

President's Message JULY 2026

Dear Members

It has certainly been a cold start to winter. The month of June is already behind us. It is a time when many people decide it is time to move to warmer places. Both the Western Australian Parliament and the Australian Parliament are in winter recess- I hope it will be a time when Minister's catch up on their responses to constituents, community organisations and businesses.



National Council of Women (WA) is still waiting for a number of responses to important issues raised by members and community members including childcare, organ donation, the removal of the Private Health Insurance Rebate, the Allied Health Services Cap for Veterans, childhood Immunisation, Aged Care and 'Support at Home' to name but a few.

Aged Care Amendment (Restoring Human Override for Aged Care Needs Assessment) Bill 2026:

This Bill was co-sponsored by the Greens and Crossbench Senators after the Coalition put forward the legislation which passed the Senate on the last day of sitting in June 2026. The computerised Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) was introduced in November 2025 as part of the new aged care system and relies on an algorithm to determine what level of care older Australians receive, particularly for those receiving support at home. It was confirmed at Senate Estimates last month that the algorithm currently being used did not undergo any live trial or testing before being rolled out to make life-changing decisions. There is no human override with the algorithm.

This Bill allows humans, not a computer algorithm to be responsible for the life-changing decisions that determine the care older Australians receive. The Bill will go to the House of Representatives when the Parliament resumes however the Government has the numbers in the House of Representatives. Here's hoping that the Government has heard the message loud and clear, however, to date, the Minister has only discovered he could tinker with the process after months of saying it could not be done.



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Superannuation:

From 1 July 2026 there are a number of changes to Superannuation including that superannuation will now be applied to twenty-six (26) weeks of federal paid parental leave.

However, the most significant change in superannuation is the introduction of pay-day superannuation. I understand there are about 14.7 million people who are employed in Australia and almost one million employers.

Previously employers were required to pay superannuation quarterly, now under the new scheme, every time an employee receives wages, an employer is now required by law to pay the corresponding amount of superannuation into a nominated superannuation fund within seven business days. For some employees this will be weekly, while for others it may be fortnightly or monthly.

Superannuation is now applicable for all casual, part-time and full-time employees working in Australia. Employees under eighteen years of age are eligible for superannuation if they work more than thirty (30) hours a week.

Childcare:

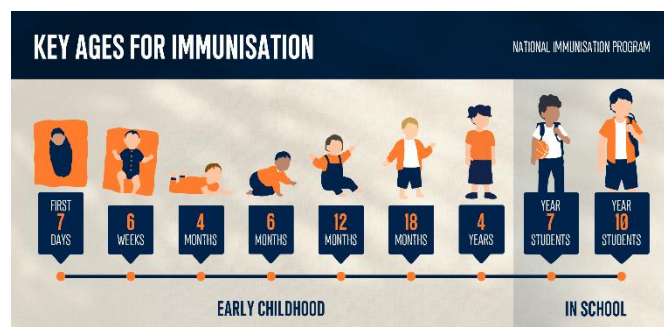
Data from the Childcare regulator clearly demonstrates that as Government childcare subsidies increase so do higher out-of-pocket expenses for families. A Productivity Commission Report released in February 2015 reported that regulators are under-resourced and inspections are infrequent. Services that repeatedly fail to meet minimum standards are still allowed to operate, sometimes for many years. These issues remain the same in 2026.



There have been reported shocking cases of significant safety breaches, neglect and abuse in childcare centres, as reported recently examples of children being sexually abused, restrained for hours in highchairs and children fed nutritionally substandard meals.

Even without the extra spending on the three - day guarantee, government spending on childcare subsidies will be close to \$15billion in 2026-2027- a huge amount of tax-payer funds which should be going to high-quality childcare providers only. A need for fundamental change.

These significant matters are only some of the issues which need urgent attention for childcare in Australia. These issues should be addressed very quickly. However, there is a need to review the centre-based childcare system as there is certainly a need for fundamental change.



Childhood Immunisation Rates:

NCWWA wrote to the Federal Government Minister for Health the Hon. Mark Butler MP last October regarding the low rates of childhood immunisation and has recently written to follow up as no response has been received to date. It is very concerning as the rates in Western Australia are by far the lowest in the country for two- year - olds (87.76%) and well below the rolling annualised percentage of all children 'fully immunised' by 24 months. The rate of 91.95% is also well below the rolling annualised percentage of all children 'fully immunised' by 60 months (5 years of age).

Re-immersion of Diphtheria in Western Australia:

Sadly, since January 2026 there has been a re-immersion of Diphtheria in Western Australian with over one hundred and seventy (170) cases confirmed.

NCWWA has written to the Federal and State Ministers of Health to urgently address this situation. The potentially deadly cases to date have been in Aboriginal Communities, a demographic already more susceptible to serious illness. Cases have been identified in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields and the State Prison system. This disease can be well-controlled by vaccination.

Cap on Allied Health Services for Veterans:

From 1 July 2027 the Federal Government will be placing a cap on Allied Health Services for Veterans. These core preventative and rehabilitative measures directly support veteran wellbeing, recovery and social stability. These services which include Exercise Physiology, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry and Dietetics are vital for many veterans who need considerably more Allied Health Services than \$5000.

Many of these services play a critical role in maintaining physical mobility and function, reducing chronic pain and disability, preventing social isolation, improving mental health resilience, reducing suicide risk factors, promoting social interaction and community participation, managing diabetes and obesity, improving cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary health and preventing long-term musculoskeletal deterioration. Reducing access for some veterans is a direct attack on preventative veteran health care and could have a devastating effect on their families.



University Graduate Outcomes:

The Minerals Council of Australia is very concerned that there is now a clear and growing misalignment between graduate outcomes and labour market demand. This mismatch is leading to persistent shortages in key mining disciplines including engineering, metallurgy, geoscience and related STEM fields, along with declining enrolments and limited industry exposure. The Council has stated that if it is not fixed mining will be handicapped in its ability to support economic growth and meet strong and

growing demand for our energy resources, metals and critical minerals.

CGT Changes:

Besides any gains in investment properties from the application date of new rules on 1 July 2027 which will be taxed differently there are also unintended consequences for collectables including art deco and paintings if you bought it for \$500 or more. It also appears inherited jewellery and watches are also included. If you can justify it was for personal use, eg furniture, then the leeway up to a value of \$10,000. Sell for more than that and the capital gain must be declared and pay CGT on it the new way.

From 1 July 2027 any gain in shares or other market investment will also be discounted only for the inflation rate each year held and CGT will apply.

‘Stronger Together Beyond Legacies’:

The National Women’s Leadership Symposium is being held on Friday 24th July 2026 at the Four Points by Sheraton - a day of insight, collaboration and action across leadership, health economic independence and digital futures. Further information is attached to this Newsletter. I have been invited to participate in the program.

NCWWA Membership:

NCWWA membership fees are now due for the 2026-2027 membership year. Fees remain the same \$55.00 for Associate members and \$66.00 for Affiliate members.

Invoices are in the process of being sent to all members.



Robyn Nolan

NCWWA STEM BURSARY RECIPIENT PRESENTATION TO NCWWA MEMBERS



My name is Helen Pham, and I am honoured to be invited here as the 2026 recipient of the National Council of Women WA STEM Bursary. To be recognized by an organization that has spent over a century championing the rights, status, and advancement of women gives me a great sense of motivation and fulfillment.

I am currently in my fourth year of chemical engineering at UWA and outside of uni and work, I like to play social sports such as volleyball and netball and also enjoy creative hobbies such as nail art and graphic design.

To give you a little context about myself, I grew up in a very cultural family and having migrant Vietnamese parents, they always told me that they came to Australia to provide a better life for me and my brother. So, I always pushed myself academically in school because I wanted to make my parents proud. I'm proud to say that I've tried my best and finally, I am here studying one of the most challenging degrees, in my unbiased

opinion. I'm grateful that chemical engineering stands out among engineering disciplines for its relatively higher female representation thanks to meaningful strides in recent times. Despite this progress however, women still remain in the minority for this field.

Coming to terms with this reality was a turning point for me. I realized I had two choices: I could quietly keep my head down, focus solely on my grades, and graduate as a face in the crowd. Or I could actively work to change the environment around me, not just for myself but for other young aspiring women.

So, in order to contribute to making this change, I entered the committees of two different university clubs; Engineers Without Borders (EWB) UWA and The Chemical and Process Engineering Club also known as CPEC. In EWB, we look at how engineering can be used as a tool for humanitarian progress, sustainability, and social equity. In CPEC, we work to build real connections with industry professionals as chemical engineering students. This year I have moved up into the executive position as Vice President in EWB, where I now manage the engagement teams within the club.

On top of this, I've started volunteering as a UWA uni mentor at the start of this year to help first year students navigate university life. When I first stepped onto the UWA campus as a first year, I felt like I was thrown into the deep end, confused, overwhelmed, and wished to have someone there to guide me along the way. My mentee is also a first-year female student studying chemical engineering, so I immediately held her under my wing.

That's exactly why I resonate with the NCWWA goals and objectives. It stands for the very values I hold close to my heart. I truly admire the strong womanhood when I see women support other women and recognize each other's achievements. After this, I hope to chat more with all of you here and learn about your stories as well.

At the end of this year, I will be joining the vacation internship program at Fortescue where I will be trying my best to expand my knowledge and gain new skills in the mining industry. I am set to graduate next June and I'm eager to step into the industry as a successful chemical engineer. But beyond my own career milestones, my goal is to pay

this bursary forward—serving as a visible, inspiring and approachable example for the next generation of women entering this field.

Thank you

Helen Pham

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

NCWWA membership fees for the 2026 -2027 year are now due as fees become due 1 July each year. If you would like to remain a member, please pay your membership fee which remains the same as last year.

Payment may be made by Bank Transfer or by Cheque:

Associate (Individual) Memberships: \$55.00

Affiliate Memberships (Not-For -Profit Organisation) \$66.00

Payment by Direct Transfer:

Account Name: National Council of Women of WA Inc

BSB: 036 034

Account Number: 559 683

Please ensure you identify your name in the 'comments' field.

Payment by Cheque:

National Council of Women of WA Inc
P.O. Box 6224 East Perth. WA 6892

7 NEWS YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDS WA 2026

Elizabeth (Beth) Cusack was the NCWWA 2019 STEM Bursary recipient. Beth has now been awarded the Garlett Group 'Create Change' Award at the 7 News Young Achiever Awards WA 2026. Beth is committed to advancing inclusive education.

As Program Lead for Curtin University Generative AI Bootcamp, Beth has guided the development and delivery of an initiative that has engaged more than 150 autistic students across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Using her background in Mechatronic Engineering, Beth has designed accessible AI learning programs that build technical capacity, confidence, social connection and career awareness, while creating meaningful opportunities for neurodiverse young people.

Through partnerships with educators, industry leaders and the WA Data Science Innovation Hub, Beth is expanding the program's impact into schools.

Her work helps shape a more equitable digital future.

Congratulations and well done, Beth!





Presents



Stronger Together 'BEYOND LEGACIES'



24 JULY 2026

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM



**FOUR POINTS BY
SHERATON**

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

A powerful day of insight, collaboration and action across
leadership, **health**, **economic independence** and **digital futures**.



FROM LEGACY TO INFLUENCE

Women's Organisations
Leading Change



HEALTH WITHOUT LIMITS

Advancing Outcomes
for Women



SECURED FUTURES

Rewriting Pathways
to Economic
Independence



THE DIGITAL SHIFT

The Opportunity,
Risk and
Responsibility



CHIMING IN A NEW ERA

BELL TOWER EXPERIENCE

Chiming Perth's iconic Swan Bells
to signify the power of women
working together



Be part of the conversation
SHAPING AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FUTURE

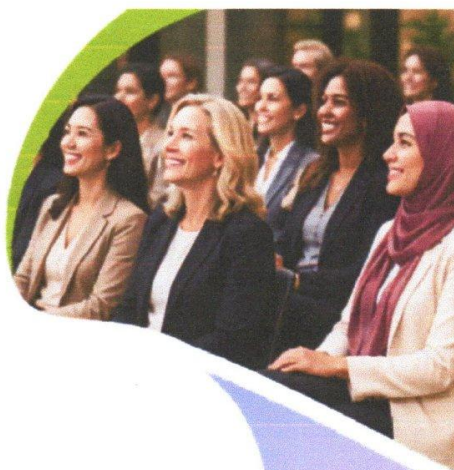
REGISTER NOW
www.bpw.com.au





Stronger Together BEYOND LEGACIES

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM



8:30

OPENING: SETTING THE AGENDA

Framing the role of women's organisations in shaping Australia's future



9:30

FROM LEGACY TO INFLUENCE

PANEL

Women's Organisations Leading Change

Combining strengths to amplify the collective voice and influence policy through evolution of future leadership collaboration.



10:30

MORNING TEA



11:00

HEALTH WITHOUT LIMITS

FIRESIDE CHAT

Advancing Outcomes for Women

Considering how health underpins women's ability to lead and thrive, while addressing barriers.



11:20

SECURED FUTURES

PANEL

Rewriting Pathways to Economic Independence

A concise evidence-based Workplace Gender Equality Agency Data Snapshot followed by a provocative panel discussion designed to challenge assumptions.



12:30

LUNCH



1:30

THE DIGITAL SHIFT

PANEL +
WORKSHOP

The Opportunity, Risk & Responsibility

Exploring emerging technologies, AI influence, digital safety and ethical frameworks in a changing digital landscape.

Interactive workshop encouraging participant lively discussion.



2:45

CLOSING: FROM CONVERSATION TO COLLECTIVE ACTION

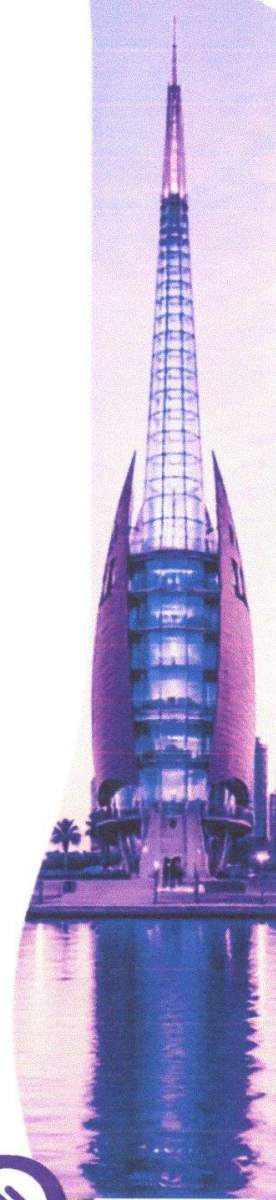
Key insights that translate decades of legacy to shape the agenda for women over the next decade.



3:15

CHIMING IN A NEW ERA FOR AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Australia's leading women's organisations will gather at The Bell Tower for a symbolic 'Chiming of the Bells' — signaling a new era of change for women driven by the strength of women working together.



Be part of the conversation
SHAPING AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FUTURE

REGISTER NOW

LIMITED PLACES
AVAILABLE



www.bpw.com.au

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AUSTRALIA

