



NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN of WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.

Dedicated to the Advancement of Women and their Families

PRESIDENT: Robyn Nolan

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President's Message August 2018



Dear Members

Thank you to those NCWWA members and friends who supported the NCWWA movie afternoon held on Sunday 12 August 2018. It was a very enjoyable and successful afternoon. I am also very grateful that everyone supported the way NCWWA engaged in promoting the event -it all worked very smoothly in the end. While change is always difficult it means all the funds raised are profit rather than wasting some of that profit on postage.



(L) Robyn Nolan, (R) Kathryn Lawrence
CEO Citizens Advice Bureau WA

My special thanks to Sally Plummer and Merrill Cole for helping with the success of the afternoon. Disappointingly Daphne Thacker was unable to attend the event due to illness and my very best wishes for a speedy recovery are with her as I write this report.

The NCWA Triennial Conference is fast approaching 17-19 October 2018 in Canberra—details are included in this newsletter—please let

me know by the end of August if you plan to attend conference as I need to supply delegation numbers by the end of August. NCWWA has submitted three resolutions to be debated at the conference. Each NCW Council is able to submit two resolutions plus a National /Adviser/ Co-ordinator is able to submit one resolution. As such NCWWA is able to have three resolutions at the Triennial Conference out of the fourteen listed for debate.

The three resolutions are as follows: (all three resolutions have been debated and supported at NCWWA Council meetings) and rationale has been provided with the resolutions.

1. NCWA calls on the Federal Government to include a question or set of questions in the next Census of Population and Housing to identify those households in which kinship carers have primary responsibility for children or young people and the carers relationship to that person.

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2. NCWA calls on the Federal Government to introduce superannuation reform to:
 - a. Remove the \$450 monthly threshold from one employer to ensure everyone in employment receives some superannuation
 - b. Include superannuation in the government parental leave payment
3. NCWA calls on the Federal Government along with State and Territory Governments to properly review the VET system to adequately meet the needs for future jobs. VET training including public and private providers, should include modular training to enable diversification and training in local communities.

According to the WGEA the national gender pay gap has reached its lowest level in 20 years at 14.6%. As such Equal Pay Day is being held on Friday 31 August, marking the 62 additional days from the end of the previous financial year that women must work to earn the same pay as men.

The Women's Health Strategy (the follow-up to the last version that expired in 2017) has an interesting health status profile of WA Women.

According to the Strategy women comprise:

- 49% of WA total Population
- 78% of WA Women live in the greater Perth metro area
- 36.2% of WA women were born overseas
- 15.7% of WA women spoke a language other than English
- The median age of WA women is 36.3 with an expectancy of 85 years compared with 80 years for men
- 50.9% of WA women are married and 28.2% have never married
- 2.4% of WA women are aboriginal women
- Christianity is the predominant religion with 63.5% of WA women identifying as Christian.
- In 2015 14.5% of WA women report having a disability the same proportion as men.

The WA men's health and well being policy recently closed for consultation - there are a number of issues with this policy including that the document doesn't note that men are the majority of victims of violence, and also the majority of perpetrators- and consequently doesn't offer any preventive health responses to assist these men which will help avoid the costs to women in these health behaviours.



NCWWA Members at the July General Meeting

In my view there is a need for gender mainstreaming in health both at the state and federal level which is a best practice approach recommended by the World Health Organisation, the UN, the Australian Medical Association and the OECD. Health policy should see gender as a social determinant of health where men and women are two sides of the same coin with interconnected causes and consequences. This is vital when it comes to family and domestic violence where issues are seen as being about women's health, but preventive action doesn't appear in the policy of the majority perpetrator demographic.

The NCWWA AGM will be held on Monday 29 October 2018 at 1.00pm at 160 Hay Street East Perth. As there is a Public Holiday on the normal monthly meeting date in September there will be no NCWWA Council meeting held in September.

Robyn Nolan
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PADDY FIRSTENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER

Thank you to those who had an application submitted on their behalf for the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award. There were a number of outstanding applications from Perth, Geraldton and the Pilbara.

The Paddy Firstenberg applications were asked to address the selection criteria of

- demonstrated leadership ability
- service as a role model or mentor
- commitment to the empowerment of women
- how the business industry or community has benefited from the nominee's contribution

A small NCWWA selection committee met recently and awarded **the 2018 Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award to Caris Collard, a young aboriginal woman from Geraldton**. Caris has initiated and manages a program for local indigenous girls in Geraldton and is committed to empowering young women and is very active in the local community in Geraldton and in the regions.

Caris is a vocal member of a large number of associations in the Midwest of Western Australia and is committed to the advancement of other women.

Caris will be invited to receive her award at the NCWWA AGM or at the earliest opportunity after that time.

Robyn Nolan

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Reminder: Renewal of NCWWA membership fees.

Thank you to all those Affiliate members and Associate members who have renewed NCWWA membership for the 2018-2019 membership year.

Unfortunately to date there are still a few who have yet to renew. Please address this issue immediately if you wish to continue your support for NCWWA.

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:

2018 Associate Members Renewal form or 2018 Affiliate Members Renewal form on the NCWWA website.

http://www.ncwwa.org.au/main/page_about_us_membership.html



**National Council of Women Australia
Triennial Conference
Finding Solutions
17,18,19 October 2018 at the QT Hotel
1 London Circuit, Canberra**

The NCWA Triennial Conference has delegations from all NCW Constituent Councils. There are members only meeting and workshops on the 17 October, and on the afternoon of the 19 October, including training for the National Council of Young Women.

The public conference: 9.00 am on Thursday 18 October opening by the Minister for Women is the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP. Conference MC is Genevieve Jacobs. Presentations from Terri Butler MP, Sharon Claydon MP and Trish Bergin from the Office of Women, Dept Prime Minister and Cabinet

Speakers: We have Australia's foremost reading experts, in the field, such as:

- **Libby Lyons** Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- **Sally Loane** CEO Financial Services Council
- **Hon Dr Sharman Stone**- The Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls
- **Carmel McGregor** - Adjunct Professor, Foundation steering committee 50/50 by 2030 Foundation
- **Liza-Jayne (LJ) Loch** NOW Australia Chair
- **Troy Roderick** - Specialist in Diversity & Inclusion
- **Professor Margaret Jolly** - Convenor of the Gender Institute ANU
- **Kate Jenkins** - Sex Discrimination Commissioner
- **Bonnie Millen** - National President People with Disability Australia
- **Phyllis Williams** - *Chairperson Housing for the Aged Action Group*
- **Dr Skye Saunders**- Assist Professor at Law, ANU Gender and law expert.
- **Scott Rankin** – Creative Director of Arts for social change organisation BIGhART



NCWA awards- Encouragement Award, Senior Service Award and NCWA Woman of the Year, will be presented, by our patron Lady Cosgrove (TBC) at the conference dinner.

Conference Cost early bird rates: Members: \$330
Non-members: \$375

After 31 August Members: \$350 Non-members: \$395

Dinner: Members: \$70 Non-members: \$80

To book go to

<http://www.trybooking.com/WQBX>

email: info@ncwa.org.au

2017 Conference photos

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Third Quarter 2018

AGEING, DISABILITY and MENTAL HEALTH

Adviser Janni Goss



Age Pension “Nightmare”

A joint study conducted by National Seniors Australia (NSA) and Retirement Essentials has confirmed that applying for the age pension is a fraught experience for many older Australians. The report reveals the challenges and scale of the problem confronting those who deal with Centrelink. The study proves beyond doubt that the age pension application service is a deeply complex and frustrating experience for many. Retirement Essentials has recently launched a service that combines an easy to use web-site with good old fashioned, assessable phone service that solves many of the issues identified in the report.

Mental Health Focus on Older Australians

Older Australians battling anxiety and depression will be the focus of much needed research designed to save lives. The Federal Government and Beyond Blue are each contributing \$2.5 million toward a range of new projects aimed at combating mental illness among the elderly, who are vulnerable to declining physical health, chronic pain, loneliness and grief. Projects look at improving health and social participation and another aims at decreasing the prevalence of depression in nursing homes where 30% of residents experience depression.

Mental HealthCare for ADF personnel

From mid-2018, eligible members transitioning from Defence will automatically receive a DVA white card to access DVA-funded mental healthcare from GPs, psychologists, psychiatrists or other health providers. Treatment can be accessed for any mental health condition regardless of the severity or the cause. It need not be service related and includes PTSD, anxiety, sleep disorders, alcohol use disorder and substance dependencies etc. DVA encourages health providers to alert their veteran patients to the mental health support available to them.



MIGRATION AND MIGRANT AFFAIRS

Adviser: Flavia Zimmerman

Department Of Treasury and Home Affairs Report Skilled Migrants

In the light of Australia's approaching the 25 million citizens landmark, it is important to stress the social benefits and skills brought by migrants in general and skilled migrants specifically to Australia. Research released by Treasury and the Department of Home Affairs in April 2018 indicates that skilled migrants are increasing Australia's wealth instead of living on welfare or decreasing job opportunities for Australian citizens. According to this research, the International Monetary Fund demonstrates that Australian skilled migrant programs alone would add at least 1% to the country's annual GDP from 2020 to 2050.

Skilled migrants positively impact Australian society and business entrepreneurship due to their skill sets and the age range targeted by the skilled migrant program. This increases the tax revenue and limits the budgetary impact of the aging population. This report provides relevant data to the current debate to cut down skilled migrant programs and cut immigration levels for less than the 190,000 annual limit. The results of the 2016-2017 Migration Program indicate that there was a shortfall in visa grants for General Skilled Migration, Parent Visas, Family Visas and Special Eligibility Program.

Therefore, the Federal Government should be concerned in positively marketing Australia and Australian job opportunities to skilled migrants instead of curbing skilled migration intake. Additionally, anti-migrant guidelines and policies might negatively affect women coming from diverse cultural backgrounds, and increase barriers for social integration.

Skilled migrant intake reduction would be detrimental to Australia's productivity and integration with countries across the world and within the region.

Migrant and Skilled Migrant Spouse Visa – Domestic Violence Prevention

Currently to apply for a spouse visa it is important to fulfill the following requirements:

- to be under the age of 45 years old;
- to have competent English skills
- to have a suitable skill assessment from the relevant assessing authority to their nominated skilled occupation. Your partners' nomination skills ought to be on the same skilled occupation list as your nominated skill.

Spouse's visas can be added in the main applicants visa application and are granted on the following conditions:

The partner should be married to or be in a de facto relationship with the main visa applicant. Partners can be of the same or opposite sex. It is paramount to prove:

- the relationship is genuine and continuing
- your partner is at least 18 years of age when the application is lodged (there are some exceptions)
- you are not related by family (if you are in a de facto relationship)
- you and your partner have a mutual commitment to a shared life to the exclusion of all others, and
- you live together, or do not live separately on a permanent basis.

.....continued

(MIGRATION AND MIGRANT AFFAIRS, *continued*)

Once granted, a spouse visas validity is dependent on the main applicant's visas, regardless of their demonstrated language and professional skills, and even ability to secure employment. **Their visa validity and migration status also depends on the continuity of the relationship.** Research indicates that the majority of partner's visas are granted for women. Literature states that challenges faced by migrants during the resettlement period increases family tensions and the likelihood of domestic violence. In the case of domestic violence, women leaving their partners would be in an illegal status in Australia, as they would not fulfil their spousal visa condition - living in a married or de facto relationship with the main applicant. It has been reported that several women leaving abusive relationships stay in an unknown visa status for several years. Their vulnerable and dependent visa status creates an additional barrier to leave a situation of domestic violence, placing the women and their children

ACTION: That the vulnerability of migrant women under spouse's visas be raised before state and federal authorities. On state level that newly settled skilled women migrants/ women migrant are increasingly informed of women's health groups and family services that can provide support while resettling in a new country, and where to find help in the case of spousal abuse.

On a federal level that spousal visas conditions change, and once visas are granted there would be an opportunity for spouses to apply for independent visas or that once visas are granted that they are valid on their own, independently of their relationship status. This would avoid migrant women coming into Australia being on a 'illegal' visa condition or for many years in an unknown visa status.



BreastScreen WA's
Pink Ribbon Breakfast



BreastScreen WA (BSWA) is holding the annual Pink Ribbon breakfast with keynote speakers Prof. Christobel Saunders AO, MB BS, FRCS, FRACS, FAAHMS and Kathleen Mazella OAM.

Date: Monday 22 October 2018
 Venue: Fraser's Function Centre, Kings Park
 Time: 7:00am registration for Breakfast from 7.30am to 9:00am
 Cost: \$40.00 (Inc. GST)
 RSVP: By Tuesday 16 October 2018

Please go to the [EventBrite](#) page to register and pay.

For more information email [BreastScreen WA](#) or phone (08) 9323 6707.

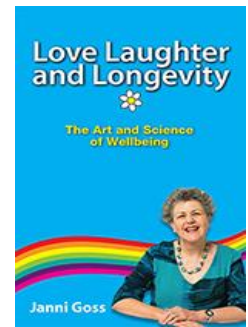
LOVE LAUGHTER AND LONGEVITY Author *Janni Goss*

Janni has offered her book to NCWWA members at a discounted price of \$25 per book (RRP \$30), donating \$5 from the \$25 of each sale to NCWWA.

Janni will have books available for purchase at NCWWA General Meetings.

Janni is also available for “wellbeing” workshops based on the book

More information is available on Janni’s Website <http://lovelaughterandlongevity.com>



Available in hard copy books and digital copy online

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS **Are available from NCWWA**

ORDERS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN

Delivery of orders will be the General Meetings

Contact: **Daphne Thacker**

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NCWWA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 29 October 2018

1.00pm

160 Hay St, East Perth

Guest Speaker



Hon Donna Faragher MLC

*Shadow Minister for Education and Training;
Women’s Interests*

FOR SALE

1x Bookcase

120cms long

X 90 cms high

Excellent condition

Metal/Wood



Ph Merrill: 0408 920 532

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21 September



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.



**The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is
“The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”**

The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

