

Acknowledgement

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. NCWV pays its respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



From the President, Ronniet Milliken

Thank you for your support of NCWV over this calendar year. We have been lucky to have opportunities to meet in person, as we celebrated our 120th Anniversary of Foundation – the highlight being the recent Luncheon at the Lyceum Club - celebrating our matriarchs and our achievements – with messages of encouragement and appreciation from our Patron and Patron in Chief.

Another highlight for the year was the NCWA Triennial Conference. The Victorian contingent of 12 networked with constituent councils in conference, and at Government House with our Patron. The Triennial Conference culminated in the passage of 7 Resolutions: 6 proposed Resolutions passed along with a 7th that arose and passed spontaneously - initiated by the NCW Victoria contingent – proposed by NCW Tasmania and Seconded NCW NSW, following presentation by Dr Anne Summers AO regarding her Report - “The Choice: Violence or Poverty”: *that the Australian Government should change the eligibility rules so that the parenting payment single allowance is available to all single parents until their youngest child reaches 16 or is still in high school.*

Our thanks go to our Newsletter Editor Pam Hammond, Committee Members and Standing Committee Members led by Dr Deborah Towns OAM, who take the lead in conducting activities and our advocacy work.

Best wishes for the many festivities to be enjoyed in the coming months.

For many families these festivities bring their own tensions. As we wait on the Declaration of the Polls for the Victorian election. Ahead of the election we advocated about continued focus, funding and independent monitoring, regarding family violence, until the necessary culture change is embedded. Our hope is for a respectful future and society.

Stay safe, Ronniet

The following are the Resolutions presented and passed.

| PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 2022 | MOVED | SECOND |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) calls on the Federal Government to extend Universal Preschool to include all children in the 2 years before they start school which would include three-year-olds. | NCW Q | NCW SA |
| 2. The National Council of Women of Australia asks that the Australian Federal Government implement all 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs), signed at the United Nations by Australia in September 2015. We further request that all legislation and decisions by the Australian Federal Government be measured and benchmarked against associated 169 targets and 232 measurable indicators on their impact toward achieving the goals. | NCW ACT | NCW V |
| 3. That NCWA urges that to better support survivors a national compensation scheme for survivors of Modern Slavery (domestic, agricultural or sexual slavery) alleged to have been committed/ perpetrated in Australia should be implemented, through amendment of the relevant federal legislation – so that survivors are able to access compensation through a slavery-specific national compensation scheme that should not require cooperation with police. | NCW V | NCW ACT |
| 4. That the National Council of Women of Australia urges the Australian Government to compel child support customers to lodge a tax return annually and disallow child support decisions on ‘provisional income’. | NCW V | NCW SA |
| 5. That the National Council of Women of Australia urges the Australian Government to develop and implement a Charter/Bill of Human Rights. | NCW SA | NCW V |
| 6. That the National Council of Women of Australia urges the Australian Government to ratify the International Labour Organisation’s C190 – Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (no. 190) | NCW SA | NCW Q |



Victorian contingent at NCWA Conference



Deb Towns OAM, Pam Hammond, Elisabeth Newman AM at Government House

Our 120th Anniversary Luncheon was held in the Level 3 Lyceum Club Dining Room, Ridgway Place Melbourne. We felt it was highly appropriate to celebrate this significant NCWV occasion at the women's Lyceum Club, which started in 1912 (10 years younger). The meal was delicious and the service excellent, with beautiful outlook.

We were delighted that our Patron, the Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp attended, circulated chatting to members and photos taken, including PLC old collegians and the Ukrainian delegates. After the acknowledgement and welcome to all by our Vice-President, Elida Brereton, she regretfully announced the apology of our President, Ronniet Milliken due to a family member having COVID. Elida welcomed Sally who spoke of her own journey to successfully stand for Mayor, regretting that she had no knowledge of the women who had come before her as Lord Mayor – Leckie Ord and Winsome McCaughey, as Victorian notable women are not recognised to the same degree as the men. Sally related walking into the Mayoral chamber and being surrounded by large portraits of past mayors – all men! She is aiming for more women to be visible in and around Melbourne, with women's stories, street/laneway names, statues and artwork. She thanked NCWV for all their work and advocacy on behalf of women and families. Elisabeth Newman AM, immediate Past President, thanked Sally saying how the connection between her office and NCWV is continuing to be strong.

There was then the acknowledgement of Elisabeth's appointment as NCWA Hon Life Vice-President at the NCWA Conference in Canberra several weeks ago, for her tireless and dedicated work and advocacy for women, families and the disadvantaged at State, National and International levels. Also:

Freda Kaufman, past Committee member, Vice-President and Health Adviser, was appointed as NCWV Hon Life Member for all her untiring work for NCWV, particularly in heart health, and for NCJW.

We acknowledged all NCWV presidents from 1902 with the President's Shield, some framed photos and a slideshow that included a photo (where available) and brief notes on NCWV achievements during their presidency. This was made possible by the enormous input by Janet Galley OAM, Honorary Archivist, also Beverley Kannegiesser and Dr Deborah Towns OAM who supplied Pam Hammond with information and photos. There was acknowledgement that presidents are supported by members, Advisers and Convenors to enable NCWV to maintain strong advocacy work.



Between Main Course and Dessert the 2003 re-enactment film of women gaining the vote, by Melbourne Girls' College Richmond, was played to great acclaim.

This was a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together, after three years of not being able to do so. It also bookended the year, with January's highly successful Pioneer Women's Ceremony beginning the year, focussing on early stages of NCWV.



The Rt Hon Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp



Past Presidents: Gracia Baylor AM, Rysia Rozen OAM, Jennie Russell, Sheila Byard OAM, Elisabeth Newman AM



Several tables of NCWV members and guests



Stephanie Liu, Deb Towns OAM, June Anderson



Pam Hammond MC

Elida Breerton Vice-President



Elisabeth Newman, Jennie Russell, Deborah Towns



Sue Whitehead, Nadia S



Elida giving Freda her Life Membership



Freda Kaufman & Caroline



ADVISER NEWS

Ronniet Milliken, President

Waiting on the Declaration of the Polls, we are in the midst of UN #16 days of action against Gender-Based Violence.

When we heard in 2022 from the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor (FVRIM) about recommendations implemented since the 2016 Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, we also heard about those yet to be implemented, a new focus on CALD communities and the 'future' the FVRIM Office planned to close in November 2022 while recommendations/refinements are NOT COMPLETE.

Ahead of the election we approached the ministers and shadow ministers about the importance of focus, funding and independent monitoring and oversight, until the work is complete and the necessary culture change embedded.

Consider the statistics for 2021/2 where the perpetrator is not a stranger but someone known to the victim - homicide statistics – 95 death, sexual offences – over 6270 and stalking, harassment and threats - 5797 <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-victorian-crime-data/victim-reports-2>

Consider the daily news headlines. In short we are deeply concerned. We are acutely conscious of backsliding in relation to equal opportunity, equal pay etc. Accordingly, we are keen to maintain the focus, funding and momentum in Victoria in relation to Family Violence Reform, to achieve deep and lasting culture change ASAP.

To view notes about the data presented, hover over the * symbol.

*

2022

| Offence Division | Offence Subdivision | Year ending June | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Current partner | Former partner | Family | Non family member | Not related/ associated | Cannot be determined |
| A Crimes against the person | A10 Homicide and related offences | 18 | 4 | 33 | 40 | 55 | 46 |
| | A20 Assault and related offences | 7,814 | 4,243 | 8,903 | 6,269 | 10,656 | 5,408 |
| | A30 Sexual offences | 963 | 916 | 1,632 | 2,752 | 1,699 | 1,021 |
| | A40 Abduction and related offences | 108 | 94 | 41 | 87 | 84 | 87 |
| | A50 Robbery | 5 | 12 | 13 | 281 | 951 | 928 |
| | A60 Blackmail and extortion | 3 | 17 | 10 | 49 | 64 | 92 |
| | A70 Stalking, harassment and threats | 863 | 1,844 | 1,419 | 1,474 | 929 | 718 |
| | A80 Dangerous and negligent acts en.. | 316 | 176 | 216 | 284 | 886 | 1,355 |
| | Total | 10,089 | 7,306 | 12,267 | 11,236 | 15,324 | 9,655 |

Multicultural Issues Adviser: June Anderson

'Women Support Incorporated – Hub' started in late July, over four months we have supported family and domestic violence victims; supported local homeless and vulnerable people who are drug users; supported asylum seekers; single mothers and elderly lonely people. We provide them with a warm and friendly environment and a place to come, they can relax and enjoy non-judgement talk and free gifts for items they choose from our Op Shop. We listen and talk, it makes everyone happy with sincere smiling.

We linked with Eastern migrant women's health, provided women's health and safety information, and conducted a few mental health discussion groups. We invited the local Rotary club to provide working with children training for the volunteers ; we also provide Taiji and Chinese ink painting classes for 6 weeks so far and on the 17th December both classes will have small performances and exhibition in the Hub. Both Taiji and Chinese ink painting teachers are volunteers and have experienced difficulties in life. They are teaching the classes which brings lots of courage and rebuilds self esteem. We have Japanese, Indian, Singapore and Malaysian, Taiwan and Austrian ladies join our activities.

We also joined the local council art exhibition at the Ivanhoe library in November with the theme of 'Sunset'. We will continue to participate in art exhibitions with the local council and community throughout next year.

In October Mental health week, we joined Beyond Blue Big table fund raising to support women mental health issues. Currently we are advocating for two Chinese ladies who were victims of domestic violence, but facing unjustified issues due to cultural differences.

Through this four months in the front line support of those ladies, I noticed when they face real life issues, lots of agencies are sending them around different organisations, which didn't solve their problems. I Listen to them, sometimes at 2am, when they were not able to sleep and felt no one really cares about them, I speak with them.

Hopefully our "Women support Incorporated - Hub" provides a real avenue to them, and let them feel we all support each other and we do not give up on each other. We are the grass roots people supporting the community with real life issues. It's just beginning and will continue to work for many years to come.

National Council of Women Human Rights and Conventions November 2022 report, Robyn Byrne OAM

The following is a list of publications on the Australian Institute of Criminology 2021-2022. Within these papers are a discussion of women only police stations and the establishment in Victoria of a Women's Court List.

Who is most at risk of physical and sexual partner violence and coercive control during the COVID-19 pandemic? By Boxall, Hayley Morgan, Anthony, Australian Institute of Criminology. Publisher: Canberra, ACT : Australian Institute of Criminology, 2021, Online Access: Electronic Resource | Electronic Document

Summary: In this study, we analysed data from a survey of Australian women (n=9,284) to identify women at the highest risk of physical and sexual violence and coercive control during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Logistic regression modelling identified that specific groups of women were more likely than the general population to have experienced physical and sexual violence in the past three months. These were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women aged 18–24, women with a restrictive health condition, pregnant women and women in financial stress. Similar results were identified for coercive control, and the co-occurrence of both physical/sexual violence and coercive control. These results show that domestic violence during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic was not evenly distributed across the Australian community, but more likely to occur among particular groups.

Economic insecurity and intimate partner violence in Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic. By Morgan, Anthony | Boxall, Hayley | Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) Australian Institute of Criminology. Publisher: Sydney, NSW : ANROWS, 2022 Online Access Electronic Resource AIC website | Electronic Resource ANROWS website | Electronic Document

Summary: This report examines how the COVID-19 pandemic affects the economic insecurity of Australian women and their experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV). Results are from a survey of more than 10,000 adult women between February and April 2021. It looks at participants' experiences of IPV during the previous 12 months, prior IPV experiences, circumstances that may have contributed to changes in the patterns of abuse, and economic security and social support networks. One in three participants experienced at least one form of economic hardship. One in five participants had a partner who experienced at least one form of economic hardship. Evidence that economic insecurity is associated with an increased likelihood of IPV. IPV is associated with economic disparity within relationships. Economic insecurity co-occurs with factors shown to increase the risk of IPV within relationships. The relationship between economic status, stress and disparity and IPV varied according to type of IPV. The economic consequences of the pandemic are associated with an increased likelihood of first-time violence and an increased frequency of violence for individuals in abusive relationships.

Landmark laws to give Australian women better chance of escaping violence [Journal Article], by Coade, Melissa. In: The Mandarin n. 26 Jul p. 1-3 2022

Summary: Every ten days a woman is killed by a current or former intimate partner in Australia, and police attend alleged family and domestic violence situations on average every two minutes. Proposed new laws will provide for up to 10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave. The laws are designed to assist victim-survivors to escape violence. The laws extend to casual workers, and it is hoped that they will save lives. The government also plans to establish a Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission; increase the number of community frontline workers by 500; introduce consent and respectful relationships education in schools; prioritise safe and affordable housing for women leaving violent homes.

A problem-solving approach to criminalised women in the Australian context [Journal Article], by Beatrice, Megan. In: Alternative law journal v. OnlineFirst n. 24 Jan p. 1-6 2021

Summary: Female incarceration rates are increasing in Victoria, in part due to sentencing reforms and new bail laws. Most women in the criminal justice system have also been victims of gendered violence or disadvantage. A Victorian Women's Court List is proposed that would provide women in the criminal justice system with a more holistic approach incorporating the impacts of gendered trauma. The proposed Women's Court is based on existing specialist court lists. It will address the causes of women's offending and promote decarceration to better support female offenders in the criminal justice system.

Australian police perceptions of women's police stations [Journal Article] by Rodgers, Jess Carrington, Kerry Ryan, Vanessa. In: Police practice and research v. OnlineFirst n. 17 Mar p. 1-22 2022

Summary: Violence against women is a significant issue globally and in Australia. Gender based violence is underreported, with less than a third of women reporting to police and only one in ten Indigenous women reporting intimate partner violence to police. Women's police stations incorporating multidisciplinary staff have successfully operated in Latin America since the 1980s. This study investigated aspects of women's police stations that could be applied in the Australian context. A survey involving 78 Australian police revealed support for some aspects of multidisciplinary police station staffing, but less support for women's police stations. Implications and challenges are discussed.

OTHER NEWS



UNITE AT HER PLACE

Her Place Women's Museum invites you to join the conversation to **END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and CHILDREN**.

Join us to acknowledge, listen to and support survivors of violence and families of victims of violence.

Hosted by Jacinta Parsons – ABC Radio Melbourne Afternoon host and writer

Speakers Include: **Dans Bain – Activist and Artist of The Lost Petition**

Sherele Moody – Award-winning journalist and Femicide researcher

DATE: Sunday 11 Dec 2022; **TIME:** 11.30am

ADDRESS: 210 Clarendon Street East Melbourne 3002

Guests will also be able to experience the powerful 'Lost Petition exhibition', which comprises a 30-metre-list of the names of women and children lost to violence since 2008, the heartbreaking stories of women and children lost to violence; audio interviews with family members of victims lost; and current Australian femicide and child death research examining how violence impacts women and children across our nation.

This event aligns with the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence #16days of activism.

Unite at Her Place is a FREE event with morning tea provided.

Our Capacity for this event is limited to 60 people. **Reserve your seat here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unite-at-her-place-to-end-violence-against-women-and-children-tickets-477015505217>



Women with Disabilities Victoria

They invite you to Quarterly Conversations with Flic Manning and Liz Wright, a *FREE online members event*.

Flic Manning is a dancer, choreographer, wellness expert and author of the book "Living Human" - a book about learning to love the most human parts of yourself and your story.

Liz Wright is our Manager for Community Inclusion and Women's Empowerment/Local Leadership Hubs Coordinator. Join us on Zoom for a great conversation with Flic and Liz.

Quarterly Conversations is held every three months. We will use this opportunity to bring to you topics and conversations we think are interesting, important and engaging.

The event will be held online on Wednesday 7th December 2022, from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

[Click here to register to attend the event](#)

A zoom link will be sent in a confirmation email once you have registered for the event. If you would like more information about this event please contact Elysia Johnston on elysia.johnston@wdv.org.au or phone 03 9286 7814. Kind Regards, Nadia Mattiazzo

National Library Council

The Hon. Dr Brett Mason, Chair of the National Library Council, and Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA, Director-General of the National Library invite you to attend:

The 2022 Kenneth Myer Lecture, to be delivered by Professor Megan Davis

Thursday 15th December 2022, 6.30pm | The Pavilion, Arts Centre Melbourne

The annual Kenneth Myer Lecture invites an eminent Australian to make a significant statement on a subject of interest to them. This year's lecturer is Professor Megan Davis, a Cobble Cobble woman of the Barrungam nation, Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law and Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous at UNSW Sydney, Co-Chair for the Uluru Dialogue.

RSVP: www.stickytickets.com.au/CIH0H or 02 6262 1336

ACHRH AustralAsian Centre for Human Rights and Health <https://www.achrh.org/>

ACHRH's **AGM is on Thursday December 15th** 2022, 6:30pm at Scots' Church, 156 Collins St. Melbourne

Guests of Honour: Ms Viv Nguyen, Chair, Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and

Ms Mito Bhowmick, Director, Mind Blowing World.

RSVP by December 10th: org.achrh@gmail.com Prof. Manjula O'Connor, 0419 354 482

Australian Human Rights Institute <humanrights@unsw.edu.au

New report shows companies failing to act on modern slavery. A coalition of human rights organisations and academics are calling on the Federal Government to overhaul Australia's modern slavery laws after an investigation has found, three years into the Act's operation, companies are still failing to identify modern slavery risks in their supply chains. The report, [Broken Promises: Two years of corporate reporting under Australia's Modern Slavery Act](#), examines the second year of corporate statements submitted to the Government's Modern Slavery Register by 92 companies sourcing from four sectors with known risks of modern slavery: garments from China, rubber gloves from Malaysia, seafood from Thailand and fresh produce from Australia. It found that:

- 66% of companies reviewed are still failing to comply with the basic reporting requirements mandated by the legislation, with some companies not submitting reports at all;
- 56% of the commitments made by companies in the first year of reporting to improve their modern slavery response remained unfulfilled based on their second year statements;
- 43% of companies reviewed are still failing to identify obvious modern slavery risks in their supply chains;
- There is a 6% increase in the number of companies appearing to be taking some form of effective action to address modern slavery risks, with two in three companies still failing to act.

[Broken Promises: Two years of corporate reporting under Australia's Modern Slavery Act](#) is the follow up report to [Paper Promises? Evaluating the early impact of Australia's Modern Slavery Act](#), which was released earlier this year. The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) under a three-year statutory review led by Professor John McMillan AO, due March 2023

62nd Pioneer Women's Ceremony – Monday, January 30, 2023, 10:00–12:00pm

This will again be held at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the Kings Domain, Melbourne.

This will celebrate Victorian Pioneer Women, conducted annually by the NCWV to acknowledge past and present women pioneers.

As 2022-23 is the 150th Anniversary of Secular and Compulsory Education in Victoria, the focus will be on pioneering women teachers.

Dr Deborah Towns OAM, co-author of the history of the Secondary Education in Victoria and numerous articles on education and teachers in the Independent, Catholic and Government systems, will highlight the women pioneers in Education and the early schools.

Our Purposes: *to provide a non-party political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.*

Our motto: *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 have them do unto you."*

NCWV Dates for 2023

January 2023 **Monday 30 Pioneer Women's Ceremony, 10:15am. Pioneer Women's Garden, King's Domain, Melbourne.**

February **Thursday 2nd 11:00- 12:00 Individual Members
12:15-2:15pm Council Meeting**