

President's Message December 2020



Dear Members

What a year 2020 has been! Things certainly changed in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality in all Australian States and Territories. Restrictions in late March early April including border closures saw a country divided with measures preventing face to face meetings and events and travel banned within Western Australia, to other states and overseas.

It is pleasing to say many months later things are back to the new normal with venues open and businesses back trading with a COVID-19 safe plan and border restrictions lifted. However, the economy will take many years to recover. It is heartbreaking to see a number of businesses, especially small businesses, no longer trading or trading with less opening hours. Some say it is the lack of customers while others say it is the lack of finding staff especially in tourism and hospitality venues.

NCWWA recently held its AGM in late November 2020-the first face to face meeting in quite a while. Throughout 2020 the NCWWA Executive continued to meet virtually by Zoom. Advocacy work continued throughout the year in a range of areas.

NCWWA has been working closely with the McGrath Foundation seeking financial support for additional Breast Care Nurses in Western Australia. Currently the McGrath Foundation has sixteen Breast Care nurses in Western Australia. However, there is an urgent need for additional Breast Care nurses in the North Metropolitan Local hospital network area. The impact on patient outcomes is proven for both the patient and health services in which the breast cancer patients are located.



Advocating for childcare reform has been a focus for NCWWA. Any childcare costs almost always interact with the taxation system and as such extra hours of work are financially unattractive for many women. The report from the University of NSW "(Un) Taxing Childcare" proposing a choice between the current arrangements or instead receive a tax deduction for childcare of expenditures up to \$60,000 a year is a basis for reform.

A number of backbench members of the Australian Parliament are now also advocating for childcare reform and some are very supportive of the "(un)Taxing Childcare" report model.

In This Edition

- Page 1-3. President's Message
- Page 3 Date of next General Meeting
- Page 4. President's Award
- Page 5. Women in Leadership
- Page 5. UN International Days

ATTACHMENT 2021 STEM Bursary Application forms



Along with NCWA, NCWWA successfully advocated for the Endometriosis Awareness Program to be extended to Western Australian High Schools in 2021. High Schools in South Australia also participate in the program which is jointly funded by State and Federal Governments. One of the critical obstacles to women and girls receiving diagnosis for endometriosis is a lack of knowledge of the condition, including what is normal/abnormal period or pelvic pain.

NCWWA raised concerns about the dangers button batteries pose to young children. With NCWA, NCWWA immediately wrote to the Minister for Consumer Affairs and recently received a positive reply. The Consumer Affairs Ministers met in early November and endorsed a proposal for new information standards to improve product safety for consumer goods that contain button batteries as well as the batteries themselves. The proposed information standards will set out a combination of mandatory requirements and best practice recommendations for warnings and information to be provided when supplying button batteries and consumer goods that contain them. The information standards will mean consumers are alerted to the hazard of button batteries and advised to keep button batteries out of the reach of children and to seek medical attention immediately if it is suspected that a button battery has been swallowed or placed inside any part of the body.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was 25 November 2020. All Western Australians should consider how they can each drive real and lasting change to improve the safety of women and their children. The Days 2020 theme was 'Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect'.

Community Services Ministers from around Australia met recently. Three key priorities for the next twelve months are as follows:

- finalise the successor plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020
- finalise the National Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
- establish the National Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Ministers discussed the importance of the successor plan having a focus on measurable tangible actions which benefit from collective effort and commitment from both the Australian and State and Territory Governments.

NCWWA also made a contribution to NCWA

advocating on a range of issues including the over prescribing and over use of prescription medications and a large number of Federal Parliamentary Committees and the

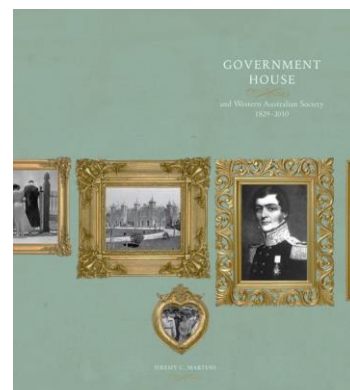


Productivity Commission inquiries including the Australian Family Law System and the Retirement Income Review Consultation Paper. Submissions were also made by NCWA to the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Department Review, and the inquiry into Litigation Funders by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Corporations and Financial Services.

Submissions were also made on a number of Bills before the Australian Parliament including the PPL Amendment Leave Bill, the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management to the Cashless Debit Card) Transition Bill 2019 and the Community Affairs Legislation Committee of inquiry into the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Continuation of Cashless Welfare) Bill 2020 (Provisions).

NCWWA was represented at the forum hosted recently by the Hon Kate Doust MLC President of the Legislative Council regarding domestic and family violence services. The forum was aimed at establishing a collaborative effort in support of the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services which is seeking to advance several urgent matters for women affected by domestic violence. Thank you to Sally Plummer who represented NCWWA.

NCWWA recently received a gift from The Governor of Western Australia, the Honourable Kim Beasley AC- two copies of the book ***Government House and Western Australian Society 1829-2010*** by **Jeremy C Martens**. The social history of Government House uncovers life stories of the scores of people who have lived and worked in the grand Victorian mansion and who played a crucial role in the creation and maintenance of Western Australia's social order in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also describes the design, construction and furnishings of the residence and the cultivation and landscaping of the surrounding gardens.



In late November the Workforce Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) presented the 2020 insights and trends from the world leading data set. The 2020 data showed the final snapshot of workplaces before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and changed the workplace landscape. The launch this year was a digital event and included a keynote address from Libby Lyons, Director of WGEA and the Regional Managing Director NSW and ACT AECOM, the major event partner.



The Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award is now awarded in conjunction with Girl Guides Western Australia. The announcement and presentation of the award will be made at the Annual Youth and Adult Awards Ceremony in early January 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the NCWWA Executive for all your help and support throughout 2020. Merry Christmas and thank you to all members for your ongoing support for NCWWA as we all continue to work for the advancement of women and their families. Enjoy the break and I very much look forward to working with you all in 2021.

Robyn Nolan
NCWWA President
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The Date of the next General meeting
Monday 15 February 2021
1.00pm 160 Hay St East Perth

WEB PAGE
www.ncwwa.org.au

NCWWA President's Award 2020

NCWWA NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF WOMEN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The NCWWA President's Award was first introduced in 2017. The Award is presented to someone who makes a significant contribution in a variety of ways to NCWWA over the last twelve months.

The 2020 NCWWA Award winner is Sally Plummer
Congratulations Sally!



NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2021

NCWWA NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF WOMEN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS BURSARY 2021

Nominations are open for the NCWWA 2021 STEM Bursary. The Bursary is available to a female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at a year 12, TAFE or University level. Applicants must be Australian Citizens.

The Bursary will be awarded again in 2021. Applications close Wednesday 31 March 2021.

Each applicant must complete the NCWWA STEM Bursary application form and address the criteria:

- academic excellence
- financial need
- study in a non-traditional area for women
- how studies will benefit women, families and the wider community

Please promote the NCWWA STEM Bursary to all who may be eligible to apply. An application form is included at the back of this NCWWA Newsletter.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Join me in March, I will be speaking at the
Women in Leadership Summit Melbourne

**WOMEN
IN LEADERSHIP**
MELBOURNE

Melbourne
16-18 March 2021

Organised by:  Women
Leaders
Institute

Register for your ticket here www.melbourne.womenleadersummit.com



The Women's Leaders Institute Conference is for women leaders to be inspired, grow and connect to drive meaningful change, to advance gender equality and promote women in leadership. The event focuses on empowerment, high-impact and career advancement for emerging and established women leaders.

Robyn Nolan will be speaking at this event representing NCWA

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAYS

UN International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern to mobilise political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

25 November - International day for the **Elimination of Violence Against Women**



2 December - International Day for the **Abolition of Slavery**



3 December - International Day of **Persons with Disability**

18 December – International **Migrants Day**



NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc.
*SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING &
MATHEMATICS BURSARY 2021*

CLOSING DATE: 12 NOON on Wednesday 31 March 2021

Nominations are called for the 2021 Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Bursary available to a female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at a Year 12, TAFE or University level. Applicants must be Australian Citizens. One Bursary will be awarded.

The cash amount of:

- \$1,200.00 will be presented to the successful applicant.

And may be used to support further study:

- Course fees including summer school courses
- Study aids/text books
- Attendance at seminars and/or conferences
- Other – Please outline

Complimentary membership of NCWWA will be provided to the Bursary winner for one year.

The Bursary winner will be announced May 2021.

Applicants will be notified of the results by mail after that date.

The decision of the award panel will be final.

The Bursary Recipient is required to report to NCWWA on how the bursary has assisted their study.

The National Council of Women WA is a voluntary organisation formed in 1911 to advance the cause of women and the welfare of society. In awarding this Bursary, NCWWA aims to:

- Recognise academic excellence
- Address financial need
- Encourage study in areas non-traditional for women
- Recognise the extent to which studies will benefit women, families and the wider community.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN WA Inc.
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS BURSARY
NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Student: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Nominator: _____ **Position:** _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

(Note: The Nominator may be a teacher, lecturer, family member, NGO Organisation)

Study Institution in 2020: _____

Course/Level: _____

Proposed Study Institution/Course of Study in 2021: _____

Bursary will be used to finance: *Please tick:*

Course fees Study Aids Conference/Seminar Attendance Other

Reason for nomination: *Add extra pages as needed. Nominators are required to address the selection criteria of:*

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Financial Need**
- **Study in a non-traditional area for women**
- **How studies will benefit women, families and the wider community**

Application must be accompanied by a current Curriculum Vitae.

(Supporting documentation including 2 referees and academic results, including 2020 results is also required).

Completed form and CV should be sent to:

**Bursary Panel
National Council of Women WA
P.O. Box 6224
East Perth WA 6892**

Closing date for nominations: 12 Noon on Wednesday 31 March 2021

For further information: Contact: **Robyn Nolan, NCWWA President**
Mobile **0417 917 294**
Email: robymn@bigpond.net.au