

President's Message March 2025

Dear Members

The year is just slipping by- it is March already - welcome to Autumn! Much has been happening in Perth and Western Australia in the lead up to the State election (8 March 2025) and a Federal election – the election date to be called in the weeks ahead as it must be held before 17 May 2025 or hold two elections -one for the House of Representatives and another for the Senate which would hardly be acceptable to the majority of Australians.

ICH Spring Festival: I recently attended the inaugural “ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) Spring Festival” Temple Fair and Gala which provided an in-depth showcase of traditional Chinese culture and the unique charm of the Spring Festival. The event was jointly organised by a number of organisations including the Australian Chinese Women’s Federation (ACWF), held in Booragoon with attendees from across Perth and rural Western Australia. Congratulations to all. ACWF is a member of NCWWA.



The Temple Fair included folk displays, handicrafts, food stalls and interactive activities. The Spring Festival Gala included spectacular performances including dance, comedy and folk programs, showcasing the traditional charm of the Spring Festival and the integration of multicultural elements. An Awards Ceremony was also included in the Gala program recognising outstanding women in Western Australia along the lines of the inaugural Awards Ceremony held last year by ACWF.



Apprenticeships and Traineeships: The latest data released by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) reveals a collapse in apprentices and trainees in every state and territory. In June 2022 there were 429,000 apprentices and trainees in-training and 277,900 commencements. The data shows apprentices and trainees in-training has dropped to just 348,635 in June 2024. Over the same period new training starts or commencements dropped to just 168,115 from 264,320 in 2022.

In This Edition

Page 1-2.	President's Message
Page 3.	International Women's Day
Page 4.	WA Women's Hall of Fame
Page 5-6.	NCWWA STEM Bursary 2025

There are 34,685 fewer women apprentices and trainees in-training and a halving of new starts for women in skills or a loss of 44,605. That equates to a 27 per cent reduction from June 2022 to June 2024 and female commencements have fallen by a massive 42 per cent over the same period.



Housing: Western Australians believe in home ownership. Western Australia now has a current population of 3.017m. However new lot approvals are at a record low and is a major reason that there is a housing crisis in Western Australia. More affordable land must become available to the market to enable more homes to be built. Much needs to be done including bringing local planning schemes up to date, improving approval timelines and the introduction of a comprehensive policy on red tape reduction to streamline approvals to have more new homes built in a timely manner. Another solution to get more home buyers into the market is the complete removal of stamp duty for first home buyers. Also lowering transfer tax rates or reducing bracket creep by flattening the transfer tax brackets for other home buyers.

I understand that the likely amount stamp duty will generate for the 2024-2025 WA State Budget is \$2.1 billion for the government. Another worthy solution would be to remove stamp duty from home contents and home building insurance. The cost of insurance especially in the regions has increased dramatically- a help for not only housing but also cost of living. As more people remove themselves from having home contents and home building insurance the cost for government will increase especially in times of natural disaster.

Health: There needs to be better access to bulk billing services in all Australian States and Territories. All Australians should have access to a doctor in a timely and affordable manner. Australians are now paying 45% more to see a GP as bulk billing has collapsed from 88 per cent under the former Coalition Government to 77 per cent now.

It is good to see both the Coalition and the current government announcing \$8.5 billion increase in Medicare funding which will go some way to stemming the downward trend. The Coalition has already announced \$500 million to restore critical Medicare funding for mental health support funding for Australians with more complex or chronic mental health conditions.

A Women's Health package \$573.3 million announced by the Federal Government and supported by the Coalition is very welcome. It includes measures to enhance menopause care for women through a new Medicare rebate, expand health professional training, develop national clinical guidelines and increase funding for endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics.



In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, the Federal Government private health insurance premium increase will come into effect on 1 April this year. It marks the highest increase in seven years and is above the rate of inflation which is a concern.

NBN Commitment to Public Ownership Bill: Families should have affordable and reliable internet connectivity- unfortunately this Bill does nothing to help with this and could be described as attempting to mask the poor satisfaction and higher cost for families. Currently the NBN is losing customers from three in four of its products and there are price increases which have impacted Australian families.



International Women's Day 8 March 2025:

International Women's Day has become a time to reflect on progress, to call for change and to celebrate the courage and determination of the women who changed history.

WA Women's Hall of Fame: As the West Australian State election is being held on 8 March 2025 the WAWHOF Induction Ceremony is being held on Thursday 6 March 2025. Two women in each of eight categories will be inducted into the WAWHOF along with a number of Roll of Honour inductees at the Ceremony on Thursday evening.

Robyn Nolan

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day in Australia

Australia's first International Women's Day was held in 1928 in Sydney. Organised by the Women's Movement, women called for equal pay for equal work, an eight (8) hour working day for shop girls and paid leave. The next year the event spread to Brisbane. In 1931, annual marches were launched in both Sydney and Melbourne and both marches continue to be held today.



Since these days International Women's Day has continued to grow. It is a day to celebrate women's achievements and both highlight and work to address barriers.

International Women's Day has become a time to reflect on progress, to call for change and to celebrate the courage and determination of the women.

NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2025

Applications are open for the NCWWA 2025 STEM Bursary. The Bursary is available to a female student studying a STEM Course in Western Australia at a TAFE or University level. Applicants must be Australian citizens

Applications close 12 Noon Friday 28 March 2025.

Each application must be on the Nomination Form and address the following criteria:

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

An application form for the STEM Bursary is attached

W.A. WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

WA Women's Hall of Fame

The vision of the WA Women's Hall of Fame is to recognise promote and celebrate WA women. Each year two women are inducted in each of eight categories:

Congratulations to the 2025 Inductees:

Arts:

Dr Dorothy Erickson, AM, PhD
Lesley Murray

Education:

Marie-Anne Keeffe
Professor Linley Lord

Business:

Julie Adams, OAM
Kim Farmer

Health:

Lorna Cook
Professor Michaela Lucas, MD, Dr. Med, FRACP, FRCPA

Community:

Alison Scott
Dr Hannah McGlade, LLB, LL.M, PhD

Sport:

Sally Pilbeam PLY
Professor Juli Coffin

Culture:

Glenys Dale Collard
Marie Osman

STEM:

Dr. Renu Sharma PhD, GAICD
Jawaria Mahmood

Roll Of Honour:

Valma Frances Doherty APM
Professor Barbara York Main OAM
Janet Oobagooma
Christine Sewell

**Vale : Gwendoline (Gwen) Roderick.**

Gwen passed away peacefully on 22 February 2025.

An NCWWA Life Member for her outstanding voluntary work over many years to NCWWA.

Gwen was also NCW Australian President from 1994-1997.

As per Gwen's wishes there was no formal funeral ceremony.

On behalf of NCWWA Executive and Members our deepest condolences to Gwen's family and her many friends.

NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS BURSARY 2025

CLOSING DATE: 12 NOON on Friday 28 March 2025

Nominations are called for the 2025 Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Bursary available to a female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at 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 April 2025.

Applicants will be notified of the results by email 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 2025

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 2024: _____

Course/Level: _____

Proposed Study Institution/Course of Study in 2025: _____

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 2024 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 Friday 28 March 2025

For further information: Contact: Robyn Nolan

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