

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.



QUOTE: 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress', focusing on the fifth sustainable development goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls by 2030. UN IWD theme, 2024

From the President, Elida Brereton



Happy International Women's Day to all members and friends of NCWV. I thank you for your support. I acknowledge, particularly this month, the work of Immediate Past President Ronniel Milliken, National Standing Committees Convenor; Robyn Byrne, NCWV Standing Committee Convenor; Pam Hammond, Vice-President with her Newsletter hat and Susannah Duncan for the minutes.

Our Honorary Treasurer Deanne Baptista is stepping down, unfortunately for us, but is continuing to perform the tasks until her replacement is appointed. If you know anyone who could take on this role, which given we are "not-for-profit" finances is not very onerous, please let us know as soon as possible. We thank Deanne for the fine work she has done, and continues to do, and wish her well. I also thank former treasurer Hean Bee Wee AM for assisting NCWV and Deanne.

Some of us were guests of Committee member June Anderson at a wonderful Melbourne Chinese New Year Gala in the Besen Centre, Burwood, on February 3rd and I hope the Lunar New Year was enjoyed by all celebrating it.



The 2022 survey many of you graciously completed, where we asked you to rank issues you most wanted NCWV to address, revealed a strong interest in (from greatest to lower interest): "equal representation of women in all levels of decision-making", "women's health including mental health", "economic security for older women", "gender pay equity", "gender equity in employment", "need for increase in public housing", "the implementation of Family Violence Reform, and of Aged Care Quality and Safety Recommendations". The Executive is keen to ensure that we do give time and energy to these aspects, in particular, but we also acknowledge the massive impact of cost of living rises on families, hence our March 7th speaker Sue Karzis, CEO, State Schools Relief, who provided us with a grim picture of poverty affecting so many families and news about the work of SSR to lessen impact on students.

March Council Meeting, 7 March, 5:15pm – 7:00pm

This was one of our late meetings to accommodate those who have difficulty attending at lunchtime. This was by ZOOM. We wish to have hybrid meetings in the future.

State Schools Relief <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>



Speaker: Sue Karzis, CEO of State School's Relief, an important charity that provides uniforms, shoes, educational resources and other essential school items for disadvantaged students in 85% of Victoria's state schools.

Established in Elsternwick in 1930 by a group of teachers and principals who were concerned about the many students living in the barges along the Yarra and in huts around the Dudley Flat tip. This resulted in the formation of State Schools' Relief Committee to undertake any relief possible for Victorian students. State Schools' Relief (SSR), a Victorian not for profit organisation that supports the needs of financially disadvantaged school students. Sue has propelled the charity to record numbers, assisting over 74,000 financially disadvantaged Victorian students in 2022/23 with the number of items supplied exceeding 305,000 valued at \$7.07M. Sue has also been the driving force behind the SSR 'Shoes with a Purpose' range of leather school shoes which are sold via the SSR website with every dollar being reinvested into funding school children in need. Sue gave us detail of this vital support:

"The wide-spread job loss and hunger of the Great Depression is no longer relevant, yet, the difficulties of poverty, neglect, family illness, abuse, homelessness and natural disasters continue to affect too many families.

Our program is donation based with many donations received from schools themselves "from children to children". Recently we've received financial support from corporate partners, philanthropic organisations, individual donors and the Victorian Government.

State Schools' Relief is unique, no other Australian state or territory has such an organisation. It's our belief that every student deserves the opportunity to participate in their education, without barriers. Issues such as unemployment, poverty, neglect, illness, homelessness and domestic violence continue to affect many Victorian families.

SSR provides state school students with brand new uniform items; footwear/school shoes; underwear, singlets, socks, hats, sunscreen, swimwear & school bags; textbook support and graphing calculators for secondary students and a range of other essential educational resources, including learning devices.

We also assist students that may have lost everything due to house fires and/or natural disasters (drought, bushfire, flood). Our practical service ensures that students can attend school in warmth and comfort with a greater sense of belonging and self-esteem, which in turn enhances their educational prospects and opportunities for connecting with their school community.

In 2009/10 State Schools' Relief was processing just over 8,000 applications per year; in 2022/23 that figure rose to **more than 74,300** applications, our biggest year, an increase of almost 800% in the last 13 years. In 2023, shirts, tops, jackets and dresses made up more than 32,000 items; we supplied over 25,000 pairs of school shoes & work boots; socks, briefs and singlets made up over 36,000 items; 833 headphones; 2,386 stationery packs; 925 bottles of sunscreen; 1,060 calculators; 1,402 school bags - 305,241 items at a value of \$7,079,264, with 1,328 state schools utilising our services (out of 1,566).

Should families/carers require assistance with their child's uniform, school shoes, etc., they need to speak with the school principal, assistant principal or wellbeing/welfare coordinator. The school then places an application for assistance directly with SSR. We can then provide school uniforms, shoes, etc. at no cost depending on the school's uniform). Where we are unable to provide an item we will provide a voucher to help with the cost.

In early 2019 we launched a pilot program, iPads for non-verbal students. This program is aimed at assisting students experiencing significant communication barriers within their school and home environments. Now in its fourth year, the iPad program is truly transformational. With the support of philanthropic organisations, this program provided students in **58 specialist schools** across Victoria with **452 iPads** in 2023.



The current Glasses for Kids program began in Term 1, 2020 and concluded in mid-2023. It is an early intervention program which aims to remove vision impairments as a potential barrier to educational engagement in **Prep to Grade 3 levels**. This program visited **340 schools** across Victoria over the 4-year period. Comprehensive eye examinations were conducted on all students, with the supply of glasses to any child that require them.

Building on our knowledge and experience of school uniform supply, our own label, Student's Choice was developed in 2015, offering uniform supply to schools, with over 50 schools utilising our services. We have added workwear to this model. Whilst primarily developed to fulfil the need for VCAL/VET students, the value and quality of these products has seen the expansion of the supply of workwear items to a wide variety of businesses.

Also, retailing of our Student's Choice footwear is online. All profits from the sale of these shoes are returned to the organisation to further benefit disadvantaged students."



Girl Guides Victoria will be taking flight in the Birdman Rally, to raise funds for State Schools' Relief. On Sunday 10 March, 11am to 1pm, pilot Ruth will be taking to the skies, and the water, on the Girl Guides Victoria Magical School Bus! [Click here to support Pilot Ruth.](#)

Seamless wants to create a **Circulating Textiles Program** as you would have read in the February Newsletter and from the February Council meeting. It was very pleasing to read in the Age on Friday (23/2/24/) that the Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, is supportive of Seamless and ready to regulate if the industry doesn't reduce/eliminate the amount of clothing going to landfill. "More companies signing on to Seamless would be a good sign that the fashion industry is taking responsibility for the quarter of a million tonnes of textiles that end up in landfill annually." Tanya Plibersek

Seamless is establishing its governance and operations. Between December 2023 and July 2024 the organisation will focus on finalising the Seamless business plan, which includes key components such as the funding levy and recruiting members. Register to be part of Seamless at: <https://ausfashioncouncil.com/program/seamless/>

April Council Meeting

Thursday April 4, 12:15pm – 2:00pm

Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) will be providing a speaker for us to hear about their big release on the reality of gender equity in Australian salaries.

Significant women, by Dr Deborah Towns OAM

In 2022 Anne Summers AO was appointed as Professor at the University of Technology's Business School, where she examines domestic and family violence and its impacts. Her research is dedicated to ending domestic and family violence. Anne is a best-selling author and journalist, with a long and accomplished career in the fields of politics, the media, business, and the non-government sector in Australia. Following is a short account that shows how Anne has been a leader in the women's movement since the early 1970s.



Anne Summers (nee Cooper) born in 1945, studied Arts, majoring in Politics and History at Adelaide University, joining the Labor Club. She married John Summers, a teacher, and they lived on an Aboriginal reserve.

UTS image of Professor Anne Summers AO.

In 1969 and divorced, she joined with other women in Adelaide, who formed a Women's Liberation Movement (WLM) group. Along with other WLMs she attended their first national conference in 1970 at the University of Melbourne.

Moving to Sydney she took up her postgraduate scholarship completing a PhD at Sydney University in 1975. She wrote her groundbreaking history of Australia, *Dammed Whores, and God's Police*. It examined Australia's history with women at the centre. It was timely as 1975 was declared International Women's Year by the United Nations. *Dammed Whores...* is a classic, still in print and relevant today, almost 50 years later.

Active in Sydney's WLM and joining with others she squatted in two derelict houses near Sydney University in Glebe in 1974. They turned them into Elsie Women's Refuge to provide much needed shelter to women and children who were victims of domestic abuse. She worked as a journalist on *The National Times* and won a Walkley Award for her investigation into NSW's prisons. Her expose led to a Royal Commission.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke appointed Anne to head the Office of the Status of women from 1983 to 1986.

It was an influential advisory role centred in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

She left Australia in 1986 and was editor in chief of *Ms* Magazine for six years. Returning to Sydney, Anne was appointed editor of 'Good Weekend' magazine for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. She also advised Prime Minister Paul Keating on women's issues leading up to the 1993 Federal election. From 2000 to 2006 she was chair of Greenpeace Australia.

Her writing continued including the publications, *Ducks on the Pond: An Autobiography 1945-1976* (1999), *The End of Equality: Work, Babies and Women's Choices in 21st Century Australia* (2003), *The Lost Mother: A Story of Art and Love* (2009), *The Misogyny Factor* (2012), and *Unfettered and Alive: A memoir* (2018).

The Choice. Violence or Poverty, was another of Anne's groundbreaking carefully researched publications, available on line in 2022. It's a report on domestic violence in Australia, including previously unpublished data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It shows how many women must make the choice of whether to stay in dangerous abusive relationships or leave and face poverty as single parents. Around 50 per cent of single mother survivors of domestic violence rely on government support through the Parenting Payment Single, but it was stopped when the youngest child turned eight. Job Seeker was less. Summers recommended that removing this harsh policy was the first step towards improving the lives of single mothers in financial stress. In 2023, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that the single parenting payment would be lifted to include the youngest child until aged fourteen.

Her pioneering work led to her appointment at UTS Business School so she could work on ending domestic and family violence. The Elsie Conference organised by Anne, celebrates 50 years since Elsie opened and plans to work on ways to stop domestic violence in the future.

ELSIE CONFERENCE: 15-16 MARCH 2024, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY [REGISTER NOW](#)

From its founding on 16 March 1974 by a group of feminists in inner-city Glebe, to the proliferation of refuges and shelters across the nation, Elsie Women's Refuge sparked a movement. Hosted by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), the Elsie Conference will bring together refuge and shelter workers, advocates and organisations, researchers and public policymakers and interested others in reducing domestic violence. **See February newsletter for details.**

International Women's Day event in Ballarat

The speaker was Dr Cassandra Soeke, NCWV Health Adviser. Alexandra Jeffrey, NCWV Geelong President, represented NCWV. She reported that Cassandra was fantastic on issues to do with women's health, really impressing the 110 women present.



Dr Cassandra Soeke and Alexandra Jeffrey

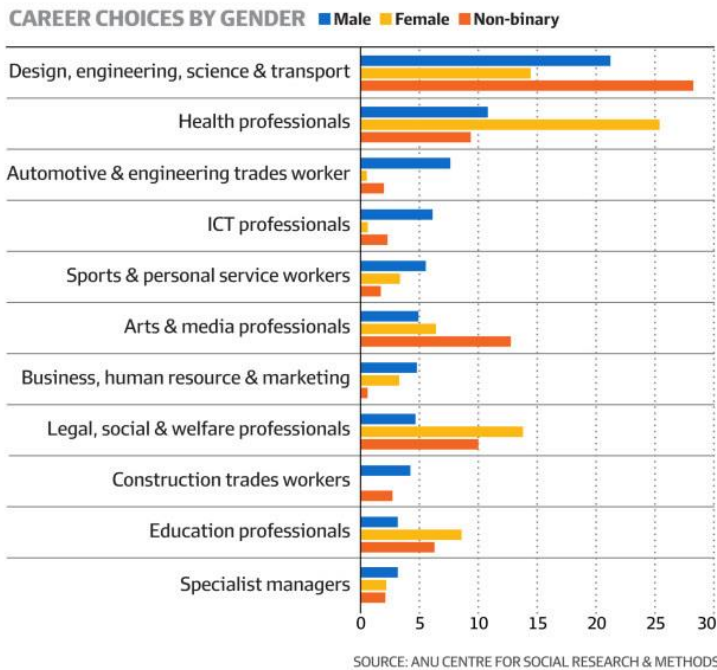
ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser, Pam Hammond

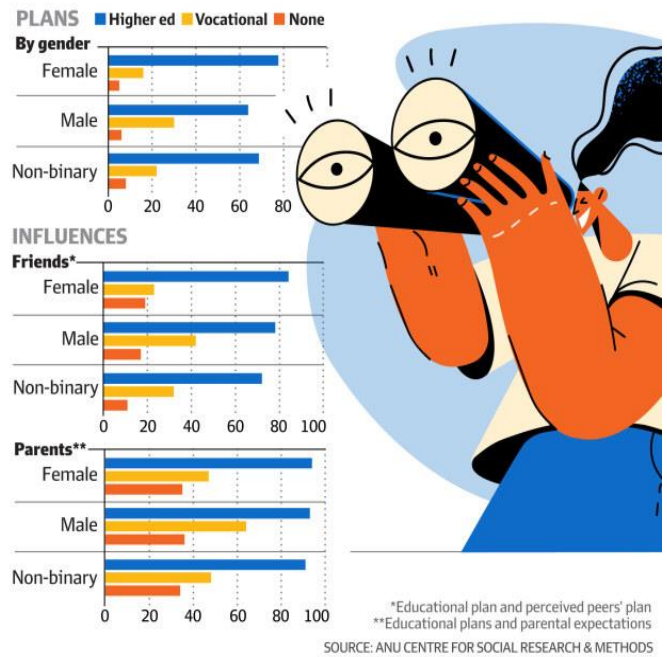
A national survey of 18,000 Year 10 students was conducted in 2023, 'What Young Australia Thinks', by ANU's Centre for Social Research and Methods. Eighty per cent of 15-year-old girls say their future career will require a university degree and one in four want a job as a doctor, nurse or other health professional. Just 16 per cent of girls say they want to go to TAFE or vocational education after finishing school, compared with 30 per cent of boys. While 94 per cent of girls said their parents were strongly supportive of their desire to go to university, less than half with plans to go to TAFE had their parents' backing, the study, found. About 5 per cent said they had no career plans in mind. [What Young Australia Thinks \(generationsurvey.org.au\)](https://www.generationsurvey.org.au)

Nearly half of all teenagers surveyed identified just three broad fields in which they saw themselves working by the time they reach 30: health; design, engineering, science and transport; and legal and social welfare roles.

Hopes and aspirations of 15-year-olds for education and work (%)



Hopes and aspirations of 15-year-olds for education and work (%)



Research at Monash University from nearly 2,800 secondary school students from five Victorian schools, found young women in particular suffer from high degrees of stress and indecision over their future careers. <https://research.monash.edu/en/publications/career-anxiety-and-uncertainty-an-empirical-study-of-young-austra>

Researcher Joanna Gleeson said young women carry the weight of parental and social expectation and often make study choices that align more with what they feel is expected of them rather than what they are passionate about.

Girls are more likely to be pushed towards university, which was broadly considered to be of higher status than TAFE. While boys were broadly supported for considering a trade apprenticeship, girls were increasingly pushed to enrol at university.

Over one-third reported that they did not know what careers best suited them (33.8%), felt that they had no career direction (40.5%), worried that their studies would not lead to a 'real' career (41.5%), and worried that they would not be employable when they complete their studies (34.3%). Nearly two-thirds felt down or worried about selecting a career (59.3%). Also, approximately one-half worried that others would not approve of their career choices (50.4%), felt that they were choosing careers to please others (52.1%), or felt that they were basing their choices on what others expected of them (46.2%).

Joanna concludes by suggesting "a need to examine the critical years of senior schooling when career choices are formed and the influences of such choices beyond school. Careers educators – and educators in general – need to engage in the changing workforce and find ways of bringing 'significant others' (parents and carers) along the careers education journey".

Victoria Raising the Profile of Teaching Careers

Media Release

Minister for Education Ben Carroll has welcomed the national *Be That Teacher* campaign, a collaboration with the Federal Government. This complements Victoria's 'Teach the Future' initiative, which encourages Victorians to consider entering the teaching profession. Latest figures show that teacher attraction and retention initiatives have had a significant impact – with 3,000 new teachers registering in the last year. It features real life teachers encouraging students and Victorians looking for a career change to consider the rewards of teaching. 'Be That Teacher' promotes pathways, available support and details the new scholarships available to encourage people to choose teaching as a career. To find out more about a career in teaching, including courses available and support on offer, visit [Teach the future | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/teach-the-future).

State Coordinator of Standing Committees: Robyn Byrne OAM reports on VHA <https://www.vha.org.au>

Victorian Health Association (VHA) is conducting a Tri Peaks Webinar: *Emerging practice within the family violence sector*, which will focus on emerging practice changes within the family violence sector. During this session, attendees will learn more about the latest evidence, opportunities on practice and legislation changes within the family violence sector.

When: 14 March 2024 (11am – 12pm); **Where:** Online (Zoom) **Registration:**

[REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT](#)

The [Tri-Peaks](#) is a collaborative initiative between the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (Centre), the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) and the VHA. The project aims to expand and extend the supporting cross-sector collaboration, promoting good governance and integrating practices in the child and family, alcohol and other drug and community health sectors. <https://www.vha.org.au/about/projects/tri-peaks-collaboration/>

VHA, after 50 years, remains committed to advocacy to ensure that critical function of public healthcare during emergencies remains supported, and they have specifically called for the Victorian Government to continue to fund an ongoing Community Recovery and Resilience Program in disaster prone regions of the state. In addition to advocating for a four-year pilot of this program across the 11 independent registered community health services, VHA's 2024-25 budget submission calls for the Victorian Government to fund the true cost of health care for public healthcare services across the state.

New research shows more than three times as many cancers are attributable to physical inactivity than previously estimated.

The research quantified the proportion of 13 different types of cancer attributable to physical inactivity. An estimated 6,361 of the cancers observed in 2015 were attributable to physical inactivity, representing 4.8% of all cancers diagnosed. This is a 350% increase from the previous estimation. This research reflects that more cancer types, including breast, colon, bladder, endometrial, kidney, oesophageal adenocarcinoma, gastric, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, head and neck, myeloma, myeloid leukaemia, liver, and gallbladder, are now linked to physical inactivity. More than 2,500 cancer cases (1.9% of all cancers) could have been prevented in 2015 if Australian adults had increased their physical activity by around 40 minutes per week a decade earlier. <https://www.cancer.org.au/media-releases/2024/new-research-shows-more-than-three-times-as-many-cancers-are-attributable-to-physical-inactivity-than-previously-estimated>

NCWV supports the Cancer Council's call for all governments to implement the recommendations of the National Preventative Health Strategy and National Obesity Strategy to create supportive environments for Australians to increase their physical activity and live longer and healthier lives.

Be Slavery Free and **33 civil society organisations and academics** forged a collective front to submit comprehensive recommendations on the Modern Slavery Amendment (Australian Anti-Slavery Commissioner) Bill 2023. This collaboration reflects a diverse spectrum of expertise, united by a common goal: *enhancing the efficacy of the Modern Slavery Act and fortifying Australia's position as a global leader in combating modern slavery.*

Modern slavery is an insidious presence in the supply chains of Australian entities and entities carrying on business in Australia. **The Modern Slavery Act needs a Commissioner** with the will and the means to help dig it out. The Report of the Statutory Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 outlines an ambitious future for the Act that moves beyond reporting into human rights due diligence processes that can break the business models of modern slavery and protect victim-survivors.

Recommendations include **advocating for explicit authority to investigate** issues, particularly beyond the jurisdiction of Australian law enforcement, extending to overseas supply chains; emphasises Commissioner's pivotal role in **handling complaints, identifying victim-survivors**, and **fostering collaboration for robust compliance** with Modern Slavery Act 2018.

Central to the submission is the call to **fortify the Commissioner's independence**. Proposed measures include the formation of a Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Modern Slavery, amendments reinforcing the Commissioner's duty to act independently, and strategic consultation for transparent and autonomous execution of statutory functions.

Young Victorians key to vaping and tobacco reform

The lived experiences and views of young Victorians will be vital to a new parliamentary inquiry looking at vaping and tobacco controls in Victoria. The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) has launched the public submission phase of its probe and wants to hear from all interested stakeholders, including youth.

'Our Committee will conduct public hearings so we can listen directly to the relevant authorities and experts,' Committee Chair Sarah Connolly said. They're also looking at holding a [youth roundtable](#). PAEC is scrutinising efforts to prevent and reduce the harms related to these activities. The inquiry is evaluating the associated financial, health, social and environmental effects of tobacco and e-cigarette use on the wider community. **Submissions due by Friday 29 March 2024.**

To make a submission and to find out more about the inquiry go to the Committee's [website](#).

State education inquiry announces hearing dates: [Hearings \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](https://parliament.vic.gov.au)

The inquiry will look at trends in student learning outcomes, disparities associated with geography and socio-economic disadvantage; the state of the teaching profession, including the administrative burden on teachers; and student well being, including measures to address poor mental health, school refusal and student disengagement. The Committee will consider best practice models and educational settings used to improve student learning outcomes and wellbeing.

First public hearings will be held **in Gippsland on 26 and 27 March** after more than 250 submissions were received.

OTHER NEWS

The Shift Theatre Company:

NCWV, you're working to end gender inequality and I'm writing to you about a comedy, produced by a women's theatre, The Shift Theatre, where producers and key creatives are women. This joyful, delicious revelry, *Eat Your Heart Out* is playing in Melbourne, 6-17 March. We hope that it is the sort of production your membership would enjoy. *Angela Buckingham*

EAT YOUR HEART OUT Venue: [La Mama Courthouse](#); 349 Drummond Street, Carlton VIC

Dates: **Mar 6 - Mar 17; Wed: 6.30pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat: 7.30pm; Sun: 4pm; Running time: 70 mins**

TryBooking: [EAT YOUR HEART OUT Tickets, La Mama Courthouse, Carlton | TryBooking Australia](#)

Eat Your Heart Out to be livestreamed on Friday 15 March, 7.30pm, available for 72 hours. [Book Livestream Tickets Here](#)

Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) *Afghan New Year 2024 - Nowroz 1403*

Honorary President, Jackie M Fristacky AM, LL.M., MA, MPPM, has sent a plea for support:

AADO was founded 22 years ago by Melbourne's Dr Nouria Salehi to help remedy generations of skill loss in Afghanistan due to decades of conflict. As an Afghan nuclear physicist, she well knew the fundamental importance of literacy and skills in maths and science, for development. AADO's focus is to help the education of women and girls in Afghanistan with amongst the world's lowest level of women's literacy at 22.5%!

*You can assist to alleviate this by supporting AADO's **NowRoz - Afghan New Year fundraiser** **Thursday 21 March 2024, 6-9pm at Fitzroy's Afghan Gallery Restaurant**. CSIRO's Director of Public Health and BioSecurity, Professor Brett Sutton, will speak on his Experiences in Afghanistan working with Médecin sans Frontières. Brett was Victoria's Chief Medical Officer and adviser to then Premier, Daniel Andrews, during COVID.*

This fundraiser is to help women and girls in Afghanistan through continuation of AADO's key educational courses:

- **Intensive on-line SMEC teaching:** Science (Physics, Chemistry), Maths (Algebra, Trigonometry, Statistics and Probability) and English Courses for Secondary Schoolgirls. These courses delivered through an Afghan Education Support Coalition (male and female teachers) enable girls to complete their secondary education. They can then enrol in tertiary on-line study, work on-line, or enrol in limited university courses in fields available for women in Afghanistan – such as in midwifery or primary school teaching;
- **year long literacy numeracy courses:** offered to groups of women in rural and regional villages. A qualified local teacher provides instruction in a home able to accommodate 20 women at a time with the host receiving rent. The scheme involves 5 villages in areas where local authorities support this initiative.

On-line learning is not restricted in Afghanistan, nor is literacy teaching for girls/women to primary level - the limitation is access and funding. AADO is highly respected with good contacts, track record over 22 years and support in Afghanistan - but relies entirely on donations for its programs there. AADO works here through a small volunteer committee, so all funding raised is directed to support AADO programs.

It is imperative to not give up on Afghanistan, but help promote evolutionary development through supporting women and girls with further education opportunities. They can thus act as role models for others, both men and women, to help produce change. In our own histories, it took centuries to achieve widespread education for women and girls.

*Bookings by Trybooking the link: **Register via TryBooking** www.trybooking.com/CPBHS required by Friday 8 March. If unable to attend, you are still invited to support delivery of the above courses by contributing in lieu through www.aado.org.au/donate Donations to AADO, as a charitable organisation, are tax deductible. Jackie www.aado.org.au*

Australian Human Rights Commission



Join us to celebrate the launch of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute, and the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Change Agenda for First Nations Gender Justice!

This historic event will be accessible via livestream **on Tuesday 19 March 2024, 6:15pm – 8:30pm (AEDT)**. This is a FREE online event, held via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88085566305>

[Get tickets](#)

Violence Against Women; Let's Stop It at the Start <https://www.respect.gov.au/resources/watch-stories>

VIDEO RESOURCES: A collection of inspiring video messages from prominent community members who are passionate about breaking the cycle of violence.

Jo Stanley, broadcaster, performer, entrepreneur, 'Stop it at the Start' Campaign Ambassador:

Respect first and foremost is always about equality. It's about treating everybody as completely equal to yourself, but I think it extends to kindness, consideration, listening to each other.

It's not always easy to have conversations around respect. It can feel like a really adult complicated concept, but you can do it in ways that are really fun and interactive. You're not going to get it right every time. That's okay. Give it a try, have another go. The great thing about having conversations in passing is often you think they're not hearing it. You think they haven't actually absorbed it, and then it can be six months down the track where they'll mirror something that you've spoken about a long time ago and you go, "ah", it is making sense and they kind of start to absorb and understand what you're saying.

I'd encourage people to have a go and have a conversation with their kids about respect because this is about them having the best relationships possible because we know that's the richness of life. We also know that when we don't have healthy relationships we're isolated, we're lonely. It affects our mental health. So for me it's absolutely critical that we do it as often and as early as we can so that it becomes habit and natural to the way we engage with each other.



Clea Smith, new CEO of Trades Women Australia Group (TWA), an Australian cricketer who also worked in sport, experienced being in the minority, and felt a connection with women working in trades. *"I have learned that support from family, community, employers or organisations like TWA is essential for women pursuing a career in a non-traditional field. I am looking forward to being part of the mission to support women into a career in trades and help employers create safe workplaces for everyone".*

Women working successfully in trades that are traditionally male dominated will be celebrated on Melbourne's tram network with the Tradeswomen Australia Group's **'Women Succeed in Trades'** tram rolling onto tracks from 30 January 2024. One of the first joys of Clea's role was to launch the TWA tram wrap at Kew Tram Depot thanks to the **Yarra Trams Community Partnership Program**. The tram will bring images of real tradeswomen to thousands of Melbourne commuters and increase awareness of Tradeswomen Australia and their important mission.



Tradeswomen Australia Group (TWAG) supports more girls, women and non-binary into trades. TWAG's goal is that all women should feel safe, secure and comfortable at every workplace, and be able to participate in the career of their choice. By running the **Remade for Trades** workshops through the Tradeswomen Australia Community Foundation, the TWAG can reach women experiencing disadvantage and help boost their confidence about starting a career in trades.



Feminist Road Show: We celebrate the powerful and engaging history of Australian Feminism as part of Women's History Month.

Her Place Open Day; March 16 2024, 11 – 3 pm Cost: FREE

Location: [Her Place Women's Museum](#), Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon Street East Melbourne

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."*

National Council of Women of Victoria Meeting Dates for 2024

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
March	7 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	ZOOM
March	18 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
March	21 st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Royal Historical Society Vic (RHSV)
April	4 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Tbc
April	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
May	2 nd	Thursday	May Forum & Council Meeting	12:00	Zoom and Ross House (RH)
May	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
June	6 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
June	17 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
June	20 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
July	4 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
July	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
August	1 st	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
August	12 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
August	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
September	5 th	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Zoom and RH
September	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
October	3 rd	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
October	14 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
October	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	7 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
November	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	28 th	Thursday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	In person
December	5 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH