

### 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.



**ALERT To foster our relationship with RHSV, our postal address is now: 239 A'Beckett St Melbourne, 3000, as our PO Box has been closed.**

### QUOTE: 'Keep the Fires Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'

The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Theme celebrates the unyielding spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced. **NAIDOC Week (7-14 July)**

### From the President, Elida Brereton



For many of us this winter has been one of the coldest. I hope you are keeping warm and enjoying good health. I express our deepest sympathy to our Jewish members as the war in Gaza is brought to Australia, including Melbourne, with anti-Semitism, threats and violence, also islamophobia, and to our Ukrainian members who are suffering the war from a distance, with some loved ones living in Ukraine. Our hearts are with you all.

On a happier note, congratulations to the Geelong Branch of NCWV for the most enjoyable and well-attended annual Luncheon at St Mary's Football Club in Geelong on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Geelong President Alex Jeffrey was absent with illness which sadly is still afflicting her, but Nonie Crozier stepped in as MC. Prof. June Kane shared some stories of her life and work, stressing that overcoming the exploitation of children is one of her greatest passions. Thank you NCWV Geelong for the great hospitality you offered to all present.

I have represented us at NCWA Board meetings and had dinner with outgoing President Chiou See Anderson and her successor from South Australia, Fiona Dorman, who will succeed her in November at the Triennial Conference in Adelaide. NCWA is working to engage the new Governor-General, the Hon. Sam Mostyn AC as our Patron.

With Dr Deborah Towns OAM and through Vice-President Guosheng Chen, I represented NCWV in a meeting with an official delegation from the Women's Federation of Anhui Province, China who are interested in how Melbourne municipalities play a role in enhancing women's health. There are 30 million women and girls in this province.

Vice-President, Guosheng Chen, organised a visit to the Jiayua Music Studio for Vice-President Pam Hammond and myself. Ms Jiajia Yi, the Principal, welcomed us for a morning at the Music Studio. We loved meeting the students, some of whom we met in January at the Pioneer Women's Garden ceremony where they sang the National Anthem for us, and the adults who were there. We enjoyed the two excellent piano performances, the delicious refreshments and tea. We admire the work of the Jiayuan Charity and loved the courteous manner of the students.

It was a joy for me to share with the students some of the history and work of NCWV, stressing that we advocate for women and girls in all we do. The students were most interested in NCWV's annual event "My Vote My Voice", a student event involving at least 10 schools and held in Parliament House. They asked insightful questions of us. We invited students to consider becoming involved.



Thanks and congratulations go to Vice-President Pam Hammond for her excellent planning and organisation for our annual "flagship event" for young people, the "My Vote, My Voice" presentations in Parliament House on the morning of Friday August 9<sup>th</sup>. This is always an impressive occasion to which you are invited.

It was a valuable and highly relevant message from young university student Xavier Towns as guest speaker at our July Council meeting, with him sharing wisdom gained from his studies, about cyber security and how to avoid being scammed. The discussion with him after his presentation was equally valuable. See page 2

## Geelong Branch, Anne Parton Committee Member

Geelong Branch was thrilled with their Annual lunch **\$900** result and thank all those participating. This will enable us to support **ROAR**, a group supporting women survivors of family and domestic violence and also give bursaries to needy students at North Geelong Secondary College.

At the end of 2023 Jill Graham received an Honorary Life Membership Badge for her many years representing the Girl Guides as their Branch representative.

Our Branch has received a request from the **Women in local Democracy** group to join their *Empowering Women 50/50 by 2025 Network*. This will be decided at our next Geelong meeting on Monday 15th July.

As a member of the InterFaith Community in Geelong, I attended the opening of a MultiFaith Prayer Room in the recently built Joel Selwood Stand of Geelong Football Club. There is also the same in Melbourne at the MCG.



Above: Sheila Byard OAM at the Geelong Luncheon with Ukrainian Women's Association members Yanina Dutka and Natalie Soloczynskij. They are missing taking donations at the door at NCWV monthly meetings!!

## July Council Meeting, 4 July, 5:15pm



**Xavier Towns spoke to us about his specialised Degree Course on Cyber Security** at Deakin University, Burwood Campus, and the potential danger associated with the use of computers and computer networks, a topic of relevance to all of us. We live in a world of online transactions.

Xavier introduced us to the world of Cyber Security, what it is, why it is important and who needs it. Cyber Security involves protecting systems, networks and programs from digital attacks. As our lives become more digital, protecting our data and privacy is vital. Everyone who uses digital devices needs to be aware of cyber security.

Scams can occur via phishing (perpetrator masquerades as a legitimate business), emails, phonecalls, and text messages.

Types of scams are vast, from romance related to threats, including unexpected money, owing ATO, fines etc.

Hacking is unauthorised access or manipulation of computer systems, networks or data. Hackers may be driven by financial gain, activism or the challenge of breaking security measures. This can result in data breaches, financial losses and compromised personal information. One of the largest hacks happened to Optus, which has increased security.

Scams have cost \$10.3 billion dollars in 2022 alone.

Protect yourself online:

1. Password managers; 2. Be cautious with links, don't open if sender unknown; 3. Verify callers, if unsure, suggest ringing back; 4. Keep software updated; 5. Be mindful of sharing to protect privacy.

Resources: Scamwatch; Australian Cyber Security Centre, for comprehensive advice and resources.

The future: everything will be online with more governance and controls needed around data.

Xavier's employment possibilities post university include in the areas of Financial Institutions, Healthcare, Government and Tech Start-ups.



Some who attended by ZOOM with a PowerPoint slide.

## August Council Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 12:15pm



*Kirsty Tschirpzig* (she/her)  
DIRECTOR



Be Someone Who Does Something

☎ 0481 451 724  
✉ k.tschirpzig@griffith.edu.au  
🌐 www.matebystander.edu.au and www.bethereapp.com.au  
📍 Kombumerri Salt Water peoples land, Bundjalung Country

**Kirsty will discuss MATE**, a tool designed to make it easier for bystanders to recognise signs of domestic violence and to empower them to safely intervene. This has been developed by her team at Griffith University to educate the community on how to safely interact with a person who is acting/speaking inappropriately. We can all learn from this.

## ADVISER NEWS

### Standing Committee Coordinator: Robyn Byrne OAM

**The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** is an international legal instrument that requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in all areas and promotes women's and girls' equal rights. The CEDAW Convention is built on three foundational principles: non-discrimination, state obligation and substantive equality. Non-discrimination is integral to the concept of equality.

You can view [CEDAW training video shadow reports May 2024](#) for the introduction to participating in CEDAW processes aimed at Australian NGOs; covering the UN human rights framework, the role of the CEDAW Committee and shadow reporting prepared by Equality Rights Alliance, Women with Disabilities Australia and the National Women's Safety Alliance.

### National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 (NAP)

Given the reports of violence against women that have been in the media lately it is important to monitor the national plan, [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 \(NAP\)](#) and the work of the two entities that were created under NAP 2010–2022. The NAP, announced on 17 October 2022, is on the Department of Social Services website <https://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence>. This is the overarching national policy framework that will guide actions towards ending violence against women and children over the next 10 years.

**Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited, or ANROWS**, was established as an initiative of Australia's first *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*, a not-for-profit, independent research organisation, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments. ANROWS brings together research on domestic and family violence and sexual assault across the country. The ANROWS Research Program currently comprises over 50 projects across the areas of community attitudes, perpetrator Intervention research, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, action research and evaluation and core research on the impacts and responses to experiences of family and sexual violence. This program aligns with the National Research Agenda, which underpins the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*. <https://www.anrows.org.au/>

**Our Watch:** <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/> The April 2024 newsletter includes downloadable new resources: How to prevent sexual harassment at work; 11 new resources to support Australian workplaces to meet their legal obligations to prevent sexual harassment and sex discrimination, crucial concepts like positive duty, resilience in the workplace and actions for senior executives. These resources will help workplaces foster positive, supportive and safe environments.

**[We want to know your experience of surveillance in the workplace.](#)** By taking this 5-minute survey, you will be helping to inform Victorian Trades Hall Council's submission to the Inquiry into Workplace Surveillance. **Take the Survey!**

P.S. Feel free to [send the survey](#) to any friends, family, or workmates who may like to share their views.

### Child and Family Adviser: Lily Fetter

**Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre**, is working in collaboration with University of the Sunshine Coast and the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN).

The Attorney General Department (AGD) is eager to extend the evidence base **on elder abuse** with the aim of strengthening policy and practice to enhance responses to elder abuse. The AGD has funded three projects on this topic and our project focuses on elder abuse in regional, rural and remote communities.

We are keen to embed and centre lived experience in the project. Hence, we are looking to appoint (in paid roles) people with lived experience, aged 65 and older, to an advisory board, which will provide feedback on the methodology, process and recommendations for the project, and ensure the project findings and evidence base represents lived experience.

The advisory board members would meet four times between 2024 and 2025;

1. In late July 2024, to discuss the project instruments shared in advance (a roundtable that will be held with peak agencies and lived experience representatives for feedback about the project plan and phases, a survey that will be provided to advocates and practitioners, and interviews with advocates, practitioners and people with lived experience of elder abuse)
2. Attending a roundtable in August
3. In late March/April 2025, to review project findings and recommendations, ahead of roadmaps (evidence-base, strategy and implementation) sessions; one with lived experience and one with peak agencies, and attending the roadmap sessions. There are also paid opportunities to participate in a lived experience road mapping session (in late March/April 2025), which will review project findings and co-design recommendations.

We are happy to provide further information about the roles and payment, and to hear from people who are interested in the advisory board role or in in the road mapping sessions.

If interested, please contact: Lily Fetter at: [fetter.cini@gmail.com](mailto:fetter.cini@gmail.com)

## Save the date: Students Take Over Parliament! Education Adviser: Pam Hammond Med (Maths Ed)

The outstanding annual student event *My Vote My Voice*, conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, is being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melbourne on **Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024, 9:00am-12:30pm**. We are delighted that our **Keynote Speaker is Meena Singh, Commissioner for Children and Young People**.

Students from government and independent schools in Melbourne, covering the spread of multicultural backgrounds in our Victorian community, will address the topic: **Social Media – A Blessing or a Curse**. This is designed to encourage students to consider the effect of Social Media on themselves, their peers and the wider community.

Students may carry out research, collect data from their peers and others to gain wider views. Students are invited to make a group presentation of their findings in the Legislative Council Chamber.

The quality of past student presentations has been outstanding, so there is no reason why this year's students should not make a genuine and valuable contribution to the debate on the effect of Social Media on our young people and society.

For further information please contact Pam Hammond, Convenor, on [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)



Gathering in the Legislative Council Chamber for the speeches in 2023.

## OTHER NEWS

### League of Women Voters Victoria News, Sheila Byard OAM

**Women in Local Democracy (WILD) Geelong** – Free event, **24 July 2024, (Wednesday), 5:30 - 7:30 pm** - Meet the Women Shaping our Future. This forum is brought to you by and is designed for female local Council candidates, campaign team leaders and supporters of gender parity on Council. With Cr Melissa Cadwell, Cr Sarah Hathway, Cr Belinda Moloney, Cr Elise Wilkinson <https://www.facebook.com/GeelongWILD/>

### 1988 NCWV Affiliates Women's Grove of Honour in Royal Park

**11 September 2024 (Wednesday)**: What has happened to the 1988 NCWV Affiliates Women's Grove of Honour in Royal Park and where is the missing plaque? How has the Royal Children's Hospital worked with the City of Melbourne in making the parkland more accessible for patients and their families? Thanks to member Carole Lowen OAM who has kindly arranged with Laura Buck for a LWVV morning group visit to the Royal Children's Hospital starting with morning tea in the Board Room then a tour.

### Inquiry into food security in Victoria, 3 June submissions open

This inquiry will look into the impacts, drivers of and solutions for food security in Victoria including impacts on physical and mental health, poverty and hardship. The Committee will consider the options available to lower the cost of food and improve access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

Submissions **open 3 June 2024 and the final report is due 14 November 2024**. [Terms of Reference](#).



## NAIDOC Week (7 -14 July) *Keep the Fires Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud!*

**Sunday 7 July 2024** marks the commencement of [NAIDOC Week](#). National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. National NAIDOC Week Awards Ceremony recognises the outstanding contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to improve the lives of people in their communities and to promote ATSI issues in the wider community, and celebrate those who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen field.

You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country. See what is happening: [Local NAIDOC Week events | NAIDOC](#)



2023 NAIDOC Awards Ceremony



Djirri Djirri

Above right: Wurundjeri group [Djirri Djirri](#), facilitated workshop on Wurundjeri culture for Kensington community

### NAIDOC Week *Keep the Fires Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud!*, **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 – 9.00pm**. Kensington Town Hall

The Kensington Reconciliation Action Group will be talking about the things that have helped build our personal awareness of our First Nations history and present. There will be a session of simple sharing of things that have helped in our own personal learning. Bring along a story, a song, a reading, a short something that has made you go 'aha!' In the appreciation of our First Nations people. Or just come along to hear what others have to share. We'll have the kettle on.

When RSVPing, let us know if you would like to share something. RSVP by emailing [kensingtonreconciliation@gmail.com](mailto:kensingtonreconciliation@gmail.com)

### Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building, Federation Square, Cnr Swanston & Flinders Streets, Melbourne

**Open daily 10am-5pm. Free entry.** Supporting, promoting and celebrating contemporary Victorian First Peoples art and artists is central to our exhibitions and public programs.

**JOSH MUIR FOREVER I LIVE** is a retrospective of artworks by the late Gunditjmarra, Yorta Yorta and Barkindji artist Josh Muir. The exhibition highlights the strength of Josh's artistic practice and the contribution he has made to First Peoples art and culture in South East Australia and contemporary art nationally and internationally. The works reflect Josh's artistic legacy, his love of family and community via a range of themes including cultural identity, the impacts of colonisation, mental health, addiction, personal loss and grief. This exhibition has been proudly curated by the Koorie Heritage Trust with Josh's mother, Justine Berg and partner, Shanaya Sheridan as co-curators. **Until July 14**



### In support of NAIDOC Week, QVWC will exhibit "What Were You Wearing?"

This exhibition is a profoundly impactful exhibit dedicated to challenging the damaging misconception that clothing choices somehow invite sexual assault. Sexual assault rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are estimated to be two to five times higher than non-Indigenous populations. We are proud to be presenting the first ever Indigenous edition of this global exhibition. Exhibition open to the public **13 – 16 July**, visit [www.qvwc.org.au/events](http://www.qvwc.org.au/events), for opening times.

Event hosted by **What Were You Wearing? Australia**, partially funded by **City of Melbourne's Aboriginal Community Grant**.

## Open House Melbourne Weekend: Feminist Historian in Residence Talk, Exhibitions and Weaving Workshop, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July at Queen Vic Women's Centre

Re/Discover QVWC when we open our doors over two days with a program of free activities to immerse yourself in the fascinating history of this iconic building. Program includes a talk with our Feminist Historian in Residence **Barbara Wheeler**, **Ruth Maddison** Artist Talk and Exhibition, Weaving Workshop and three FREE exhibitions!

**WIZO MASADA – ZEDDY LAWRENCE**, 21 July 2024, 2:00 pm, Location TBA Upon Booking. \$30

We invite you to a thought-provoking and informative presentation by an outstanding speaker, ZEDDY LAWRENCE. 'Fighting the Gaza conflict on our own doorstep'. Zeddy is currently the Executive Director of Zionism Victoria and a former editor of the Jewish News in both Australia and the UK. He is a skilled journalist, presenter, interviewer, and adjudicator, having majored in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford University. With a broad knowledge of politics and history, Zeddy is known for his humour and engaging style. Before relocating to Australia, he was involved in writing TV scripts in the UK. Light refreshments will be served. Further information, contact Debbie at 0418 106 124. [Register now](#)

**WIZO SHEMESH – Motown to Memphis**, 13 July 2024, 8:00pm, Brighton - TBA Upon Booking, Cost: \$55

Jump on board with Kate, Greg, Sarah C & their rockin' band for this concert! Platinum selling Young Diva KATE DEARAUGO, internationally acclaimed ARIA chart sensation GREG GOULD and Melbourne's powerhouse diva SARAH C are a "knockout" in this critically acclaimed show MOTOWN TO MEMPHIS - a celebration of some of the greatest songs! From the birthplace of Rock N Roll, this show pays homage to Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, Elvis Presley, Diana Ross, Roy Orbison, Dusty Springfield, The Jacksons, Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, Carole King & the Queen of Soul - Aretha Franklin!

**NCJWA Vic and the Australian Jewish Fertility Network** along with **three incredible speakers**, will unpack medical insights, holistic approaches, and personal experiences on living with and managing Endometriosis. This is a free event but donations appreciated. Venue will be sent two days before. **Thursday 8th August | 7:30pm**

Register: [Understanding Endo | Humanitix](#)



### Newsletter Amplify:

#### New Women's Safety Package Announced

The Victorian Government has today unveiled a new package of measures and reforms designed to "change culture" and deliver new support to victim survivors of family violence.

In 2014, the Government identified family violence as the most urgent law and order emergency happening facing Victoria and established a Royal Commission to direct reform. Almost \$4 billion has since been invested. VCOSS welcomes the Government's sustained focus in this area, and ongoing efforts to tackle family violence.

Today's Women's Safety Package is another positive step. Specifically, VCOSS is pleased to see:

- A boost in case management to keep perpetrators in view. This includes additional follow-ups with men who complete behaviour change programs, ensuring they are not lost to the system.
- Support for the 'Safe at Home' pilot by McAuley Community Services for Women, supporting women who are at-risk of becoming homeless with legal advice, personal safety support and material aid (as championed in the VCOSS 2024 Victorian Budget submission).
- Creation of a new Justice Navigator pilot for survivors of sexual assault to help them navigate support, recovery and justice options.
- More intensive Respectful Relationships training and support for teachers and staff across 1199 schools – including in primary schools. All remaining non-government schools will also be invited to participate in the program, supported by startup funding and professional learning.

Read more detail of the Package [here](#).

NCWV and VCOSS members have been tirelessly advocating for ongoing funding and reform in this space. More needs to be done and we will continue to work to ensure *all* Victorian women, children and youth can live free from violence.

#### ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research

We often hear that Australia's population is ageing - but it is also becoming more diverse. This new research paper, **Migration and ageing: How cultural and linguistic diversity is set to boom among older Australians** assesses wellbeing outcomes across education, employment, retirement, health by three categories: place of birth, language use at home, and spoken English proficiency. The research covers major demographic shifts, as well as highlighting potential migrant and CALD groups' vulnerabilities. [Read more](#)

## Working Together for Youth Justice

A coalition of Victorian justice, community sector and social advocacy bodies has created a new “action plan” to end the over-representation of particular groups of young people in Victoria’s criminal justice system. The problem of over-representation (which is linked with over-policing and under-servicing by government agencies) disproportionately affects children and young people from First Nations and multicultural backgrounds, children living in residential care and girls and young women with complex needs.

*Working Together* is a blueprint for sustained collective and coordinated action, and the culmination of two years of research and consensus building amongst **Smart Justice For Young People** members. It was launched last week during an online forum featuring presentations and contributions from:

- WEstjustice
- Centre for Innovative Justice
- Inner Melbourne Community Legal Centre
- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
- Jesuit Social Services and
- VCOSS

The Action Plan contains 49 broad 'system level' recommendations relevant across government, as well as recommendations for six specific portfolio areas: You can [access the full Action Plan](#) and [watch videos of the launch](#).



### [New Tenancy Working Group with HAAG](#)

The working group want to hear from you about your experience and needs at a critical time for the state’s housing system. The group will give HAAG feedback to make sure we deliver the best service to older renters and help us decide on the most important changes to lobby the government for. Meetings are on the first Monday of each month between 2pm & 3:30pm, in person or over Zoom. The **first meeting will be on Monday 5th August 2024.**

For more information, please contact Shane on [shane.mcgrath@oldertenants.org.au](mailto:shane.mcgrath@oldertenants.org.au) or [\(03\) 9654 7389](tel:(03)96547389).



We are thrilled to announce that Isobel, a member of Kensington Guides, has been accepted as an intern at [Sangam World Centre](#), our [WAGGGS](#) Asia Pacific World Centre in Pune, India. Isobel will intern at Sangam and represent our Guiding community overseas from July to November 2024.

We are confident in Isobel’s ability to represent the Victorian Guiding community with excellence, and hope her time at Sangam will inspire more members to GO INTERNATIONAL with GIRL GUIDES! Congratulations, Isobel — wishing you all the best on this exciting, one-of-a-kind journey! **Find more global Guiding opportunities [here](#).**

## Snoozefest 2024: Registrations OPEN!

**When** | 5:30pm Saturday 24th August to 8:30am Sunday 25th August

**Who** | Girl Guides aged 10-17 + Leaders & Volunteers

Snoozefest is our mega annual sleepover for Guides aged 10-17! We're very excited to return to Luna Park 20 years after the iconic St Kilda theme park, Luna Park, first hosted us for our state-wide sleepover under the stars. Secure your spot for a magical night filled with rides, fun games and activities, and memory-making with Guide friends new and old.

**Cost for Guides (10-17)** | \$120 per Guide – includes entry, rides, other fun activities, dinner, supper, breakfast & badge.

**Cost for Leaders** | \$20 or \$50 for ride participation

**Registrations close Monday July 22 @ 11:59pm, or sooner if the event reaches capacity:**

[Display event - Snoozefest 2024 - Luna Park - Confirm Girls Health Information and Photo Consent \(\[guidesvic.org.au\]\(http://guidesvic.org.au\)\)](#).

**Volunteer with Elder Rights Advocacy (ERA)** helps our organisation and improves the health and wellbeing of older Victorians. It’s also an opportunity to get personal satisfaction, contribute your talents and experience, and develop new skills. Volunteer *Visitors Scheme Elder Rights Advocacy* delivers the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS), a social-based program for people who could benefit from having a dedicated volunteer. ACVVS brings older people receiving aged care together with caring volunteers for friendship and companionship

ERA is looking for volunteer visitors who live across Victoria and can commit to at least one visit or contact. For more information about volunteering with Elder Rights Advocacy, call us on 1800 022 887 or visit [www.elderrights.org.au](http://www.elderrights.org.au).

## FASST

The Forum of Australian Services to Survivors of Torture and Trauma has launched *Witness to War*, a free and confidential multilingual telephone hotline for people in Australia affected by overseas conflicts. Staffed by mental health practitioners and bicultural support workers, offering community members counselling, information about support, and connections to other local services. *Witness to War* staff can speak to callers in Arabic, Hebrew, Dari, Ukrainian and English and in other languages with an interpreter. It operates from Monday to Friday across Australia: ACT, NSW, VIC, TAS: 10am – 7pm

**Call *Witness to War* on (free call) 1800 845 198**

### Free counselling for refugees

The Counselling, Psychology and Social Work Clinics of the Australian College of Applied Professionals (ACAP) are offering free individual and group therapy for children and adults in Melbourne. There is currently no waitlist and services are open to people regardless of visa status, including refugees and international students. People located outside Melbourne are eligible for telehealth support. Bicultural counselling is available for many language groups. Find out more [here](#).

## New Laws to Improve Community Safety and Reduce Offending

### MEDIA RELEASE

Introduced into Parliament last week, the *Youth Justice Bill 2024* will be Victoria's first standalone Act for our youth justice system, acquitting key recommendations from the landmark *Youth Justice Review and Strategy* conducted by Penny Armytage and Professor James Ogloff AM and delivering on the *Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020–2030*.

It's not just tightening our laws – our police response, our courts and our youth justice system must also address why these complex young people are behaving the way they are. These new laws will mean stronger consequences for those who engage in serious, high-risk and repeat offending, and enable earlier intervention and diversion for lower-level offenders to keep them and the community safe.

The Bill will create a legislated scheme for warnings, cautions and early diversion so that police have more tools to deal with anti-social behaviour before it escalates, becomes a risk to community safety and ends up in court.

These diversions help to reduce crime – in New South Wales after three years of legislated cautions, Aboriginal children were 50 per cent less likely to be taken to court.

Warnings can be given verbally or in writing on the spot for minor offences. Cautions are more formal and are used for more serious offending – they must be in writing, require the authorisation of a Sergeant and are designed to divert the child from further interaction with the justice system. Police will work closely with Aboriginal communities in administering and issuing the caution or asking an Elder or respected community member to administer it. Those aged 12 and up will continue to be held criminally responsible for offending.

The Bill will give Victoria Police powers to make sure children aged 10 or 11 who still present a risk of serious harm to themselves or others can be transported somewhere safe and to someone who can take care of them.

Loopholes will be closed to crack down on those who seek to exploit children to do their dirty work, including lowering the age of prosecution for recruiting children into criminal activity from 21 to 18 years old.

## Making Rental Homes Safer for Children

### MEDIA RELEASE

All rental properties in Victoria will be safer for children with consultation underway for a new rental minimum standard for blind cords. Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams joined Kidsafe Victoria to discuss the proposed standard which will be mandatory for every rental property in Victoria from October 2025. It is already mandatory under product safety standards for all blinds installed after 2010 to be secured with either a cord guide or cleat and installed against a wall or structure. The new standard will require every rental property to meet the standard from 30 October 2025.

Victorian parents and carers living in an older rental property don't have to wait for the new standard to come into effect. Free blind cord safety kits to modify older curtains or blinds are available via the Consumer Affairs Victoria website.

[consumer.vic.gov.au/blindcordsafety](http://consumer.vic.gov.au/blindcordsafety).

## Victorian Disability Awards

Celebrate individuals, groups and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to the lives of people with disability. Nominations close **Friday 19 July**. **Submit a nomination at [Victorian Disability Awards](#)**

## Nominate a Senior of the Year

For more than 30 years, the Victorian Senior of the Year awards have recognised the important and diverse contributions of older Victorians. Nominations close **Sunday 11 August**. **Nominate at [Senior of the Year Awards](#)**



## Pilot Program Helps Victim Survivors Stay Safe At Home

## MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Premier Ben Carroll and Minister for Housing Harriet Shing visited the team at McAuley Community Services for Women – which will deliver the *Safe at Home* pilot allowing women and children to stay in their homes by providing rapid safety planning and wraparound support. The model is delivered in partnership with community services organisation Meli in Geelong and is based on input from women who have lived experience of family violence and homelessness.

Under the model, victim survivors can stay at home with tailored support and safety enhancements while the perpetrator moves elsewhere. *Safe at Home* is designed to respond within 48 hours to identify individual and household needs – which could include family violence case managers, access to legal and financial experts or children’s support workers.

It would also deliver case management and trauma counselling support for the victim survivors, case management for the perpetrator to keep them in view, and alternative short-term accommodation for the perpetrator. Safety assessments will be regularly conducted and if circumstances change and it is no longer safe, the victim survivor will be supported to move.

In addition, McAuley Community Services will continue providing their accommodation and social support for women at risk of homelessness due to family violence at their new purpose-built accommodation in Footscray as well as accommodation in Geelong and Ballarat.

The State Government is delivering more crisis, transitional and long-term housing options, with social housing allocations to victim-survivors growing 39 per cent since 2021. The Big Housing Build is delivering up to 1,000 dedicated homes for family violence survivors.

**The Open House Melbourne Weekend** is happening across Saturday 27 + Sunday 28 July 2024.



**BECOME A VOLUNTEER** This year, Open House Melbourne invites you to rediscover your city—to seek out new places and to reconnect with old favourites. Volunteers are vital to ensuring visitors have the best possible experience by providing building access, tour guidance, offering directions and answering questions.

We are currently recruiting for volunteers—apply now via the link: [Volunteer Registration Form \(airtable.com\)](#)

***Rail as Civic Infrastructure presented by Open House Melbourne in partnership with Metro Tunnel Creative.***

This Program looks at how infrastructure can provide more than timelines and efficiency and shine a light on the design and architecture of the new Metro Tunnel stations. In this presentation [Ivan Harbour](#), RSHP architect and senior partner, explores how architecture can contribute to the public life of a city and delve into the contribution rail design can make to the public realm. The following panel conversation with Hassell architect and principal [Ingrid Bakker](#) and Victorian Government Architect [Jill Garner](#) reveals the new Metro Tunnel stations, explores their contribution to Melbourne’s civic realm and unpacks the design and delivery of this exciting rail infrastructure project. [Rail as Civic Infrastructure | Open House Melbourne](#)



## Some of the best free festivals in Melbourne

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/>

### **Bastille Day party, 13-14 July.**

.Swap your beanie for a beret at this annual festival dedicated to all things French. Stop by the Queen Vic Market to see it transformed into a European winter wonderland. Pick up indulgent French cuisine and loads of freshly baked buttery croissants. There'll also be performances, walking tours and talks to celebrate all things **French**.



### **Winter Night Market | free entry**

**Queen Victoria Market, Food Court, Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000**

**Every Wednesday 5-10pm, until 28 August.** Heaving with warming Winter fare of all varieties, crackling fires and live entertainment, to help you through ‘hump day’.

**CRFT\*WRK, Victoria Market** a craft fair bringing together local, independent makers of ceramics, jewellery, textiles, homewares, dog accessories and more. **July 27**



**Melbourne Magic Festival, July 1-13, various venues and prices**

<https://melbournemagicfestival.com/> There are many shows for kids and families “A magic show meets a Pixar movie!” The annual comedy magic extravaganza in HappyVale takes an unexpected turn, evolving into a thrilling adventure to rescue the forest! This heartwarming show will have you gasping in awe, laughing until your belly hurts, and possibly shedding a tear or two (of joy, we promise!).

**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      |
|-----------|------------------|----------|--|--------------|-------------|
| July      | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday | Council Meeting                                      | 17:15        | Zoom and RH |
| July      | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Committee Meeting                                    | 10:00        | RHSV        |
| August    | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Thursday | Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting | 11:00, 12:15 | Zoom and RH |
| August    | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Friday   | My Vote My Voice                                     | 9:00         | Parliament  |
| August    | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Monday   | Standing Committee Meeting                           | 16:30        | Zoom        |
| August    | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Committee Meeting                                    | 10:00        | RHSV        |
| September | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday | NCWV AGM   | 12:15        | Zoom and RH |
| September | 19 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Committee Meeting                                    | 10:00        | RHSV        |
| October   | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Thursday | Individual Members & Council Meetings                | 11:00, 12:15 | Zoom and RH |
| October   | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Monday   | Standing Committee Meeting                           | 16:30        | Zoom        |
| October   | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Committee Meeting                                    | 10:00        | RHSV        |
| November  | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday | Council Meeting                                      | 17:15        | Zoom and RH |
| November  | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Committee Meeting                                    | 10:00        | RHSV        |
| November  | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Annual Luncheon                                      | 12:00        | In person   |
| December  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday | Individual Members & Council Meetings                | 11:00, 12:15 | Zoom and RH |

This publication is compiled and edited by Pam Hammond, Vice-President NCWV, with support from President, Elida Brereton.