



President's Message April 2023

Dear Members

Another International Women's Day has come and gone - a global day celebrating the social cultural and political achievements of women. Marked annually on 8 March the day celebrates women's achievements and the call for positives changes advancing women.

This year the National Council of Women Western Australia (NCWWA) celebrated the day by joining the Australian Chinese Women's Federation (ACWF) at Crown Perth at lunch held on the day before International Women's Day. During the lunch event, those attending heard from a number of men and women about a range of issues directly affecting women and their families. It was terrific to have representatives from the Liberal Party (the WA Liberal Leader Libby Mettam MLA) and the Labor Party (the Hon Kate Doust MLC). Congratulations to the ACWF on a most enjoyable event.



The WAWHOF also held its 2023 Induction Ceremony around International Women's Day on the Tuesday evening 7 March 2023.

Congratulations to the 2023 Inductees. A list of those inducted in each of the eight categories is included later in this newsletter. The presentation evening was held again in the Government House Ballroom however, the Governor was unable to join us on this occasion, as he was overseas. The Hon Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Finance, Commerce and Women's Interests was able to attend.



The Pharmacy Guild of Western Australia, the community pharmacy peak organisation, that services the needs of community pharmacies and their patients is very concerned about the current medicines affordability problem. There are an increasing number of Western Australians not having prescriptions filled due to the cost of the medicines. There are a number of people especially women not taking medicines as frequently as prescribed because of the cost. There is also an inequity between metropolitan and regional, rural and remote patients due to the discretionary PBS co-payment discount.

The Pharmacy Guild of Western Australia is supporting pharmacists to work to their full scope of practice and supports the commitments of the QLD, VIC, NSW and NT Governments in expanding the role of pharmacists to treat more everyday health conditions.

In This Edition

Page 1-3 Presidents Message

Page 3. WAWHOF 2023 Inductees

Page 4. Gender Pay Gap

Page 4. Covid Booster information

It is calling on the Federal Health Minister to work with State and Territory Health Ministers to implement the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot as permanent practice across Australia.



The Pilot enables participating community pharmacists to administer more types of vaccines and prescribe medicines for a range of common conditions including nausea and vomiting, reflux, rhinitis and acute mild musculoskeletal pain. The pilot also allows pharmacists to provide health and wellbeing services including hormonal contraception, oral health screening, weight management and support for consumers to quit smoking. Pharmacists are able to prescribe medicines as part of structured chronic disease management programs for cardiovascular disease risk reduction, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Pharmacists need to undertake additional training before they provide care as part of the Pilot. Internationally the pharmacy profession has undergone significant changes over recent years with community pharmacies providing a wider range of patient care activities including prescribing in a range of countries including the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.

The most recent Household income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey of over 17,000 Australians undertaken by the Melbourne Institute revealed a concerning drop in financial literacy levels across all age groups with the latest declines amongst 15 -24 year olds. Financial wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the overall physical, mental and social health of individuals and communities. The HILDA survey results provide evidence that no progress has

been made on improving financial literacy of the Australian population since 2016. In fact it reveals that the country has gone backwards which is a concern.

Western Australia has a worsening affordable housing crisis. Over 194,000 people need affordable housing. Less than 1% of homes in the Perth Metropolitan area are vacant - even fewer are vacant in some regional communities according to the 'Home Hub'.

As part of the Labor State Government's homeless reforms it has appointed seventeen (17) people to a new advisory group consolidating a number of homeless working groups into a single Housing First Advisory Group focusing on housing first approaches to reduce rough sleeping. The government has also announced it is investing \$2.4 billion in housing and homelessness services in WA over the next four years, including the delivery of around 3,300 social dwellings as well as refurbishments and maintenance work to many more.

This week has seen secondary female students at all government public schools in Western Australia provided with free access to period products. Manufacturer Essity, which provides quality sanitary pads, tampons and liners in Australia, has been awarded the contract to supply the products.



Currently more than 401,000 people have dementia in Australia according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Dementia results from a variety of diseases and injuries that affect the brain. Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among other people in Australia.

Women are disproportionately affected by dementia, both directly and indirectly. Women experience higher disability adjusted life years and mortality due to dementia, but also provide 70% of care hours.

Changes in mood and behaviour sometimes happen even before memory problems. These common changes include feeling anxious, sad or angry, personality changes and inappropriate behaviour. Sadly, to date there is no cure for dementia.

Easter is fast approaching, one of the principal holidays of Christianity. Easter eggs represent new life and rebirth. Enjoy the holidays!

Robyn Nolan

2023 WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The WA Women's Hall of Fame (WAWHOF) Awards Program recognises the achievements and contribution of women in Western Australia in eight categories. To date over 200 women have been inducted into the WAWHOF.

In 2023 the following women were inducted:

Arts:

Annette Grant
Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green

Business:

Asha Bhat OAM
Katina Law

Community:

Jess Beckerling
Victoria Laurie

Culture:

Senator Dorinda Cox
Dorothy Bagshaw

Education:

Professor Cobie Rudd
Mandy Downing

Health:

Dr Anh Nguyen
Nola Naylor

Sport:

Christina Mathews
Laura Tolliday

STEM:

Associate Professor Parwinder Kaur
Dr Hema Wadhwa



The following were also inducted into the Roll of Honour- Margaret A Battye; Mary Jane Levitzke; Catherine Ellen Martin; Elizabeth Bredemeyer

GENDER PAY GAP

Gender Pay Gap in Western Australia and the other States and Territories

The latest average weekly earnings data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows that women earn on average, 87 cents for every \$1 earned by a man.

While the gender pay gap has returned to where the gender pay gap was three years ago nationally it has not moved in Western Australia and still is by far the worst in Australia:

Average Weekly Earnings November 2022

State and Territory	Men	Women	Difference	GPG%	GPG (%)
WA	2162.80	1684.70	478.10		22.1
QLD	1862.50	1590.00	272.50		14.6
NT	1868.20	1602.70	265.50		14.2
VIC	1894.00	1640.10	253.90		13.4
NSW	1894.30	1686.10	208.20		11
ACT	2114.50	1903.00	211.50		10
SA	1702.00	1569.70	132.30		7.8
TAS	1621.90	1525.10	96.80		6
National	1907.10	1653.60	253.50		13.3

The gender pay gap by industry is worst for Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and best in Public Administration and Safety; Accommodation and Food Services. The gender pay gap also does not include the wages of part-time or casual workers, many of whom are lower paid and women.

COVID BOOSTERS

Latest COVID-19 Booster Vaccine advice: **Booster Doses**

All adults can get a booster if its been six (6) months or longer since their last COVID-19 booster or confirmed infection (whichever is most recent) for additional protection against severe illness from COVID.

This is particularly recommended for people at high risk or severe illness including:

- Everyone 65 years and over
- Everyone 18 years of age and over with medical comorbidities, disability or complex health needs.

Children and adolescents aged 5-17 with health conditions that put them at risk of severe illness can also get a booster dose if its been 6 months since their last dose or COVID-19 infection based on an individual risk assessment with their immunisation provider.