

Acknowledgement

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. NCWV pays its respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



QUOTE: *"In 2023, my Office will lead the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75 initiative to rejuvenate a worldwide consensus on human rights – one that unifies us at a time when we need urgently to come together to confront the existential challenges humanity faces."* Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

From the President, Ronniet Milliken



Vice Regal Patronage

The 29th Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Linda Dessau AC CVO, ended her eight-year term on 30 June 2023. NCWV thanks Her Excellency for the eight years of patronage to our organisation and to many others.

NCWV welcomes the announcement of **Professor Margaret Gardner AC**. Professor Gardiner is a prominent academic with a background in economics, industrial relations and organisational management. She was the first woman to lead Monash University, having served as President and Vice-Chancellor, previously serving as Vice-Chancellor and President of RMIT University, and has also held senior executive leadership and academic positions at the University of Queensland and Griffith University. Professor Gardner was a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow spending time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, and the University of California, Berkeley. In 2018, she was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. In 2007, Professor Gardner was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to tertiary education – particularly in the areas of gender equity and university governance, and to industrial relations.

In 2020, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for her eminent service to tertiary education through leadership and innovation in teaching and learning, research and financial sustainability. Professor Gardner was Chair of the Group of Eight Universities in Australia from 2020 until 2023 and Chair of Universities Australia 2017 to 2019. **NCWV has applied for Vice Regal Patronage to be granted by the new Governor.**



Prof Margaret Gardner AC; Linda Dessau AC CVO

NCWA - A National Human Rights Act for Australia

In line with the UN lead on consensus on human rights, NCWA made a submission seeking a common high standard and approach by all governments *for all women and girls across Australia* - rather than differences among states; and that the Council of Attorneys General or the National Cabinet consult and resolve the matter. NCWA recommended that the Australian Parliament use the model legislation approach to enact a uniform, comprehensive Human Rights Act applicable Australia-wide; that premiers, attorneys general and human rights commissions take the opportunity to aim for the gold standard using a consultative approach focused on the common good through the leadership of the Standing Council of Attorneys General or National Cabinet – rather than a competitive approach.

In reviewing and fine-tuning current legislation, the provision of public services and institutional arrangements, policy settings and associated programs, NCWA recommended that specific priority should be given to changes that will benefit women and girls that:

- promote gender equity;
- promote RESPECT;
- eradicate harassment and domestic violence in all its forms;
- eradicate discrimination and harassment based on gender, race, marital status, age, or ability; and
- promote national peace and cohesion.

[NCWA Submission: Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework - National Council of Women Australia](#)

NCWV – Geelong Luncheon

NCWV Geelong Branch held their 77th Annual Luncheon at St Mary's Sporting Club pavilion on Monday June 26, at which 83 people attended to hear key speaker, author of *Secrets of Women's Healthy Ageing* and NCWV member, University of Melbourne Prof. Cassandra Szoeké share the findings of a clinical study of 400 women in midlife from 45 years to 70 (still ongoing). The study takes into account life factors and how they affect women's health. The main focus of the presentation was how we, as women, can sustain good physical and mental health, what factors affect us and what behaviours women can adopt in their daily lives that will help us live our non-reproductive years in a healthful, vibrant way, not only living longer, but living better.

Alex Jeffrey, President Geelong Branch.

Ronniel Milliken, Prof Cassandra Szoeké, Alexandra Jeffrey



Health Week – 6 September 2023 - 12:30 to 1:30 - Beyond Bikini Health. During Health Week NCWV and the City of Melbourne will host an event at the Town Hall. Health Adviser Professor Cassandra Szoeké will speak about the 'Secrets of Health Ageing' derived from the 30-year longitudinal health study of 400 Melbourne Women - many facts and figures presented in an engaging style – inspiring us to look after our health no matter our circumstances.



It was a delight in June to attend Soroptimist International of Melbourne celebrations of their 75th Anniversary and hear

Judge Frances Millane of the Australian Association of Women Judges speak about hosting and mentoring 17 Afghan women lawyer refugees and families in Australia.

ALERT to ALL NCWV Individual Members inclusive of Individual Life Members, Hon. Life Member and YoungNCWVic Members: Annual Election for Individual Members/Individual Life Members

As an Individual Member or Individual Life Member you are notified that the ANNUAL ELECTION for Convenor, Deputy Convenor, Book Keeper, and Note Taker will be held at the next General Meeting of the Individual Members to be held on **Thursday, 3rd August, 2023, from 10.45am to 11.45am** as a virtual meeting.

There are four positions, Convenor (1); Deputy Convenor (1); Book Keeper (1); Note Taker (1).

Retiring office bearers can renominate for their position. All nominees for the above listed position/s must be current financial Individual Members.

This also includes Nominators and Seconders of Nominee Nominations. If you are NOT currently financial you cannot nominate or VOTE for any position.

A Nomination Form is available from Beverley Kannegiesser, email bjkanner@gmail.com, which you are requested to give consideration to complete.

Kindly return the completed form, NO later than 5pm. Thursday, 20th July 2023 by:

Email to Elida Brereton: elidab14@gmail.com or

Post: PO Box 18186, Collins Street East, Melbourne VIC 8003 clearly marking envelope c/o Elida Brereton – Voting. Kind regards, Elisabeth Newman AM – Convenor; Beverley Kannegiesser–Book Keeper; Carol Robertson–Note Taker.

NCWV August Council Meeting, 3 August, 12:15pm



Speaker: Nadia Mattiazzo, Chief Executive Officer, Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV). Their work is unique focusing on the intersection between Gender and Disability.

WDV have produced several seminal pieces of research, including:

Building the Evidence; Voices Against Violence and, Our Right to Safety and Respect

It is anticipated the content will include information about WDV and the *Gender and Disability Workforce Development Program*, the intersections of gender and disability in violence prevention against women with disabilities (*Changing the Landscape framework*), and resources to be launched - *Actions for Prevention*.



Dr. Kate Duncan AM. In January 2022, Kate received an AM, for significant service to medicine in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology, and to professional associations. Kate graduated from Monash University in 1977, specialised in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and has leadership roles in professional associations: Past President, Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS); Past President, Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW), and Governance Chair, AFMW.

VMWS statement on Women's Reproductive Rights: [AFMW Position Statements - Women's Reproductive Rights | VMWS](#)

Dr Duncan joined the ZOOM meeting in her theatre gowns, as she had just completed work in the operating theatre at Cabrini Hospital! What dedication to her work and to the issues of female health and care.

She started by listing health issues for females from birth onwards, many affected by cultural mores:

Being Born and surviving infancy (some females are not wanted); Physical health; Childhood Nutrition (breast milk is the best, but not always used); Education and validation that girls are important; nurturing into adulthood, avoidance of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation); Specific sex and contraceptive education; Preventive immunisations e.g., vaccination against cervical cancer; Relationship development and partnering (respectful relationships); Fertility Planning – contraception, miscarriage management, abortion, elective sterilisation and infertility treatments; Safe, available, affordable OBSTETRIC care; Postnatal care and lactation support; Gynaecological screening and care; Menopausal health care.

To every sexual action there is a political, legal and religious overreaction! Dr Duncan went on to elaborate on this:

"Human societies have always attempted to control reproduction, to build population in the face of high infant mortality rates. Mostly this has meant controlling women, channelling the work and effort of women's lives into reproduction, child-rearing and household care. Until fairly recently there has not been a difference between sexual activity and fertility other than the social context in which it occurs. Sex led to pregnancy and either to birth or abortion. Rapid changes occurred in the 20th century with the development and availability of contraceptive methods introducing profound social change."

In 1865, in Victoria, abortion was included in the Crimes Act. Doctors and others flouted the law, some safely, others in unsafe situations often resulting in dreadful outcomes. In 1969, a case before Justice Menhennitt defined what was 'lawful' abortions; revisions in 2008 by the Law Reform Commission removed abortion from the Crimes Act. There was, and still is objections from sections of society, including clinics and hospitals being picketed by 'Right to Life' and others.

There are two forms of abortion – medical and surgical. Surgical Termination involves removal of the pregnancy by use of instruments, under anaesthesia, and in a surgical facility. Medical Termination has developed as the use of 2 medications RU486 (mifepristone)- an anti-progesterone, and misoprostol – a synthetic prostaglandin. The importation of RU486 was banned from 1996 to 2006 under the Harradine Amendment, but its use was able to be developed and expanded rapidly once the amendment was repealed. There are still considerable obstacles to its prescription and supply, in that the doctor has to hold a qualifying registration to prescribe and there are restrictions on which pharmacies can stock and supply it.

All States and territories in Australia have removed abortion from the Crimes Act, WA having done so this year. Abortion Laws vary around the world from extreme cases such as El Salvador, where it is banned and women can end up jailed after a miscarriage, to countries where there are no restrictions. The situation in the USA has generated a huge amount of discussion and comment since the precedent in case law, Roe v Wade, has been overturned by a conservative Supreme Court. States have varied in their responses, to the effect that 23 million American women now have no legal access to safe, effective abortion even if they can afford the medical expenses.

Ironically, Ireland, which formerly banned abortion and restricted any access to contraception, has recently overturned its previous laws and decriminalised termination.

Dr Duncan concluded with listing what is needed for Effective Reproductive Health Care:

KNOWLEDGE: General education, literacy, specific sex and contraceptive education, awareness of screening available.

ACCESS: Availability of healthcare personnel, contraceptives, facilities, medications, and surgery. Removal of barriers to attendance (social, legal, political, familial or religious)

AFFORDABILITY: Strengthened public health provisions and avoidance of exploitation. Adequate maternity or sick leave

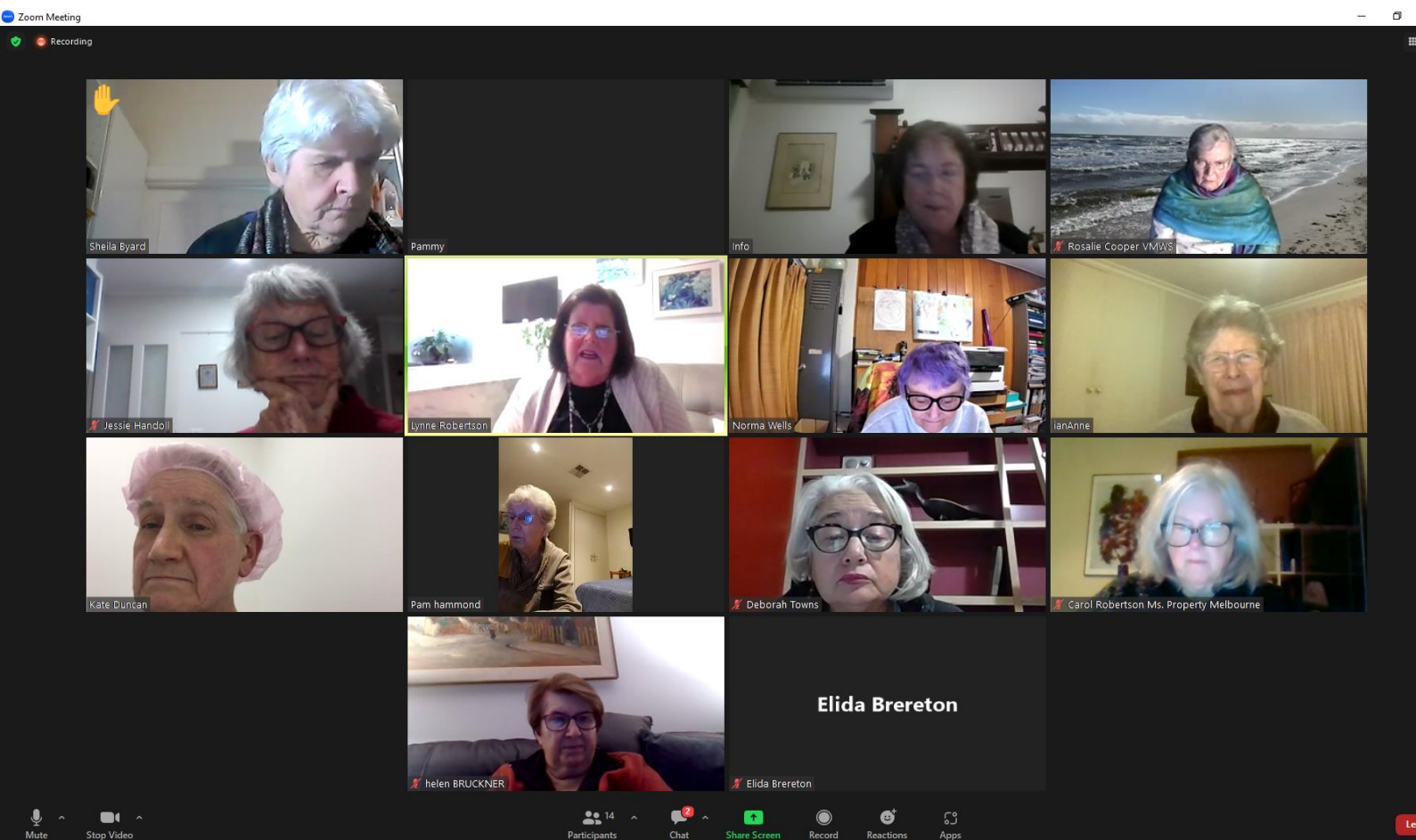
SAFETY: of medications, surgical procedures and obstetric care; of freedom from assault and violence;

EMPOWERMENT: freedom from reproductive coercion, either forced pregnancy/birth, or termination or sterilisation

The issue was raised about how young people can be better informed about their bodies, sexuality choices and safety.

The Department of Education Victoria has compulsory curriculum on Sexuality Education (foundation – Yr10):

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/physed/Pages/about.aspx>



NCWV members participating in July Council Meeting by ZOOM, with Kate Duncan on left with hair covered.



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

ALGWA Victoria invites NCWV members to join the ALGWA Victoria Bursary Awards Night on **30th August 2023**, at the beautiful SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium.

ALGWA Vic is committed to promoting career advancement for women in the local government sector through study. This award is open to all women officers studying to further their careers in local government, and their council is a paid member of ALGWA Vic for 2023/2024.

Here is the link to book <https://www.trybooking.com/CIMRO>



Sylvia Gelman AM MBE NCWV Award- Applications invited

The Sylvia Gelman NCWV Award is provided from the Sylvia Gelman Bequest to the National Council of Women of Victoria (NCWV). It aims to encourage and promote talent within the NCWV family, stimulate innovation and the strengthening of NCWV and its Organisations. The Sylvia Gelman NCWV Award Program aims to provide the recipient participating in NCWV as a Committee Member or Standing Committee Member, with the skills, confidence and ability to support NCWV advocacy for change in the community in Victoria.

Award Criteria

- The Award consists of a Grant of up to \$9,000 over three years.
- The Grant must be used on activities supporting the objectives of NCWV.
- Applicant must be nominated by a member of NCWV or one of its Organisations.
- Applicant must be a member of NCWV or one of its Organisations.
- There is no age restriction for the Applicant.
- The successful Applicant will be supported by a mentor to guide involvement with NCWV and Organisations' activities and networks.
- Applicant is an Australian Citizen or a Permanent Resident of Australia.

Committee Member or Standing Committee Member

To complement the existing skill set within one of these Committees, a successful Applicant will gain experience in the activities of the Committee and learn about the responsibilities of the various positions. She will be assigned various tasks well supported by a mentor. The key responsibilities are:

- To research tasks assigned and to prepare accurate reports/ complete activities within time frame set.
- If a Standing Committee (S/C) Member, prepare quarterly reports to include any research undertaken, as well as an annual report.
- Attendance in person or by ZOOM at:
 - the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and
 - monthly meetings from February to December inclusive of the Council on the first Thursday of the month 12.15 pm to 2.30 pm (and 5:15-7:15 pm in March, July and November.)
- If on the Committee, meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10am until 12 noon or
- If a S/C Member, bi-monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month from 4.30pm until 6pm.
- Help with NCWV activities.

Time commitment – estimated 4 hours per month participation in Committee and Council Meetings and the AGM. Or 3 hours per month as a S/C Member rather than a Committee Member.

The selection criteria includes:

- 1 To use the Award to enhance skills and leadership capabilities of the Applicant for the purpose of promoting, directing, developing and implementing the overall aims of NCWV.
- 2 To commit to playing a key role throughout the NCWV network, enabling the NCWV Committee to continue its role of advocacy and influence on issues affecting women, children and families.
- 3 To commit to a long-term association with NCWV.

A complete application comprises:

1. A written application in the form of a letter
2. A curriculum vitae
3. Two written references of recommendation
4. Any other supporting material the Applicant may wish to submit.

Please send completed Application to NCWV at:

info@ncwvic.org.au

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser – Pam Hammond

Students Take Over Parliament! Let schools know.

Registration: info@ncwvic.org.au



Monday 7th August, 2023; 9:00am for 9:15am - 12:30pm

The outstanding annual student event ***My Vote My Voice***, conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, is again being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melbourne.

Students from government and independent schools, covering the spread of multicultural backgrounds in our Victorian community, will address the topic:

What are the barriers to Human Rights in Australia? How can we begin to overcome them.

Students may carry out research, and gain insights from their peers and others to inform their views on the theme. Students are invited to make a **group presentation** of their findings. Part of their research could include investigating jurisdictions who have, or are in the process of developing, a Human Rights Charter and how appropriate they are. The United Nations and Victoria already have a Human Rights Charter and there are moves to create an Australian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Please encourage schools in your area to register for this very special event.

Early Childhood Update

An exciting partnership to promote Free Kinder 2024 enrolments opening has kicked off between the department, former AFL player Bachar Houli and the Bachar Houli Foundation. Bachar Houli has an authentic connection with the reform, with his son Mohamed set to start free Three-Year-Old Kinder in 2024.

The purpose of the campaign is to tell family stories to reinforce the importance of early childhood education to children of all cultures and backgrounds.



Bachar and supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) identities, such as Rana Hussein and Imam Alaa Elzokm, are respected leaders who will help spread the word about the benefits of kinder, from within their communities.

Recently, Ingrid Stitt, Minister for Early Childhood and Pre Prep, and Bachar launched the campaign at Altona North Children's Centre, in Bachar's local area. Campaign materials to share with your communities:

The campaign video is live on the @earlychildhoodvic Instagram page.

The current [suite of materials](#) includes:

- videos (Arabic, Turkish and Dari subtitles available)
- short video clips (Arabic, Turkish and Dari subtitles available)
- behind-the-scenes stills from filming.

Consider sharing these with your networks to encourage parents of all cultures and backgrounds to enrol their children for kindergarten programs in 2024. Website: [translated resources](#) to communicate with CALD families about kindergarten. Councils with central enrolment will begin allocating kindergarten places in July 2023, with families encouraged to visit local kinders to discuss enrolment options. For further enquiries: ec.portfolio.communications@education.vic.gov.au

NCWV supports this campaign and encourages members and other organisations to promote these resources to CALD members and others with whom they have contact.

OTHER NEWS



Nominations for 2023 Australian Human Rights Awards are open

providing an opportunity to honour and celebrate individuals and organisations striving to defend and protect the human rights of people in Australia. This year's Awards form a key part of Australia's celebration and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Presented by the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Awards provide national recognition to human rights champions from all walks of life and from right across the country, as well as to significant achievements in protecting and promoting human rights in Australia.

Nominations can be submitted in five (5) categories: Human Rights Medal; Law Award; Media & Creative Industries Award; Community Award; and Young People's Award. Four (4) finalists will be selected in each category. Nominations close on **Monday 4 September**. Nominations are free and can be submitted at: www.humanrights.gov.au/aus-human-rights-awards

New Commission campaign encourages Australians to plan for later life



The Commission's 'Have You Thought About Later Life' campaign delivers a range of educational resources to raise awareness about the importance of planning ahead. Future planning empowers older people to have choice and control over their senior years. This campaign forms part of the Commission's suite of resources for preventing elder abuse. See the resources, in six languages, and share them with your communities:

[See the resources](#)

2023 Victorian Refugee Awards.

Now in its third year and hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) as part of Refugee Week, the awards recognise the achievements of Victorians who arrived in Australia as refugees or asylum seekers. The awards highlight people who excel through study, work, entrepreneurship or volunteering, including those who own or run businesses or organisations that support others with refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds.

NCWV congratulates these remarkable people who have rebuilt their lives in Victoria to serve others. Twelve people or organisations received awards including:

- The Young Leader Award went to Athraa Yousif, a refugee mental health advocate, EAL Counsellor and Peer Career Advisor, who uses her own lived experiences in Iraq's wars to inspire others and advocate for more mental health support for young refugees
- The Leadership Award went to Jacob Thang who arrived from Chin State Myanmar 11 years ago and started a small gardening business which is now a successful landscaping company employing people from the local Chin community. Jacob is also the founder of Chin Myanmar Community Care and the Vice President of the Western Chin Community
- The Achievement Award went to the Dandenong-based Afghan Women's Organisation Victoria which supports and empowers Afghan women and girls from diverse backgrounds.

New Board Member for Infrastructure Victoria



The State Government has appointed respected construction industry leader Rebecca Casson as an independent director of the Infrastructure Victoria board. Infrastructure Victoria is an independent advisory body that prepares Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy, advises the Government on specific infrastructure matters and publishes research on infrastructure-related issues. Ms Casson brings a wealth of experience. She is chair of the Building Industry Consultative Council, President of construction worker entitlement body *Incolink* and a director of the Victorian Skills Authority.

Ms Casson was previously CEO of Master Builders Victoria and was the first woman appointed to the role in the organisation's 147-year history. She led Master Builders Victoria for four years including through positive transformation during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms Casson was also previously CEO of the Committee for Geelong, a not-for-profit advocate body for the city and its long-term sustainability. She has previously held a range of board and advisory positions throughout her career in both Australia and the United Kingdom. Infrastructure Victoria Board Chair Jim Miller said *"Rebecca Casson's experience in infrastructure projects, policy development and implementation of change will be valuable as Infrastructure Victoria progresses the next update of Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy."*

Game-Changing Research Backing Women in Sport

The State Government is backing women and girls in sport – with more funding for university-based research projects that will help women and girls to participate, lead and succeed in all areas of sport.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence has announced four research projects funded through the Change Our Game Research Grants Program 2022-23.

From projects on workplace management, approaches to coaching, and supporting diversity in sport, the research will help identify real solutions to issues and barriers for women and girls in sport on and off the field.

The successful project recipients are:

- Effective anti-racism approaches for women and girls in community sport (Dr Kim Toffoletti, Aish Ravi, Professor Karen Farquharson and Associate Professor Karen Block)
- Improving community sport clubs' gender diversity management (Dr Jordan Taylor Bakhsh, Acting Professor Katie Rowe and Professor Pamm Phillips)
- Building bridges across the gender divide – mobilising male allyship in sport coaching (Dr Zoe Anver, Associate Professor Helen Brown, Dr Luke Jones)
- Mapping intersectionality within the Victorian sport sector workplaces (Professor Emma Sherry, Eleanor Faulkner, Professor Tracy Taylor)

Dr Kim Toffoletti and Aish Ravi from Deakin University are leading an anti-racism research project that will explore women and girls' experiences and responses to racism in community sport. This will consider the impacts of reporting racism and will create culturally relevant and gender-sensitive anti-racism resources. This project complements research funded in last year's program on enabling Muslim girls in physical activity and sport, which explored parental attitudes and barriers.

NVWV applauds these research projects which hopefully will reveal further strategies to support more women to participate in sport.

Respect Victoria Announces New Board Members

The State Government has welcomed four new members to the Board of Respect Victoria, the state's dedicated agency for the prevention of all forms of family violence and violence against women. Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence Ros Spence today announced Nesreen Bottriell, Jan Noblett, Professor Steven Roberts and Daphne Yarram have been appointed to Respect Victoria's Board to continue its important work.

Ms Bottriell, General Manager at the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, has significant experience in financial and executive management, governance and compliance within the government and not-for-profit sectors.

Ms Noblett, Director of Quality and Outcomes at Anglicare Victoria, brings a strong focus on operational leadership, policy development and portfolio management in the human services sector.

Professor Roberts, an Associate Dean Grad Research (Education) and Professor of Education and Social Justice at Monash University, has lived experience of family violence. He is internationally renowned for research in critical masculinities studies and the sociology of youth and inequalities.

Ms Yarram, a proud Noongar woman, has been CEO of Yoowinna Wurnalung Aboriginal Healing Service in East Gippsland for 17 years and is chairperson of Aboriginal Housing Victoria and member of several governance groups.

The new board members were chosen for their strong expertise in primary prevention, governance, financial and risk management, and ability to add strength to the implementation of Respect Victoria's Strategic Plan 2023-2028: [strategic plan 2023-2028 - Respect Victoria](#)



Respect Victoria <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au> > 2023-202... PDF

Quotes attributable to Respect Victoria Chair Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon

"It is an exciting time for Respect Victoria as we deliver on the vision of our Strategic Plan. I am thrilled to welcome four esteemed individuals to our Board who bring depth of expertise and experience that will be critical to supporting Respect Victoria in its mission to achieve a Victoria free from violence against women and family violence."



Wire has [free events](#) coming up:



Tuesday 11 July, 2pm - 3.30pm. ONLINE AND IN PERSON.

Looking for information about family law and navigating separation? Want to find out how to reach an agreement on children and property?

Find out about property and separation at this free seminar by WIRE and Sage Family Lawyers. [Book online](#) or call **(03) 8326 7100**

Western Bulldogs Community Foundation – Daughters of the West program

This FREE 10-week health program is facilitated by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation in partnership with local councils and community health services across Victoria. The aim of the program is to empower women to make their health and wellbeing a priority by giving them the tools and knowledge.

Programs will run in Ballarat, Brimbank, Horsham, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Sunbury, Wyndham and online.

[Find out more and register on the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation website](#)

Women CAN: Bus Driver Traineeship

Women living in the North of Melbourne: Women CAN & Dyson Bus Lines are now recruiting for their second group of women to gain their bus licence for free and earn a wage whilst learning on the job.

[Find out more at the Women CAN website](#) or contact: Wennie van Riet - Project Manager

Email: wennie.vanriet@womencanaustralia.org Phone: 0401 071 227

WIRE's highly successful [STEP Job Seeker program](#) will begin again in late July - and they are looking for people who have experienced family violence and are looking for a job, to participate. They are also looking for job coaches to support them.

WIRE will be [extending our support line hours](#) on Mondays and Tuesdays! From Monday 3rd July, WIRE will be extending their hours in response to community need. Support via Telephone (1300 134 130), Chat (www.wire.org.au) and Zoom will be available from 11am-7pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. Zoom support is available by appointment only. Bookings can be made online at calendly.com/wirevictoria or by calling (03) 8326 7100 or email support@wire.org.au

From Wednesday – Friday, WIRE will continue to operate during regular hours of 9.30am- 12.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm.

The Walk in Centre, Level 1, 673 Bourke Street will continue to open Monday–Friday 9.30am-12.30pm; 1.30-4.30pm.



Searching for employment after experiencing family violence can be daunting, but you don't have to do it alone! If you have experienced family violence, live in greater Melbourne and are looking for work, you can sign up to participate in the *Sustainable and Transformative Employment Pathways (STEP) Program*.

You'll get access to workshops to build your confidence and skills to look for work, a job coach who can provide you with targeted guidance, and be supported by a group of other job seekers as you look for work together. **If you're interested, the program commences on 27 July.** Email at STEP@wire.org.au or fill out their [online expression of interest](#) if you would like to be involved or learn more!

Strengthening Eating Disorder Supports for Victorians

The State Government is taking another step towards an accessible, integrated and inclusive Mental Health and Wellbeing system - with consultation on the *Victorian Eating Disorders Strategy* now complete. More than 250 community members, including those with, or at risk of, eating disorders, families and carers, as well as health services, clinical experts and advocacy groups, provided valuable insights during consultations and through written submissions.

The *What we heard report*, outlines the community members' vision for people in Victoria to have a safe and empowered relationship with their body, food and movement, free of stigma or weight discrimination, so they can build a meaningful life underpinned by their own physical and mental wellbeing. They called for a system that is person, family and supporter-centred, is accessible, interconnected and evidence-informed and one that promotes prevention and early intervention, and is co-designed and delivered with lived experience.

The Government is rebuilding a mental health and wellbeing system with almost \$6 billion over the past three state budgets, and the strategy will build upon the transformation underway. The strategy will consider evidence-informed actions to take a whole-of-lifespan view that captures the diversity of peoples' experiences, including the different types of eating disorders and disordered eating behaviours that occur. The strategy, to be released later this year, is in response to findings of the Royal Commission and the increasing prevalence and impact of eating disorders on the Victorian community.

In 2022-23, the State Government invested \$20 million for eating disorder supports, including to expand the integrated specialist model at 10 hospitals. In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, the State is working to deliver the state's first publicly funded residential eating disorder centre, which will open in 2024. For more information on the *What we heard report* and the *Victorian Eating Disorders Strategy* visit engage.vic.gov.au.



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**



*"What would you do if you had no access to early learning and childcare? This is the reality for too many families living in rural and remote Australia, where 3.7 million families have poor access to early learning, and 1 million have no access at all." **"If you live in the country and have struggled to access early learning, we want to hear from you. [Click here to share your story now.](#)"***

*"We've partnered with **The Parenthood** to collect stories from people living in the country who can't get the early learning their families need to thrive. **These stories will be collated as part of a full report, and shared directly with MPs in Federal Parliament, to show them why we need immediate action on early learning in rural and remote areas** - imagine just how powerful it will be to hand these key decision makers a book filled with hundreds of stories from country families!" **Will you help to ensure leaders understand the experiences of families in regional Australia? [Click here to share your story now and show our Federal leaders what it's really like for families in the country.](#)"***

All families deserve access to high quality early learning, regardless of where they live. Together, we can make it happen."
Thank you, Jay Weatherill, Director of Thrive by Five

Be Part of History

Another reminder:

Murdoch Children's Research Institute's [GenV](#), one of the world's largest-ever birth and parent cohort studies, has seen 35,000 babies (90,000 newborns, mothers and fathers) sign up. GenV is recruiting across every birthing hospital in Victoria. Every baby born **from October 4, 2021 to October 3, 2023** is invited to join, along with their parents, no matter where they live in Victoria or what language they speak. Participants can sign up to the study in person during their birthing hospital stay or at any time thereafter via a simple, guided online process. <https://www.genv.org.au>

GenV Scientific Director [Professor Melissa Wake](#) said the project aimed to better understand and treat the causes of modern health problems such as obesity, asthma, autism, food allergies and mental illness. *"Families that take part in GenV will make a difference to the future health of generations to come,"* she said. GenV aims to help solve the complex problems facing children and adults and provide the opportunity to better predict, treat and prevent many different conditions.

The recruitment team has recorded 70 languages, including Auslan, during the opt-in process. More than 6700 families in GenV do not primarily speak English at home.



Events

Epic Showcase of Local Creativity in Melbourne Now

The latest NGV blockbuster *Melbourne Now* is putting Victorian creativity on show in a spectacular free exhibition that celebrates the work of more than 200 of the state's most exciting artists and designers. A huge showcase of local talent, *Melbourne Now* takes over all three levels of the Fed Square gallery and features painting, performance art, sculpture, photography, product design, fashion, jewellery, architecture, video, virtual reality and more.

This is the second *Melbourne Now*, a decade on from its inaugural showing in 2013. It features the work of creatives at all career stages and from all parts of the state, including many who are exhibiting at the NGV for the first time. Visitors will get a first look at more than 70 never before seen works by local artists and designers that have been newly commissioned by the NGV – a major investment in Victorian talent.

Featured works include a giant 'temple' made from over 600 computer fans by artist Rel Pham and a 10-metre-long installation representing the 38 Indigenous language groups of Victoria by First Peoples artist Lee Darroch.

A hugely popular feature of the 2013 show, *the Design Wall*, returns to shine a spotlight on the Victorian-designed products that have made waves over the past decade. *The remaking of things*, is a green pocket of restored eucalyptus forest habitat especially for the Grey-headed flying fox, collaged from 100 pieces in the collection of the NGV. This exceptional work is a forest in which you can watch night turn to day and day turn to night.

Visitors will also be able to see performance art, participate in interactive art making activities and catch film screenings.

Melbourne Now is on display until 20 August at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia at Fed Square, Melbourne and entry is free. Further information is available on the NGV website ngv.vic.gov.au.

Victoria's creative industry supports more than 315,000 jobs across the state, representing 9 per cent of Victoria's total workforce and delivering a \$34.4 billion boost to the economy annually.

Free tickets for under 16s at Melbourne ACMI's *GODDESS: Power, Glamour, Rebellion*



The world-premiere ACMI-curated exhibition celebrates 120 years of moving image history and the women and gender-transcending superstars who blazed a trail by challenging and disrupting the feminine ideal.

The exhibition features never-before-seen costumes, original sketches, interactive experiences and cinematic treasures including outfits worn by Marilyn Monroe, Michelle Yeoh, Margot Robbie, Geena Davis and Zendaya.

L-R Laverne Cox; Marilyn Monroe; Anno Kodansha; Winnie Harlow.

ACMI has also announced two more *Goddess Nights* live late night events: 27 July and 28 September, and a *Goddess weekend* on 2-3 September. This will highlight local Goddesses, business owners, creatives, screen industry shakers and innovators, helping to inspire the next generation.

The film program accompanying the exhibition has been extended until 27 August, including *Muriel's Wedding*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Carmen Jones*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. From July 15 ACMI will screen a new 4K restoration of *Thelma and Louise*. The exhibition runs until 1 October. Information and tickets at: www.acmi.net.au



National Council of Women Australia is holding its Annual General Meeting and Conference on: Tuesday October 17 in Sydney. There will be the Governor's Reception at Admiralty House that evening. More details to follow.

Countdown to opening of Geelong Arts Centre



The opening festivities will kick off with two Grand Opening Showcase events featuring headliner Jessica Mauboy, and a comedy triple-header featuring Dilruk Jayasinha, Lizzy Hoo and Dave Thornton, on **Saturday 19 August**. Four weeks of free and ticketed events will follow, including performances from Missy Higgins, tours of the new facilities, a community open day, comedy acts and more. Visit: www.geelongartscentre.org.au

Designed by award-winning Victorian architects ARM, the Little Malop Street Redevelopment is being delivered through a partnership between the Geelong Arts Centre, Creative Victoria, Development Victoria and Lendlease.

The project is creating 600 jobs during construction and showcases the creativity and craftsmanship of the region, from the carpets to largescale architectural glass on the façade and the First Nations artworks set to be an attraction in their own right. Once open, the region will be spoilt for choice in performances and creative activity, with 1,000 events booked in.

Our Purposes: *to provide a non-party political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.*

Our motto: *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 have them do unto you."*

National Council of Women of Victoria Meeting dates for 2023

August	3 rd	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
August	14 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
August	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
September	7 th	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Zoom and RH
September	11 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
September	21 st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
October	5 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
October	9 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
October	17 th	Tuesday	NCWA AGM & Conference		Sydney
October	17 th	Tuesday	NCWA Governor's Reception	18:00	Admiralty Hse
October	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom and RH
November	2 nd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
November	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
November	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
November	14 th	Tuesday	Annual Luncheon, William Angliss Restaurant, 550 Lt. Lonsdale St	12:00	In person
December	7 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meets	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH