

## NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN 2017

### From the President

Dear Members of Council,

It has been a very busy start to 2017 with active members who are passionate about societal issues of increasing concern preparing for our high-profile forums and opportunities for sharing health and legal information that will benefit women and families in Victoria. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our Patron in Chief Her Excellency, The Hon Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria and The Lady Mayoress Emma Page Campbell. Our first meeting of council was held at the Melbourne Town Hall, hosted by the Lady Mayoress. We look forward to working closely with all our community partners and to a busy year ahead that is worthy of their continued support. We also welcome our honorary legal advisor Peta Olive of Aitkin Partners; a young mother and very busy legal professional Peta is passionate about women's issues that affect those of all ages.

2017 is the year that all women and girls can be brave and courageous, reaching out for a better world and future for us all in sport, family, civic and professional lives.

Working together we can make a difference and build continuing friendships and influence to benefit us all

Janene Blanchfield Brown



Your articles for inclusion in the newsletter re most welcome and appreciated.

## Congratulations go to Sheila Byard OAM, our immediate past president on her inclusion in Victoria's Honour Roll of Women

Sheila Byard has spent many years completing policy research and making submissions to parliamentary inquiries. The right for women to vote and stand for public office is something she believes is of utmost importance.

Sheila's interest in Australia's international humanitarian work began during primary school when she joined Junior Red Cross. Sheila has a strong commitment to the principles of equality and social justice and a keen interest in citizenship and civics education.

Sheila is a long-term, active member of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) – Victorian Division. As Convenor of the UNAA Status of Women Network, she has been a mentor and supervisor for many tertiary students on placement with UNAA. She was elected President of the National Council of Women in Victoria in 2013 and then joined the Board of National Council of Women of Australia.

In a packed room of inspirational women, it was encouraging to see so many of our members attending at very short notice in support of Sheila, NCWV a great team!



## Diary Dates and Community Notices

### Her Place: Women in the West

#### Building Feminist Communities

Thursday 30 March 6-8pm FREE

#### Teaching Gender Equality: A Professional Development for Teachers

Monday 27 March 5-7pm FREE

To book visit [www.herplacemuseum.com/about/public-programs/](http://www.herplacemuseum.com/about/public-programs/)

### Austral Salon Recital

April 24 (Monday) 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Austral Salon Recital: Kevin Chow – pianist. Main Hall, St Peter's East Melbourne (opposite St Patrick's Cathedral) Cost \$10. Tea/coffee/cake provided. BYO sandwiches. Refreshments from 11.45am. The Austral Salon, established in 1890, was a founding member of NCWV. It encourages students by awarding scholarships and hosting emerging musician's performances. More information/bookings: mob 0449727910 or [www.australsalon.org](http://www.australsalon.org)

### ANNUAL ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR NURSES

Venue: Nurses Memorial Centre 431 St. Kilda Road Melbourne

Date: Sunday 23 April 2017

Time: 2pm for 2.30

Note: NCWV will be laying a wreath

The ANZAC Commemorative Service will be supported by 305 Army Cadet Corp, 5/6 RVR and the Keytones Choir. Following the Service, afternoon tea will be served at the Centre. A talk will then be given about the recent commemorative trip to Banka Island.

RSVP: To allow us to plan the wreaths' ceremony and afternoon tea, please CONTACT Gauri Kapoor no later than Monday April 10.2017

### Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon NCWNSW

Venue: Strangers Dining Room, Parliament House Sydney

Date: Friday, May 12th.

Time: 12noon for 12.30

Tickets: \$100 Special Concessions, 90years plus \$70 Students \$50and over

NOTE: Those wishing to book please advise our secretary Gauri Kapoor

RSVP: April 20.2017

This luncheon honours ladies in their 90th year or older who have contributed in a variety of ways to their communities to improve the status of women.

Its name is a tribute to Miss Jean Fleming Arnot MBE FLAA (1903-1995), a head cataloguer at the State Library, who campaigned for equal pay for equal work from the early 30s. Funds from the luncheon support the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship, an award made to a female librarian or female student of librarianship in Australia. The winner for 2017 will be presented with her award and will address the gathering.

## NCWA Conference –

### Future Directions Our Council Our Voice

SAVE THE DATE June 14, 15 & 16 2017

### Inspiring and Training our Young Leaders of the Future

#### Key Presenters for NCYWA June 14.2017

##### Communications and Social Media Awareness - Genevieve Jacobs ABC

Genevieve grew up on the family farm near West Wyalong, complete with a large, rambling garden where she learned the value of mulch at her mother's knee. After school, she worked as a rural journalist on local and regional papers across the South West Slopes, where she covered everything from bushfires to state politics (and the odd darts tournament too...). As a freelance journalist, she has written for national gardening and fine arts magazines and has lectured widely on artists and their gardens. She was also the ACT and Southern NSW co-ordinator for Australia's Open Garden Scheme.

The arts, gardening and the environment, history and politics, and family issues are among Genevieve's interests but as an incurably nosy person, she enjoys discovering people's stories and loves nothing more than a good yarn.

##### Leadership with Integrity – Frances Crimmins

Frances has a passion to see women achieve their potential and shape their communities. Frances' innate leadership ability was first recognised after she left a regional high school that had a notorious reputation, and was named both Canberra Trainee of the Year and Australian Trainee of the Year.

Moving from hospitality into a human resources role in the health sector, Frances' natural drive and pursuit of excellence saw her establish her former employer as an Employer of Choice for Women, and ACT Employer of the Year for Apprenticeships & Traineeships.

Frances was drawn to YWCA Canberra in 2010 as she had always identified as a feminist, and has a strong belief in social justice, which she attributes to her mother's influence. Having faced discrimination during her own career journey, she is now committed to being a strong voice for women.

Frances was YWCA Canberra Director of Operations before being appointed Executive Director in 2013. She is Chair of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Committee for Women, the current Co-Chair of Anti-Poverty Week in the ACT, and is a member of the ACT Women's Services Network.

In 2015, Frances received an [Edna Ryan Award](#) for advancing the status of women in the ACT.

Frances loves living in Canberra with her husband and children, and is committed to YWCA Canberra making a real and lasting difference to this community. She is conscious that the organisation stands on the shoulders of the women who have gone before, and is keen to take it strongly into the future.

##### Assertiveness Training – Zoe Routh

Zoë Routh is the founder and Director of Inner Compass Leadership Development, established in 2002. She is passionate about team facilitation and leadership development. I love helping forward-thinking leaders and their teams build strong leadership thinking and robust corporate culture. I believe that with better leaders, we'll have a better world. Zoe works with clients across both the public and private sector, focusing on developing leadership capacity, skill, and ability at all levels in

organisations. Her primary focus is designing and delivering leadership development programs and supportive coaching programs to extend leadership thinking in challenging contexts. Zoe has extensive experience designing, facilitating, and overseeing senior leadership programs. I have designed and facilitated leadership development programs in Canada and Australia for a wide range of industry sectors. Zoe's past leadership roles include Chair of the Outdoor Council of Australia and President of the Chamber of Women in Business. Under Zoe's leadership as the Training Director at Outward Bound Australia, the Internship program that I designed for instructor training and development was nationally recognised and awarded.

### HERRMANN BRAIN DOMINANCE INSTRUMENT® (HBDI)- BARBARA BAIKIE

The foundation for thinking agility, cognitive diversity, and innovative thinking. The HBDI® is a powerful psychometric assessment that defines and describes the degree to which we think in the four quadrants of the Whole Brain® Model. The data helps us adapt our thinking preferences to communicate effectively, improve decision making and problem solving.

After completing the survey, the person receives a comprehensive HBDI® Profile report that includes in-depth interpretation of the results, reference material about the Whole Brain® Model, comparison data, and activities for further exploration and development.

Thursday June 15.2017

Delegates will be welcomed by Lady Cosgrove Patron in Chief

### Homeless and older women – Penny Leemhuis

O.W.L's (Older Women Lost in housing) Equitable access to secure, affordable appropriate housing  
Penny Leemhuis is a social activist and housing advocate for older women lost to equitable housing. In 2014 Penny independently established O.W.L's, lobbying local and federal government to reform gender inequities and implement policy change. Utilising a holistic approach, she raises awareness of the issues by engaging the wider community. Seeking preventative measures and sustainable solutions are fundamental to O.W.L's advocacy. Her background in community development empowers communities to embrace social inclusion by promoting gender equity. She has a BA in Community Development and Counselling from UC Canberra. In 2014 she received the Woman of Spirit Award for her contributions to community.

In 2016 a documentary based on Penny's lived experience as an O.W.L was produced.

### Prevention of Violence against Women Strategy Evaluation Report – Dr Deborah Western

Professor Deborah Western, BA (Uni Melb), BSW (Monash), PhD (Uni Melb), GCAP (Monash) joined the Department of Social Work in the middle of 2010. She has practice experience in the fields of child and family welfare, education, sexual assault and family violence and has worked in rural, regional and metropolitan areas in Australia. Through her work in a state-wide peak body for family violence services, Deb developed an appreciation of the role of advocacy and social policy. She has sat on the Board of Governance of the Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria and on the Committee of Management of Safe Futures Foundation.

Deb taught at a number of tertiary institutions prior to joining Monash and has facilitated various professional development activities, including reflective practice workshops and journaling courses. Deb's doctoral thesis explored the area of women and depression with emphasis on women's use of personal journals in understanding and responding to depression. Her research interests include violence against women, the fields of sexual assault and family violence, gender, gender analysis and evaluation, feminist theory, research and practice, and women and mental health.

In 2011 Deb and colleagues worked on a sense-making exercise with Oxfam in relation to Oxfam's work in the field of violence against women and gender justice throughout the world and in 2014 Deb was a member of a team that conducted an independent review of the Standing Together Against Violence (STAV) program for Oxfam in the Solomon Islands.

### The difficulties in navigating the legal system for older women experiencing homelessness - Anusha Goonetilleke, Street Law Supervising Solicitor, Canberra Community Law Since 2013

Anusha has been the Supervising Solicitor of Street Law, an outreach legal service which helps people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including people escaping domestic/family violence. After working in private practice, Anusha spent two years working at local community legal centres in Vanuatu as part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development program. This is where Anusha developed her love for front-line legal work to help people who otherwise would not be able to access justice. After Vanuatu, Anusha co-ordinated the Regional, Rural and Remote program at the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House

### Root causes for violence against women-pornography – Maree Crabbe

Maree Crabbe Co-ordinator of the violence prevention project, 'Reality & Risk: Pornography, Young People and sexuality

### Portrayal and sexualisation in the media - Professor Margaret Alston

Margaret Alston is Professor of Social Work and Head of Department at Monash University. At Monash University she has established the Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) research unit which has attracted an extensive number of PhD students. Previously she was at Charles Sturt University for 21 years, most recently as Professor of Social Work. In 2010 she was awarded an Order of Australia for her services to social work and to rural women She is a past-Chair of the Australian Heads of Schools of Social Work (ACHSSW) and was appointed a Foundation Fellow of the Australian College of Social Work in 2011. She is currently CI on an ARC project on social sustainability in the Murray-Darling Basin area and on the ARC Invisible Farmer project with the Victorian Museum to develop awareness of rural women's contribution to Australian society

### Some Solutions – Sen Michaela Cash

### Root Causes Continued - Kate Jenkins Sex Discrimination Commissioner

Kate Jenkins became Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner earlier this year, after 3 years as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner. In that role, she held an Independent Review into Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, including Predatory Behaviour, in Victoria Police. She was also the Co-Chair of the Victorian Commission's Disability Reference Group and a member of the Aboriginal Justice Forum.

Kate will be leading the Commission's work on sexual harassment and assault in university settings, and the Commission's collaborative project on cultural reform with the Australian Defence Force.

### Gender equity in the workforce – KPMG Male Champion of Change

KPMG is one of the largest professional services firms globally. We are a multi-disciplinary firm providing audit, tax and advisory services to large corporate, private business and government clients. KPMG in Australia has annual revenues more than \$1.0 billion, and over 5,000 employees across the country.

## Violence against women/homelessness in Indigenous communities - Linda Burney MP

Linda Burney Member for Barton Shadow Minister for Human Services

Linda Jean Burney is the first [Aboriginal](#) woman to serve in the House of Representatives. She was also the first Aboriginal person to serve in the New South Wales Parliament. She represented the south western Sydney region of [Canterbury](#) for the [Australian Labor Party](#) since 2003 and served as the Deputy Leader of the Party from 2011.

From 2007 to 2011 she served as a Minister in the Labor government in a range of portfolios, including Community Services.

She obtained a [Diploma of Teaching](#) and was the first Aboriginal graduate from the then [Mitchell College of Advanced Education](#) (now Charles Sturt University).

## Gender equity - women in political participation - Professor Marian Sawer

Marion Sawer <http://trove.nla.gov.au/people/573240?c=people>

Professor Marian Sawer is Emeritus Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations, Australian National University, Member of the International Political Science Association Executive and Co-Editor of the International Political Science Review. She chairs the Social Sciences Editorial Board of the ANU E Press. She was formerly (2000 - 2003) head of the Political Science Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. She was awarded the APSA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

Currently she is helping complete two large ARC-funded projects:

The Evolution of Social Movements and Women and Leadership in Australian Democracy.

Other areas of expertise include:

theory and practice of representation, electoral governance, social liberalism, gender politics and policy.

## Gender equity PM&C leading change in the public service - Lin Hatfield Dodds, deputy secretary for social policy in PM&C Department

Lin Hatfield Dodds (born Linda Hatfield), Australian social policy expert and former [Churchill Fellow](#), is the Deputy Secretary for Social Policy in the [Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet](#), and former National Director of [UnitingCare Australia](#) and Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board.

and much more.....save the date now!

## Standing Committee Reports

### Education Report for NCWV by Education Adviser, Pam Hammond – February 2017

In late 2015, the report [A high price to pay: the economic case for preventing violence against women](#) found that if Respectful Relationships education was rolled out in all government schools in Australia, we could prevent between 7000 and 12,000 future incidents against women and save our economy up to \$3.6 billion. The report was released by PwC partner James van Smeerdijk, VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter and Our WATCH Director of Policy and Evaluation, Dr Lara Fergus. The report, which was reviewed by an advisory panel of representatives from government, academia, community groups and research organisations, estimates that if no further action is taken to prevent violence against women, the costs will accumulate to \$323.4 billion over the thirty years to 2045. The report reviewed what works in prevention and found two areas where there has been sufficient time and investment in evaluation to quantify the reduction in prevalence of violence against women, community mobilisation and individual and direct participation.

Jerril Rechter, CEO of VicHealth said “The intrinsic link between gender inequality and violence against women is now well understood and primary prevention offers a way to address them together. Prevention activities in a range of places including schools, workplaces and sporting organisations are essential in addressing the stereotypes and gender imbalances deeply embedded in our culture. This report shows that the benefits of improving equality between women and men will be felt by everyone in our community, not just victims, into the future.”

Evidence, teachers, principals and students themselves agree that Respectful Relationships Education is one of the best ways to stop disrespect and violence against women from happening in the first place.

As stated in an earlier Education Adviser’s report, Our WATCH was to evaluate the pilot study Respectful Relationships Education in Schools (RREiS), trialled in 19 Victorian secondary schools. The report, released in February 2016, stated that the RREiS pilot has successfully demonstrated that schools, when provided with appropriate supports and resources, can make positive steps towards cultural transformation and shifting the drivers of gender-based violence. “Through the RREiS pilot, we have observed the beginnings of change in school culture, ethos, and improvements in the attitudes and knowledge of children and young people. Changing the structures, norms, and practices within our education system is a crucial element in nation-wide efforts and is precisely what is needed to change the story and lower rates of gender-based violence nationally.”

In October 2016, David Sutton, principal of a Victorian regional high school wrote an article, which appeared in the Herald Sun, on his school’s experience with Respectful Relationships, after he heard talk back callers ring saying that Respectful Relationships Education is a waste of money and that talking to young people about relationships and gender stereotypes should be left to parents and parents alone.

“As a principal in a school that implemented Respectful Relationships Education last year, I too rang in to give comment, but was not given airtime. I would have said that teaching children and young people about respect is far from radical. I would have said I know from

experience that Respectful Relationships Education works. I would have said the evaluation of the program at our school indicated it achieved promising results. Students' attitudes about violence and sexism improved. Teachers noticed students acting more respectfully towards themselves and each other. I would have said that Respectful Relationships education does not place an extra burden on teachers and it doesn't take away from any other subject. In fact, it enhances those classes because both students and teachers are treating each other without prejudice or disrespect. I would have said that I encourage every other principal across Australia to put their hand up to have Respectful Relationships education in their school because we can no longer be complacent about violence against women. Not being complacent means listening to what the evidence says works to end violence against women and what the evidence says is needed to ensure that future generations of students and teachers don't have to live with the threat of violence. And if we want to achieve that long-term goal, we need to start now, because the reality is, if we estimate by current statistics, that one in four young women at my school (or any school for that matter) will experience violence by a partner or former partner.

Children are not being sexualised through Respectful Relationships Education, far from it. Children form attitudes and behaviours related to gender, power, sex and respect well before their adolescent years, and are subject to sexualisation by popular culture, marketing and pornography. That is just a reality. And in fact it is another reason Respectful Relationships Education is so important, because it gives young people the skills to identify, critique and reject such sexualisation and foster healthy personal identities based on the principles of respect and equality. It does it by using carefully designed age-appropriate materials and participatory activities. So it is no surprise to me that evaluations of the program found students were overall very comfortable with the concepts raised by the curriculum and they even felt that, at times, parents and teachers were being overprotective of them.

The main goal of this program is to make our schools, homes, workplaces and communities less violent and more respectful for everyone. I struggle to see how anyone could be against that. So let's work together — parents, teachers, governments and communities — to build respectful children and young people. Let's listen to the evidence. Let's end violence against women, men, children and young people”.

The RREiS pilot findings provide policy makers and educators with robust data that presents, for the first time, a Department of Education and Training supported and systematised whole school model, tested and evaluated in the Victorian context. The findings overwhelmingly show significant improvements in students' knowledge, attitudes and skills, as well as the beginnings of change in the culture of 19 diverse schools. The findings are consistent with best practice literature on Respectful Relationships Education in Schools.

They demonstrate that it is not enough to provide schools with a curriculum resource. In the words of the Minister for Education James Merlino, “a curriculum is a statement of the purpose of schooling, however, a curriculum guide in itself is not the mechanism for change. Statewide rollout of Respectful Relationships Education will only make an impact if the delivery of curriculum is contextualised as part of a broader school and education system culture that ‘walks the talk’ of gender equality and respect. If this rollout occurs in the absence of appropriate supports, resources and training throughout the education system, there is great risk of lost opportunity in public support and government investment and the story of gender-based violence will stay the same for future Victorian generations”.

The RREiS pilot has demonstrated that Respectful Relationships Education can successfully create a safe space for staff and students to share their experiences of violence. This presents a previously untapped opportunity to intervene earlier and change the trajectory for the next generation and their families. There is the opportunity to make meaningful change to these individuals and change life trajectories if they receive timely and adequate support. We know that the education sector cannot do this alone, and schools will require whole of government support and leadership to create an enabling environment for change. The pilot has established that this is an achievable goal and that a systematised approach to Respectful Relationships Education offers a pathway towards the ultimate goal of social transformation and the elimination of gender-based violence.

## Respectful Relationships Education in Schools: The Beginnings of Change; Final Evaluation Report

Prepared by Our WATCH for Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Education and Training, Victoria.

[https://www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/634efd9c-dd7d-4e66-ba2c-5dc4780cff2f/RREiS\\_R3\\_Final\\_AA.pdf.aspx](https://www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/634efd9c-dd7d-4e66-ba2c-5dc4780cff2f/RREiS_R3_Final_AA.pdf.aspx)

## Health Report for NCWV by Health Advisor, Freda Kaufman - February 2017

Research in the diagnosis of heart disease has moved rapidly over the past few years with the resultant increase in methods and improvements in diagnosis.

### Stents made to go

A new dissolving stent has been used in Victoria for the first time, raising hopes that it can cut the risks, complications and repeat surgeries for thousands of heart patients. The stent is designed to dissolve and disappear in 12-18 months, according to an article in the Herald Sun on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. Traditional metal devices that are used to open clogged and damaged arteries remain a permanent fixture in the patient long after they have done their job, but by disappearing, the Swiss designed Magmaris device will eliminate any risks in the outcome.

### Heartscan – a CT scan for the heart

A recent method of checking the heart for various conditions is the CT Coronary Angiogram. CT is the abbreviation for Computed Tomography. It was once called a 'CAT' scan, although advances in scanning technology have resulted in the A being removed from the acronym. The CT imaging test looks at the arteries supplying the heart with blood: that is, the coronary arteries. It uses a powerful X-ray machine to produce images of the heart and its blood vessels in very fine slices: one way to think of it is of taking slices through a loaf of bread. The reason its usage is relatively recent is that CT scans were not suitable for applying to moving organs such as the heart. Years of adjustment to its usage took place before it was safe and suitable to use on the heart. Today the latest equipment gives a radiation dosage 4-40 times less than other machines. The lowest dosage to date is the equivalent radiation dose of two chest X-rays and therefore considered to be low risk radiation level.

It is mostly used to check for narrowed arteries that could explain chest pain or promote risk of a heart attack. It may be the preferred method for people who are only at moderate risk of coronary artery disease since it is non-invasive and requires no recovery time. In the traditional method, the

dye that is visible on x-ray images is injected into a catheter in the groin but in a CT angiogram, the dye is injected intravenously into the hand or arm with no catheter required.

The CT angiograms are increasingly becoming an option for a number of heart conditions but if there is already known coronary heart disease the traditional method may be a better option so that the treatment can be performed at the same time. With the CT method, the treatment would have to be given in the traditional way separately afterwards.

CT Heartscan imaging is available at selected centres in Australia and performed in a hospital or medical imaging clinic.

The Coronary Calcium Scan.

A related procedure to the CT angiogram is a Coronary Calcium Scan. This test uses a particular type of CT scan to check for calcium (plaque) in walls of the coronary arteries: a risk factor for coronary artery disease. No dye is necessary for this test.

Cardiomyopathy Breakthrough

The biggest breakthrough in approximately 15 years emerged in newspaper reports February 2017 Herald Sun 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017 regarding the breakthrough in the research of Cardiomyopathy. Dilated Cardiomyopathy is a condition in which the heart progressively enlarges, leaving it unable to pump blood around the body efficiently and ultimately resulting in cardiac failure. It is the most common reason for a heart transplant, affecting one in 2000 Australians. The genes responsible for this disease have remained elusive until now, when research by a global, collaborative study of 5,267 patients led by Harvard Medical School, Imperial College London, Singapore's National Heart Centre and our own Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Darlinghurst, Sydney has confirmed that mutations known as titin are involved. This is believed to have major clinical implications as genetic testing would allow specialists to pinpoint those carrying this gene within affected families and target those at risk with an offer of early treatment before symptoms develop. The focus will be on prevention rather than treatment of patients with established severe disease, said Professor Diane Fatkin from the Victor Chang Institute. Genetic testing is now much more indicated as part of routine patient management for this disease, which it has not been until now.

#### NCWV Ageing Report #4 by Edith Chen July - Dec 2016

1. Followed by The Victorian Auditor General's April 2015 report highlighted the need to improve palliative care, with 29 recommendations to improve palliative care from the government's The End of Life Choices Inquiry Report in June 2016, Victoria's new End of life and palliative care framework was released August 2016.

While recommendations seek for government "to introduce legislation which would legalise a physician-assisted death for terminally ill people who meet specific criteria for those who seek for this, the clear majority of Victorians would do not want this would have the right to choose and receive high quality palliative care"<sup>1</sup>.

2. Celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 International Day of Older Persons<sup>2</sup>, WHO sets the theme of the year as “Take a Stand against Ageism” – it is a challenge to everyone to consider ageism regarding its negative attitudes and discrimination based on age and the detrimental impact it has on older people.

The term “Ageism”<sup>3</sup> was coined in 1969 by Robert Neil Butler to describe discrimination against seniors and patterned on sexism and racism. Among these three connected elements. Among them were prejudicial attitudes towards older people, older age and the ageing process, discriminatory practices against older people; and institutional practices and policies that perpetuate stereotypes about older people. Simply, Ageism is stereotyping and discriminating against individuals or groups based on their age. This may be casual or systematic.

Predicted by Edgar<sup>4</sup> (1991) and is still applicable at present that Ageing “generally has a negative image, bound up with fear, stereotypes and alarmist projections about the implications of an ageing population. But as Australia, like most Western societies, grows older, there is likely to be a revolution against 'ageism' as 'the generation shift' follows on from the 'gender shift' and have we each to examine our own attitude, behaviours, stereotyping and discrimination towards ageism.

Working with Inner West Chinese community, COTA Vic will run a pilot bilingual project in 2017 which includes to keep this CALD community informed and briefed regarding Ageism.

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1. Euthanasia No Substitute for Palliative Care, Palliative Care Victoria, 9 December 2016, [pallcarevic.asn.au](http://pallcarevic.asn.au) Accessed 19 January 2017
  2. International Day of Older Persons, [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) Accessed 19 January 2017
  3. Ageism, <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ageism> Accessed 27 December 2016
  4. Edgar, D. (1991) Ageing: Everybody's future, Australian Institute of family Studies, family Matters No. 30 December 1991, <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/family-matters/issue-30/ageing-everybodys-future> Accessed 27 December 2016

## ICW Report - ICW Executive Committee Meeting Taipei Nov 2016

On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, the registration started at 8am and Linda Liu, President of National Council of Women of Taiwan gave introductory remarks. It was followed by Keynote Addresses. The first one was given by Hon. Pau-Ching Lu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of China on “The Achievement of Policy on Women's Rights Promotion in Taiwan”. The second one was on “Empowering Women, Changing Society” by Hon. Mervat Tallawy, Director General, Arab Women Organization. She focused on women's hidden roles.

Welcome ceremony consisted of a performance and a very special visit by Her Excellency, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China. Lots of cameramen and flashes! Dr.

Cecilia Koo, Honorary President, NCWT, and Dr. Jungsook Kim, President, ICW also gave a very moving welcoming speech. Hon. Rene Baptiste, Speaker, The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Assembly also gave a keynote address.

After lunch starting at 1:30 pm panel discussions were held on “Women in Power Society in Transformation” and “Women’s Empowerment in the Changing World” at the Auditorium. They lasted till 4:30 and four workshops followed with the titles “Advancing Women in Decision Making”, “Promoting Gender Equality in the Community”, “Transforming Society Through Women’s Empowerment: Korean and Taiwan Experience” and “Empowering Women for an Innovative and Inclusive Workplace”. The auditorium and the rooms on VIP floor were heated with passion and idea sharing.

November 15<sup>th</sup> was the second day and from 10:30-12:20 there were NCW reports at Song Bo Room on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor. Delegates were well prepared with the reports on their own and we were running out of time for City Tour. We were guided to the beautiful Japanese restaurant called Shinyeh and well treated. We went to Songshan Cultural and Creative Park which was initially constructed as a tobacco factory and got changed to the cultural and creative park afterwards. Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall was the next visiting place and we were told that the hall and square became the hub of events in the 1980s and early 1990s that ushered Taiwan into its era of modern democracy.

We started the third day with Interfaith Service and Regional Council meetings were held separately. APRC was focused on recommendation for 2018 Triennial Theme and ECICW was held until lunch time. At 1:30pm there was Standing Committee and UN Rep. Meeting. Reports on NCW, Workshops and Standing Committee and UN Rep. followed. We were also informed on General Assembly which will be held in Indonesia in May, 2018. In the evening of the same day the guests were invited to Gala Night and Closing, which was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the luxurious and ‘hot’ Regent Hotel Ballroom. Several performances were given by a number of affiliated members of NCWT welcoming guests and delegates. A friendly atmosphere was created when all the guests were dancing on the floor with the performers hand in hand, and everyone was tremendously happy and had an opportunity to meet, talk, and eventually build the strong friendship during dinner.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, there was an optional tour of Northern Taiwan. We went to National Palace and looked around all the precious and valuable remains and never missed time to pick up some souvenirs and handcrafts from the BC. The afternoon ‘Sky Lantern releasing’ was the most impressive and fun experience that most of us had ever had. We sent our wishes on lanterns to the heaven. ‘Beijing Duck’ was the finale of the whole day and we all were moved by the scrummy treat paid by the NCWT members.

We congratulate on the wonderful achievement of ICW-ECM in November 2016, and really appreciate NCW Taiwan for its superb dedication to make this ECM a grand success. All the things that we experienced during our stay in Taiwan will be remembered as an unforgettable beautiful memory for a long period of time.

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**ICW Meeting with UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon**



#### MEETING WITH BAN KI-MOON, UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

During our participation at the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, ICW President Jungsook Kim arranged for us a meeting with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon at his office on the 18th of March. At the meeting, ICW Board Members Linda Liu, Elisabeth Newman, Martine Marandel, Jamal Hermes and Isin Atala, together with ICW UN Representatives Brigitte Polonovski, Iryna Kurowyckj, Elisabetta Karll, Jeanne Kim, as well as Minhee Lee from ICW Secretariat were headed by ICW President Jungsook Kim. We were also honoured by the presence of Mme Yun-sook Lee, former MP/Minister of Political Affairs II, R.O.K., in the group.

ICW President introduced the group members to the UN Secretary General and then made an informative speech on the background, aims, mission and activities of International Council of Women as well as her past and present achievements on women issues such as her founding the Korean Institute for Women and Politics (KIWP). The Secretary-General acknowledged the huge role played by the ICW, as the oldest organization of women in the world, in unifying women, fighting for peace and the betterment of the planet.

We started a discussion with Ban Ki-Moon and the representatives of UN Women who accompanied him, on women's rights and issues in general and participation of women in decision-making processes.

Ban Ki-Moon said that as soon as he was elected UN Secretary General he promised to push for gender equality worldwide and informed us that he has appointed more than 150 distinguished women as Assistant Secretary General or Under-Secretary General. He added that he did his best to promote women at the United Nations and he called on governments, businesses and others to step up for gender equality like full respect for the human rights of women and girls everywhere.

Ban Ki-moon expressed his pleasure to have had, at the CSW60, so many distinguished women leaders from all around the world and stressed that he had been energized by the strength of the women leaders working for gender equality and gender empowerment.

Ban Ki-Moon added that he is proud to be the first man to sign up to the He For She campaign to mobilize men and boys and added that this helped the enlargement of his Network of Men Leaders fighting for full equality around the world. He then mentioned the Every Woman, Every Child movement the aim of which is no mother should die while giving birth.

Everywhere he travelled, he said, he tried to understand women's concerns and was angered by their political exclusion in parliaments as women officials have always shown that leadership has no gender. At this point, Jamal Hermes, ICW Board Member, from Lebanon, told him that the rate of women in the Parliament of her country is only 2.8% which is very low.

The Secretary-General asked, then, the ICW delegation if they had any questions or special requests. Iryna Kurowyckyj, the Main Representative to UN New York for ICW, said that a special focus should be given to women, imprisoned and tortured without any means of proving their innocence throughout the world. She mentioned one name, even if there are plenty of them, Nadia Savchenko, a Ukrainian officer, held in a Russian prison for over a year and a half, with the courts not taking into account any witnesses or evidence that would exonerate her anywhere else in a civilized country and asked that the Secretary-General to take an interest in this case and help a Ukrainian heroin obtain her freedom. Secretary-General Ki-Moon said that he was already very familiar with the situation and promised to personally discuss the issue of Nadia Savchenko with the Ukrainian President.

Ban Ki-Moon thanked us for all that we have done and invited us to work together to make this world better for all where women or men could live with human dignity. He concluded his words by saying that he counts on our strong leadership and commitment and added that as long as one single woman's human rights are violated, our struggle will not be over.

Isin Atala, ICW Recording Secretary - 2016 April 26

## Mass Media – Quarterly Report February 2017 May Hu

The Mass Media report for the first quarter of 2017 focuses on the media coverage and public reaction on the tragic incident in the Melbourne CBD on Friday, 20 January. Another popular media covered story could be that the Victorian government released a multicultural policy to build on Victoria's proud immigrant history and reaffirm the shared values that make Victoria a stronger, safer and more harmonious community.

Media coverage of the tragic incident at Bourke St shopping mall was very high early this year. It triggers the debates on Victorian bail system. Honorary Justice Office set up sessions across the state to meet face-to-face to review the bail system. The Honourable Justice Paul Coghlan is asked to advise the Government on how Victoria's bail system should be reformed to best manage risk and to maximise community safety.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews also announced that the Government will establish a [Night Court](#) for magistrates to hear after-hour bail applications for people charged with violent offences where police oppose bail.

The Andrews Labor Government released a multicultural policy to build on Victoria's proud immigrant history and reaffirm the shared values that make us a stronger, safer and more harmonious community.

It includes a series of initiatives to encourage Victorians – from all walks of life, all circumstances and all cultural backgrounds – to contribute and belong.

It announced that:

- Ensure every Victorian knows their responsibilities and rights under the law through a \$2.3 million awareness program
- Promote civil dialogue among Victorians and strengthen supportive social networks through a Right to Debate initiative
- Help young people avoid being manipulated and drawn to extremism by way of a Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship program

- Reduce discrimination with the delivery of a \$1 million Anti-Racism Action Plan.

In addition, the Victorian government will trial a new program to "de-identify" job applicants, in a move aimed at reducing workplace discrimination in the recruitment process. Over the next 18 months, the Recruit Smarter program will be trialed with the government working with public and private sector employers, to remove the names, gender, ages and locations from job applications.

Victoria's Multicultural Minister Robin Scott says the program is about ensuring all job applicants are treated based on their merits and abilities.

Further reading online: [proud.vic.gov.au](http://proud.vic.gov.au)

ABC News: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-23/how-does-victorias-bail-justice-system-work/8202976>

## Report on 'My Vote My Voice', March 2017

Pam Hammond, Education Adviser, Convenor, 'My Vote My Voice' program.

1. Planning for the 2017 'My Vote My Voice' is underway. Sheila and Pam met on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at the NCWV office.
2. In relation to the 2016 MVMV event, several of the award winners, Sara Draca (University HS) and Jane Karopoulos (Ruyton GS) were unable to attend the Christmas luncheon, so there is the need to find a suitable occasion for presentations to occur. Victoria Waid who received an award to assist with her visit to the Indian Girl Guides Centre in January 2017 should also be asked to report back, and Alicia Ranasinghe, another lead speaker in 2016, has our offer of assistance to travel to a suitable conference, probably to Canberra in June for the NCWA conference.
3. A timeline towards the 2017 event has been started.
4. Concern about finding appropriate school contacts to approach is being addressed in several ways. Dr Deborah Towns(LWV) is endeavouring to source school contacts and Pam has spoken with Libby Tudbull, Monash University lecturer in Civics and Citizenship. NCWV Geelong Branch has been in contact with schools, and contact has been made with the ALGWA (Victoria), the League of Women Voters of Victoria and the WCTU about funding.
5. There has been discussion about the theme for this year's event, with the idea of the focus on the CSW61 main themes 'Economic Empowerment of Women' being investigated. Given the way our 'Civics and Citizenship' program links to Australia's Commitment upholding the UN Convention on All forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW it might be appropriate to request attendance of the new Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls the Hon. Dr Sharman Stone, or to organise for her to send a letter of support as was done when the Hon. Natasha Stott Despoja held the position. Another possibility could be to link with the Harvard Model University of Melbourne program with Dr Andrea Carson UNIMELB Coordinator Pathways to Politics for Women, Female Representation in Australian Politics.
6. To secure a suitable date, and to confirm the willingness of the President of the Legislative Council to host our event, a letter has been sent to Mary-Dee Morgan, Conference and Events Coordinator at the Parliament of Victoria, requesting the use of the Legislative Council Chamber for this event, with date and time being the morning of Friday 11 August.

7. The proposed program outlined in the correspondence follows the pattern used before:
- 8:30am set-up
  - 9:00am Students arrive for refreshments, photos and welcome from the President of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Bruce Atkinson MP, or his nominee (preferably using Queen's Hall)
  - 10:00am Speeches in the Legislative Council Chamber
  - 12 noon Program concludes.

## Women and local government

### NCW Victoria Revised Draft, Monday 19 March 2017

Background – Following a report to the March meeting of NCW Victoria on progress of the ALGWA's 50/50 campaign it was agreed that a letter of concern should be written to relevant Ministers, MPs and local government bodies. On 6 March the President requested a media release be prepared.

Women and Local Government in Victoria, Wednesday 8 March 2017

National Council of Women of Victoria welcomes the recent election of women Councillors to lead both the local government peak bodies in Victoria.

The election on 6 March of Cr Mary Laliou as first woman President of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) - following the February election of Cr Marg Attley as President of the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - is an important step in the recognition of the principle of equality of representation.

"We have worked for the principle of equal right to vote and to stand for public office for more than a hundred years, and we helped create the Local Government Women's Association more than fifty years ago", said Janene Blanchfield Brown, President NCW Victoria. "Since August 2000 when 26. % of councillors were women, there has been a gradual increase with women elected October 2016 reaching 38%". An important element in this progress had been the setting of targets and the increased availability of good training for prospective and new councillors".

"We congratulate Cr Helen Coleman, President of Australian Local Government Women's Association (Victorian Branch) (ALGWA Vic) and her colleagues including former ALGWA President Cr Coral Ross for their outstanding work to encourage equal involvement of women and men in local government".

Statement by Janene Blanchfield Brown, President

Media contact – Sheila Byard 0439 365 688

NCW Victoria encourages all candidates for public office to access training and supports the use of material GoWomenLG [www.gowomenlg.org.au](http://www.gowomenlg.org.au) website for potential candidates, Now You're a Councillor [www.nyac.org.au](http://www.nyac.org.au) website for newly elected women councillors,

the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter (supported by the MAV and the VLGA) and 'A Gender Agenda – kit for women who want to stand for local government and those who want to assist others to stand' (5th edition)

## Youth Justice Forum

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the continuing work of Jenny and Malvina in preparing for the Youth Justice Forum.

**Venue:** Parliament House Federation Room. This forum will be hosted by David Southwick MP.

**Date:** May 24.2017

**Time:** 6pm to 8pm please plan to arrive at 5pm

**RSVP:** Essential please advise Secretary Gauri Kapoor

Moderator

Moderator: David Thomson (Fellow Sir Zelman Cowen Centre- Victoria Uni) to moderate.

Panel members include:

Former Commissioner of Police Ken Lay

Lisa Ward, Deputy Chair, Sentencing Advisory Board

Professor Arie Freiberg AM Sentencing Advisory Council

Peter Norden Founder of the Brosnan Centre in 1977, a post release service for young offenders. Fellow of the ANZ Society of Criminology  
Adjunct Professor at RMIT in the criminal justice school



Next Council Meeting Thursday 6  
April.2017, 12 for 12.15 start

Individual Members 10 am for 10.15  
start with guest speaker Betty Spikin.

trading table month.