back in February that they would no longer be welcome to remain in 160 Hay Street. Certainly it was confirmed several times that NCWWA would be able to remain in the building.

NCWWA is currently looking for a small office or storeroom and will continue to meet at the CWA rooms in West Perth. If anyone has any suggestions of a location, please make contact with me at the earliest opportunity.

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At the last NCWWA meeting DVassist (new NCWWA Affiliate member) CEO Esther Schwald was the guest speaker at the meeting. Esther spoke about the organisation's ongoing focus on the state's regional rural and remote locations. DVassist is a unique and innovative organisation that addresses the complex issue of family and domestic violence. Current Federal funding allows for service to just sixteen regions- DVassist hopes to expand its free state based counselling telephone service to an additional eighty one regions. (Shires)



In regional, rural and remote Australia, family and domestic violence statistics are quite staggering with people in remote areas much more likely to be hospitalised for domestic violence than people in major cities. People facing domestic and family violence (over 60% female) in regional, rural and remote areas face a unique set of barriers that make leaving an abusive relationship particularly difficult and have different requirements to enable them to access services.

In Western Australia there is no state-wide counselling phone service and although the National 1800 Respect counselling line can be accessed reviews of the service have shown that this national model does not meet the needs of people living in regional, rural and remote locations. The bigger the gap in distance, time and life experience and understanding between the caller and the service the less likely the

service is able to assist and less likely a family violence victim is to call.

The 2021-2022 Women's Budget Statement builds on the 2018 and 2020 Women's Economic and Security Statements through women's safety, women's economic security and women's health and well being measures. It is pleasing to see a focus in the statement of safety for women from diverse backgrounds, improving the family law system and strengthening justice responses and addressing women's safety at work.

NCWA members around Australia are very pleased to see the removal of the \$450 a month threshold on before tax income with a single employer below which superannuation guarantee was not paid being included in the Federal Budget. Women generally live longer than men. Unfortunately Australia's superannuation system disadvantages women as it is linked directly to earnings. Women are more likely to work in casual or part-time positions during their lives. Based on 2019 data from the retirement incomes review this threshold affected 1097,000 women and 114,000 men. The review also stated that the original reason for the \$450 a month threshold was to reduce the administrative burden on employers. That reason has now diminished with the digitalisation of payrolls. Measures have also been taken to reduce the impact of fees and insurance premiums on small balances which was another reason for the threshold. Once passed through the Parliament the removal of the threshold will mean that a previously affected worker will receive the same remuneration for the same hour of work as an unaffected colleague.

The national gender pay gap has dropped to 13.4%, a decline of 0.6 percentage points over the last six months according to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, an Australian

Government Agency that promotes and improves gender equality and administers the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. The new Director is Mary Wooldridge who replaces Libby Lyons who stood down recently. Unfortunately Western Australia still has the widest gender pay gap at 22.9 %. The ACT has the smallest gender pay gap at 6.3%.



NCWWA supported another of its Affiliate members recently at the WA Kids Modelling Competition 2021 with over 400 people in attendance. The event raised just over \$4000 for the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. It was a terrific opportunity for NCWWA to support the event. I was one of the judging panel and I also had the opportunity to present some of the awards.

NCWWA held a very successful 'Movie Afternoon' in May and is looking to hold another in August/September depending on the movie releases. A popular movie release always makes it much easier to sell tickets for the afternoon.

Parties to contested family violence restraining order (FVRO) matters need no longer sit in the same courtroom under a reform which commenced in early July in the Perth Magistrates Court. Shuttle conferencing-where a Magistrate's Court Registrar shuttles between separate rooms at the court aims to make it easier and less traumatic for victims of family violence to obtain restraining orders.

Shuttle conferencing will be introduced in Fremantle and Joondalup Magistrates Courts later in the year. Under the model FVRO matters need not be listed for a court hearing unless either party opts out of conferencing or a negotiated agreement cannot be reached.

The need for key reforms within the Justice system to address the number of domestic violence breaches is an issue of concern. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics data there were 35,000 defendants who faced court last year charged with breaching domestic violence orders. Domestic violence orders are supposed to be one of the key mechanisms for protecting victims of abuse. The data also stated that 68% of defendants convicted of breaching family and domestic violence orders received a non-custodial sentence in 2019-2020. Of these about 40% received a fine and 29% received community supervision or work order. Other non-custodial sentences include good behaviour bonds. The system needs urgent action with stricter penalties given the number of breaches. NCWA has written to the Attorney General asking her to raise the staggering number of



breaches of domestic violence orders with State and Territory Attorneys at the earliest opportunity suggesting urgent action with stricter penalties and a tougher and more consistent approach.

The Western Australian Department of Communities recently announced that an Office for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence will be established within the Department. The office is planned to elevate the profile of family and domestic violence and hopefully improve

outcomes in the area of primary prevention, Aboriginal family safety, victim survivor safety and perpetrator accountability. It is hoped that the Office will have a much closer working relationship with Department of Health, the Western Australian Police Force and community organisations.

The eighteenth National Census of Population and Housing in Australia will occur on 10 August 2021. This year households will have several days to complete the census rather than a single night.

**Robyn Nolan**

**President NCWWA**

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## COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM

Making safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines available to all Australians is a key priority of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

There are five phases in the vaccine rollout and they focus on protecting the most vulnerable in our community first.



If you need information about the COVID-19 vaccine go to the Healthy WA website. If you wish to make a booking register on VaccinateWA.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be made available to all eligible people under 60 years of age in WA Health run clinics. The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be provided to adults 60 and over in WA Health run clinics, GP Clinics, GP Respiratory Clinics and Aboriginal Medical Services. A discussion with your GP is always the best course of action about your vaccine.



The Date of the next NCWWA General meeting

**To be advised**

**CWA Rooms**

**1176 Hay St West Perth**

**WEB PAGE**

[www.ncwwa.org.au](http://www.ncwwa.org.au)

## Women's Alliances

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet recently conducted an open competitive grant round to identify six organisations to fulfill the role of the Alliances from 23 August 2021 to 30 June 2024.

The National Women's Alliances are civil society networks that ensure women's voices are heard in the policy making process.



The six successful specialist Women's Alliances are:

- **Women's safety: YWCA Canberra – National Women's Safety Alliance**
- **Women's economic security and leadership: YWCA Australia – Equality Rights Alliance**
- **Australian women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds: Migration Council Australia – Harmony Alliance**
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance**
- **Women living in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia: National Rural Women's Coalition**
- **Australian women with disability: Women with Disabilities (Australia)**

## Renewal of NCWWA Membership Fees

NCWWA membership fees for the 2021-2022 year are now due. Payment may be made by Bank Transfer or by Cheque

### Fees remain the same:

Associate Members \$55  
Affiliate Members \$66

### Payment by Direct Transfer:

Account name: National Council of Women of WA Inc  
BSB : 066110  
Account Number: 1015 7530

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

### Payment by Cheque:

National Council of Women of WA Inc  
PO Box 6224 East Perth WA 6892

If your details have changed in any way please complete:

2021-2022 Associate Members Renewal Form  
2021-2022 Affiliate Members Renewal Form

Both are available on the NCWWA website. Please return to Robyn Nolan [robymn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robymn@bigpond.net.au)



## NCWA Triennial Conference

Thursday 25 and Friday 26 November 2021 at the QT Hotel Canberra

### 'Improving Safety and Economic Security for Women'

The NCWA Triennial Conference Committee has been meeting and developing a Conference program. The NCWA Conference will commence on the Thursday morning at 9.00 am (NCWA Business) including debate on Resolutions.

The Conference will then commence at 2.00 pm on the Thursday afternoon and continue on the Friday with a number of presentations and panel sessions from Australia's leading experts and Members of Federal Parliament including:

**Senator the Hon Anne Ruston** Minister for Families and Social Services; Minister for Women's Safety.

**Senator the Hon Jane Hume** Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and the Digital Economy; Minister for Women's Economic Security

**Sharon Claydon MP** Member for Newcastle

**Dr Michael Fotheringham** MD Australian Housing and Urban Research

**Catherine Hawkins** First Assistant Secretary Office for Women

**A Reception** will be held at Government House on the Thursday evening hosted by the NCWA Patron **Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley**

**Conference Registration cost** (early bird rates) :

**Members \$300 Non Members: \$350**

**After 31 October 2021 Members \$350 Non Members: \$395**

Registration Booking code will be available shortly.

**The booking code for Accommodation at the QT Hotel is as follows:**

QT King Room (1 x King Bed) AUD \$169.00 room only

QT Twin Room (2 x King Single Beds) AUD \$169.00 room only

**To access your special rates please visit**

<https://www.qthotelsandresorts.com/canberra>

1. Select the "Arrive – Depart" Dates
2. Select the Number of guests / Room
3. Click on "BOOK NOW"
4. Under "MORE BOOKING OPTIONS" in the "BLOCK CODE" field enter your booking discount code:  
**NCWA2021**
5. Click "UPDATE BOOKING"
6. Discounted rates will appear on the rates screen
7. Available for stays between **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (inclusive)**



Alternatively you can call the **Reservations Team** to book over the phone quoting the block code **NCWA2021**

Reservations operates Monday – Friday from 9am till 5pm

Phone: +61 2 6867 1205

Email: [reservations\\_qtcanberra@evt.com](mailto:reservations_qtcanberra@evt.com)

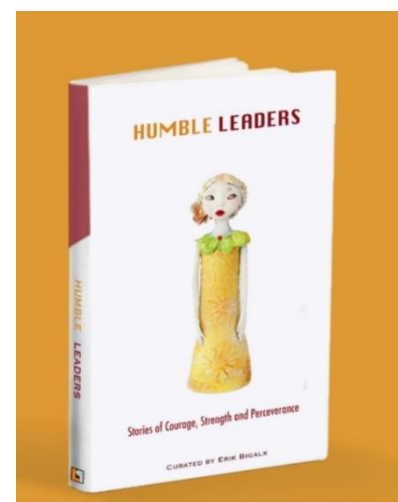
To proceed with a reservation a valid credit card is required to guarantee all rooms, with payment due on arrival at the hotel. Cancellation on the accommodation rooms is allowed up until 24 hours prior to arrival, 2pm the day before check in.

## HUMBLE LEADERS

**Humble Leaders:** Published by LaMinliko Publishing International in collaboration with Author Unleashed and Women's Network Australia 'Humble Leaders' is the perfect book for anyone who is perhaps tasting doubt or sometimes feels challenged or simply for those who love to learn how people succeed and want to take a feather out of their hat to use towards their own success.

*'A unique sharing of amazing insights from twelve inspirational women demonstrating resilience and success after difficult experiences and obstacles.*

*A brilliant display of strength, perseverance and encouragement for other women given the very different backgrounds, diverse experiences and life challenges'*



I was delighted to be invited to write a Testimonial, which is above for the book 'Humble Leaders'- one of the twelve inspirational women in the book is Adrienne Flemming -a member of NCWV.

Robyn Nolan

## NAIDOC WEEK 2021



**HEAL  
COUNTRY!**  
4-11 JULY 2021

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is celebrated by all Australians and is a great opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

*The following is an extract from the NAIDOC WEEK Website for your information.*

The NAIDOC 2021 theme – **Heal Country!** – calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

NAIDOC 2021 invites the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

This year's theme also seeks substantive institutional, structural, and collaborative reform – something generations of our Elders and communities have been advocating, marching and fighting for.



# Entertainment

Digital Entertainment Book 2021

Fundraising for National  
Council of Women WA

**\$69**



From dining to shopping, to travel, get more of what you enjoy and support the work of the **National Council of Women Western Australia**

Follow the link below to purchase your digital book

**Raising funds for National Council of Women WA**

Order online today.

[www.entbook.com.au/843057](http://www.entbook.com.au/843057)

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SCAN HERE

\*Member offers are subject T&Cs. Check individual offers on the Entertainment Membership App or [www.entertainment.com.au](http://www.entertainment.com.au)



National Council of Women Australia  
Triennial Conference

Save the Date

Thursday 25 - Friday 26 November 2021



QT Canberra, 1 London Circuit, Canberra ACT

Thursday 25 November 2021 morning	-NCWA Business – Resolutions
Thursday 25 November 2021 afternoon	-Public Conference
Thursday 25 November 2021 (tbc)	-Reception – 5.30pm
<b>Hosted by Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley at the Residence of the Governor General</b>	
Friday 26 November 2021	-Public conference

Conference program will be available closer to November 2021

A NCWA Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon 24 November 2021 at 3.00pm - 5.00pm for Board members.

Hotel Accommodation rate is \$169 per night at QT Canberra if booked 14 days prior to the NCWA conference date.

Contact NCWA President Robyn Nolan: mob: 0417 917 294  
email: [robymn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robymn@bigpond.net.au)