



## NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN of WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.

*Dedicated to the Advancement of Women and their Families*

PRESIDENT: Robyn Nolan

SECRETARY: Helen McDonagh

TREASURER: Sally Plummer

Rod Evans Community Centre  
Phone 9325 8897

email: [ncwwa@inet.net.au](mailto:ncwwa@inet.net.au)

PO Box 6224 East Perth 6892  
website: [www.ncwwa.org.au](http://www.ncwwa.org.au)

### President's Message May 2018



Dear Members

Earlier this year NCWWA through NCWA called on the Federal Government to support a set of breakthrough breast cancer drugs to be placed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). In March 2018 the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) met and announced on 20 April 2018 a positive recommendation for the drugs.

Just a few weeks later in the Federal Budget the Hon Greg Hunt MP Minister for Health announced that Ribociclib (Kisqali) will be listed on the PBS from 1 July 2018. The listing is expected to benefit around 3,150 patients. Without the subsidy the treatment was costing over \$5,000 per month. The listing will also contribute to a significant unmet treatment need in younger women diagnosed with premenopausal advanced breast cancer. Now the drug will cost \$39.50 per script, while concessional patients will pay \$6.40 per script.

Great Federal budget announcement!

The Federal Government is also increasing funding for the around one in ten women who will suffer from endometriosis during their lives.

Another important announcement in the Federal Budget is the additional funding to support 14,000 additional high level home care packages to support the choice of older Australians who wish to say at home. Around two thirds of recipients of aged care services are women because, on average they live longer. However there is still a need for more high level home care packages.



*Guest Speaker, Jo Sadler State Director, Mission Australia, third from right.*

The Federal Government also announced some positive changes to protect superannuation balances from undue erosion. Certain fees will be capped at three per cent for accounts with balances less than \$6000 (low balances) and exit fees will be banned.

## *In This Edition*

Page 1-3:  
Page 3-4  
Page 5:  
Page 5:  
Page 6:  
Page 6:  
Page 6:  
Page 7:

President's Message  
Standing Committee reports  
Advocacy Action  
Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award  
2018 Triennial Conference  
Love Laughter and Longevity, Author- Janni Goss  
Date of next General Meeting  
Fundraising

Insurance will only be offered on an opt-in basis for young members, inactive accounts and low balance accounts and the ATO will be given powers to re-unite people's lost and low inactive accounts with their active accounts where possible.

In 2015-2016 nearly two million women held low and inactive accounts.

**The Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award is open and will close on Monday 25 June 2018.**

Nominations are being called from women in industry, business or community service who have demonstrated leadership, exemplary achievement and outstanding contribution to the advancement of women. The Award honours the memory of Paddy Firstenberg who constantly sought to empower women. Nominations are required 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.



*NCWA delegates at the ERA members meeting in Canberra 23-24 May 2018.  
Robyn Nolan and Ladies from SA and ACT.*

Thank you to everyone who supported the two resolutions at the NCWWA May meeting regarding two initiatives which are extremely important initiatives for many grand-carers.

I will send the State resolution to the State Minister and the other resolution to NCWA as soon as possible. The resolutions are detailed later in this newsletter.

Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren have raised a number of important equity issues and NCWWA will continue to advocate on their behalf. I have met with Senator Dean Smith and also met with the Hon Dan Tehan MP Minister for Social Services along with a number of grand-carer families in recent weeks.

My special thanks to Cecilia Brooke who organised a beautiful wreath of flowers from NCWWA for the service at South Perth on Anzac Day. NCWWA is very grateful to Cecilia who took time out of her extremely busy schedule to make the wreath and also attend the service.

I recently attended the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) members meeting in Canberra. The ERA three year work plan was discussed and the two day meeting included a number of members speaking on a wide range of topics. The ERA priorities for the next three years include housing that meets the needs of women, economic policy and structures that meet the needs of women and health and wellbeing. ERA also plans to establish a number of member led working groups to develop annual action plans.

Thank you to Leanne Barron the CEO of Starick who was the guest speaker at the May NCWWA General meeting. Leanne spoke about the multi-layered support services in Perth's south-east metropolitan area to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence.

Plans are going well for the NCWA Triennial Conference to be held in October in Canberra – a number of interesting guest speakers have confirmed. The full conference program should be finalised in early June.

Robyn Nolan  
[robymn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robymn@bigpond.net.au)

0417 917 294

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## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Second Quarter 2018

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### EDUCATION and EARLY CHILDHOOD



*Adviser: Daphne Thacker*

#### **Schools are facing more challenges**

**STEM:** A new push for STEM in schools, creating specialised science could turn around declining trends in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. A recent media report stated \$3.3 million has been allocated by WA Government towards STEM for poorer schools and lower socio-economic communities in WA.

**Bullying, Social Media:** A significant issue facing students in today's schooling has gone a leap further into cyber-bullying. Bullying also comes through texting, social media and emails and causes much stress to students. They can go home extremely stressed from school with parents often unaware or unsure how to address the issue. In particular when the student has made their parents aware of the situation. It is not certain if the Education Department is introducing any new legislation to outlaw bullying behaviour.

**NAPLAN Essays:** Still the debate continues year in and year out regarding the value of Naplan and 2018 is no exception. The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority in its recent research commented that trials and analysis show computers are just as good as humans, if not better, at marking the essays. However debate continues on the value of Naplan.

**Early Childhood:** Early learning participation in WA has been recorded amongst the lowest in the developed world. A comment from Nobel Prize winner, Jack Heckman, indicated investment in early childhood produces the greatest return to society.

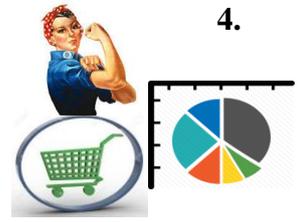
**Literature Year 12:** There is an increase in year 12 students being denied a chance to study literature. According to a media report, many schools no longer offer the subject. English teachers are warning that the subject has reached a state of crisis in WA schools

**Funding is a critical Issue:** Not just in terms of what is spent, but also how it is spent. Long term planning is necessary across education sectors from early childhood to schools, universities and TAFE. This must include plans for supporting and strengthening teacher education in all these sectors. Louder public conversation and lobbying regarding State education needs to take place to shift the financial value and investment in education.

This matter could be considered for a resolution from NCWWA.

## WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMICS and CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Adviser: Robyn Nolan



### **Federal Budget:**

**Superannuation:** the Federal government announced a range of measures to protect superannuation balances from undue erosion. Certain fees will be capped at three percent for account balances less than \$6000 (low balances) exit fees will be banned: insurance will only be offered on an opt-in basis for young members, inactive accounts; and the ATO will be given powers to reunite people's lost and low inactive accounts where possible. In 2015-2016 nearly 2 million women held low and inactive accounts.

**STEM:** the Federal Government announced a Women in STEM package (4.5 million over 4 years) to encourage more women and girls to pursue STEM education and careers.

**Child care:** from 2 July 2018 the Federal government will implement the \$2.5 billion new child care package to provide more support for families, targeted at low-to-middle income earners.

**ParentsNext:** from July 2018 the Government will roll out ParentsNext nationally to support parents every year who have young children and are at risk of long term welfare dependency by helping them to create a path to employment. Approximately 96 percent of participants expected to be women, included around 10,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

**Skills Checkpoint for Older Workers Program:** women aged 45-70 will benefit which will provide advice on relevant skills and training to help those building on their current careers or transitioning into jobs in new industries.

**Barriers to Women taking up Leadership Roles:** As of December 2017 women held 44.5 percent of all Government Board positions and with the recent appointment of the first female Secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs gender parity has been reached in the ranks of secretaries in the Australian public service.

**Australia's gender Pay Gap:** Western Australia has the widest gender pay gap at 22.5%. South Australia and Tasmania have the smallest gender pay gap at 10.3% and 10.9% respectively. Data from the ABS (2018) Average weekly earnings November 2017 which compare November 2016 (15.9%) with November 2017(15.3%) indicate the gender pay gap has only reduced -0.6% over the twelve months. The differences between women's and men's weekly full-time earnings across all industries including the public and private sector shows that across Australia the gender pay gap is: highest in Financial and Insurance Services industry with 26.1% followed by Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services with 23.6% and Arts and Recreation services with 23.0%. Lowest is in Public Administration and Other Services with 6.8% and Retail trade with 8.1%.

**VET Training-Apprenticeships:** Currently (2018) in Australia there are 253,000 fewer apprenticeships than in 2012. Traditional skills face significant shortages as do the new age trades(eg coding). In Western Australia only 6970 women commenced an apprenticeship in twelve months (ending 30 September 2017) down 9.3% from the same period in 2016 as published by the National Centre for Vocational Education recently

**Scam Awareness Week:** Scam Awareness week ran from 21-25 May 2018. Australians lost \$340 billion to scammers in 2017 – more than any other year since the ACCC began reporting on scam activity. The ACCC is warning consumers to beware of scammers impersonating energy and telecommunications providers and demanding payments.

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## NCWWA - ADVOCACY ACTION

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At the NCWWA May meeting the following two resolutions were agreed by NCWWA members.

### Resolution 1.

NCWWA calls on the Western Australian State Government to:

- 1) Review and remove the financial discrimination and disparity in the financial support received by formal grandparents (with Department of Communities Child Protection and Family support intervention) and informal grandparents (raising their grandchildren without orders from a court exercising family law jurisdiction or care and protection jurisdiction) and
- 2) Establish a simple State government registration process for informal grandparents' eligibility

### Resolution 2.

NCWWA 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.

### Rationale:

In Western Australia there are over 3,000 grandparent families (exact number is an unknown) as the primary carers for their grandchildren. Unfortunately, many of these grandparent families experience financial discrimination and a disparity in the financial support from government depending on how they have acquired the responsibility for raising their grandchildren. All grandparents raising grandchildren do exactly the same job and have exactly the same responsibility for raising their grandchildren. As such the two resolutions are vitally important for NCWWA to continue to advocate on their behalf.



## NCWWA PADDY FIRSTENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD

**The Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award is open and will close on Monday 25 June 2018.**

Nominations are being called from women in industry, business or community service who have demonstrated leadership, exemplary achievement and outstanding contribution to the advancement of women. The Award honours the memory of Paddy Firstenberg who constantly sought to empower women. Nominations are required to address the selection criteria of:

- Demonstrated leadership ability
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**The 2018 nomination form is available on the NCWWA website**

**[http://www.ncwwa.org.au/main/page\\_awards\\_events.html](http://www.ncwwa.org.au/main/page_awards_events.html)**

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## 2018 TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA)

17,18,19 October 2018 QT Hotel 1 London Circuit Canberra.



*The full conference program should be finalised in early June*

The NCWA Triennial Conference Committee is currently preparing the Conference Brochure and Registration form. The Triennial Conference will commence on Wednesday afternoon (17 October 2018) with a closed session including resolution discussion. During the Thursday and Friday morning the Conference will be open to delegates and non-members. Friday afternoon will include the Annual General Meeting and again will be a session open to members only. A Conference dinner also at the QT Hotel will be held on Thursday evening.

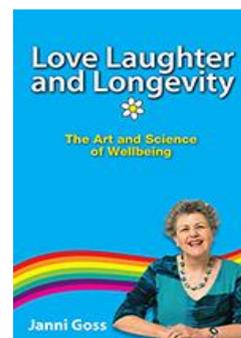
Speakers already confirmed include the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP Minister for Women the Hon Sharman Stone, the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Kate Jenkins Sex Discrimination Commissioner and Phyllis Williams Chairperson HAAG.

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### **LOVE LAUGHTER AND LONGEVITY** author Janni Goss

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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. Do not hesitate to make the most of this generous opportunity.



Janni's book has been reviewed by Blue Wolf Reviews, which can be accessed by the following link

<http://bluewolf-reviews.com/books/personal-development/love-laughter-and-longevity-the-art-and-science-of-wellbeing/>

The following, are extracts from the review:

*"Written from a been there , discovered this and it really works perspective, Wellbeing Educator and Speaker Janni Goss introduces a world of wellness that is both easy to understand and so simple to carry out and enjoy, so much so that taking responsibility for your own health and wellbeing becomes a happy component of everyday life."*

*"The benefits of reading and working your way through this refreshing look at creating positive change and positive emotion are life changing, as they focus on what could be considered as a wellness check for your mind, body and soul, tapping into the massive benefits of laughter, exercise, knowledge and something rather intriguing, Laughter Yoga."*

*"For anyone who is, or has ever suffered with stress, dis-stress or dis-ease, is aging and facing some hard facts, or simply wants to have a happier, more relaxed feeling as they travel life pathways, this book is a definite must read."*

**Janni is available for "well being" workshops based on the book.**

for more information contact Janni's website ... <http://lovelaughterandlongevity.com/>



1 JUNE 2018 - INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY



NCWWA



Date of next General Meeting

Monday 25 June 2018

1.00pm

160 Hay St, East Perth



Guest Speaker

Tricia Murray

Chief Executive Officer – Wanslea

*Wanslea promotes community, family and individual development through partnerships and services.*

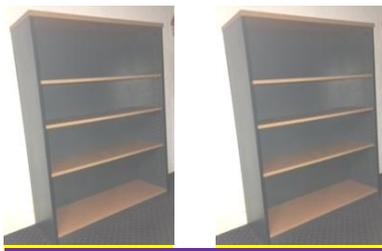


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[www.ncwwa.org](http://www.ncwwa.org)

## NCWWA FUNDRAISING

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**2x Bookcases**

120cms long X 90 cms high

**REDUCED to \$40 each**

Excellent condition Metal/Wood

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*Enjoy Hundreds of dollars of benefits*

**Delivery** of orders will be the at the  
May General Meeting Monday 28 May 2018

To place your orders please contact

**Daphne Thacker**

mob: 0411 705 056

Email: [daphne016@bigpond.com](mailto:daphne016@bigpond.com)