NCWWA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT: Robyn Nolan TREASURER: Linda Elezovich PATRONS: The Honourable Chris Dawson APM Mrs Darrilyn Dawson

PO Box 6224 East Perth 6892 website: www.ncwwa.org.au

President's Message
OCTOBER 2026

Dear Members

It is now the middle of October 2026 and much has been happening to make life for families much harder day by day. More recently another interest rate rise (additional pressure for those paying off a house mortgage), the removal of credit card fees which has impacted small and family businesses greatly with some businesses including some private schools now refusing to take credit card payments or applying a minimum spend on card usage to name but a few.

Women's Health:

The Federal Parliament Committee system currently has a Senate Select Committee into Women's Health which has very broad ranging terms of reference.



The NCWWA Executive will be putting together a submission to the Select Committee. If you have any issues/ concerns which you would like included in the submission please let me know by early November 2026. I very much look forward to hearing from you not only about the issues/concerns/experiences but a suggested solution to the issue/concern/experience.



Clare Rowe, an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs has made an interesting observation about working parents and childcare. A full-time Australian employee gets four- weeks annual leave each year. A school-aged child gets roughly twelve weeks school holidays. That is before you count pupil-free days, sick days, sports carnivals, assemblies and school finishes at around 3 pm while the working day does not. There are a number of reasons why women are having children later and fewer of them. Is the current cost of living and non-flexible childcare (long day care) a reason? One system that was built on the assumption that adults work full-time and another on the assumption that someone is available to look after their children – is there a better system?



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Investment Scams:
Investment scams make up the highest scam loss amongst Australians with older Australians remaining one of the most targeted groups. People should look out for a number of red flags including:

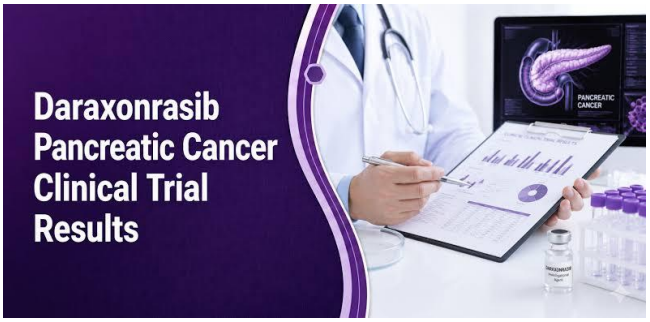
- Out of the blue contract
- Promoted ads on social media
- Guaranteed returns
- 1-on-1 coaching and urgency to invest
- Listed on the ASIC Investor Alert List

Commonwealth Games:
Australian women athletes achieved great success at the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. In fact, the Australian team had an outstanding achievement of a total of 93 medals including 70 gold medals. 43 gold medals were earned by women. Names such as Rose Davies (the first women to win both the 5,000m and 10,000m events at the same Commonwealth Games) Georgia Godwin (Australia's most decorated female artistic gymnast at the Commonwealth Games) and Louise Hoskins (at 76 the oldest gold medallist in Commonwealth Games history) will be etched into the history books. Congratulations to all who were selected to compete at the Commonwealth Games and to all those who achieved outstanding success with a gold silver or bronze medal.



Daraxonrasib:
On behalf of a number of NCWWA members I recently wrote to the Federal Health Minister to have Daraxonrasib, a drug designed to treat advanced solid tumours like metastatic pancreatic cancer, listed on the PBS so it can become available to pancreatic cancer patients in Australia. Daraxonrasib is not yet available in Australia unless as a patient accepted on a current trial in Victoria only.

To date, every step forward has happened in America and in August 2026 the US Food and Drug Administration approved Daraxonrasib for patients with certain previously treated metastatic pancreatic cancer who are not eligible for multiagent systemic therapy.



The results have been outstanding from trials in the US-they show a 60 per cent reduction the risk of death and delayed deterioration of overall quality of life. Dr Michael Lee a Pancreatic Cancer Clinician at the Peter McCullum Cancer Centre has stated 'what Herceptin is to Breast Cancer is what Daraxonrasib is to pancreatic cancer'.

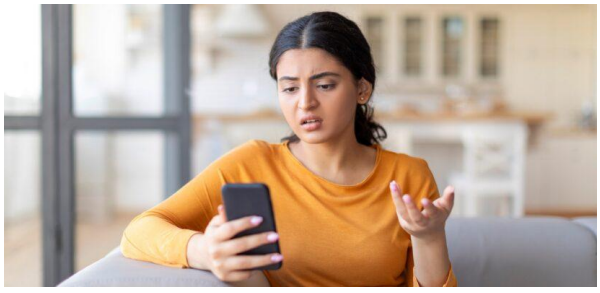
In 2025 there were almost 5,000 new pancreatic cancer cases in Australia and the third most common cause of cancer deaths in Australia according to the Australian Government Cancer website. Every diagnosis and death is one too many. With the vital supporting evidence now available from the US this cancer drug must be treated with urgency ensuring that as soon as the trial is complete negotiations with the PBAC and Resolutions Medicines must be urgently undertaken to ensure it is placed on the PBS.

Australian National Curriculum:
Many NCWWA members and others in the community have expressed real concern about the National Curriculum after the release of the

2025results for the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment 'PISA'.
The Australian results in 2025 for maths and reading were the worst ever, with only 55 per cent of students reaching the national proficient standard in reading, 49 per cent in mathematics and 60 per cent in science. Australia's results mean that in the last three years, students have fallen behind by about four months in reading and six months in maths. As such the curriculum is part of the problem.

It is vitally important that academic performance of school students in Australian schools is improved. The curriculum must be reduced to make it shorter, clearer and remove the cross-curriculum priorities. All the evidence points to the need to be clear, sequentially structured teaching points that build on layers of knowledge. The basics of strong education should be reading, writing, maths, science and a proper understanding of our history.

Domestic Roaming:
Domestic roaming is still not a permanent feature in Australia. Domestic roaming happens in Canada, France and New Zealand and for international visitors in Australia. Recently Telstra, Optus and TPG agreed to support Temporary Disaster Roaming (TDR) in the coming disaster season. Any arrangement that helps people stay connected in a disaster is better than none.



However, under the current TGR model the telcos alone decide when and where it is turned on and there is little accountability if it is delayed or never activated. The industry's own fact sheet demonstrates its limits: no more than three disaster areas at once each covering up to 15 mobile sites, at least 400km apart. It excludes metropolitan areas, does not work with medical alert devices and may not be switched on when power outages take down a network.

Public safety should not rest on voluntary arrangements that telcos can choose to turn on and off. Outage data now has published data between April 2026 and June 2026 alone there were 255 outages affecting one and a half million services. All Australians in regional rural and remote communities deserve to be provided with high quality and cost -effective connections that enable them to function and stay safe. Permanent domestic roaming is what Australia needs.

Capped Allied Health Services for Veterans:
After significant advocacy by huge numbers of people in the community including NCWWA the



Federal Government has reversed the outrageous decision to cap Allied Health Services for Veterans.
Unfortunately, such a decision should not have been announced in the first place as such services are core preventative and rehabilitative measures that directly support Veteran wellbeing, recovery and social stability. The Federal Government demonstrated it was yet again failing to read the room. Well done on the reversal- there really was no other outcome!

WAWHOF:
The 2027 WAWHOF Nominations Launch and Morning Tea was held in September hosted by the Hon Simone McGurk MLA Minister for Creative Industries, Heritage, Industrial Relations Seniors and Aged Care and Women at Parliament House which marks the opening of public nominations for Western Australian women to be considered for the 2027 WA Women's Hall of Fame. Nominations will also be considered for the Roll of Honour to be inducted posthumously. All nominations close Thursday 10 December 2026 with the 2027 Induction Ceremony to take place on Thursday 4 March 2027.

WA Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations for the 2027 WA Women's Hall of Fame are now open. Over the years a wide array of women from Perth, regional and rural Western Australia have been nominated for their contributions, achievements and commitment to the betterment of Western Australians.

Western Australian women can be nominated in one of the following eight categories:

- Arts
- Business
- Community
- Culture
- Education
- Health
- Sport
- STEM and Technical Trades

Nominations will also be considered for the Roll of Honour to be inducted posthumously. All nominations close on Thursday 10 December 2026 and will be announced at an Induction Ceremony at Government House on Thursday 4 March 2027.

Further details are available on the WAWHOF Website.

VALE Professor Lesley Cala OAM



NCWWA members are saddened by the recent loss of Professor Lesley Cala OAM. Professor Cala was a Life Member of NCWWA, and was renowned for her unwavering commitment to medicine, education and women's interests.

Professor Cala was born in 1939 and graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine in 1964, one of only four women in the class. She studied further in the United Kingdom returning to live in Perth in 1970.

Beyond her medical career Professor Cala was an advocate for women's interests, holding leadership and advisory roles in the National Council of Women WA, the International Council of Women and the UWA Centenary Trust for Women. Professor Cala also served as a Member of the Advisory Council: WA Minister for Women's Interests (2010-2013) and the Breast Screen WA Community Reference Group (2009-2024). In 2023 Professor Cala was awarded the UWA Chancellor's Medal in recognition of a lifetime of service giving as both a professional and volunteer for many decades. Earlier this year she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to tertiary education in the Australia Day Honours.

NCWWA Executive and members extend their condolences to Professor Cala's family and friends.

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

NCWWA STEM BURSARY

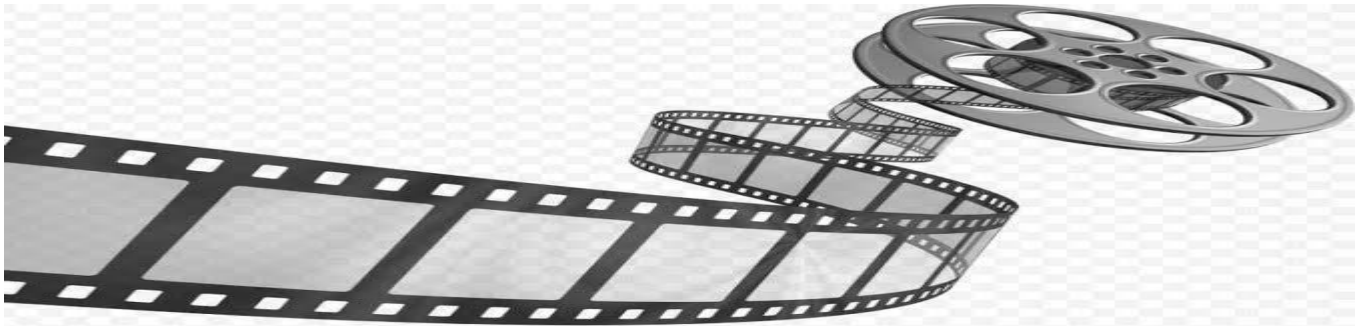
Applications are now open for the NCWWA Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) 2027 Bursary. The Bursary is available to a Western Australian female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at a TAFE or University level.
Applicants must be Australian citizens.
Application close 12 noon 5 March 2027. 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 is attached to this Newsletter.

NCWWA MOVIE AFTERNOON

Plans are in place for a NCWWA 'Movie Afternoon' in the weeks ahead. As everyone is aware NCWWA provides a STEM Bursary to a young Western Australian woman studying STEM subjects at a Western Australian University each year. Funds raised from the 'Movie afternoon' will go towards the 2027 STEM Bursary. Keep a look out for the announcement of the event.



NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS BURSARY 2027

CLOSING DATE: 12 NOON on Friday 5 March 2027

Nominations are called for the 2027 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 2027.
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 2027

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 2026: _____

Course/Level: _____

Proposed Study Institution/Course of Study in 2027: _____

_____

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 2025 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 5 March 2027
For further information: Contact: Robyn Nolan
Mobile 0417 917 294
Email: robynmn@bigpond.net.au