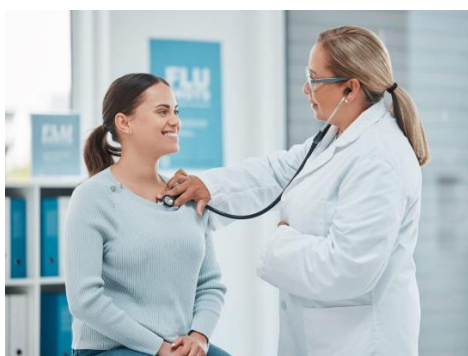


President's Message June 2025

Dear Members

Winter 2025 is with us and as we move forward after two elections (State and Federal) in Western Australia it is up to organisations like NCWWA and other advocacy organisations to ensure both governments honour the huge number of promises made during the campaigns especially around women and family policy.

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher remains the Federal Minister for Women with the Hon Simone McGurk MLA returning as the WA Minister for Women. The new Health Minister in Western Australia is the Hon Meredith Hammat MLA while the Hon Mark Butler remains the Federal Health Minister. All have many challenges in the months ahead.



Health Care: There is much to be done especially in the State Government health space – the basic fundamental issue is around staff shortages and unless this issue is addressed other issues like ambulance ramping will continue. Patients must

be able to be admitted to hospital when necessary. Quickly. There are beds available in almost all hospitals for that to happen however there are no staff to care for those patients in the hospital. This blockage then restricts Emergency Departments from taking new patients and hence Ambulances ramp. With Ambulance officers continuing to care for their patients.



I have met with nurses who have decided to go interstate and leave Western Australia because of simple fixes like rostering, doctors who are returning overseas because of the clinic system and the antiquated notification system for public health patients. Local GP's cannot understand why notifications to visit a public health clinic in a tertiary hospital are still done by post (with postal costs continuing to increase) instead of using email notifications for appointment or text messaging (post should only be used for the few usually older Australians who do not have email or a mobile telephone) These issues need to be addressed and quickly.

The Federal Government has committed to fixing the Australian healthcare system to better help women with Health Minister Mark Butler conceding women seeking help have not been receiving the priority that they should. There are many however a few that come to mind are mentioned below.

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Ovarian Cancer: In my view Ovarian Cancer, which kills one Australian woman every eight hours, receives only a fraction of the funding compared with other cancers. Much more attention needs to be given to research and development of treatments, medicines and support for patients that their families need.

Mental Health: Services targeted for those over forty for both men and women who often carry significant burden are in dire need of funding. Two thirds of those online inquiries to SANE (one of Australia's leading mental health groups) are now women. The Federal government has promised to increase free options for women seeking support. The how and when is the important issue in this space. NCWWA will be writing to the Federal Health Minister and following this important issue closely.



Menopause: Much more needs to be done to help many women through this major transition in life. Some medical degrees only contain one hour of training on menopause. The Federal Government has promised to list new medicines on the PBS (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme). This promise also needs to be closely monitored.

Access to Critical Primary Care: Families must have access to affordable critical primary health care. Many patients are paying record high out-of-pocket expenses to see a doctor. This has led to over 1.5 million Australians avoiding seeing a GP in 2023-2024 due to cost concerns. The GP bulk billing rate is significantly lower than 2022. This issue must be addressed by the Federal Government as a matter of urgency.

Education: Every young Australian deserves to reach their potential supported by a world class education system. Unfortunately, school standards are declining with

- One in three children failing to meet basic NAPLAN proficiency levels in reading, writing and maths.

- Nationally results declined in 12 out of 20 NAPLAN domains between 2023-2024
- Today's average Year 10 student are one year behind in their learning, compared with two decades ago.
- In government schools, attendance has plummeted in the last five years with only 56.3 per cent of students attending school more than 90 per cent of the time.

Much work needs to be done however it is critical that priority is given to a Literacy and Numeracy Guarantee where all Australian schools will provide simple early assessments of Year 1 students which help teachers identify whether children are developing foundational reading and maths skills. These checks would be a vital tool for teachers to identify and remedy learning difficulties as soon as they emerge.

National Curriculum: In my view there is also an urgent need to review the Australian Curriculum which should be essential in setting the benchmark in achievement standards for all students at all year levels. Many primary school principals say the current curriculum is simply impossible to teach. The current curriculum spans, for Mathematics alone (when all materials are printed) an unmanageable 3,500 pages. In high performing countries like Singapore the curriculum focuses on essential subjects and clearly outlines what students should learn each year. NCWWA is writing to the Federal Education Minister to urge the government to conduct a review.

Australian Chinese Women's Business



Association (ACWBA)

Congratulations to the ACWBA on its inauguration and the recent event it held on Mother's Day at the Perth Town Hall announcing the 2025 Western Australian Chinese Outstanding Mother Awards. A

display from local Chinese Businesses was held downstairs with the Awards Ceremony held upstairs in the afternoon. Very well done to all.

National Volunteer Week: Established in 1989 and held 19-25 May each year highlights the important role of volunteering in our community. More than six million people in Australia volunteer through organisations across the nation. Many more volunteer informally in their local communities, helping neighbours and strangers especially in times of crisis and adversity.

Volunteers are an essential part of the workforce spanning many sectors including aged care, disability care, community welfare, sports and the arts, crisis preparedness, response and recovery and looking after the environment.

Single Assessment for Aged Care: It commences November 2025 (start date delayed) and is supposed to make it easier for older people to access aged care and adapt services as their needs change. Previously there were different assessment pathways. It will mean a single assessment pathway for older people, so they don't have to change assessment provider as their needs change. We all hope it works and there is a reduction of wait times to access aged care assessment especially in regional remote and rural areas.

Changes to Residential Aged Care: Commencing now November 2025 (start date delayed) residential aged care places will no longer be allocated to providers but will be assigned directly to individuals. According to the Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care it will be easier for someone to move to a new residential care home of choice. There is no change to the process to enter residential aged care. A person will still need to be assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team with most full pensioners seeing little or no change. Self-funded retirees may need to contribute more towards accommodation and daily living expenses. Clinical care like nursing and physiotherapy remains the same as does the basic daily fee which is indexed twice a year. However new fees to some personal care services-like help with showering dressing and moving around. There is also a new means tested daily fee for non-clinical services replacing the current Means-tested Care Fee.

Childcare: Commencing January 2026 parents will be guaranteed a minimum three days of subsidised childcare regardless of how much they work or study. Federal Government legislation has abolished the activity test requirement. The Federal Government expects the new guarantee to benefit over 66,000 families in its first full financial year with more than 100,000 families eligible for additional hours of care.



WAHOF Touring Photographic Exhibition: Consisting of sixteen portraits and an accompanying story board, you have the opportunity to discover more about the women who were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2025. Details of the Exhibition are included later in the Newsletter.

Robyn Nolan

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

NCWWA membership fees for the 2025-2026 year are due 1 July 2025. 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

W.A. WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

TOURING PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION 2025

The Exhibition features a collection of stunning photographs of the 2025 Inductees.

EXHIBITIONS:

CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON

Location: 37 Marine Terrace Geraldton

Dates: 12 June -1 July

Times: Monday, Tuesday and Friday
9.30am-5.00pm
Wednesday 1.00pm-5.00pm
Thursday 9.30 am -6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm
Sunday Closed



— WA WOMEN'S —
HALL OF FAME

ECU SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Location: 17/2 Bradford Street Mount Lawley

Dates: 6-18 July

Times: TBA

ST JOHN OF GOD SUBIACO CLINIC

Location: 25 McCourt Street Subiaco

Dates: 22 September-23 November

Times: 24 hours

ALBANY TOWN HALL

Location: 217 York Street Albany

Dates: 1-12 September

Times: Tuesday -Saturday
10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday and Monday closed

BUNBURY MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

Location: 1 Arthur Street Bunbury

Dates: 4 December- 1 February 2026

Times: Tuesday -Sunday 10.00am -4.00pm

NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2025

Congratulations to Ella Artemis as the 2025 STEM Bursary Recipient. Ella is currently studying BSc Applied Geology (Honours) at Curtin University.

Below is Ella (in her own words), speaking about her recent trip to the Solomon Islands.



Whilst completing my undergraduate degree in Applied Geology, I found the most fulfilment in sharing my knowledge with less advantaged communities both locally and globally. Facilitating STEM-based workshops in Nepal allowed me to recognise the true impact one could have on the world around them, strengthening my passion for geoscience and its potential to inspire future generations. I knew that my global pursuit to teach, learn and discover would not end there, so accepting a research project in the Solomon Islands upon graduating made perfect sense!

I soon embarked on my week-long journey in an environment like nothing I had experienced before. While the island of Malaita has an otherworldly beauty, and is home to vast communities of kind, calm-natured citizens, the Solomon Islands is also famous in the geological world for many reasons. The first of these lies in the fact that the Solomon Islands is ranked second in the World Risk Index for global natural disaster risk. The second: we know very little about the unique tectonic environment triggering this gradual increase in hazardous seismic events.

Shuffling through complex hand-drawn maps, trudging through ankle-deep mud to inspect rock samples, and battling some very friendly mosquitos quickly became our norm as we set to unravel the tectonic mystery that is the Solomon Islands system. Surrounded by the highly curious minds of local children, seeing their eyes light up as I let them look through my hand lens to see rock “diamonds” is a memory I will never forget. The opportunity to collaborate with local communities that my research may impact, to select my very own samples, and to be immersed in an environment few geologists have had the privilege to explore has made this project incredibly meaningful. I cannot wait to see what the next chapter brings!”