

President's Message December 2022



Dear Members

Thank you to everyone who came along to the NCWWA AGM held recently at the CWA Rooms in West Perth. It was great to have the 2022 STEM Bursary recipient Abi Elezovich attend and speak at the meeting. It was very interesting to hear about the challenges Abi has had to overcome to progress down the pathway for her chosen course of study.



It was the NCWWA Triennial AGM and unfortunately no nomination was received for the position of NCWWA President. Sally Plummer remains as Treasurer and a number of the former NCWWA Executive members were elected as the new NCWWA Executive team.

Nominations will be called for again in February as I would like to be able to hand over to someone else. NCWWA is a very important voluntary advocacy organisation which has made a great contribution in working for women and their families.



The Premier of Western Australia recently announced a Cabinet reshuffle and the Hon Sue Ellery MLC is the new Minister for Women's Interests after nearly ten years in the Education portfolio. The Women's Interests Minister also has responsibility for Finance and Commerce. The Hon Sabine Winton MLA now has responsibility for Early Childhood Education, Child Protection, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services. The Hon Simone McGurk MLA now has responsibility for Training, Water and Youth. Thank you to the Hon Simone McGurk MLA for the work she did over a number of years in some of the most challenging portfolios and her role as Minister for Women's Interests.

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As the Shadow Minister for volunteering in Australia recently stated volunteers provide an irreplaceable service while benefiting communities, the economy and increasing social cohesion. According to the 2019 data almost one third of Australians participated in



voluntary work in the same year contributing almost 600 million hours to the community. Unfortunately however participation rates have declined more recently. The March 2021 ABS Household Impacts of COVID-19 survey included additional questions on

volunteering, asking about volunteering behaviour in the last twelve months and reported only one in five (21%) Australians did unpaid voluntary work for an organisation or group in the previous twelve months, compared to one in four (26%) prior to March 2020.

Western Australian suicide prevention service Lifeline WA has, I am advised, been swamped with calls prompted by mounting cost of living pressures. The organisation received almost 300 calls from Western Australians daily in November 2022 the busiest month in Lifeline WA's history. That represents an increase of 66 per cent compared to November 2021. At a time when the community should be enjoying themselves with family and friends some are having to face some very tough realities.

A new pilot program has been set up that aims to better connect children in out of home care with health services, is now underway in Mirrabooka and the South -West. The Health Navigator Pilot Program is a two year trial that employs 'health navigators' to assist children in out of home care, their parents, carers and child protection workers-helping them to navigate health services.

The Mirrabooka program was launched very recently and the South-West pilot launched last month. The University of Western Australia Social Impact Centre will conduct an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the program.

NCWWA welcomes the decision taken by the special session of the UN Human Rights Council on the deteriorating human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. However there is a need for the Australian Government to take tangible actions including targeted sanctions as other like-minded countries have done. The NCWWA President on behalf of the NCWWA Executive has written to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the matter.

The NCWWA Executive is concerned at the share of Year 12s in WA studying university entry subjects which has plunged to a new low, one of the lowest ATAR participation rates in the nation, only marginally above Tasmania and a long way behind New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. NCWWA has written to the Minister for Education to encourage all education authorities to work much harder to grow ATAR participation among school leavers.

A significant number of students in Western Australia do not meet the national minimum literacy and numeracy standards-often year after year in both their early years of schooling and later school years. Most under performing students do not belong to the priority cohorts

named by the National School Reform Agreement (culture, disability or remoteness). The NCWWA Executive has written to the Education Minister to request that the National School Reform Agreement



be reviewed and a different approach to low educational performance be introduced.

The NCWWA Film afternoon was a great success- special thanks to Linda Elezovich and Sandra Brown and all who contributed to raffle prizes for the event. The Movie "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris" was enjoyed by all who attended.



Congratulations to Jasmine Paine who was awarded the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award at the Girl Guides Western Australia's Annual Youth and Adult Awards Ceremony. Thank you to Linda Elezovich who attended the Awards Ceremony on my behalf. Unfortunately the Awards Ceremony was held on a day that I had several other commitments and as such I was unable to attend.

At the recent NCWWA AGM meeting the President's Award for 2022 was awarded to Linda Elezovich for her contribution during 2022. Linda remains an NCWWA Vice President for the 2022-2023 year ahead.

In conclusion I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and very best wishes for the year ahead. Enjoy the holidays.

Robyn Nolan
President

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES – Final Call

NCWWA membership fees for the 2022-2023 year are now very overdue.
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:

2022-2023 Associate Members Renewal Form
2022-2023 Affiliate Members Renewal Form

Both are available on the NCWWA website. Please return to – Robyn Nolan: robymn@bigpond.net.au



PADDY FISTENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD 2022

In early November, Linda Elezovich NCWWA Vice President attended the Girl Guides WA awards ceremony to present the Paddy Fistenberg Memorial Award. NCWWA and Girl Guides have a great deal in common, both advocating for the rights of women and families. Many of our influencers over the years have been women who have been passionate about Girl Guides and held management positions and then moved into the NCWWA.



One of these women was Paddy Fistenberg OAM. In her time at Girl Guides, she had over 50 years of combined service, holding positions including State Commissioner and many management positions. Paddy was also the president of the National Council of Women Western Australia and held other management positions. Paddy in her time has influenced and mentored hundreds of girls and young women. Paddy was fiercely proud of her advocacy work, submitting hundreds of resolutions and submissions to the government. It is fair to say that Paddy was a remarkable woman.

The NCWWA recognised a young woman, Jasmine Paine who is a dedicated young leader, who has demonstrated a commitment to empowering the girls and young women of Girl Guides WA through her various roles at all levels of the organisation. At a grassroots level, Jasmine is a reliable mentor and role model for the Guides in her Ellenbrook unit. She has played a key role in raising the profile of the Olave Program in WA, building engagement and participation as the Events Coordinator on the Olave Program Committee over 4 years. In addition, Jasmine sits on the Board of GGWA as the young women's representative, where she has helped shape the strategic direction of the organisation, prioritising the involvement and priorities of girls and young women.

National Council of Women WA congratulates Jasmine Paine

NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2023



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Bursary 2023

Applications are open for the NCWWA 2023 STEM Bursary. The Bursary is available to a female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at TAFE or University level. Applicants must be Australian citizens.

Applications close 12 noon Friday 10 March 2023

Each applicant must complete the NCWWA STEM Bursary application form and address the criteria:

- academic excellence
- financial need
- study in a non-traditional area for women
- how studies will benefit women, families and the wider community

Please promote the NCWWA STEM Bursary to all who may be eligible to apply. An application form is attached in this Newsletter.

NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS BURSARY 2023

CLOSING DATE: 12 NOON on Friday 10 March 2023

Nominations are called for the 2023 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Bursary available to a female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at TAFE or University level. Applicants must be Australian Citizens. One Bursary will be awarded.

The cash amount of:

- \$1,200.00 will be presented to the successful applicant.

And may be used to support further study:

- Course fees including summer school courses
- Study aids/text books
- Attendance at seminars and/or conferences
- Other – Please outline

Complimentary membership of NCWWA will be provided to the Bursary winner for one year.

The Bursary winner will be announced April 2023.

Applicants will be notified of the results by email after that date.

The decision of the award panel will be final.

The Bursary Recipient is required to report to NCWWA on how the bursary has assisted their study.

The National Council of Women WA is a voluntary organisation formed in 1911 to advance the cause of women and the welfare of society. In awarding this Bursary, 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.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN WA Inc.
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS BURSARY
NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Student: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Nominator: _____ Position: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

(Note: The Nominator may be a teacher, lecturer, family member, NGO Organisation)

Study Institution in 2022: _____

Course/Level: _____

Proposed Study Institution/Course of Study in 2023: _____

Bursary will be used to finance: *Please tick:*

Course fees Study Aids Conference/Seminar Attendance Other

Reason for nomination: *Add extra pages as needed. Nominators are required to address the selection criteria of:*

- Academic Excellence
- Financial Need
- Study in a non-traditional area for women
- How studies will benefit women, families and the wider community

Application must be accompanied by a current Curriculum Vitae.

(Supporting documentation including 2 referees and academic results, including 2022 results is also required).

Completed form and CV should be sent to:

**Bursary Panel
National Council of Women WA
P.O. Box 6224
East Perth WA 6892**

Closing date for nominations: 12 Noon on Friday 10 March 2023

For further information: Contact: Robyn Nolan

Mobile: 0417 917 294

Email: robymn@bigpond.net.au