

**Founded 1902 ~ Celebrating 120 years in 2022**

**Newsletter**

**March 2023**

## 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: International Women's Day 2023 theme is 'Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future'.** This theme is based on the [United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women](#) priority theme 'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'. We celebrate all women, in all their diversities. We embrace their facets and intersections of faith, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity or disability. We celebrate those who came before us, those who stand beside us now, and those who will come after. It's a time to celebrate the achievements of women, whether social, political, economic or cultural. Women of IWDA

## From the President, Ronniet Milliken



As we approach International Women's Day, we are impatient for culture change in our community. National and state legislators have initiated change over the last FIVE DECADES through a matrix of legislation, beginning with Racial Discrimination (1975), Sex Discrimination (1984), Age Discrimination (2004), developed/enhanced as gaps identified.

In Victoria, September 2020 this included the appointment of the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner overseeing the implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2020 regarding Victorian State and Local Government bodies and services. These legislated reforms have not been matched by cultural change across Australia! Sadly, we have seen poor leadership by individuals at the highest levels in government and commerce. After years of headlines about the toxic workplace culture at Federal Parliament, 'codes of conduct' will for the first time apply to all Federal parliamentarians and staffers - *setting a positive example for workplaces across the country where proactive change is essential.*

On 1 February 2023 legislated domestic violence leave (10 days paid leave p.a.) commenced for workers across Australia.

On 8 February 2023 the Workplace Gender Equality Amendment (Closing the Gender Pay Gap) Bill 2023 was introduced into Federal Parliament to implement all 10 recommendations from the 2021 Review of the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. Ahead of the next Federal Budget we are cautiously optimistic regarding investment in the women's agenda.

**Overall, we are heartened and energised to continue to pursue and promote RESPECT in the private and public life experienced by girls and women across Australia.**

We are impatient with timeframes articulated to achieve equality of opportunity, and end discrimination and harassment - across Australia.

NCWV will continue to hold leadership to account.

**The Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC CVO, and Mr Anthony Howard AM KC** invite you to attend a free public health lecture on women's health on eve of International Women's Day.

**Governor's Lecture Series: A Healthy Future for Girls and Women, Ballroom, Government House Victoria**

**Tuesday 7 March 2023, 5.00pm for a 6.00pm start**

The event will open with remarks by the Governor, followed by a discussion moderated by the Royal Women's Hospital's Chief Operating Officer Lisa Lynch on the health of girls and women, including menopause, fertility, gynaecological conditions, endometriosis, mental health. Panel speakers:

**Professor Marie-Paule Austin:** Head of Psychiatry at the Royal Women's Hospital

**Dr Tanaka Dune:** Pelvic floor expert, academic, clinical surgeon and educator

**Associate Professor Michelle Peate:** Fertility and reproductive health expert.

RSVP via: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/governors-lecture-series-a-healthy-future-for-girls-and-women-tickets-541964419167>

## IWD invitation sent to HEAN BEE WEE:

On March 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM via zoom, the International Council Of Women, the Asean Confederation of Women Organizations, and the National Council Of Women of the Philippines, will mount an International Women's Forum: Embracing Equity Via Economic Empowerment: Empowered Women's Strategies to Economic Development. Topic: International Women's Forum

**Time: Mar 8, 2023 6:00 PM Melbourne time.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81176553602?pwd=bkVDU09HR2RmdHVCTFU2aFJBQlBpQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 7655 3602 Passcode: womenforum

Sincerely, Dr. Cecilia La Madrid, Dy, Ph.D., President, Asean Confederation on Women's Organizations.

Australian Asian Business Women's Association (AABWA),  
Netherlands Chamber of Commerce Australia (NCCA) and  
Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN)



**CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Saturday 25th March 2023  
12pm for 12.30pm - 2.30pm

**"Embracing Equity - the Key to Australia's Success"**  
**Guest Speaker: Karyn Sobels**

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon featuring:

- High Tea: Drinks & Canapés
- Entertainment by Hello Music
- Lucky Raffle Draw
- Valuable Networking

**About Our Guest Speaker:**  
Karyn Sobels is the past President of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and was the first female President in the Chamber's 171 year history. Karyn has more than 30 years' experience in the Retail, Telecommunications and Banking sectors, is a small business owner, and an experienced Company Director. With a particular passion for small business, Karyn is a founding Director of the Australian Business Growth Fund and a Board Member of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Karyn holds a BA, a Masters in Commercial Law and is a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Governance Institute of Australia.

**Bookings/Programme Details:**  
[www.IWDEvent.com](http://www.IWDEvent.com)  
Members: \$88  
Non-Members: \$105  
Tables of 10: \$880

Dress code: Business attire / Cocktail  
Venue: Kooyong Tennis Club - 489 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong  
Free parking available at Kooyong Tennis Club



**Gender Equity.**

The role we all need to play.

**EVENT 7.45pm**  
**Wed 15 March**

**BOOK NOW**

Join NCJWA for their International Women's Day event, featuring speaker Dr Niki Vincent.

Join NCJWA for their International Women's Day event, featuring speaker Dr Niki Vincent.

**Wednes. 15<sup>th</sup> March, 7.45pm, Hardhat 1/111 High St, Prahran.**

Dr Vincent is Victoria's first Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner and plays a key leadership role in promoting gender equality in the Victorian community and workplaces.

NCJWA encourages men and women to attend this important event where Dr Vincent will discuss how to 'Embrace Equity' and how a focus on gender equity needs to be part of every society's DNA. Dr Vincent will raise awareness about the gender disparities that still exist in the workplace and how to create a more inclusive culture that promotes equal opportunities.

**The Adelaide International Women's Day Breakfast**  
**Friday, 10 March 2023, 6.45am for 7am start**

Committee member and Senator Hon Penny Wong announced the special guest for 2023's Adelaide IWD Breakfast: **Ambassador Caroline Kennedy**, in our return to a face-to-face event.

Ambassador Caroline Kennedy is a key figure in the Australia-US Alliance.

Online ticket sales opened on 8 February 2023 (ACDT).  
Virtual – \$20 *plus booking fee.* **Buy Tickets**

**Ukrainian Women Association Australia – Alla Horska Branch**, invite you to be our guests to view the exhibition of Ukrainian Art in Wood and Ceramics and acknowledge International Women Day.

On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Place: Ukrainian Museum of Australia

35 Canning Street, North Melbourne.

(Museum is located on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Cathedral Hall).

Time: **from 10.30am for 11am start.**

RSVP Sun 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023, [allahorska@outlook.com](mailto:allahorska@outlook.com)

**Yanina Dutka - President**

Ukrainian Women's Assoc. Aus.-Alla Horska Branch.

**The Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance** invites you to 'Making It Home: *Uncovering Solutions to Older Women's Housing*' event, a screening of a documentary exploring the growing problem of homelessness in women over 55, UNDER COVER, followed by a panel discussion chaired by Jane Caro AM - Walkley Award winning columnist, author, broadcaster and social commentator. We'll be sharing the early findings of EAHA's key research on *Preventing Homelessness in Women Over 55 in the Eastern Metropolitan Region*. This project is funded by the Victorian Government via the Eastern Metropolitan Partnership.

**Date: Thu 16 Mar 2023, 06:00 PM**

Venue: Karralyka Theatre, Cnr Mines Road & Wilson St, Ringwood East.

Registration: [ticket purchase link](#). Cost \$10 per person.

Any queries, contact Joanna Stubbings, EAHA Lead Officer at [Joanna.stubbings@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:Joanna.stubbings@knox.vic.gov.au).

**Centre of Multicultural Youth (cmY);**  
<https://www.cmy.net.au/>

This month we welcomed the announcement from Immigration Minister Andrew Giles for around 19,000 people on temporary protection visas (TPVs) or safe haven enterprise visas (SHEVs), who are now able to apply for permanent residency. This significant and necessary policy change will be life-changing for so many in our community, and we express gratitude to the Government for delivering on it. You can find important information about this change on [Refugee Council of Australia website](#).





The charity for  
girls' equality

### spoke on Young Women and Youth Activism

**Susanne Legena CEO of PLAN Australia** and members of her team including Youth Activists joined the meeting. Susanne gave an overview stating that *'PLAN is the charity for girls' equality. We tackle the root causes of poverty, support communities through crisis, campaign for gender equality, and help governments do what's right for children and particularly for girls. We believe a better world is possible. An equal world; a world where all children can live happy and healthy lives, and where girls can take their rightful place as equals.'* Plan believes a better world is possible and they can add value and have made some pretty big changes in the 80 years they have been around.

PLAN has Five Pillars: Learn; Lead; Decide; Thrive; Survive, designed to create young women leaders and change-makers.

**The Youth Activist Series (YAS)**, a 12 month leadership program, provides a platform for young people to learn more about global issues surrounding gender justice, and presents a space where they can build their capacity and campaign with young people all over the world. The purpose of YAS is to give participants the chance to drive real change that is informed by their voices and solutions.



**Ruvimbo, one of the Youth Activist in the Youth Activist Series (YAS): Stand Up Against Street Harassment awareness and training program**, PLAN International Australia proudly partnered with L'Oréal Paris, to deliver this in Australia. This stemmed from research done, resulting in the mapping tool **Free to Be** [Free to Be - Women's Safety Map | Plan International Australia](#), developed in collaboration with Monash University's XYX Lab and young women. One tool developed is the Vic Police text-based reporting tool. This one-hour, virtual interactive training is being offered completely free, and will be delivered by Plan International Australia's Youth Activists to the public and organisations across Australia. [Stand up against street harassment - Plan International Australia](#)

**Siena**, who works in digital marketing, outlined threats to online safety including time/autonomy children are online; sexualisation of and by young; grooming; radicalisation (especially boys). She believes that platforms/corporations don't take enough responsibility, as they sell personal data to those who benefit by targeting individuals. Legislation/laws needed.

Young people came together from Vietnam, Indonesia and Australia to research how active bystander intervention can fight the growing levels of gender-based violence and harassment that young people experience online. These youth leaders worked together to design the guiding project questions, conduct focus groups with peers and now campaign for change! Their research focused on this question: *What is needed to mobilise and support people to be active online bystanders when they witness online gender-based violence directed towards young people in all our diversity?*

Their research showed that people are powerful agents of change and can be mobilised to be active bystanders but they need the education, tools and support to do so. Education systems and social media companies have a big and important role to play in equipping people to be active bystanders. Their findings, recommendations and ideas for action demonstrate that change is possible and it lies with all of us as individuals as well as with social media platforms and our government.

**Jemma** Enough is Enough! We need to address the barriers to women entering politics. In 2022, YAS and Youth Activists from Indonesia and Vietnam came together to collectively inform what inclusive, and truly representative, civic spaces could look like. It found that young people feel undervalued and powerless in participating in politics. **The Voices for Change** report explores young people's leadership and political participation, and proposes solutions for a new way forward. This report was presented before the Minister for Youth. [2022-YAS-Report.pdf \(plan.org.au\)](#)

Jemma is keen to link with the young NCWV group to possibly create youth programs, share ideas, support young people. Susanne concluded and suggested we partner for change and have intergenerational dialogues.

## NCWV Member Survey

**There were 38 members who responded to the Member Survey.** We thank them for taking the time to complete the survey. Aggregated results were discussed at the Committee Strategy Session, Sunday 9 October and influences the 2023 program.

**One of the NCWV Survey suggestions was increased engagement with member organisations.** At the November Council meeting Girl Guides Victoria helped us look to the future for girls and women in metropolitan and regional Victoria. Other Organisations will be scheduled in the coming months. In March Elida Brereton, our Vic President and Delegate for MLC Old Collegians spoke fondly about MLOC.

**A Table of Priorities has been prepared for further consideration and this is guiding our choice of speakers and advocacy.**

Topics	Count
Equal representation of women in all levels of decision making	31
Women's health (including mental health)	24
Gender pay equity	24
Economic security - older women	22
Family Violence Reform implementation (Royal Commission Victoria 2016)	22
Increase in public housing and social housing	21
Gender Equity in Employment	21
Equity in education and training for girls and women	20
Aged Care Quality and Safety recommendations - implementation (Royal Commission Commonwealth January 2021)	20
Gender equality – and promoting gender-based investments	18
Sex trafficking and modern slavery of girls and women	16
Respect for diversity in our society	16
Respect @Work Report 2020 recommendations - Implementation (Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner)	15
Respect/ Bullying	15
Impacts of poverty - Implications of not having access to a living wage	14
Sexual assault in the workplace	12
Impact of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls	12
STEM	12
Effects of the increasing costs of living	11
Treaty – First Nations	10
Seniors Rights (including elder abuse)	10
Public Sector Corruption	10
Prison reform - greater supports for women in all stages of the justice system	7
Broader access to free Childcare	7
Sustainable development goal	7
Universal free early childhood education	7
Reproduction laws across Australia	7
Raising the age of criminality and child incarceration (from 10 years old)	6
Gender Equity in children's literature	6
Period poverty - broader access to feminine hygiene products and education	5
Cyber safety	5
Conflict resolution and peace	5
Surrogacy	2

## ADVISER NEWS

**Education Adviser – Pam Hammond - some recent Media Releases:**

**VCOSS newsletter Ampliy announces:** Education reform for students with disabilities. Victoria is pushing ahead with the roll-out of its multi-billion dollar Disability Inclusion reforms in schools. The scheme began during Term 4 of 2021, and is being introduced state-wide over five years to 2025. To mark the start of the school year, VCOSS hosted a forum reviewing the implementation of the scheme. The Department of Education participated in this event and answered audience questions. **RECORDING AVAILABLE:**



## Early Childhood Education <https://www.vic.gov.au/early-childhood-update-march-2023>

Kim Little, Deputy Secretary, announced the following initiatives:

### Support for culturally and linguistically diverse families



The Department has funded 22 local councils to employ culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) outreach workers. The Department has provided funding to support 22 local councils across Victoria to engage culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) outreach workers for early childhood education. CALD outreach workers help address barriers to kindergarten access and participation for children and families from CALD backgrounds. The outreach workers in these communities will also support families and children transition to school and support ongoing participation in education.

### Free interpreting services for funded early childhood services

Language Loop provides free interpreting services for funded early childhood education services, including telephone, video and onsite interpreters. All interpreters are qualified and accredited. If you need support from an interpreter to engage with people in your community from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, Language Loop can help.

These services support our equity and diversity goals outlined in the [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#), in particular our focus on recognising multilingualism as an asset and supporting children to maintain their first language, learn English as an additional language, and learn languages other than English.

### Access translated information resources to support CALD families

The Department's new webpage provides a range of audio, video and text resources for cultural and linguistically diverse families. The Department has launched a new [webpage](#) for services to support cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) families to enrol and participate in kindergarten programs, including information on programs relevant to CALD families, as well as translated resources for services and providers to communicate with families about the benefits of kindergarten.

### Celebrating International Women and Girls on Science Day

Marking the eighth annual UN International Women and Girls in Science Day, Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said the upcoming Trades Fit Expo represents an excellent opportunity for female and non-binary students to explore career opportunities in STEM fields. The Trades Fit is an expo hosted by the Department of Education for female and non-binary students in years 9-12. **Held over 10-11 May** at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the expo allows students to experience exciting career opportunities in traditionally male-dominated fields through interactive experiences and conversation with industry, in a way that focuses on their perspectives.

Victoria's 10 technology schools represent STEM excellence and support female and non-binary students to think innovatively, while connecting them with industry to provide the next generation of Victoria's brightest every opportunity to succeed. The VCE Vocational Major, beginning 2023, prepares students to move into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, non-ATAR university pathways or straight into the workforce.

### **Parliament Express is a free series of workshops and 1:1 mentoring sessions for people aged 18 to 25.**

This program gives emerging writers the ability to not only experience, but also document the work of parliament. Participants have the chance to engage with MPs, members of the press gallery and parliamentary staff. Launched in 2022, the program aims to upskill aspiring journalists who have an interest in politics. Those involved can indicate their preference for online, in person or hybrid participation. Parliament Express demonstrated how parliament engages with young people.

'One of the benefits of this entire experience is that our work will be published on the [website](#) which is very exciting because we can build up our portfolio,' previous participant Chelsea Daniel said. The two-hour fortnightly sessions will start on a Tuesday evening in April. **Apply by Wednesday 22 March 2023** for a place, run by Parliament of Victoria and [Express Media](#).

### **Making Kids Sport More Affordable for Families In 2023**

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence has announced that applications for the *Get Active Kids Voucher Program* are open. Eligible families can apply for vouchers of up to \$200 and use them at their registered Get Active Kids Voucher Activity Provider without having to worry about upfront costs. The vouchers can help pay for sporting equipment, uniforms and memberships in a range of activities – even learn to swim classes for toddlers. Almost 80,000 vouchers have been snapped up in previous rounds. To be eligible, kids must be aged 18 and under, a Victorian resident, named on a valid Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and named on a valid Medicare Card. Applications **close on 10 May**.

A special consideration stream is available to support children residing in Victorian Care Services, temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants and international students aged 18 and under. Clubs, associations and organisations can register as a *Get Active Kids Voucher Activity Provider* to be able to redeem vouchers. They must be affiliated with a recognised state sporting association or equivalent governing body. For more information: [getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers](https://getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers).



## OTHER NEWS

### **New Public Surgical Centres Helping Victorians**

Two new public surgical centres are already performing almost 2000 procedures since opening late last year. Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas and Minister for Ambulance Services Gabrielle Williams visited the Frankston Public Surgical Centre, saying that the service will expand to a seven-day service in the coming weeks, while the Blackburn Public Surgical Centre has completed hundreds of procedures since it opened last October. The centres are helping to reduce public surgery waitlist, completing procedures across specialities including same day endoscopy, orthopaedics, plastics, gynaecology, urology and ear, nose and throat. Once running at full scale in 2023-24, they will deliver almost 15,000 procedures annually.

### **Enhanced Protection For Nature At Wilsons Prom**

Wilsons Promontory National Park is one step closer to becoming Victoria's largest conservation sanctuary, as part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$23 million *Wilsons Prom Revitalisation* project.

A 10-kilometre fence will be erected to keep out predators like foxes, feral cats and deer, forming part of a major investment that will improve the protection of native habitat and species, while enhancing visitor experiences at one of Victoria's most popular destinations. The fence - to be designed by GHD - will prevent invasive species entering the national park and will aid ongoing conservation programs, which include large-scale invasive species control, large-scale habitat restoration and threatened species recovery programs. Wilsons Promontory is home to a number of threatened species including the Eastern Bristlebird, Eastern Pygmy-possum, Ground Parrot, Growling Grass Frog, Hooded Plover, New Holland Mouse, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Swamp Skink. Once complete, the fence will establish a 50,000-hectare protected biodiversity sanctuary, ensuring safety of the unique and abundant wildlife.

Also, upgrades are underway to the Tidal River visitor precinct, trails and new accommodation options in the park.

### **Increased Funding for Youth Housing Across Victoria**

Minister for Housing Colin Brooks visited the Melbourne City Mission youth refuge in Werribee to announce a \$50 million investment to build more than 130 new homes for young people across Victoria and see first-hand how having a roof over their head has transformed young people's lives. The investment will be shared between eight registered housing providers and community service organisations to build ten new housing projects across the state.

Melbourne City Mission will build two new projects in Werribee – and other successful providers include the Salvos, Kids Under Cover, Beyond Housing, Mallee Accommodation and Support and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Regional Victorian communities will see new houses built – including Wangaratta, Wodonga, Shepparton (Mooroopna), Bairnsdale, Mildura, Reservoir, South Morang and Frankston. All will feature energy efficient design to keep bills low.

More than 16 per cent of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria are aged between 15 to 24 – and these vital projects will ensure young people have the safety and security of a home to help them grow and develop. The homes will deliver a range of housing options including youth foyers that integrate housing with education, employment and other support services, or supported accommodation and projects focused on young people leaving out of home care. All homes will be in accessible locations, walking distance to education, employment, public transport, retail and community services.

### **Housing Co-Op to Provide Shelter for Homeless Women**

Minister for Housing Colin Brooks has turned the first sod at the redevelopment of the Footscray Lions Elderly Citizens Village in West Footscray, which will provide a home for more than 40 women, their partners and carers. The United Housing Co-operative (UHC) has partnered with the Lions Club of Footscray on the project. They will jointly own the site, with UHC to manage the tenancies. The village will use a housing co-operative model, where residents are empowered to help run and maintain the properties. The village will feature 49 one and two-bedroom apartments, built over three storeys and will predominately house women over the age of 55 in need of secure and affordable housing. The redevelopment will include a community facility, a community garden and orchard, and solar power.

### **Neighbourhood Houses Help Casuals Access Sick Pay**

Minister for Employment Ben Carroll has announced up to 100 neighbourhood houses will provide free assistance to help community members sign up and claim the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee. Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre in Greater Shepparton is one of over 60 neighbourhood houses already on board to deliver support. Participating community centres and neighbourhood houses can provide access to in-language support, computers and the internet, and help casual workers understand and sign up to the scheme. With over 200,000 people visiting neighbourhood houses each week, the partnership will mean thousands more casual workers will have the support they need to access sick and carer's pay. Eligible casual workers can now sign up for 38 hours a year of sick and carer's pay with direct support from a neighbourhood house. This community-based approach will make the initiative more accessible for workers who may face technology or language barriers. The Sick Pay Guarantee is delivering sick and carer's pay to industries with the highest rates of casual and contract workers that do not have access. For eligible workers and more information go to local Neighbourhood House [nhvic.org.au](http://nhvic.org.au) or at [vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee](http://vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee). Information is available in 19 languages on the website or call 131 450.

## Boosting Ambulance Resources In Gippsland

Minister for Ambulance Services Gabrielle Williams has announced that construction has started on the Morwell Ambulance superstation and the new Foster Ambulance Station – and a site has been secured for the multi-million-dollar Paynesville Ambulance Station. The Morwell Ambulance Station will feature a nine-bay garage for ambulances, eight rest and recline areas for hard-working paramedics to recuperate, training facilities, a fully equipped kitchen and improved security and car parking to make sure paramedics are safe. Construction is on track to be completed in late 2023. Construction is also underway on the new Foster Ambulance Station on Station Road. The new ambulance station will feature a three-bay garage, two rest and recline areas, training facilities, a fully equipped kitchen and improved security and car parking. Construction is on track to be completed in the second half of the year.

A multi-million-dollar ambulance station will also be built on Paynesville Road, Paynesville. The station will feature a three-bay garage, two rest and recline areas, training facilities, a fully equipped kitchen and improved security and car parking. Paramedics are already operating from two new multi-million-dollar ambulance stations in Moe and Warragul. The new Moe Ambulance Station features a five-bay garage and four rest and recline areas, while the new Warragul West Ambulance Station has a four-bay garage and four rest and recline areas.

NCWV welcomes the upgrading of Ambulance Stations in Gippsland, but there is no mention of funding to increase paramedics who would be needed to run an improved service.

## Victoria Backs National Ban on Deadly Engineered Stone

The Victorian Government will support national moves to ban engineered stone to protect workers from the devastating lung disease silicosis, a reform that builds on Victoria's nation-leading action over the past four years. Victorian Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson has joined with his Commonwealth and state counterparts in directing Safe Work Australia to undertake urgent investigations into the impacts of a proposed ban on engineered stone. The Ministers have instructed the national body to report back within six months and Mr Pearson said Victoria's WorkSafe authority would be a willing contributor to Safe Work Australia's consultation.

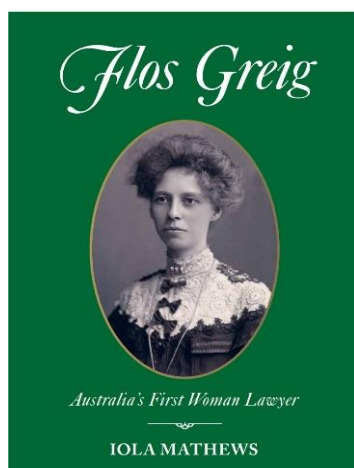
Victoria has introduced the toughest regulations in the country to protect workers and strengthened the available support for workers who are suffering from silicosis. Since 15 November 2022, all businesses working with engineered stone must be licensed. Victoria's Silica Action Plan introduced in 2019 includes a permanent ban on dry-cutting of engineered stone and free health screenings for past and present stonemasons, as well as a dedicated WorkSafe silica team to monitor and enforce compliance with the new obligations for stonemasons, all crystalline silica work – including tunnelling – is regulated. A partnership between WorkSafe and Alfred Health has created Australia's only dedicated public occupational respiratory clinic, which has given hundreds of workers the chance to diagnose any sign of the disease early.

Victoria's pioneering action to regulate crystalline silica work will also be extended nationally after key decisions taken at the meeting of Work Health and Safety Ministers. In Victoria, workplace manslaughter is already a criminal offence with penalties of fines ranging to \$18.5 million and jail terms of up to 25 years, sending a clear message to employers that putting lives at risk in the workplace is not tolerated.



**March is Women's History Month and October is History Month** so start planning events.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LECTURE: FLOS GREIG, AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WOMAN LAWYER



Remarkable, courageous, adventurous, involved and articulate, Flos Greig stands as an important trail-blazer for Australian women. We are delighted that Iola Mathews OAM, will deliver the 2023 Women's History Month Lecture, part of our Distinguished Speakers series. Iola, journalist and author, has written about her ancestors and her own life in several books. She will talk about her latest [book](#) *Flos Greig: Australia's First Woman Lawyer*, and will touch on *Chequered Lives*, about her pioneer ancestors in South Australia, and *Winning for Women: A Personal Story*, about her time in the women's movement in the 1970s and 1980s. **Tue 21 Mar, 5:30pm - 7pm, Speaker: Iola Mathews, \$10/\$20, RHSV or via Zoom**  
This event will be chaired by historian, Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV

[Click here to book for Flos Greig lecture](#)

**RHSV**

**ABOUT**

**MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES**  
Strengthen your work within and beyond your society

**SEMINAR DAY**

**SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2023**  
**10AM - 3:45PM**

The seminar days resume in 2023 with the first being held in Melbourne 'in person' and 'by Zoom'. The program is based on information gleaned from calls to societies during lockdowns along with more recent communications.

In a day that seeks to strengthen the best of existing work and inspire fresh approaches, all RHSV members are invited to learn from informed speakers and share their society's successes.

RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
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office@historyvictoria.org.au

\$55 (members)  
\$75 (non-members)  
includes lunch and morning and afternoon teas

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY VICTORIA

For details see the RHSV website: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>

## From Women's Agenda

### Globally, 30 per cent of girls show disordered eating, by Brianna Boecker

New [research](#) from the US looking at the global proportion of disordered eating in children and adolescents has found 30 per cent of girls show signs of disordered eating. The researchers also found that more than 1 in 5 children and adolescents presented with [disordered eating](#), which was significantly higher in girls than in boys. Along with this global prevalence in girls, the research showed a correlation of disordered eating in older adolescents as well as those with a higher body mass index. Published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the study involved a systematic review looking at 32 studies from 16 different countries. While the meta-analysis didn't include Australian data, Associate Professor Gemma Sharpe, a senior clinical psychologist at Monash University told the *Sydney Morning Herald*, that patterns of behaviour are similar and she "doesn't see any reason why the research is not applicable to Australia."

The study defined disordered eating as behaviours including weight loss dieting, binge eating, self-induced vomiting, excessive exercise and the use of laxatives or diuretics. While researchers noted that 'disordered eating' is different from 'eating disorders'—more serious disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa—they point to "disordered eating in childhood/adolescence may predict outcomes associated with eating disorders in early adulthood".

[Laura Hart from the University of Melbourne and Andrea Phillipou from Swinburne University of Technology](#) say that disordered eating can "often include problems with body image." The research also comes as 2023 Australian of the Year, [Taryn Brumfitt](#), calls for increased support for body positivity saying at the award ceremony that "body image was the number one concern for 70 per cent of Australian school children" and calling this a "paediatric health emergency".

Researchers in this latest study have called for urgent action to address the high proportion of disordered eating in young people that is likely to progress to eating disorders, which they note are "among the most life-threatening psychiatric problems". "People with these conditions die 10 to 20 years younger than the general population," according to the report. So what can be done? Researchers say that strengthening information systems, evidence and research for mental health is essential, as recognised in the WHO's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030. They also point to the importance of screening eating disorders in primary care settings and the use of the highly effective SCOFF questionnaire.

**The Taliban have banned the use of contraception** in two cities, claiming its use by women is part of a Western agenda to control the Muslim population. Pharmacies in Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif have been ordered to dispose of all contraception, including birth control medicines and devices, and to stop selling them, according to a report from [The Guardian](#). Store owners and midwives have said they have been threatened by members of the Taliban.

Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous countries in the world to give birth, and has the highest death rate during childbirth in Asia according to the United Nations Population Fund 2022 report (638 out of every 100,000 mothers).



**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

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
March	20 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
March	16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
April	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH – Ross House
April	17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
April	20 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
May	4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	May Forum & Council Meeting	12:00	Zoom and RH
May	8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
May	18 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
June	1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
June	19 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
June	15 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
July	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
July	10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
July	20 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
August	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
August	14 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
August	17 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
September	7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Zoom and RH
September	11 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
September	21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
October	5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
October	9 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
October	19 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom and RH
November	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
November	13 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
November	16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
November	30 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	In person
December	7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH