

President's Message September 2024

Dear Members

It has been a busy few months and a cold winter. However, spring is now with us and as such I am sure the weather is on the improve.

The Paris Olympics 2024 have been run and congratulations to all those Australians who won medals including the athletics at the Paralympics. Western Australians did extremely well at the Olympics with six gold medals including Nina Kennedy's soaring win in the Women's Pole Vault. The Olympics and Paralympics have differing governing bodies but for decades have been held in tandem – in the same host city and in the same year.

Australian Chinese Women's Federation (ACWF)



who received an award at the event.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Australian Chinese Women's Federation (ACWF) 15 Years Anniversary Dinner and Awards Presentation. It was a most enjoyable evening and my congratulations to all those amazing women

ACWF has been a long-time member of National Council of Women WA (NCWWA) and has a large membership. Thank you to the ACWF Executive for my Award. It was also a great opportunity to meet with a number of the former ACWF Presidents.



The Second Annual Status of Women Report Card and the first in support of "Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality" released earlier this year. The Report Card includes the most recent available data on the social and economic equality issues facing women and girls in Australia and highlights key data on gender attitudes and stereotypes, gender-based violence, unpaid and paid care, economic equality and security health and leadership, representation and decision making.

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Women in Australia are diverse, educated and hardworking:

- 3.8 per cent are Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander
- 28.3 per cent were born overseas
- 48.5 per cent have a parent born overseas
- 29.3 per cent are under the age of 25
- 18.0 per cent are 65 and over
- 17.8 per cent are women with a disability
- 27.6 per cent live in regional or remote Australia
- 4.6 per cent identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual
- 64 per cent hold a qualification outside school
- 35.7 per cent hold a bachelor degree or above
- Australia has the fourth highest level of tertiary educated women in the OECD
- 60.4 per cent of women over the age of 15 are employed
- On average women 15 to 64 years do 55.4 hours of work a week, 2 hours more than men

Gender based violence:

- One in five women and one in 16 men have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15
- 57 per cent of women who recently experienced sexual harassment experienced it electronically (such as online or on a phone)
- Girls are more than twice as likely to experience child sexual abuse as boys
- 1.5 times more likely to experience emotional abuse

Family Violence:

As President of NCWWA I recently had the opportunity to attend a Round Table with Shadow Minister for Child Protection and Prevention of Family Violence. The Round Table discussed a range of critical issues and need for additional funding for front line services.

Later in the same week the National Cabinet announced a funding package to tackle family violence that will fund frontline specialists, legal services and “innovative approaches” to identify high-risk perpetrators, and address industries that exacerbate gender-based violence. While welcome the bulk of the funding \$3.9bn in

Federal funds for front line services rolled out over five years will not be available until 1 July 2025. Given as of August 2024, 54 women have been killed in domestic homicide compared to 58 in 2023 and 35 in 2022. The need is far more urgent than July 2025 for the funding to commence.

International Day of Peace:

Cultivating a Culture of Peace is the theme for the 2024 Global Peace Day observed around the world on 24 September. First established in 1981 Peace Day provides a globally



Robin Nolan and Kerrynne Liddle

shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace.

Review of the Cashless Debit Card:

A report by the University of Adelaide highlighted concern about increased alcohol abuse and gambling after the income management scheme was scrapped by the Federal Government. The review looked at the first four trial site areas Ceduna and surrounds in South Australia, the East Kimberley and the Goldfields in Western Australia and the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay Region in Queensland. The majority of stakeholders, notably in the WA and SA trial sites were disappointed the scheme was ended, highlighting the impacts on social issues such as alcohol abuse, gambling, child neglect, violence and community safety. The report makes for concerning reading.

Scam Awareness Week:

During Scam Awareness Week I had the opportunity to attend a “Scams and Sushi” event at the Subiaco Library. The Facilitator Caitriona Forde who is a cyber security awareness and culture expert spoke about how being scammed was not a sign of weakness and how it can happen to anyone, anytime.

The session gave people straight forward knowledge of how to help safeguard themselves

from digital threats and included a Q and A opportunity.

The three top tips for better cybersecurity are

- Create strong unique passphrases for every account
- Set up multi-factor authentication
- Regularly install software updates

Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide Final Report:

The final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran's Suicide has now been released. The release of the final report will be difficult for many current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families. The Royal Commission Report has made 122

recommendations (many very troubling) which need full examination and consideration.

It is my understanding that between 1997 - 2021 1677 lives of veterans have tragically been lost to suicide.

2024-2025 Membership Fees:

A reminder that NCWWA membership fees are now due. Details are included in this Newsletter. If you would like an invoice for your payment please let me know. Bank details are also in the Newsletter and fees remain the same \$66.00 for Affiliate members and \$55.00 for Associate members.

Robyn Nolan

WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The WA Women's Hall of Fame was first established in 2011 in recognition of the Centenary of International Women's Day held annually on 8 March. Its purpose is to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Western Australian women, past, present and future each year on International Women's Day.

Do think about nominating someone who would be a worthy recipient. Nominations are officially open and a nomination form is available on the WAWHOF website.

Nominations for 2025 are now OPEN and close 4th December 2024.

Everyone is encouraged to consider nominating a woman to be recognised through the WA Women's Hall of Fame in 2025.

Women can be nominated in any of these eight categories:

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



Nominations will also be considered for the 'Roll of Honour', to be inducted posthumously. The 2025 WA Women's Hall of Fame Inductees will be announced: March 2025

A Nomination form is available on the WAWHOF website.

NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2024

A couple of months ago a number of NCWWA members had an opportunity to meet and hear from Jessica Sarich and present her with the STEM Bursary Perpetual Trophy and her Certificate as the 2024 NCWWA STEM Bursary recipient. Jessica had already received the Bursary payment.



Jessica is a delightful and worthy young woman studying third year Science ((Actuarial Science) - a discipline that applies mathematical and statistical methods to assess risks involved in financial planning and decision making at Curtin University. Those NCWWA members who had the opportunity to meet and hear from Jessica were extremely supportive of the NCWWA Judging panel's choice for 2024. Jessica is a very worthy recipient.

On behalf of all NCWWA members congratulations and best wishes for Jessica's future success.

NCWWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

NCWWA membership fees for the 2024-2025 year are now overdue. If you would like to remain a member please pay your membership fees without delay. Payment may be made by Bank Transfer to NCWWA Westpac Account (BSB and Account number below) or by cheque.

Fees remain the same:

Associate Members: \$55.00

Affiliate Members: \$66.00

Payment by Direct Transfer:

Account name: National Council of Women 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 WA Inc

P O Box 6224, East Perth WA 6892