

April 2019

Dear Members

It has been a busy couple of months for me as I attended CSW63 in New York leaving Australia on 8 March 2019 and returning on 25 March 2019. It was a great privilege for NCWA to have it's President attend as one of the two non-government members of the Australian Government delegation. CSW63 took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York between 11 and 22 March 2019.



During the two weeks I represented Australia at a number of side and parallel events including events held at Macquarie Bank, QBE, the Australian Mission and the New Zealand and UK Mission. I also attended a MCC Property Industry Roundtable hosted by EY and I was a member of the Australian Government negotiation team. I was privileged to be a panel member at a side event hosted by the UK and attended one of the ICW-CIF side events held in the UN main building.

Nicola and I also attended the NGO CSW Consultation Day held off site at the Tribeca-Performing Arts Center in Manhattan.

CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.



The theme for CSW63 was social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

A number of Australian NGO's also attended CSW63 advocating on a range of issues and also attended a number of side and parallel events. However they were unable to be in the negotiation room during the seven days of negotiations. The hours during negotiations were long with strong challenges in a range of areas however in my view the entire Australian Government delegation did an outstanding job even though small in number.

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Date of next General Meeting

NCWWA held a meeting in February with the special guest and guest speaker being Holly Masters from the McGrath Foundation. Holly timed her visit to Western Australia to speak at the NCWWA meeting. The McGrath Foundation funds breast care nurses who support women and their families experiencing breast cancer, providing a breast care nurse from the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment and beyond if required. A referral is not necessary and a nurse is provided without cost for those diagnosed with breast cancer in both the public and private system. If anyone is in need of a breast care nurse or knows of someone who could be helped make direct contact with the McGrath Foundation. All contact details are on the website.



Last year NCWWA through NCWA along with a number of organisations called on the Federal Government to add ribociclib (Kisqali) and palbociclib (Ibrance) to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Health Minister announced in the 2018 Budget that Kisqali would be listed on the PBS from 1 July 2018.

In the 2019 Federal Budget the Health Minister announced that Ibrance would be added to the PBS from 1 May 2019 for the treatment of hormone receptor positive locally advanced inoperable or metastatic breast cancer. Patients will be able to access this medicine for just \$40.30 per script or \$6.50 for a concession card holder-a great outcome! Hormone receptor positive tumors are the most common form of breast cancer and unfortunately account for the most deaths from the disease.

NCWWA passed a resolution at its February meeting calling on the expansion of the scope of the drug Ondansetron to be listed on the PBS when used to treat hyperemesis gravidarum (HG). NCWA has now written to a number of drug companies who manufacture the drug calling on them to seek the expansion of the scope for Ondansetron by the PBAS. Severe HG can cause women to give up work very early in pregnancy, often placing financial pressure on the family and then the cost of Ondancetron (a pack of ten tablets can cost up to \$60.00 and three per day are often needed) can further change the financial circumstances.

The NCWWA 2019 STEM Bursary recently closed and the NCWWA Bursary Panel has met and selected two outstanding young women to receive the 2019 NCWWA STEM Bursary. Congratulations to Nikki Regnard studying a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science at Murdoch University and Elizabeth Cusack studying Mechatronics Engineering at Curtin University. As has been the case in previous years the applications received were of a very high standard and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those young women who submitted an application. 2019 is the first year NCWWA has offered two Bursaries and it is my hope that NCWWA will be able to offer two Bursaries in 2020.



I had the opportunity to be in Canberra for the 2019 Federal Budget and later the same week Barbara Baikie and I attended the launch of the Labor Women's Budget Statement. The Expert Review of Australia's Vocational Education and Training System "Strengthening Skills" by the Hon Steven Joyce was released recently. The Review considered ways to make the vocational educational system more effective in providing women and men with the skills they need to be successful throughout their working life.



Sally Plummer and I were recently attended a reception at Government House hosted by the Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia and Ms Susie Annus for the 2019 WA Women's Hall of Fame Inductees. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with other members of the WA Women's Hall of Fame Committee.

Angela Hartwig CEO Womens Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WCDFVS) was guest speaker at the April 2019 NCWWA meeting. Angela spoke about the role of WCDFVS, a state-wide organisation seeking to ensure that all women and children live free of domestic and family violence. The role of WCDFVS is to provide a voice on family and domestic violence issues that facilitates and promotes relevant policy, legislative and programmatic responses.

Happy Easter to you all.

Robyn Nolan
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ADVOCACY ACTION

Early last year NCWWA advocated through NCWA to the Federal Government for the addition of ribociclib (Kisqali) and palbociclib (Ibrance) to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The Health Minister announced in the 2018 Budget that Kisqali would be listed on the PBS from 1 July 2018. On 1 April 2019 the Health Minister announced that Ibrance would be added to the PBS from 1 May 2019 for the treatment of hormone receptor positive locally advanced inoperable or metastatic breast cancer. Patients will now be able to access this medicine for just \$40.30 per script or \$6.50 with a concession card- without subsidy patients were paying more than \$55,000 a year for treatment.

STEM BURSARS 2019

The NCWWA 2019 STEM Bursary is awarded to a female student studying a STEM Course. This year two Bursaries have been awarded.

A cash amount of \$1200 is presented to the successful applicants which may be used to support further study in a range of areas.

In awarding the Bursaries NCWWA aims to:

- recognise academic excellence
- address financial need
- encourage study in areas non-traditional for women
- recognise the extent to which studies will benefit women, families and the wider community



Congratulations to:

- Nikki Regnard from Murdoch University studying a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science
- Elizabeth Cusack from Curtin University studying Mechatronics Engineering

MEMBERS MATTERS

Professor Lesley Cala Life Member NCWWA



Professor Lesley Cala Life Member NCWWA was recently elected as the Deputy Warden of Convocation of UWA Graduates. Congratulations Lesley.

Professor Lesley Cala and
Vice Patron of NCWWA Janet Davidson

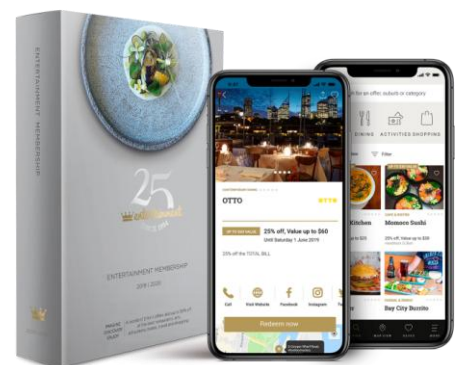
Photo reproduced with permission from Manny Tamayo Photography

FUNDRAISING

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE NOW 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



FOR INFORMATION

NCWWA receives a number of Newsletters from a large and diverse range of organisations. The current Connect Groups Enews includes the following extract from the ARMS website.

Unveiling of Forced Adoption memorial sculptures

Two sculptures were unveiled in Victoria Park to acknowledge the people whose lives have been affected by forced adoption in Australia.

The memorial sculptures have been donated to the Town of Victoria Park by the Association Representing Mothers Separated from their children by adoption (ARMS), and were funded by the Department of Social Services, through grants from [Forced Adoption Support Service \(FASS\)](#) at Relationships Australia WA.



The unveiling date was also the sixth anniversary of the National Apology for Forced Adoptions.

The sculptures, titled Empty Arms – Broken Lives, will provide a central place in Victoria Park for those who have been affected by Forced Adoptions to visit, reflect and remember.



ARMS Coordinator Lynne Devine said the unveiling marked an important milestone for those people whose lives were impacted by past practices and policies.

These sculptures symbolise an acknowledgement of the pain and trauma suffered by all people separated by forced adoption.

“The memorial will provide a central place for them to visit and hopefully to gain comfort, knowing their lifetime of suffering has been recognised and acknowledged,” Ms Devine said.

About the National Apology for Forced Adoption

On 21 March 2013 in the Great Hall at Parliament House Canberra, then Prime Minister Hon Julia Gillard delivered a National Apology to those affected by Forced Adoption and/ or removal practices and policies within Australia. Acknowledging the unjust and often illegal acts used in coercing mothers to give up babies for adoption (now referred to as “Forced Adoption”) and recognising the ongoing mental suffering and life-long effects on all impacted by adoption.

Validation of past injustices is of great importance to many affected by these adoption practices including children, mothers, fathers, grandparents, other family members and friends.

NCWWA
Date of next General Meeting
Monday 27 May
160 Hay St East Perth
1.00pm



WEB PAGE
www.ncwwa.org