

President's Message October 2023

Dear Members

On behalf of all NCWWA members, our thoughts and prayers go to all Israeli people especially women and children after the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 with its fighters entering communities near the Gaza Strip killing hundreds of people and taking dozens of people hostage. Although the attack by the militants on 7 October was unexpected, it came at a time of soaring-Israeli-Palestinian tensions.



NCWWA members continue to be concerned about the Ukraine invasion by Russia, a war that has been going for over 600 days. Many women and children have had to leave their homes and country while Ukrainian men continue to fight for their country.



We certainly live in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

NCWWA continues to advocate about a number of issues. I recently wrote to the Attorney General about the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People Report "Hungry for Change" asking when the recommendations of the report will be addressed.

The Report makes a number of vitally important recommendations. The figures quoted in the report are damning-up to 17% of Western Australian children and young people are living in poverty- children and young people are Western Australia's future- all children and young people have a right to be safe, healthy and learning. Hunger can cause severe health problems, crime and poor school attendance.

The Report states that one in five children are likely to suffer food insecurity. As such and given the Report was tabled in June the

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recommendations in the Report should be being addressed.

Recent ABS statistics on Family and Domestic Violence related incidences are confronting:

- SA- a 10% rise in the rolling year to May 2023
- Vic-a 2.5% rise in year to 31 March 2023, up from 90,783 to 93,091
- NSW- a 35 annual increase, with 34,017 DV-related incidents in the year to March 2023
- QLD – a 48%increase in the past six years in domestic and family violence
- NT- a 26.19 %rise in family and domestic violence related assaults in the rolling year to May 2023.
- WA-a 34.8 %rise in five years in family related incidents
- Tas- a 6.3% increase in family violence incidents from 2020-21 to 2021-22 and a 15 % increase in sexual assaults between 2019 and 2022.

Recently I was invited to be a member of a Consumer Panel for projects on medication management in residential aged care at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation Facility of Medicines and Health Sciences at the Macquarie University. The purpose of the Consumer Panel is to provide direction and advice to the research team and project steering committees on priority areas and issues related to the research from a consumer, carer and community perspective. Older Australians with the most complex health needs live in residential care. More than 80% of residents are on five or more medications daily and 40% are taking ten or more. Poor medication management is the greatest source of complaints to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. The projects aim to provide timely information to providers and consumers about the medicines residents receive, identify problem areas and trial innovative digital interventions to address these issues and improve patient outcomes.

Please be in touch with me if you would like to provide me any lived experience from anyone who is in care or is a family member, friend or carer of someone in residential care or home – based care. Any information provided to me will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not identify either the person providing the

information or the particular residential care facility.

World Diabetes Day is coming up on 14 November and is a day of global observance each year. Diabetes is the common name for a range of conditions including Diabetes Mellitus Type One, Diabetes Mellitus Type Two, Diabetes Insipidus and Gestational Diabetes. Depending on the type and severity, Diabetes is controlled by dietary measures, weight loss, oral medication or injected or inhaled insulin.



National Carers Week 2023 (15-21 October) is a time to recognise and celebrate Western Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend who have disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness, or who are frail aged. About 2.65 million Australians provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend. Unpaid carers are estimated to be providing 2.2 billion hours of unpaid care last year- over 42 million hours every single week.

There is a crisis in Australian childcare. Costs have gone up even though the Federal Government rebates have increased. Availability is very patchy- finding a place especially for babies or toddlers at a long day- care facilities can be extremely difficult. There is a workforce crisis -facilities are finding it difficult to fully staff their centres.

The cost of childcare has risen considerably in the last twelve months due to cost of living pressures especially in energy and food. The increase in the Federal Government subsidy has had little or no material impact on the cost of childcare for many families.

There is a need for the government to deliver more childcare places and focus on training ensuring more places for early childhood

teachers and fee-free TAFE places must focus on skills shortage.

The NCWWA STEM Bursary for 2024 is now open. If anyone reading this Newsletter is aware of a young woman who meets the criteria please

encourage her to apply. Further information is in this Newsletter including a nomination form.

Robyn Nolan

WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The WA Women's Hall of Fame was first established in 2011 in recognition of the Centenary of International Women's Day held annually on 8 March. Its purpose is to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Western Australian women, past, present and future each year on International Women's Day.

Do think about nominating someone who would be a worthy recipient. Once nominations officially open an application form will be available on the WAWHOF website.

The WA Women's Hall of Fame (WAWHOF) Awards recognises the achievements and contribution of Women in Western Australia, in eight categories.

Arts
Business
Community
Culture
Education
Health
Sport
STEM



Nominations will also be considered for the "Roll of Honour" posthumously.

Nominations are now open and close 3rd December 2023.

The 2024 WAWHOF inductees will be announced in March 2024.

NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2024

Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Bursary 2024

Applications are open for the NCWWA 2024 STEM Bursary. The Bursary is available to a female student studying a STEM Course in Western Australia at a TAFE or University level.

Applicants must be Australian citizens

Applications close 12 Noon Friday 8 March 2024.

A Nomination Form is attached to this Newsletter.

Each application must be on the Nomination Form and address the following criteria:

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

PADDY FIRSTENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD 2023

In September, I attended the Girl Guides WA Awards Ceremony to present the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award for 2023. NCWWA and Girl Guides have a great deal in common, both advocating for women and their families. A number of NCWWA influencers over the years have been women who have been passionate about Girl Guides, held management positions and then moved into the NCWWA.

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

The 2023 winner of the PFMA 2023 is Jesse Walters. Jesse has been an esteemed Girl Guides Western Australia member since 2012. Her exceptional dedication and invaluable contributions to the Joondalup Region, as a Unit Leader, have consistently been demonstrated, along with a strong commitment to Guiding and supporting others on their journey.



During a significant period, Jesse selflessly stepped up to look after the Banksia Grove Star Unit for six months, providing continuity and care in the absence of their Unit Leader. Jesse's dedication and reliability ensured a seamless experience for the Unit's members, fostering a positive and nurturing environment.

Furthermore, Jesse's involvement in the organisation and execution of the Girl Guides WA Jamboree Contingent has been instrumental. Her tireless efforts and attention to detail greatly contributed to the successful support and management of the Contingent preparations prior to the Kani-Karrung Jamboree in Ballarat, Victoria.

Robyn Nolan

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

NCWWA membership fees for the 2023 – 2024 year are now 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: 036-034
Account Number: 559 683
Please ensure you identify your name in the 'comments' field

PLEASE NOTE
New Bank Account Details

Payment by Cheque:

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS BURSARY 2024

CLOSING DATE: 12 NOON on Friday 8 March 2024

Nominations are called for the 2024 Science, Technology, Engineering & 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 2024.

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 2024**

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 2023: _____

Course/Level: _____

Proposed Study Institution/Course of Study in 2024: _____

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 2023 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 8 March 2024

For further information: Contact: Robyn Nolan

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