



## July 2017 Newsletter

### Keeping connected?

If you are reading this but are also on the mailing list to receive our monthly e.newsletter you will know:

**It is time to ... renew your membership of NCW Victoria** Membership means you can meet others interested having a voice in women's issues at local, state, federal and international levels, build your leadership and community advancement skills by participating in the running of our incorporated association, participate in the voting process at the Annual General Meeting, share your knowledge, skills & experience as a volunteer, speaker or mentor, enjoy member benefits, including newsletters, reports and special event rates, and contribute financially to support our *Civics and Citizenship* program including the annual **My Vote My Voice** student event at the Parliament of Victoria, on the morning of Friday 1 September 2017. [Download 2017-18 Individual and Organisational Membership Forms here](#)

**Congratulations!** NCWV Executive member May Hu OAM in the 2017 Queens Birthday Australian Honours 'For service to the broadcast media, to women, and to the multicultural community of Victoria'. May is an Executive member of National Council of Women Victoria, and Mass Media Adviser for NCW Australia. May was a member of the Victorian Delegation to the NCWA Mid Term Conference in Canberra. As Coordinator of Standing Committees for NCW Victoria she has a key role in linking our volunteer Advisers and working groups, whose work enables our effective participation in evidence based social policy within NCW and beyond

**We welcome your participation in our work,  
Elisabeth Newman, Interim President**

**NCWV Meetings in July** - Council meets on Thursday 6 July 2017, noon for 12.15 start at Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne, Room 4.1 Hayden Raysmith Room. Theme – Driving Cultural Change: Report back from Canberra - NCWA Mid Term Conference.

Also at Ross House on 6 July, 10 for 10.30 am start, please join us to share ideas on Future Directions for Our Council as we prepare for our Annual Meeting on Thursday 7 September. **For those who can't get to weekday meetings**, there will be an additional Future Directions event in July organised by **YoungNCWVic members**, stand by for more details.

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: AIA: A4465 ABN: 18227073059  
PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003 Email: [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)  
Ph: **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 Feb to Nov at, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges that it meets on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and pays its respects to the Elders past and present. In 2013 NCW Victoria committed to 'Working Together' During NAIDOC 2017, the theme is - *Our Languages Matter The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages*

### **This month's NCWV e.Newsletter Quote**

"Professionals who work with young people are increasingly aware of – and concerned about – the extent to which young people access porn, including extreme and violent porn, and the influence this is having on their lives". Maree Crabbe, speaker at the 2017 NCW Australia Mid-term Conference, is co-founder of *Reality & Risk*, a community-based project that supports young people, parents, schools, government and the community sector to understand and address the influence of pornography.

<http://www.itstimewetalked.com.au/community-organisations/whats-the-issue/>

### Driving Cultural Change: Report back from Canberra - NCWA Mid Term Conference.

The program included Advocacy and Advisors workshops, review of the strategic plan, we voted on resolutions to submit to government, we considered Violence Against Women, gender based homelessness and we launched *National Council of Young Women Australia!* Barbara Baikie, President National Council of Women Australia's welcome message said: *While we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us to gain the vote along with many other achievements ...We are not there yet. There is still much to do and our young women are our future...we need to engage with them and hear their voices to move forward...*

*Photo – Young Council of Women of Australia participants at the Parliament on 15 June with PM the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP (image supplied by Carol Johnstone for NCWA)*



## Vale

Lorna English, Individual Member 2009 to 2017, and prior to that a Delegate for the Melbourne Girls' Friendly Society from 1991- 2008

## From the Executive

As agreed at the May Executive meeting following the resignation of Janene Blanchfield Brown from the office of President, Vice President Elisabeth Newman became Acting President until the 1 June Council meeting, while it was agreed that she would serve as Interim President to hold office until the Annual General Meeting 1 September. Mavis Lynch Regional Vice President agreed to act as Chair while Elisabeth was overseas on International Council of Women business.

Governance - The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 September 12 noon for 12.15 start. Membership runs from 1 July to June 30. Anyone planning to stand for election for 2017-18 must be a paid-up individual member or a delegate of an affiliated organization that has paid its 2017-18 subscription.

Membership fees - At the May Executive meeting, it was agreed that for the financial year for 2017-18 the fees should be: Organisation with 2 delegates \$160; Individual members \$80 full rate, \$60 concessional rate. Small organisations may request a lower rate and have one only delegate. If a new membership is received after March 31 in each year, the fee covers the following year.

## Affiliate Invitations

NCWV will have a stall at the WCTU Drug Free Lifestyles event Friday 8 September

## **Standing Committees/Advisers** (May Hu OAM JP Coordinator)

Thanks to Advisers who supplied had sent in their reports for the Annual report. Advisers will have two more meetings this year: Tuesday 8 August 4pm at Room 2.1 Ross House and Tuesday 10 October 4pm at Room 2.1 Ross House. Some items circulated to Advisers over the last month include Vic Health and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports supplied by Dr Pam Williams OAM and news from the UN Commission on Drugs and Crime in Geneva forwarded by Elisabeth Newman.

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2015-16 - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released a new report on 28 June: In 2015-16, about 796 alcohol and other drug treatment services provided just over 206,600 treatment episodes to an estimated 134,000 clients. The top 4 drugs that led clients to seek treatment were alcohol (32% of treatment episodes), cannabis (23%), amphetamines (23%), and heroin (6%). The proportion of episodes where clients were receiving treatment for amphetamines has continued to rise over the 5 years to 2015-16, from 12% of treatment episodes in 2011-12 to 23% in 2015-16. The median age of clients in AOD treatment services is rising, from 31 in 2006-07 to 33 in 2015-16. Download report: [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2015-16](#)

**My Vote My Voice 2017** Pam Hammond, Education Adviser, Convenor 'My Vote My Voice' program). The 2017 'My Vote My Voice' event will be held at the Parliament of Victoria on Friday 1 September from 9 am – 12 noon. The event team Pam H., Sheila and new volunteer Karen Jiang have been meeting on Mondays at the NCWV office to complete necessary arrangements. The theme is Women in Democracy – towards gender equity. This year marks 20 years since the development of the Local Government Women's Charter, which contains the three principles of *gender equity, diversity and active citizenship*. Our 2017 event is designed to encourage students to investigate these principles as they relate to the level of participation of young women in decision making in the community and

workplaces. Invitations have been sent, via email, to 18 school contacts, along with information to the Victorian Secondary School Principals (VASSP) to be included in their June newsletter.

Information about a professional development program to be conducted on July 25<sup>th</sup> as part of the Parliament Education Programs has been sent to the MVMV school contacts. The presentations from the Civics and Citizenship Network, are designed to assist teachers to bring the civics program to life. They will also hear from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority on Civics and Citizenship in the new Victorian Curriculum.

Further contact has been made with event partners including the ALGWA (Victoria), the League of Women Voters of Victoria and through the NCW Geelong Branch with the Geelong based *Women in Local Democracy* group. Dr Helen Harris (ALGWA Victoria Executive Officer) has also suggested possible Panel members. Our next task will be to confirm membership of the Panel and lead speakers. The Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, the Hon. Dr Sharman Stone, has been invited to attend the event or send a letter of support if she is unable to attend. We are awaiting her response.

Please contact Pam Hammond via [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au) if you know of a school or students who would like to take part. For further details, information about the 2017 program and previous posts see [Youngncwvic - Home | Facebook](#), YoungNCWVic Blog worpress.com

### YoungNCWVic



Photo (image supplied by Carol Johnstone for NCWA) Congratulations to Sarah Morgan, Gauri Kapoor and Melissa Keatley seen here with three other members of the NCW Victoria Delegation Sheila Byard, Pam Williams and Joan Livingston. Sarah, Gauri and Melissa travelled to Canberra for the Young Council of Women Workshop and the Parliamentary Breakfast Launch 14-15 June, and took an active part in the main NCWA Mid Term Conference.

Emma Fu has finished her term at SyN FM but has begun work on preparing items for [Youngncwvic - Home | Facebook](#), YoungNCWVic Blog worpress.com Young NCWVic is open to women 18 - 30. Membership without fee to nominees from member organisations and to students aged 16 -18 who attend Young NCWVic/ 'MVMV' events.

Thanks to those who have already donated to support the work of YoungNCWVic, the annual **My Vote My Voice** program, and NCW Victoria's **Civics and Citizenship Awards**.

**Account name:** National Council of Women of Victoria Inc.

**Bank:** Westpac 263 Victoria Street Abbotsford 3067 **BSB:033031**

**Account Number:** 263920

**Reference:** Please provide your last name and initial and word – CACA2017

## **Legislation Report (Sheila Byard OAM Convenor, Status of Women SC)**

The Status of Women Standing Committee including Advisers for International Relations and Peace, Human Rights, Implementation of Conventions and Legislation.

### **Commonwealth Legislation**

Passport Legislation Amendment (Overseas Travel by Child Sex Offenders) Act 2017 - commencement date 27/12/17

Criminal Code Amendment (Protecting Minors Online) Act 2017 - commenced 23/06/17, introduces an offence which criminalises acts that prepare or plan to cause harm to, procure, or engage in sexual activity with a person under the age of 16 years through the use of a carriage service

### **Australian Law Reform Commission**

Incarceration of Indigenous Australians - to report December 2017

Protecting the Rights of Older Australians from Abuse - Report tabled, A national plan to combat elder abuse, Mandatory reporting of allegations suspicion of elder abuse in aged care, Additional safeguards in legislation regarding power of attorney, State Tribunals be given jurisdiction and powers equivalent to that of the Supreme Court in relation to abuse of power of attorney, National register of powers of attorney and guardian and administrator appointments, State Tribunals to be given jurisdiction in relation to 'assets for care' disputes within families, Review of superannuation death benefit provisions to introduce safeguards against abuse, The Law Council of Australia and state and territory law societies should develop national best practice guidelines for legal practitioners in relation to the preparation and execution of wills and other advance planning documents to ensure they provide thorough coverage of matters such as elder abuse and undue influence, Amendments to the Banking Code of Practice to prevent financial abuse of vulnerable customers including staff training, reporting suspected abuse and scrutiny of guarantees and mortgages, Guardians be required to sign an undertaking and best practice guidelines to be developed to support people to participate in guardianship applications where they may be the subject of an order, A new regime of adult safeguarding laws and agencies

### **Parliament of Victoria**

Legal and Social Issues Committee, Inquiry into *Youth Justice Centres* to report by 6/09/17

#### Progress of Legislation

*National Domestic Violence Order Scheme Act 2016* - awaiting passage of legislation in other States, allows for recognition of New Zealand orders nationally once registered

*Wrong Amendments (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2017* and *Children Legislation Amendment (Reportable Conduct) Act 2017* both to commence on 1/07/17: Includes implementing further recommendations from the Betrayal of Trust report including that organisations that exercise care supervision and authority over children are required report allegations of 'reportable conduct' (child abuse) to the Commission for Children and Young People' and the Commission given powers to investigate allegations.

*Children and Justice Legislation Amendment (Youth Justice Reform) Bill* is before the Legislative Council. Includes creation of a new offence in the Crimes Act 1958 of recruiting a child to engage in criminal activity, new youth control order as a sentencing option, certain offences deemed category A (including murder, manslaughter and other offences) and category B offences (includes rape, home invasion and carjacking), amendment to sentencing considerations in the Child, Youth and Families Act 2005 to require consideration of the need to protect the community in sentencing for a category A or category B serious youth offence.

The *Administration and Probate and Other Acts Amendment (Succession and Related Matters) Bill* is before the Legislative Council. Amendments following the Victorian Law Reform Commission report including a New Part 1A inserted dealing with intestacy (encompassing and amending previous provisions found in the Act), 30 day survivorship requirement, Series of provisions covering distribution on intestacy, and statutory legacies, Application may be made to the Supreme Court for orders where deceased left multiple partners and distribution not resolved by agreement, Prescribing interest on pecuniary legacies, Provision for Supreme Court to review and reduce fees, charges or commission charged by executors/administrators and disbursements on own motion or application by an interested party, Provisions otherwise regulating executors fees and commission and Amendments relating to ademption which provide for application to be made to the Supreme Court where a beneficiary under a will gains an unjust advantage or suffers an unjust disadvantage

by the application of section 53 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1986* or section 83A of the *Powers of Attorney Act 2014*. Amendment to provisions in the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1958* and insertion of a mirror provision in the *Powers of Attorney Act 2014*

*Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016* commencement date 12/03/28

New framework for medical treatment decision making for people who do not have capacity, public Advocate to be the medical decision maker of last resort.

### **Victorian Law Reform Commission**

*New Victims of Crime Assistance and Family Violence*: A discussion paper has been released submissions are sought by 28/07/17 to report by 31/01/18, includes whether traumatised children who witness family violence should be considered primary victims and creating a more trauma informed process better connected to victim support.

*Modernisation of the Adoption Act 1984* – Report has been tabled, recommendations include that in determining the best interests of the child, factors to be considered should be both objective and subjective, the view of the child should be sought on any decision that has a significant impact on the child’s life, and reports provided to the court must include information relating to the child’s siblings and the preservation of these relationships if appropriate

### **Our motto - The Golden Rule**

The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said “We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: ***Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you***”.

**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.

### **National Council of Women Australia Mid-term Conference 2017 Resolutions**

Report on NCWA Mid-term Conference 2017 Resolutions prepared by Sheila Byard as Proxy Holder for NCW Tasmania with the help of Dr Pam Williams. Eleven resolutions as tabled, including amendments on 15 June, with ten carried. Res 2 was withdrawn for reconsideration.

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Res 1 - Climate Change (Moved Pat Pepper, Adviser Environment, seconded Wendy Rainbird, Adviser Habitat, and as amended)

NCWA urges the Federal Government to give priority to strategies to combat global warming by reducing greenhouse gasses and promoting renewable energy, while ensuring energy security, given the implications for Australia’s environment and such unique ecosystems as the Great Barrier Reef. **Carried**

Res 2 – Accommodation Options for Mental Health Clients (Moved NCW Q., seconded Margaret Findlater Smith, Board Coordinator) That all member Councils of NCWA request with great urgency the issue of accommodation for mental health clients together with case management and transition planning with a view to providing a range of accommodation options, including supervised accommodation, to facilitate the wellness of such clients.

**Withdrawn for reconsideration**

Res 3 – Heart Disease Making the Invisible Visible (Moved NCWV, seconded NCW SA, amended by agreement) National Council of Women of Australia, noting that the 2016 Australian Health Women's Charter calls for more research on gender differences in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease,

\*congratulates the National Heart Foundation and the Jean Hailes Foundation for their work in drawing attention to the different symptoms of heart attack and stroke in women, and the fact that undiagnosed heart disease is the single biggest killer of Australian women

\*recommends that heart healthcare has a greater focus on the different symptoms of heart attack and stroke in women \* and that NCWA support the promotion of this information among women and medical practitioners. **Carried**

Res 4 - Call for House of Representatives Inquiry into Residential Aged Care (Moved Robyn Nolan, Adviser Consumer Affairs, seconded Margaret Findlater Smith, Board Coordinator) That NCWA calls on the Federal Government to conduct a House of Representatives Committee of Inquiry in to Residential Age Care, the inquiry to be wide ranging and include all aspects of residential aged care including in particular

- a. Quality of care, including the removal of the low care-high care distinction in permanent residential care from 1 July 2014
- b. Accreditation including unannounced spot checks of residential aged care facilities and the effectiveness of accreditation standards in promoting of good care and preventing poor care
- c. Staffing and skill mix requirements in residential aged care; and
- d. Complaints handling and information of residential aged care facilities. **Carried**

Res 5 -Superannuation NO GENDER PAY GAP (Moved NCW Queensland, seconded NCW Executive)

That NCWA urge the Federal Government to take concerted action as outlined in the Senate Inquiry report 'A husband is not a retirement plan' Achieving Economic Security for Women in Retirement 29 April 2016. That actions to address the gender pay gap and provided incentives for employers to have *no gender pay gap* policies and assist women to maintain superannuation contributions during times of timeout from the workforce. That the outcome of no woman being disadvantaged at the time of retirement be achieved.

**Carried**

Res 6 –“CATCH UP ADULTS’ IMMUNISE AUSTRALIA(Moved NCW WA seconded NCWA Board. Amended by agreement) NCWA calls on the Federal Government to introduce a “Catch Up Australia” promotional immunisation program, to be part of Immunise Australia Program to encourage adults over 20 to become and continue to be immunised. **Carried**

Res 7 Housing Affordability (Moved Wendy Rainbird Adviser Habitat seconded Doreen Todd, Coordinator General Wellbeing, an amended version with new rationale was presented)

NCWA urges all Constituent Councils in Australia to write to their State and Territory governments request they put in place increased financial incentives and disincentives for affordable housing for owner occupiers and renters to alleviate housing stress and homelessness. **Carried**

Res 8 Cost of Rent – Contributing to Increased Poverty (Moved NCW Tasmania, seconded NCW Victoria)

That NCWA, noting the number of women, including single women with families who, in order to maintain a roof over their heads, are paying a rent significantly above a third of their weekly income; which forces them to live in poverty on all their other basic needs like food, clothing, medical and dental needs – requests the Federal Government to introduce ADEQUATE RENTAL ASSISTANCE to assist those who are in recognised need to keep them from becoming homeless and to equate more reasonably with the average wage earned by the majority of women, recognising that this is lower than the average wage earned by men. **Carried**

Res 9 Gender Equity in Sport (Moved NCW WA, seconded NCWA Executive)

That NCWA calls on federally funded sporting organisations to provide gender equality for travel, accommodation and remuneration for male and female sporting teams. **Carried**

Res 10 Herpes Zoster(Shingles) Vaccination for Older Australians (Moved Mary Kirk Adviser Health, seconded Margaret Findlater Smith, Board Coordinator) As amended by consent

NCWA promotes the inclusion of free access to Herpes Zoster (Shingles) vaccination for all Australians (with the exception of those where it is medically contraindicated) by the Commonwealth Department of Health National Immunisation Program and adopt the *Position Statement Herpes Zoster(Shingles) Vaccination for Older Australians*.

**Carried**

Res 11 SUPPORT FOR A MODERN SLAVERY ACT (Moved NCW WA, seconded NCWA Executive)

NCWA supports the adoption of a Modern Slavery Act: similar to that operating in the UK, at the earliest opportunity, by the Australian Parliament. **Carried**

**PROGRAM FOR 2017**  
**National Council of Women Victoria**

**January**

19th (Thursday)- Annual Australia Day Women's Ceremony, Pioneer Women's Garden Kings Domain, 10.15 for 10.30am start– end 11.30 am

**February**

2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) NCWV Council meeting Melbourne Town Hall, 12 noon for 12.15 start end 2pm

16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) – Executive meeting, 12-2 pm

**March**

2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) - 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting –

30<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - Executive meeting, 12-2 pm

**April**

6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading table.

27<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 12 noon - 2 am

**May**

4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 9.30- 11.30 Standing Committee Roundtable (Law Week), followed by 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting with Dr Shirin David

18<sup>th</sup>(Thursday) Executive meeting, 12-2 pm Ross House

24<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) Youth Forum, Parliament of Victoria. 5.30 for 6 pm finish 8 pm.

**June**

1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting ,12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table.

8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 12- 2 pm, Ross House

14 -16<sup>th</sup> NCWA Mid-Term Conference, Rydges Canberra

19<sup>th</sup> (Monday) Annual Luncheon NCWV Geelong Branch

**July**

6<sup>th</sup>(Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting 10.15-11.30 'Future Directions'

20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

**August**

4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, inc. Trading Table

15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting,

**September**

1<sup>st</sup> (Friday) 10 am start – 12 noon finish *My Vote My Voice* Event Parliament of Victoria.

**7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 10.15–NCWV AGM** Ross House 12 noon for 12.15 start Women Health Week

21<sup>st</sup>(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

**October**

5<sup>th</sup>(Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members followed by, 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting Individual Members Group Excursion - date and time TBC.

19<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) Executive meeting,

**November**

2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) 10.30 am Morning Tea. 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting,

16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting,

30<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Christmas Lunch TBC

**December**

TBC 15<sup>th</sup>(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

**NOTE:** Council meetings are on the first Thursday of each month Feb-November at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane beginning at 12.15pm sharp and finish no later than 2.15pm Individual Members Group meetings also at Ross House begin at 10.15am for 10.30 am, Trading Table – please bring items for sale