

September 2016 Newsletter

Children's Matters

The Commission for Children and Young People will soon begin an inquiry into the permanency changes arising from the Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Permanent Care and Other Matters) Act 2014. The changes took effect in March 2016, and the inquiry will examine the evidence available after the first six months of their operation to consider whether the amendments are meeting their objectives of improving permanency for children and young people and whether they have led to unintended consequences.

At the 17 August *Children's Matters Forum*, Commissioner Liana Buchanan said: "In just four months as Commissioner I have heard many different views about the impact of the permanency amendments, including some very strong concerns. I am in no doubt this is an important inquiry, and I look forward to reviewing the evidence and hearing from people about their experiences over the past six months. I encourage people who are interested to make a contribution to the process - the more information we have to rely on, the stronger our findings will be."

The inquiry will consider whether the amendments have had any direct impact on outcomes for vulnerable children and families; whether the permanency amendments are

leading to timelier permanent outcomes, including family preservation and family reunification for vulnerable children and for children for whom it is unsafe to return to the care of a parent; whether the permanency amendments have strengthened cultural supports and planning for Aboriginal children in out of home care; what impact, if any, have the permanency amendments had on child protection and other services; whether there have been any unintended consequences directly attributable to the permanency amendments; barriers that prevent permanent care orders being made.

The inquiry will be informed by evidence and data and will involve a number of components including consultations and a submission process. The Commission wants to hear from a range of interested stakeholders about their experience of these amendments. This inquiry will be guided by the best interest principles in section 10 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The inquiry will commence in September 2016 and be finalised in March 2017. Submissions will be sought in the near future and updates on the inquiry will be available on the Commission's website: <<http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/>>

(Extract from a NCW Victoria report supplied by Anne McLeish OAM, Executive Director, Grandparents Victoria Inc)

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: AIA: A4465 ABN: 18227073059

PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003 Email: info@ncwvic.org.au

Ph: **0447 351 234**

Registered office: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

Patron: Ms Emma Page Campbell, Lady Mayoress, City of Melbourne

Our monthly Council meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of the month February to November in the Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

Thursday 1 September 2016 12 noon for 12.15 start - Annual General Meeting, Annual Report, Election of Office Bearers and Guest Speaker: Michelle Phillips (Optus), current Chair Policy and Strategy Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) and Board member NCW Australia Topic Women and the new Parliament.

Regional Branch AGM at 10.30 am. Light shared lunch. Venue Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Honorary Life Membership for Betty Spikin

The award of Honorary Life Membership of NCW Victoria will be part of the NCWV AGM on 1 September 2016.

Patricia Betty Spikin Lt. Col. Salvation Army (Retired) has been a long time active member of NCW Victoria, first with NCWV Bendigo Branch in 1987 when as a Salvation Army Officer she was appointed to the Salvation Army Corps in Bendigo. She was Delegate for the Salvation Army in Bendigo, as well as later a delegate for Soroptimist International of Bendigo.

After her transfer to Melbourne in 1991, she became active with NCW Victoria as Delegate for Salvation Army's then Home League, later for the Salvation Army Social Welfare Section in 1996; and the Salvation Army Victoria State Council (2001-02); in all for a further 10 years. It is recalled that in the 1990s when she arranged a NCW Victoria Information Table at an Expo on Ageing conducted at the Royal Exhibition Building. Lt Col. Spikin also served as a Delegate for Soroptimist International Ringwood and Foothills from 1996 – 2004.

During her years as a Delegate she was elected to the NCWV Executive and served several terms 1994 - 96, 2001-02 and 2003-04. She was elected Junior Vice President 1997 and Senior Vice President in 1998-2000. Betty acted for a time as the NCW Victoria contact with the then outside appointed NCWV Public Officer. She was NCW Victoria Public Officer in 2000 (March-May), and served again as Public Officer for 2006-08. Betty's great organisational experience led to her being asked to serve as a member of the Constitution sub-committee early in the 2000's for the March 2002 amendments, and again for the August 2010 Constitutional Review. Above all Betty Spikin's many decades of professional experience in the Social Welfare field means that she continues to make a significant contribution to the NCW Victoria Standing Committees particularly in relation to welfare, housing and ageing issues. Even after the Salvation Army discontinued membership of NCW Victoria, Betty continued her involvement with NCW Victoria as an Individual (Associate) member.

Working Together - National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges that its meetings are held on the land of the traditional owners the *Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation*; we pay our respect to the elders past & present.

ICW-CIF meeting in Taipei ROC Taiwan 14-17 November, 2016: NCWA has sent the information for circulation to members interested in attending the meeting. Names of NCW Victoria members planning to attend the conference are to be sent to NCWA by the end of September.

National Council of Women of Australia AGM: The meeting has been called for the first Monday in October at 6.30 pm AEST. As usual it will be held by teleconference. Those entitled to attend are all members of the NCWA Electoral College: Members of the NCWA Board (Executive and presidents of the Constituent Councils) plus all National Coordinators and Advisers.



I VOTE group at 'My Vote My Voice – the Right to Vote, the Right to Stand' event (Photo Sophie Nowicka)

The 2016 'My Vote My Voice – the Right to Vote the Right to Stand' held in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria on 12 August 2016 was a most successful event with fifty students and guests attending. YoungNCWVic members met school groups and others and ushered them into Queen's Hall for refreshments. President Sheila Byard welcomed VIPs including Helen Coleman, State President Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA Victoria), Dr Debra Towns, Vice-President, League of Women Voters Victoria, Colleen Hartland MLC Western Metropolitan Region, Cr Jennie Mulholland (Banyule) and panel members the Hon. Judy Maddigan, Cr Felicity Frederico (Bayside) and Samantha Dunn MLC Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Margaret Fitzherbert MLC Southern Metropolitan Region, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Health and Rural and Regional Health, welcomed us to the Parliament, on behalf of the President of the Legislative Council. A NCWV *Civics and Citizenship Award* honouring the late Jean Cheshire was presented to the Melbourne Girls Grammar team of three who had made an outstanding contribution to the 2015 'My Vote My Voice – Beijing + 20' event. Then there was time for photographs for the students with, with NCWV members, guests and the members of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA).

Our 2016 event was designed to encourage students to investigate the level of participation of women in the community, particularly local government, past, present and future. The ALGWA provided copies of 'The Right to Vote; the Right to Stand – the involvement of women in local government in Victoria', for each participating school, to help students in their research. Ms Tina Hosseini, Youth Commissioner, Victorian Multicultural Commission, gave the opening address. Lead student speaker Alicia Ranasinghe, Year 9, Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg, runner-up in the National Legacy Junior Public Speaking competition last year, was the opening speaker, with the theme of "I could be the voice to fill the gap" in the representation of women at all levels of government. She outlined the changing roles of women since the 1900s and quoted significant women who had 'broken the chain' including Mary Rogers, Julie Williams and most recently Jenny Mulholland, who stated during her interview with Alicia, "It is no longer a man's world, it is an equal world". We had speakers from Ruyton Girls' School, Mac Robertson High School, Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar and University High School, with observers from Melbourne Girls' Grammar, and Korowa Girls' College.

Evaluation sheets were completed by panel members (and others) as students were speaking. All students spoke with confidence and appropriate content. It will be difficult to determine award winners. Dr Towns chaired the feedback session, where she and panel members offered comments and advice to the speakers. This was then opened to those attending to add their feedback. A lively discussion followed on whether the use of the term 'Girls' instead of 'Women' is appropriate, citing the commentary from the 2016 Rio Olympics commentary where the talk was about men's teams and girl's teams. A range of views were expressed about the experience of a transition time when one moved from girl to young woman. Sarah Morgan, Youth Adviser thanked those who spoke, panel members and all who had contributed to the event including the VEC. (Pam Hammond, Convenor)

News from the Executive Meeting on 21 August

Arrangements for the AGM on Thursday 1 September 2016:

The Regional Branch AGM will be held at 10.30 am. Members in attendance will elect the Regional Branch representative for the 2016-17 Executive. Pam Hammond was appointed as Returning Officer and as Tally Clerks, Barbara Brown and Yanina Dutka /Nadia Solonczynskij. Executive members as is customary agreed to bring a food item, for pre meeting refreshments - possibly made according to a recipe from 'A Cultural Indulgence'. As in previous years, gold coin donations to enable a contribution to ICW-CIF project funds, half directly to ICW for small projects and half towards NCWA donation for the Trading Table at the Taiwan Mid-Term conference.

Secretary/Public Officer (Pamela Williams OAM)

Thanks to Workplace Computer Solutions for the gift of a reconditioned laptop to enable use of 'Skype Business' for teleconferencing etc. Action – a letter of appreciation to be sent.

Further membership renewals received from NCWV Central Gippsland Branch, Union of Australian Women, the Australia Day Council Victoria, LWCV and new organisational member Australian Asia Business Women's Association Inc. Still to come Australian Afghan Development Association's application for membership. Individual renewals-T.Seddon, J.Ryles, B.Brown, and new member June Anderson. Camilla van Megen's application for membership to be presented to the October Council meeting.

Governance and AGM: Reminder that Nominations for an Executive Position must be accompanied by a typed resume using the NCW Victoria form. Both nominees and nominators must be paid up for the 2016-7 financial year. Attention of Executive members is drawn to the Public Interest Law Clearing House PILCH Connect website for information on the position descriptions of various office holders, and the necessary declaration of Compatibility to 2012 Model Rules before our NCWV Constitution (to be updated) can be lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Volunteers - Sarah Ci (Master's in Accounting UNIMELB) and a YoungNCWVic member is waiting for the chart of accounts to begin entering data into MYOB for the 2016-17 financial year.

Correspondence as per the Correspondence Book and special items: Outward – Accepting the invitations to the President to attend the opening event in the Parliament of Victoria 160th anniversary year on Tuesday 23 August, the Alfred Deakin Oration to be given by Professor Judith Brett, and to Minister Richardson's Leaders Forum on Gender Equality on Thursday 8 September, at the MCG. **Victorian Honour Roll for Women:** Nominations have opened, for further information, email vhrw@dpc.vic.gov.au For general enquiries please call Anushka Restuccia on 9651 1032. <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/news-publications/victorian-honour-roll-of-women>

In relation to the Resolution from the August Council Meeting: Letters will be sent as set out in the successful resolution on women and cardiac health, including to Jean Hailes Foundation and the Heart Foundation. Inward- Ross House re membership \$60, costs of new storage including GST –Level 1 filing cabinet \$71.56; \$88 for Level 4 shelf=\$160 approx.

Events, Notices and News from Members

September 5-10, Australian National Piano Award 2016, 5-10 Eastbank Centre, Shepparton, Contact Barbara Brown or the NCWV Office if you'd like to travel with others E: info@ncwvic.org.au

September 9 (Friday) 12 pm – 2 pm Grandparents Victoria /Kinship Carers Victoria AGM and Annual Luncheon, Kensington Town Hall, Bellair St, Kensington. Parking available in Bellair St or Newmarket Station is a 3 minute walk. RSVP is essential for catering by Tuesday 6 September. E: director@grandparents.com.au P: 9372 2422

An invitation to Victorian Gender Equality Consultation from Minister Fiona Richardson.

We warmly invite you to be a part of a forum to consider issues of gender equality as part of our work to develop Victoria's first ever Gender Equality Strategy.

Last year, the Minister for Women Fiona Richardson released a consultation paper to invite views from the community on the challenges for women in Victoria, and to hear how gender equality can best be achieved.

In recent weeks, we have held consultation sessions throughout the state to discuss the themes and priorities emerging from the submissions we have received. We also want to hear from you.

For contributing to the development of the Victorian Gender Equality Strategy by sharing your experiences and ideas, you can attend a consultation. The experiences and ideas you share on how we can achieve gender equality in Victoria will be reviewed and will help inform the development of the first ever Victorian Gender Equality Strategy. Please join us on **Friday 9 September** for this final consultation.

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Date: Friday 9 September

Venue: Experimedia Room, State Library of Victoria

To confirm your attendance, please **RSVP to genderequality@dpc.vic.gov.au** with the title 'Melbourne'. For more information, please call (03) 9637 3344

September 21 (Wednesday) 10.30 – 12.30 Union of Australian Women Coffee with a Focus 'End of Life Choices: be informed be active' with Lesley Vick, President *Dying With Dignity Victoria*. Level 4, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane \$5 RSVP 9654 7409 or E: office@uaw.org.au

Tuesday September 26 (Monday) 11.45am -1.30pm Austral Salon Recital: Guitar Duo, Ziggy and Miles Johnston (former students Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School) Main Hall St Peter's East Melbourne (opposite St Patrick's Cathedral) Cost: \$10. Tea/coffee/cake provided. Bring own sandwiches. Recitals are usually on the 4th Monday of each month. The Austral Salon was established in 1890. It encourages students by awarding scholarships and hosting student performances. More information/bookings: mob.0449727910 or www.australsalon.org

October 13 (Thursday) NCWV Individual Members Excursion to the Islamic Museum, Anderson Street, Thornbury. A visit to the Museum is highly recommended by those who have had a chance to visit. Please put the date in your diary and enjoy a day out. We encourage Council members, delegates, friends and relatives to join us. Due to the lack of easy public transport a bus has been arranged to take us to the Museum. It will pick up opposite the Windsor Hotel at 10am sharp, and return to the city between 2pm and 2.30pm. The cost of the bus is \$250. If 25 register to attend it will be \$10 per person return. Entry to the Museum is \$10 (concession) per person. There is a cafe on site for drinks and lunch. It is OK to bring your own lunch and perhaps buy a drink.

Please note that items for publication should be received by the end of the 3rd week of the month.

News from the other Australian Councils

In Perth at the recent NCW WA Triennial General Meeting a change of President was announced. Immediate past President Marion Ward had completed her 3 year term of office and Robyn Nolan was voted as the

incoming President. Marion was thanked for her magnificent contribution to NCWWA over the last three years. NCW WA members are very excited to welcome Robyn to the role. Visit their website to see a photo showing Robyn Nolan with Immediate Past President Marion Ward.

http://www.ncwwa.org.au/main/page_news_and_updates_news_and_updates.html

Hot off the press!... News and Updates on the NCW WA website also refers to a recent report on research carried out by Monica Viviani, an Edith Cowan University Intern with NCWWA.

It is of great interest and worth downloading

[Aboriginal women and their incarceration for petty crime.pdf](#)

NCW WA reports that a recent survey showed that many women in Western Australia were poor and financially illiterate. In response to that, AmCham's Women in Leadership group, Chartered Accountants ANZ and Australian Institute of Company Directors are joining forces to deliver a Financial Tool Box series to educate women in this regard. For more information go to the following website.<http://events.amcham.com.au/financialtoolbox/>

NCW Victoria - Office bearers & committee 2015-6

President: Sheila Byard OAM Secretary/Public Officer: Dr Pamela Williams OAM

Treasurer: Benjie Perryman

Vice Presidents: Barbara Brown, Bronwyn Badham, Janice Latham (Regional)

Five elected members:

Janene Blanchfield-Brown, Guosheng Chen, Freda Kaufman, Gauri Kapoor, Elisabeth Newman,

Coordinator Standing Committees/Advisers: May Hu JP

Convenor, Individual Members Group: Barbara Brown.

Geelong Branch: Janice Latham Central Gippsland Branch: Jan Baxter

Non-voting members: Barbara Latham YoungNCWVic CO- Convenors: Gauri Kapoor and Yvette Wang

Hon. Archivist -Janet Galley OAM

**You are invited to join a National Council of Women of Victoria committee
Capable and enthusiastic volunteers needed. Committee and working group positions available:**

Expressions of interest are invited for these positions for the coming year 2016-167

and should be forwarded to the Secretary E: info@ncwvic.org.au

Budget, Grants and Finance Working Group;

Constitution Working Group;

Events and Speakers Group;

Front of house Team; Library and Archives,

Media and Communications Team, Office, Membership and Records Team.

Better Care Victoria arrangements – Information supplied by Nurcihan Ozturk NCWV Adviser Migration Multicultural Affairs

The 2015 Review conducted by former AMA Victoria President Dr Doug Travis of strategies to improve the capacity of Victoria's public hospitals led to the Victorian Government accepting all of the recommendations of the Travis Review, including extra patient beds and the development of a Statewide Strategic Services and Infrastructure Plan with a 20 year outlook to address the current mismatch of hospital capacity and infrastructure to patient demand.

Better Care Victoria supported by the *Better Care Victoria: Innovation Fund*, is to assess initiatives, scale up proven innovations, and facilitate the sharing of ideas to increase hospital capacity across the entire Victorian health system.

As a result of a growing and ageing population there will be increased pressure on the health system. However, Dr Travis found there is a mismatch in some areas between the available capacity of public hospitals and local patient demand.

The first Statewide Strategic Services and Infrastructure Plan will be published in 2017. The Travis Review also recommended greater publication of performance data of hospital and outpatient clinics to drive improvement.

The Department of Health and Human Services in late 2015 published the *Specialist Clinics Activity and Wait Time Report* for the quarter to 30 June 2015, which lists median waiting times for 14 public specialist surgical clinics such as cardiothoracic, ear nose and throat, gastroenterology, gynaecology, neurology, oncology and orthopaedics. It showed there were more than 278,000 specialist clinic consultations delivered by 17 public health services in the quarter. Of these, around 52,000 were new referrals and 226,000 were follow-up appointments. However, the median wait time for a first appointment with an ear, nose and throat specialist at one health service was 469 days, while another was just 31 days showing that Victoria's health services need to work collaboratively to achieve better patient outcomes.

The Final Report of the Travis Review can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au/travis. The *Victorian Health Services Performance Report* and *Specialist Clinics Activity and Wait Time Report* can be found at performance.health.vic.gov.au.

Our motto - The Golden Rule The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said "We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: ***Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you***".

Our mission statement - National Council of Women of Victoria, NCWV, is a non-party-political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. It seeks to raise the awareness of women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourages their participation in all aspects of community life.

Our Connections

In Australia the work of National Council of Women began 120 years ago. The NCWV is an affiliate of the **National Council of Women Australia**. Through NCWA we are linked to the **International Council of Women - Conseil International des Femmes**, established in 1888. ICW-CIF has category 1 consultative status with the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**. Membership of the NCWV open its doors to a global exchange of views on matters affecting the lives of women, children and families around the world.

Privacy Statement The NCWV is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals and affiliates and complying with Australia's Privacy Act. Our primary purpose in collecting information is to enable us to operate as a membership organisation whose primary objective is to enhance the status of women. We may use your information to respond to your requests or to contact you via mail, email or phone for support for work we do and to offer events we may hold unless you have advised us in writing that you do not wish to receive this information.

PROGRAM FOR 2016

January

15th – Office re- opens

21rd (Thursday)- Pioneer Women’s event, Pioneer Women’s Garden 10.15 for 10.30am – Dr Liz Rushen

February

4th – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting – About the Festive Baskets!

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table. Anna Carlile ‘Brand Refresh’

18th (Thursday) – Executive meeting, 10 am

29th (Monday) - 9.30 to 12 noon. Launch of *My Vote My Voice 2016* program and student awards, Parliament of Victoria

March

3rd (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 - Conversation about Civics and Citizenship, at Ross House.

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting – Speaker Dr Merrilyn Murnane,

17th (Thursday) - Executive meeting, 10 am

April

7th (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, Speaker Birute Don the ADC Healthy Cities Forum, Including Trading table.

21st (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

May

5th(Thursday)–9.30- 11.30 May Forum, ‘NIDS – what will this mean for women and families’, followed by 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting with Pink Sheet Exercise on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Family Violence.

19th(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

June

2th–(Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, with Women’s Property Initiatives, including Trading Table. Individual Members Group at 10.30 am ‘The Austral Salon’ (Maree Rowan)

16th – (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

20th – (Monday) Luncheon NCWV Geelong Branch – Speaker Patti Manolis, CEO Geelong Regional Library & Heritage Centre.

27th - (Monday) Late afternoon President’s event – Radisson on Flagstaff 4 – 5.30 pm.

July

7th–(Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting – Recognising Women with Jenny Standish

21st - (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

August

4th–(Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, inc. Trading Table

12th (Friday) –From 8.30, for 10 am start – 12 noon finish *My Vote My Voice* Student Event at the Parliament of Victoria.

15th–(Thursday) Executive meeting, New time 12 for 12.30 pm start to 1.30 pm

September

1st – (Thursday) 10.15–NCWV AGM, 12 noon for 12.15 start, Preceded by Regional Branch AGM

15th–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

October

6th–(Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

13th - (Thursday) Individual Members Excursion to Islamic Museum, Bus bookings essential , from Spring St opposite Windsor Hotel leaves 10am sharp, and returns to the city between 2pm and 2.30pm. RSVP Email info@ncwvic.org.au

20th–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

November

3rd – (Thursday) 10.30 am Morning Tea. 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting,

17th–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

December

1st - (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Christmas Lunch, TBC 15th–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

NOTE: Council meetings are on the first Thursday of each month Feb-November at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane

- Individual Members’ meetings begin 10.15am for 10.30 am, Trading Table – please bring items for sale
- Council meetings begin at 12.15pm sharp and finish no later than 2.15pm, Executive meetings are held at the Royal Historical Society Building corner William and A’Beckett Sts.