



National Council of Women of Victoria February 2016 Newsletter

Pathways to policy

How do we shape our policies? Sometimes we are able to draw on the professional knowledge of our affiliates or individual members who alert us to a need for advocacy on a given issue. And individual members or delegates may bring a matter to NCW Victoria for discussion and decision at a monthly meeting.

Unless it is a matter of urgency it is our practice in Victoria to have notice given at one meeting then for debate and decision occur at the next meeting.

To ensure a balanced debate on complex issues, the movers are required to complete a form showing a short title for the resolution, what is proposed, and the main points for and against the proposal. The completed form is provided to everyone at the meeting when the matter is to be debated.

How this works is shown in the story of how two Victorian proposals in Child and Family policy area became part of the policies of National Council of Women of Australia at the Triennial Conference held in Melbourne in October 2015. (The set of resolutions adopted at that conference are on p. of this newsletter)

One policy, on FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorder) came from a resolution that was submitted in September 2014 by the Victoria section of one of our oldest affiliates *WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyles* (formerly *Woman's Christian Temperance Union*). The motion was discussed by Council, and reviewed by our Advisers (Standing Committee members) in the light

of existing NCWA policies set out in the Red Book, and re-presented to Council. Once approved the resolution was sent on to the NCWA Board, leading to input from NCW Western Australia. Finally the resolution, moved by NCWV and NCW-WA, was debated and approved at the October 2015 Triennial.

The other resolution presented by NCW Victoria to the 2015 Triennial related to Surrogacy and the best interests of the child and the birth mother. It came through a different process. Child and Family issues have always been a high priority for Councils. We identified the 25th anniversary of Australia becoming a signatory to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as a focus for our October 2014 Council meeting.

Two student interns from the University of Melbourne made presentations at the meeting. One spoke her research on legal inconsistencies between the Australian States and Territories where a child or children had been born to a surrogate mother. Members then spent in small group discussion, listed their points on a 'pink sheet' before the report back segment of meeting. This was good starting point for the drafting of the resolution that subsequently went on NCWA for consideration, and approval.

Sheila Byard, President, NCW Victoria

First monthly Council meeting for 2016

Guest speaker – **Anna Carlile Viola Design**

Topic – **Brand Refresh? - Graphic design and organizational values**

When - Thursday 4 February, 12 noon for 12.15

Following the 10.30 am Bi-monthly Individual Members Meeting, all welcome. Trading Table.

Where - Room 4.1 Hayden Raysmith Room, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: AIA: A4465

ABN: 18227073059

PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003 Email: ncwvic@bigpond.com Phone **0447 351 234**

Registered office: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

Patron: Ms Emma Page Campbell, Lady Mayoress, City of Melbourne

Our monthly Council meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of the month February to November in the Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

Working Together National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges that its meetings are held on the land of the traditional owners the *Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation*, and we pay our respect to the elders past and present.

On Thursday 21 January 2016, National Council of Women of Victoria held its 55th Annual Women's Australia Day Ceremony at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden. This is a free public event, honouring women pioneers or 'firsts and forerunners'. This year's address was given by Dr Liz Rushen of the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, speaking on Frances Perry's legacy at Melbourne's Women's Hospital. **There is a click on the website www.ncwvic.org.au to enable you to download Liz Rushen's speech**



L-R Cr Jackie Watts (City of Melbourne), Dr Liz Rushen (Monash University), Mrs Marion Lau JP OAM (Australia Day Ambassador), President Sheila Byard, Jennifer Fleming(CEO Girls Guides Victoria), Norman Kennedy (President Australia Day Council Victoria)

Light rain was falling as Cr Jackie Watts welcomed guests to the 55th Annual Women's Australia Day Ceremony on Thursday 21 January 2016. Cr Watts noted that Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden had been created in 1935 by public donation as part of Melbourne's centenary celebrations, to commemorate women's contribution to the city and the state. Gauri Kapour thanked those who contributed to the success of the day including Dr Liz Rushen for her speech; Cr Jackie Watts and the City of Melbourne; Norman Kennedy President of Australia Day Council (Victoria); Marion Lau JP OAM Australia Day Ambassador; Jennifer Fleming CEO Girl Guides Victoria, & the colour party; the staff of Complete Function Hire; Minute Man Press North Melbourne; Elisabeth Newman (for the flowers) and all others including volunteer ushers and marshals. Dr Rushen's address included this summary *Frances Perry is chiefly remembered today as co-founder and president of the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital, the first maternity hospital for underprivileged women in Australia. The private wing of the Royal Women's Hospital carries her name, but she might be uncomfortable with this association. Her significant successors, Mary Moorhouse and Emma Goe, now seem forgotten. Mary is simply 'Mrs Moorhouse' in the official archives – while the extravagant plaque donated to the hospital following the untimely death of Emma Goe, which once graced the entrance hall of the hospital in recognition of her superb skills, is now stored in bubblewrap, forgotten and unseen. Working at a time when women were not allowed a public profile, these three capable philanthropists provided hands-on leadership and management of the hospital, but representations of their work have tarnished their contributions and diminished the extent of their influence.*

Our mission statement

National Council of Women of Victoria, NCWV, is a non-party-political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. It seeks to raise the awareness of women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourages their participation in all aspects of community life.

Our website - <http://www.ncwvic.org.au/>

Vale

Elva Carland 1930-2015 Elva grew up on a Wimmera farm. Living with her husband and four children in Colac she was actively involved in the community, becoming President of Corangamite branch of the National Council of Women. After her husband's early death, she shifted to Geelong for the children's schooling and became NCW Geelong branch President. She pioneered bereavement counseling in the region and was also involved in Christian education in schools, with the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Geelong Art Gallery. She was made Honorary Life Member of NCW Victoria in 2005-2006

Pauline Burren Pauline was a Vice President of NCWA 2003 who made a strong contribution to the work of National Council on Constitutional and Governance issues.

Secretary's Report (Dr Pamela Williams)

New NCWV phone 0447 351 234– This permits contact with us at times when the actual office is shut, and provides portable access to email and social media.

Correspondence – as per Correspondence book

- From Minister Fiona Richardson about the extension of time granted to the Royal Commission on Family Violence
- From Jeanette Large, Women's Property Initiatives, the Bouverie St development, and appointment of Greg Gibson.
- From Dr Merrilyn Murnane AM author of 'Honourable Healers: Pioneering Women Doctors'
- From Ukrainian Women's Association, visit to textile museum at North Melbourne Monday 15 February

Invitations including Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health, to launch of Natak Vihar community theatre Ending Violence project, Federation Room, Parliament of Victoria, February 25 (Wednesday) www.achrh.org
Membership: Birute Don, Adviser- elect Habitat/Environment.

Student event, Parliament House Monday 29 February (Pam Hammond & the YoungNCWVic team)

Where: Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament of Victoria

Time: 9.00 am start, finishing at 12 noon

Theme: Launch of *My Vote My Voice 2016*, awards from 2015 re Beijing +20

2015 was an important year for recognizing the advancement of women's rights. Since the Fourth World Conference on women in Beijing twenty years ago, governments, civil society and the United Nations have translated the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's promises into changes. On 10 August 2015, the "My Vote My Voice 2015" event was held with students from 10 schools making speeches about Beijing +20 Theme in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria.

The students who spoke did an outstanding job in both preparing and delivering their presentations. They displayed impressive knowledge and insight into the issues affecting young women in Australia and overseas in progress towards gender equality. Our guest speaker, panel, participants and women who attended the Beijing Conference - Anne S. Walker former Executive Director of the International Women's Tribune Centre NY, Yueying Wang, Amanda Xu and Helen Hill - were all most impressed with the students' presentations. Some of the students have sent their speeches into NCWV for inclusion on the Young NCWVic WordPress blog: <https://youngncwvic.wordpress.com/> See also the Young NCW Victoria Facebook for a photographic record of last year's event <https://www.facebook.com/Youngncwvic-616164661777442/>.

Please join us on Monday 29 February at Parliament House when Young NCWV with NCW Victoria will be acknowledging these students at our annual 'Civics and Citizenship' awards. This will also be the launch of the *2016 My Vote My Voice* program. This year the topic for consideration is Women and Local Government: Barrier to Participation ref. Australian Local Government Women's Association Fifty Fifty Vision: www.5050vision.com.au

Please let us know if you would like to share the National Council of Women workload!

- **Helpers at Ross Monthly meetings** – Room set up, hospitality, and AV support
- **NCW office assistance, at the Royal Historical Society Building** – Filing, and archival work including maintaining cataloguing the NCWV library, and photographic collection.
- **Program and projects teams** - Preparation and delivery of events such as the Pioneer Women’s Garden event, International Women’s Day, AGM, Forums, and special events such as the annual student event ‘My Vote My Voice’.
- **Budget, finance working group** – including strengthening our donor program
- **Membership, media and marketing team, including social media interns** – Newsletter, mail outs, social media, website, working with the friendly volunteers at the NCWV office or from your own work place.
- **Governance and Constitution working group** – review of constitution, update of procedures manual
- **Editorial group** – Preparing copy for publication, drafting and revisions of submissions.

Regional Branch Reports

Central Gippsland Branch (Jan Baxter President, Diana McNeill Secretary)

Meeting dates for 2016 are as follows on the 3rd Thursday of each month: February - Rosedale, March - Rosedale, April - Centenary House, May - Chapter House Sale, June – TBC, July – Rosedale, August - Morwell AGM, September- Rosedale, October – Rosedale, November – Christmas lunch – TBC.

Geelong Branch NCWV (Janice Latham President, Helen Rodd Secretary)

A visit is planned to the new Geelong Library and Heritage Centre on International Women’s Day Tuesday 8 March . There will be a guided tour followed by light refreshments. Visitors from Melbourne will be able to walk across Johnston Park from the Geelong Railway Station. More information shortly.

Standing Committees - Advisers (May Hu JP Coordinator)

Standing Committee members (Advisers) are working on their quarterly reports. At the meeting held on Tuesday 17 November at 3.30 pm there was discussion of the next steps to be taken in relation to the policy decisions at the NCWA Triennial Conference, consideration of the ICW Plans of Action for the Triennium and matters arising from current and concluded Victorian inquiries and legislative changes. Reports received recently include those from Freda Kaufman (Health Adviser) and Wendy Le Get who attended an End of Life Care Framework Consultation.

Welcome to new Adviser for Habitat/Environment Birute Don. Birute was NCW Victoria’s representative at the ADC Healthy Cities Summit held in Melbourne on 30 November-1 December 2015.

Could you be our next Nutrition Adviser? National Council of Women in the past has had representation with Food Standards Australia and New Zealand FSANZ. Please let us know if you would be willing to assist us with submissions on matters such as Natural contaminants in honey (January 2016) and Removal of Country of Origin Labelling Requirements. FSANZ has assessed a proposal prepared to remove country of origin labelling (CoOL) requirements from the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* in response to proposed new arrangements where the requirements will fall under Australian Consumer Law, and has prepared a draft food regulatory measure. Pursuant to section 61 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (FSANZ Act), FSANZ now calls for submissions to assist consideration of the draft food regulatory measure. For information about making a submission, visit the FSANZ website at information for submitters. Please contact the office if you can assist ncwvic@bigpond.com.

End of Life Care Framework Consultations (Wendy Le Get former Education Adviser)

The Victorian Government has been undertaking targeted consultations with Victorians on palliative care service improvements and the development of a new state-wide End of Life Care Framework. Various forums were held throughout the State and I represented the National Council of Women of Victoria at a General Consultation Forum held on December 8th 2015 at the Whitehorse Centre, Nunawading.

Interestingly in our group of about 45 people most were involved in the Health Care System in some way. There was only one other representative from an organisation, a couple of volunteers from a nursing home and the only carer present was myself.

Main issues discussed and the main points made about each issue were:

1. Helping people to die well.
 - A) How can palliative care better meet people's wishes?
 - B) How can services work better together?
 - C) How do we involve end of life care at an earlier stage in people's illness.
 2. Supporting families and carers.
 - A) How do we improve the experience of families and carers of people with a life-limiting illness?
 - B) What will improve access to existing support services?
 - C) What can community services and specialist health teams do to ensure the highest possible quality of life for as long as possible?
 3. Supporting genuine choice.
 - A) How do we ensure advance care planning happens early and is respected?
- Main point from this session was that the focus of palliative care, whether it is provided in home, hospital, or aged care homes is to improve the service offered.

Then discussion on:

What Principles should guide the Framework?

Main points made were:

1. Person is at the centre.
2. Inclusive of the needs of families and carers.
3. Provide information and respect decision-making.
4. Provide equity of access.
5. Support early discussions, coordinate planning and preparation.
6. Decisions are followed.
7. Care encompasses bereavement.

It was mentioned how important the information on "Advance Care Planning" is (<http://advancecareplanning.org.au/resources/victoria>). Could be sent out with the Seniors Card?

In conclusion this was an extremely well run discussion forum. I felt that there was no issue that the NCW Victoria needed to address or make a submission on. With the number of Consultation Forums held, (we were told they have also received over 1,000 written submissions) one hopes that the new Victoria's end of life framework does deliver the best possible end of life care.

Office of the Public Advocate - Education sessions

The OPA invites members of the public to a series of information sessions

You Decide Who Decides: Understanding enduring powers of attorney

Thursday 18 February 2016, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Friday 24 June 2016 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Planning for the future: Understanding advance care planning

Thursday 17 March 2016, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Location for both sessions: Office of the Public Advocate, Level 1 Training Room, 204 Lygon Street Carlton

Office of the Public Advocate website <http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/our-services/community-education>

2015 Christmas Lunch at Graduate House, University of Melbourne a great success



(Text Yvette Wang (edited) Photograph Janina Green)

Friends, volunteers and members of NCW Victoria and Young NCW Vic gathered at Graduate House on 3 December to celebrate the achievements throughout the year and to witness the launch of the photo essay about young women from NCW Victoria and its affiliates "Changemakers". Guests were welcomed by NCWV patron Emma Page Campbell, Lady Mayoress City of Melbourne. Our guest speaker was Carol Stuart, Media & Communications Counsel, Arnold Bloch Leibler, Board member UNAA, launched the "Changemakers" book. The vote of thanks was given by Sarah Morgan, NCW Victoria Youth Adviser. Given the event was held during the 16 Days of Action Against Violence funds raised through the Festive Baskets special effort was shared Fund raising shared between the Flemington Kensington Community Legal Service and Women's Legal Service Victoria.

News and notices from affiliates and friends

Melbourne Legacy - Noelle Pratt who has been delegate to NCW Victoria over the last two years has completed her term as Widow's Committee Chairman. Her successor is Legatee Derithe Harrison. On 16 November, at the Shrine Education Centre, at the National Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award event was held. Runner-up was Victorian student Alicia Ranasinghe, Our Lady of Mercy, Heidelberg.

- March 1 (Tuesday) through to 4 (Thursday) **WCTU Australia 41st National Convention**, Foothills Conference Centre, Mooroolbark further information about accommodation, registration including day booking email drug-free@bigpond.com or ring 9791 8490.
- March 3, 2016 Last day of the **Methodist Ladies College's exhibition** on the MLC students who became World War 1 nurses and went off to war, Nurses Memorial Centre, Suite 11-431 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Victoria 3004.
- March 4 (Friday), **World Day of Prayer** services will be held in Christian churches in every community across Australia — and the world. We invite you to join us as we pray for the people of Cuba. Further information and resources are available on our website at www.worlddavofdraveraustralia.org, or contact your local Christian church.
- March 8 (Tuesday) **WIZO Victoria** International Women's Day Morning Tea 10.30 -12.30
- March 8 (Tuesday) 12:30pm-2:00pm Panel discussion **Why Victoria needs a Women's Heritage Centre**, Public Record Office, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051 Facilitator: Charlie Farrugia (Senior Collections Advisor, PROV with Judy Maddigan, Di Gardiner (former General Manager, Old Treasury Museum) and Nikki Henningham (EO, Australian Women's Archives Project) members of the planning committee of Women's Heritage Victoria. A free event: all welcome. Further details and registration (by 7/3): <https://register.eventarc.com/32982/australian-womens-archives-project-inte>

Privacy Statement

The NCWV is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals and affiliates and complying with Australia's Privacy Act. Our primary purpose in collecting information is to enable us to operate as a membership organisation whose primary objective is to enhance the status of women. We may use your information to respond to your requests or to contact you via mail, email or phone for support for work we do and to offer events we may hold unless you have advised us in writing that you do not wish to receive this information.

Resolutions for the 2015 Triennial Conference of NCWA (Freda Kaufman)

The working sessions of the NCWA 2015 Triennial were held on Sunday, 11 October 2015, Monday 12 October 2015 and Tuesday 13 October 2015 and resolutions pertaining to the following topics were passed. Resolutions on Domestic Violence, Housing Homeless Young People and Safe Housing for Women and their Children required some further amendment. The resolutions carried were:

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: to maintain clear, consistent and long-term support to the renewable energy industries, as well as other emission reduction support so as to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions more effectively.

Micro-plastics: to tackle the threat of micro-plastics by supporting research and monitoring programs; engaging with industry to decrease plastic waste, which involves decreasing production of throwaway packaging, increasing the content of recycled material in new plastic products, engaging tightening biodegradability standards and promoting consumer education.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: That, in the light of recent reports including the February 2015 Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory Select Committee on Action to Prevent Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, NCWA calls on the Australian Government to work through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for effective strategies: to prevent the ongoing incidence of this disorder and provide for those affected full access to disability and Centrelink supports, including Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services and Medicare reimbursements.

Surrogacy (Surrogacy & the best interests of the child and mother): Noting the increasing use of family formation by use of surrogacy by Australians, the best interests of the child and the birth mother must be strongly protected where surrogacy arrangements are permitted. The Australian Government is required to work with Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for more stringent oversight of surrogacy both internationally and in Australian States and Territories to achieve a regime including continuing supervision of the child. The parents are to ensure that the welfare of the child is maintained.

Mental Health Management: to ensure all members of the constituent State Councils are informed about the poor quality of mental health management in Australia and are acting upon this information to improve mental health care in their State or Territory.

Referendum for Recognition of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders as the First Australians: to ensure that all members of the constituent State Councils are well informed about the issues involved in the proposed referendum for Recognition of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders as the First Australians.

Medical Use of Cannabis: NCWA requests the Australian Government to provide funding to develop independent research of the medical use of cannabis and to continue these trials for a sufficient number of years until it is scientifically accepted that long-term use is safe for Australians and in particular the effect on children.

Our Connections

The NCWV is an affiliate of the **National Council of Women Australia**, established in 1931
Through NCWA we are linked to the **International Council of Women - Conseil International des Femmes**, established in 1888. ICW has category 1 consultative status with the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**. Membership of the NCWV open its doors to a global exchange of views on matters affecting the lives of women, children and families around the world

**If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault or family violence,
call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au. In an emergency, call 000.**

National Council of Women of Victoria



“Caring Women Make a Difference”

PROGRAM FOR 2016

January

15th – Office re- opens

21rd (Thursday) - Pioneer Women’s event, Pioneer Women’s Garden 10.15 for 10.30am – Dr Liz Rushen

February

4th – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting – About the Festive Baskets!

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table. Anna Carlile ‘Brand Refresh’

18th (Thursday) – Executive meeting, 10 am

29th (Monday) - 9.30 to 12 noon. Launch of *My Vote My Voice 2016* program and student awards, Parliament of Victoria

March

3rd (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 - Conversation about Civics and Citizenship, at Ross House.

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting – Speaker Dr Merrilyn Murnane,

17th (Thursday) - Executive meeting, 10 am

April

7th (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, Including Trading table,

21st (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

May

5th (Thursday) - 10 am May Forum, followed by 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting

19th (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

June

2th – (Thursday) 10.15 -11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table

16th – (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

20th – (Monday) Luncheon NCWV Geelong Branch

27th - (Monday) Late afternoon Founders Day event – details to follow.

July

7th – (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

21st - (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

August

4th – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table

18th –(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

September

1st – (Thursday) 10.15–NCWV AGM 12 noon for 12.15 start

15th –(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

October

6th – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

20th –(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

November

3rd –(Thursday) 10.30 am Morning Tea. 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting,

17th – (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

December

1st - (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Christmas Lunch,

15th –(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

NOTE:

- Council meetings are on the first Thursday of each month Feb-November at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane
- Individual Members’ meetings begin 10.15am for 10.30 am, Trading Table – please bring items for sale
- Council meetings begin at 12.15pm sharp and finish no later than 2.15pm
- Executive meetings are held at the Royal Historical Society Building corner William and A’Beckett Sts.