

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.



ALERT To foster our relationship with RHSV, our postal address is now: 239 A'Beckett St Melbourne, 3000, as our PO Box has been closed.

QUOTE: 'Celebrate power of youth and digital innovation on International Youth Day 2024 (12 August)! Discover how young minds are harnessing technology to create sustainable solutions for our world's most pressing challenges. Theme "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.", highlights the key connection between digitalization and accelerating progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and contributions of young people in this transformative process.' UN Social Inclusion, 2024, [International Youth Day 2024](https://www.un.org/en/observances/youth-day)

From the President, Elida Brereton



It gives me pleasure to present this report although I know for some members the present times are traumatic for various reasons including war in Gaza and Ukraine, ill-health, concerns about our society, experiencing prejudice, and loss of familiar pleasures and a sense of security. To those experiencing these and other concerns I send best wishes, thoughts and prayers.

Given the theme of International Youth Day (see above), how appropriate that the 2024 topic for "My Vote, My Voice" is **Social Media – A Blessing or a Curse**. Presentations in Parliament House will be on the morning of Friday August 9th. This is always an impressive occasion to which you are invited.

We are advertising several positions for members to consider: *Website Coordinator and Podcast Producer Intern; Communications and Governance Support Intern.*

Details on website - <https://ncwvic.org.au/>

Applications close on: Friday 30 August

NCWV AGM Thursday 5 September, 2024, 12 noon

We look forward to you joining us at the 121st AGM.

Our Speaker is **Prof. Dr Manjula O'Connor**, Chair of the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Family Violence Psychiatry Network. She co-founded the Australasian Centre for human rights and health (ACHRH) in 2012. Manjula will present on "**Gaps in the current services for CALD survivors of family violence**"

The Notice and invitations to participate as an Adviser or Committee Member will be circulated shortly.

Think about how you might be more involved.

Individual Members General Meeting and Election, August 1, 11:15

Welcome by Elida Brereton, who acknowledged that NCWV began in 1902 as a voluntary organisation, 3 topics were, equal pay for equal work, rights of the child, technical education for women. Early achievements are access for agricultural colleges, first policewomen, women's magistrates, widow's pension (1925), Pioneer women's garden - a truly wonderful organisation which continues.

Election T

Deputy Convenor - Carol Robertson

Bookkeeper, Beverley Kannegiesser

Notetaker, Carol Robertson

Currently advertising for an honorary secretary for Council who may be Notetaker for IM for the 4 meetings per year. Carol remarked that clear role descriptions needed, refer to the Constitution on the website Suggestion on outing include Her Place and visit to Royal Children's Hospital (p2)

Speaker Bev Kannegiesser was a primary teacher and level coordinator, a keen member of NCWV for 9 years, IM bookkeeper for 5 years, IM Finance for 5 year. An Austral Salon of Music member for 16 years; Treasurer for 11 years. Organised recital program and artists since 2017; set up website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. She was a Beta Sigma Phi Member 35 years and Probus Club member for 18 years. Also a keen traveller, concert goer, once a walker and proud Mum of four, with four granddaughters. Bev is passionate about Austral Salon, giving a wonderful speech in 2021 for our 120 years celebration.

Austral Salon of Music, Literature and the Fine Arts 1890-2024, a meeting place for professional women, nurturing young artists, hosting monthly musical recitals and performances. Musicians need to prepare a well-balanced program to fit within an hour, do research on the music and composer to give an introduction to each piece of music. They also need to deal with the professional components of their booking. This can be nerve wracking for the

musicians, but they gain considerable confidence from each recital.

Marjorie Lawrence, from Deans Marsh, needed dramatic experience to be a good singer so frequently performed at the Austral Salon (AS), won an award and went on to much success, winning Sun Aria, performed at the Paris Opera and later the MET and Gotterdammerung riding through flames as Brunhilda. The first winner of the Melbourne University Austral Salon scholarship was **Marie Collier** an operatic soprano. She attended Camberwell High School and became very involved in choirs and Gilbert and Sullivan. Marie left for Europe in 1955, studying in Milan. In 1968, she was part of the first opera telecast in Australia.

From 1991- 2005 AS held their own instrumental and vocal competitions and in 2011 Victorian College of the Arts Awards. The first winner of the Outstanding Soloist award was **Emily Sheppard**, now a violinist and creative composer

She was awarded a Tasmanian residency grant, spent four weeks in caves composing, and creating an album *MoonMilk*. She has an Honours degree in Marine Science, investigating the viability of seaweed for carbon sequestration, also composing and performing music about endangered kelp forests.

It's always a great pleasure to watch the growth of young musicians as they make their way in their professional field. Many young musicians who have come through since I have been involved now have successful careers overseas and in Australia. AS monthly recitals continue on the 4th Monday of the month at St Peters, East Melbourne. See: www.australsalon.org also on Facebook.

August Council Meeting, 1st August, 12:15pm



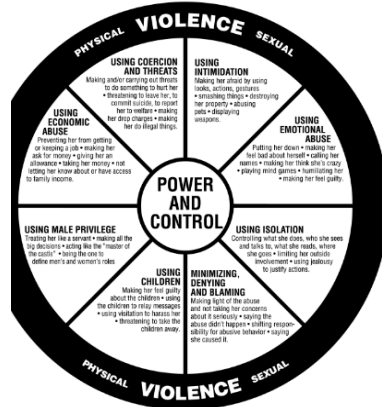
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Kombumerri Salt Water peoples land, Bundjalung Country

Kirsty Tschirpigg is Assistant Director, for Griffith University's MATE Bystander Program. Following a 15-year career in leadership positions at Queensland Corrective Services, she moved to MATE in 2019 to focus on primary prevention rather than response. Kirsty is passionate about all things gender equity and domestic and family violence prevention. *"At MATE we give people the tools to safely and respectfully challenge behaviour and empower people to become the change."* Kirsty has degree qualifications in justice, youth work, intercultural and aboriginal studies. She has also served as the nominated Public Servant on the QLD Parole Board and in 2022 finished training to be a Nationally Accredited Mediator. Kirsty acknowledged that there is also violence against men, but overwhelmingly more women experience violence at

the hands of men. In each case, one or more people knew there was a problem. She discussed MATE, a leadership program developed by her team at Griffith University. It is designed to make it easier for bystanders to recognise signs of domestic violence and to empower them to safely intervene with a person acting/speaking inappropriately. This has spread nationally and internationally, focussing on creating respectful, equal workplaces and communities. Respect at Work legislation has helped promote program. MATE includes: Train-the-trainer; cultural change; coercive control; creating respectful relationships, e-learning. **'Be There'** app, free to download, will guide you through the process to support someone who is in trouble. Research: 25% of a community/workplace are on board, they will influence the rest.



Kirsty spoke of why people don't intervene including: Ignorance; Fear of: making it worse, retaliation, getting it wrong, what others will think/say; social norms. Power and Control creates Family and Domestic Violence if relationship is unequal. <https://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/power-and-control/>

League of Women Voters Victoria, Sheila Byard OAM 1988 NCVV Affiliates Women's Grove of Honour, Royal Park

11 September 2024 (Wednesday), 10am - 12 noon: What has happened to the 1988 NCVV Affiliates Women's Grove of Honour in Royal Park and where is the missing plaque? We recall the role of the late Sylvia Gelman AM MBE who 35 years ago at the beginning of the 'Decade for Landcare' mobilised many women's organisations in an innovative planting project in Royal Park. We hope the missing plaque, designed by Mrs Gelman, can be found and reinstated.

Thanks to member Carole Lowen OAM who has arranged with Laura Buck for a LWVV visit to the Royal Children's Hospital, starting with morning tea in the Board Room then a tour. At the Individual Members meeting on 1st August, the invitation was made for Individual Members to join the LWVV visit to the Royal Children's Hospital.

We will have an opportunity to learn about the new *Yalingbu Yirraboi* school, and the way the RCH has worked with City of Melbourne to provide access to a wonderful garden area for children, families and staff. *Landcare Legends Roll of Honour* 2024 appointee Pam Robinson AM is helping with the excursion.

Contact: President Dr Deborah Towns OAM, Secretary Dr Pam Williams OAM at leaguewvoters@gmail.com

ADVISER NEWS

Standing Committee Coordinator: Robyn Byrne OAM

Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee: Inquiry into capturing data on family violence perpetrators in Victoria

The NCWV Council is delighted that the Committee has accepted our submission, allocated **Submission No 23**. The submission can be read on the **website**. We thank Standing Committee Coordinator, Robyn Byrne OAM and others for their work on this submission. Three days of **hearings start on Monday 5 August**. See: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/inquiry-into-capturing-data-on-family-violence-perpetrators-in-victoria/hearings>

How can we improve bone density?

Resistance training, including lifting weights, helps enhance bone density by exerting stress on the skeletal system. Activities that involve impact and force, like jumping or dancing, also encourage bone health. Improving bone density is vital for skeletal health and overall well-being, so adequate calcium and vitamin D intake is essential, supporting mineralization and strengthening of the bones. A balanced diet with nutrients like magnesium and phosphorus also contributes to bone density. "How to bring your A-game to your frame": <https://wellfemme.com.au/perimenopause-bone-health/>

Further reading from the Australasian Menopause Society: <https://www.menopause.org.au/.../information.../osteoporosis>
NCWV has lodged a submission to the Minister of Health Hon Mary Anne Thompson on Women and Pain. The submission called for there to be discussions around consumer co-designed education programs for health professionals and women on the need to recognise and ease pain in women. When submission is published the link will be on the NCWV website.

Education Adviser: Pam Hammond Med (Maths Ed) -Update: Students Take Over Parliament!

The outstanding annual student event **My Vote My Voice**, conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, is being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melbourne on **Friday August 9th 2024, 9:00am-12:30pm**. We are delighted that our **Keynote Speaker is Meena Singh, Commissioner for Children and Young People**.

Students from 12 government and independent schools will address the topic: **Social Media – A Blessing or a Curse**, designed to encourage students to consider the effect of Social Media on themselves, their peers and the wider community.

The schools are: MacRobertson Girls HS; Rosehill SC; Al Siraat College; Jiayuan Charity; Kingswood College; Beaumaris SC; Camberwell HS; Star of the Sea College; Melbourne Girls Grammar; Elwood College; Firkbank Grammar; Ivanhoe Girls.

Students may carry out research, collect data from their peers and others to gain wider views, to then make a group presentation of their findings in the Legislative Council Chamber. This is a wonderful opportunity to sit in this impressive Chamber and hear from inspiring young people about an issue that has been highlighted in the media and across the community. The quality of past student presentations has been outstanding, so there is no reason why this year's students should not make a valuable contribution to the debate on the effect of Social Media on our young people and society.

Students are free thanks to the League of Women Voters, Victoria Bessie M. Rischbieth Trust grant.

Costs for NCWV members, affiliates, guests, teachers and parents, will be \$20

It is a requirement for all those attending to be listed with security, so payment and registration is via TryBooking.

TryBooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CTURP> **Please RSVP by end of Tuesday 7 August**



Gathering in the Legislative Council Chamber for the speeches in 2023.

Importance of Reading: From depression and dementia, to empathy and self-esteem, reading is shown to have far-reaching health and wellbeing benefits for young and old readers. In recent research by *Australian Reads* they found:

- 48% of Australians say they are motivated to read because it makes them happy and/or healthy.
- 20% reduction in mortality observed for those who read books (30 mins a day), compared to those who did not read.
- Adults who read books, magazines, and newspapers almost every day had a substantially lower risk of being diagnosed with depression. They also scored lower on the loneliness scale.
- 43% of readers said reading helps them get a better night's sleep.

Reading for just 30 minutes a week means you're 57% more likely to have a greater awareness of other cultures.

Women and Employment Adviser: Dr Deborah Towns OAM

Melbourne's Olympian in 1920- Lily Beaurepaire (1892-1979), *Written by Dr Deborah Towns OAM, NCWV Historian and Archivist.*



1920 Australian Olympic Team. Lily is the only woman in the team. (Image. Australian Sports Museum.)



Lily Beaurepaire in 1910, aged 17, in bathing costume, with swimming and diving medals. (Image on-line, State Library of Victoria.)

Lily Beaurepaire was one of Australia's first women Olympians. In 1920 she competed at Antwerp's Olympics in swimming and diving. Lily was the first Australian woman to compete in diving. The only woman in Australia's small team, she joined her brother Frank making them the first sibling Olympians. Frank, (Sir Frank Beaurepaire), was a 1908 Olympian.

During WW1 and into the 1930s, Lily, Frank, and May Cox (her teacher and coach), the Education Department of Victoria's Supervisor of Swimming and Lifesaving, promoted swimming and diving at exhibitions raising patriotic funds and supported the community through charity events. A strong swimmer, over short and long distances, she competed in the sea, surf and swimming baths, with fearless high dives, leaping off bridges into rivers.

In 1910, Lily, one of the first to qualify as a lifesaver gained the Bronze Medallion for Lifesaving awarded by the Royal Australian Lifesaving Association. She was often the only lifesaver at Lorne's surf beach. Famous again in 1933, aged in her forties, she rescued three men in dangerous seas. In 1967, Lorne's Lilian Beaurepaire Memorial Swimming Pool was opened (Recently her name was removed.)

Environment Report

Environment Victoria



On Wednesday 7 August, 5:45 – 6:45 PM, Environment Victoria is hosting a BIG national discussion with Australia's Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek about strong laws to protect nature. Please join us and show the Minister the huge amount of support for stronger nature laws? [RSVP here >>](#)

Our national environment laws are undergoing once-in-a-generation reform right now. This webinar is a chance to hear directly from Minister Plibersek and to show her the huge support for bold action, from people right across Australia.

We're also excited to have Rachel Perkins from First Nations Heritage Alliance joining us!

Protecting the 65,000+ years of First Nations culture and heritage in Australia must go hand in hand with protecting the environment. Rachel will be sharing what work is happening in this space.



[Together, we can make an impact](#)

Here in Victoria, our communities have felt the devastation that unprecedented climate change can cause. Out of control fires and inundating floods have ravaged towns and beloved landscapes. But we are also privy to one of the best solutions we have: nature. We know that the more we protect nature, the more it protects us. **Trust for Nature** has been doing this for over 50 years, now we find ourselves where we know we have to do more and we have to do it now. Read our latest *Impact Report* to find out what we're doing to ensure Victoria's nature is valued, protected and thriving, [available now on our website](#).

Multicultural Issues: NCWV Adviser, June Anderson, received a thank you from the Minister, the Hon Andrew Giles for her contribution to the Multicultural Framework Review, [Towards Fairness - a multicultural Australia for all \(14MB PDF\)](#). The Review panel conducted comprehensive, nation-wide public consultation with over 1430 individuals and 750 organisations. This included an art competition with 796 children and young people submitting visions of what a multicultural Australia looks like. Well done June and those who contributed to the review.



In recent weeks we've heard about various announcements on research into racism at universities and the continued increases in incidents of racism, be it antisemitism or islamophobia or other types of racism. I want to reiterate our firm stance: racism, hate, and vilification in all forms are unacceptable. We stand united against all hate.

Victorian Multicultural Commission welcomes efforts by the Race Discrimination Commissioner - Giri Sivaraman's latest [report](#), which highlights evidence that governments and their departments at all levels across the country, are failing to adequately identify and address racism. We also welcome the [report](#) by Victoria University and partners, which confirms empirical evidence about the barriers to reporting racism faced by multicultural and multifait communities, and highlights strategies these communities have suggested to address them.

Multicultural Youth Awards: recognise and celebrate the exceptional achievements of young people aged 18-25 from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Nominate a deserving youth or encourage someone you know to be recognised for their achievements. **Nominations close on August 31 at 11:59pm.** See: multiculturalityouthawards.com.au

Opportunity for Financial Support from the Sylvia Gelman Bequest Fund

Preliminary announcement from the Committee of Management of the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest

Grants available for the **NCWA AGM and Conference. 21st/22nd November 2024**

The Committee of Management for the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest is pleased to announce that it is able to offer two grants worth \$700 each to enable two NCWV members to attend the NCWA AGM and Conference in Adelaide 21st/22nd November 2024.

The Grant is intended for any member of NCWV, whether Delegate or Individual Member, wishing to learn more about the Council and its link to NCWA and onto ICW-CIF. It is an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant to take an interest in the running of NCWV by becoming a member of the Committee of Management or a Standing Committee Member.

Any member of NCWV may apply for a grant which is designed to cover the registration fee for the Conference and to assist with a return airfare and accommodation.

Applicants are requested to send, via email, a brief synopsis of their involvement in NCWV and why they wish to attend the NCWA AGM and Conference; how attendance will benefit their understanding of NCWV, also of NCWA; how they envisage it will assist them in becoming an active, participating NCWV member.

The successful applicants will be expected to submit a written report of their experience.

Applications, and/or queries, are to be sent to the Committee of Management, the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest c/o the Convener, Elisabeth Newman AM elisabeth_mn@hotmail.com with a copy to the Treasurer, Hean Bee Wee AM hbwee@bigpond.net.au **Applications close Friday 30th September 2024.**

Kind regards, Elisabeth Newman AM, Convener, and Members of the Committee of Management Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest: Hean Bee Wee AM, Gracia Baylor AM, Leonie Christopherson AM, Pam Hammond, and Ex-officio Member NCWV President Elida Brereton.

OTHER NEWS



Nominations are now open for the 2024 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards. These important awards have celebrated the contributions and achievements of older Victorians who share their skills, experiences, time, and energy with our community.

Nominations close on Sunday 11 August 2024. To nominate today someone visit at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

[Learn more and nominate](#)

Change Our Game Women in Sports Media Program – Advancing Career Round

The 2023-24 Change Our Game Women in Sports Media Program is designed to provide women who are interested in sports media the knowledge, skills and industry contacts to progress their career in this industry.

Close: 5 August 2024

What you get: The 2023-24 Change Our Game Women in Sports Media Program provides women interested in sports media the knowledge, skills and industry contacts to progress their career in this industry.

[Apply on the Change Our Game website](#)

Time To Enrol in Kinder For 2025

In Victoria, 97 per cent of funded kindergarten services are participating in Free Kinder - ensuring around 140,000 children each year can go to kinder at no cost – saving hard-working families up to \$2,563 in fees per child per year.

Children attending Three-Year-Old Kindergarten receive 5 to 15 hours of play-based learning each week, while those in Four-Year-Old Kindergarten receive 15 hours weekly.

Victorian families have embraced Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, with approximately 89 per cent of eligible children participating last year. Now, thanks to record investment and take-up across the state, more than 80 per cent of kindergarten services are offering a full 15-hour-per-week program – well ahead of the roll-out schedule.

For the first time next year, children in the local government areas of Ararat, Gannawarra, Hindmarsh, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack will be the first to enrol in Pre-Prep.

Led by qualified teachers, Pre-Prep provides children with more hours of quality play-based learning in the year before school. As the roll-out progresses, four-year-old children are eligible for 16 to 30 hours of kindergarten each week.

At kinder, qualified teachers and educators guide children's learning, encouraging them to use their imagination and make discoveries while listening, sharing and working with others. Children also learn about numbers, words, and language, and develop social and emotional skills, building key skills for life.

Research shows that play-based learning is a powerful way to support a child's development. Two years of quality kindergarten have a greater impact on children who start at three rather than four. The benefits are even greater for children needing extra support.

Families can find kindergarten services near them by contacting their local council or visiting vic.gov.au/kinder.

When visiting services, they should also look for a Kinder Tick to be confident their child is attending a government-funded and approved kindergarten program.



Articles from July Daily:

Women's Agenda is launching a new podcast, **The New Rules**. The series [goes behind the scenes with athletes, industry executives and commentators](#) to look at how women are changing the sporting landscape. The first episode [looks at how women are making history this year at the first ever gender-equal Olympics](#). **Dinushi Dias** sits down with sports researcher **Dr Mary Woessner**, to share why this is such a massive milestone. Listen wherever you get your podcasts!

Meanwhile, women are much more likely than their male counterparts to suffer from concussions and ACL injuries in sub-elite football. One researcher said [we cannot continue to treat women's bodies as smaller versions of men's bodies when it comes to injury prevention.](#)

75 years of NATO but little change for women's representation



NATO photo from Washington DC meeting 1949.

Seventy-five years ago, 12 men from 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington DC, the beginning of the defence pact we know as NATO. In 2024, NATO is contending with some of the same threats but also a host of different ones. Current US President Joe Biden has declared the alliance “more powerful than ever,” but its future could become uncertain in a second Trump presidency. But one thing remains the same for NATO: men are still coming together. The “family” photo tells the story. There are just four women present among the men in suits.

NATO now has 32 members across Europe and North America. A number of Eastern European countries joined in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. More recently, Finland joined in April 2023 and Sweden in March 2024, following applications made in May 2022 alongside the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Australia is not a NATO member.

NATO is more relevant than ever, given the invasion of Ukraine – which hopes to become a NATO member. While NATO has not sent troops, individual member countries have supplied arms and funding to Ukraine. There's more money and attention going to NATO, but women's input and representation remain token, despite NATO's communications stating that conflict is having a disproportionate impact on women and girls and that women play a vital role in peace and security.

Women's meaningful participation and leadership in security, peace, and decision-making processes is critical to the strength of democracies and, therefore, to NATO's present and future effectiveness. NATO has also delivered a new *Women, Peace and Security (WPS)* policy reflecting areas like the rise of climate-related crises, tech advancements and conflict-related sexual violence. Endorsed at the [Washington Summit on Wednesday](#), the policy provides a “political framework” for NATO to promote WPS across the Alliance's core tasks. The “framework” offers several generalised statements, including “acknowledging” that “gender mainstreaming enhances NATO's political decision-making, operation effectiveness and all efforts to achieve gender equality.”

It declares it “recognises” that gender equality is “integral to sustainable peace”. Its four strategic objectives include strengthening gender-responsive leadership and accountability, increasing women's participation at all levels, preventing threats that have a disproportional impact on women and girls and protecting women and girls against gender-based violence. They promise to ensure “adequate personnel and financial resources” allocated to [implementing the policy and action plan](#), as well as independent assessments and civil society consultations. NATO has also promised an annual progress report to Allies.

A funding package to provide women's body armour, boots and uniforms to the Ukrainian armed services “to further NATO's non-lethal support to Ukraine and commitment to supporting women's full and equal participation in defence and security”, the first “commitment” of the “Comprehensive Assistance Package” directly offering resources to “advance Women, Peace and Security objectives, worth around US\$7 million.

What will NATO look like in another 75 years? Will it still exist!



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
VICTORIAN BRANCH

Support 1000 Women Stand for Council Elections, 2024

The Victorian Government's goal of achieving 50:50 gender representation in local government by 2025 is laudable. Currently, women make up just under 44% of councillors, with significant underrepresentation of young women, First Nations women, women from diverse backgrounds, women with disabilities, and gender diverse individuals. To meet the goal, a substantial increase in female candidates is needed. The 1000 Women Standing movement, founded in 2021 by volunteer activists, supports this effort. With around 650 councillors to be elected in 2024, about 330 need to be women to achieve parity. Since one-third of women candidates are elected, around 1000 women must run.

To support this, individuals can stand for council, encourage others, organise community activities, promote leadership opportunities, and host forums to discuss gender equality.

State Library Victoria's blog post: 125th anniversary of the opening of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women [Pro Feminis a Feminis: Dr Constance Stone and her hospital 'for women, run by women'](#)

On 5 July 2024, we marked the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women — a landmark occasion that revolutionised Australian women's healthcare services. This pivotal moment would not have been possible without the lifetime commitment of the hospital's founder, Constance Stone, the first woman to be registered as a doctor in Australia. However, her road to success involved an arduous journey, during which she was met with much opposition from the medical profession.

Constance Stone was not eligible to enrol into the University of Melbourne's School of Medicine in 1884, for the sole reason that she was a woman. Other University courses, such as Arts, had been admitting women since 1880. However, longstanding views from professionals such as the Medical Board of Victoria, claimed that women wouldn't be able to manage the confronting nature of a doctor's work. So, Constance travelled to the US in 1884 to study at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. After graduating in 1887, she worked as a doctor at a women and children's hospital in Staten Island, New York. She then went on to train as a surgeon at the University of Toronto.

Constance's pursuit of wider clinical opportunities took her across the Atlantic to obtain a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries from the London School of Medicine for Women. She worked at the New Hospital for Women, staffed entirely by medical women. In 1889, Constance returned to Australia, equipped with the six years of invaluable experience she had gained in the US, Canada and England. She appeared before the Medical Board of Registration and became the first woman to be registered as a doctor in Australia.

Constance Stone (1852-1902), c. 1890. Courtesy of the Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne



[Read more](#)

Constance established the Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS), their first meeting, 22 March 1895, and the association is still running today. Constance and the VMWS established a clinic known as the Victoria Hospital for Women and Children. This name was chosen to indicate that the service was available to women from all over the colony. Constance saw a particular need for women doctors who could treat women patients.

The VMWS made plans to purchase its own hospital. Constance worked closely with key suffragettes Annette Bear-Crawford and Vida Goldstein to campaign for the cause. A shilling fund appeal was launched on 19 February 1897 and encouraged every woman in Victoria to donate one shilling to establish a hospital for women, run by women and to honour Queen Victoria, who was celebrating her Diamond Jubilee. The public contribution was overwhelming — 3162 pounds, 11 shillings and 9 pence was raised across Victoria. The Governess Institute was purchased in Mint Place and The Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children was officially opened on 5 July 1899.

Six New Women's Health Hubs to Boost Access to Care

MEDIA RELEASE

The State Government is making sure more women across suburban and regional Victoria can access the sexual and reproductive healthcare they need and deserve – as we continue to drive down the gender health gap.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas today announced the locations of the final six Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Hubs – with three to be established in regional Victoria. These hubs join the current network of 14 hubs that are already delivering free or low-cost care including contraception, medical abortion, referral for surgical abortion and sexual health testing and treatment. The latest locations were chosen based on where there was a high demand for women's healthcare and a lack of services including:

- Central Highlands Rural Health – Kyneton
- Western Health – Melton
- IPC Health – Wyndham Vale
- DPV Health – Broadmeadows
- Grampians Health – Horsham and Stawell
- East Grampians Health – Ararat

Hubs were selected following extensive sector consultation and are expected to help at least 4,000 more girls and women access sexual and reproductive health services every year.

The workforce supporting the hubs will also benefit from our Women's Health Scholarship program, helping to address existing skills and knowledge shortages when it comes to women's health. More than 100 scholarships are being delivered – offering chances to upskill in IUD insertion, sexual and reproductive health, pelvic physio training, menopause and PCOS. The scholarships also fund training to promote cultural safety and remove existing barriers for First Nations women, women from migrant and refugee backgrounds and LGBTIQ+ communities.

New CBD Hub to Support Victorian Creative Workers

A vacant office space in Melbourne's CBD has been transformed into a creative co-working hub, unlocking affordable workspace for local creatives and backing more businesses and workers. Collins Street Studios, at 271 Collins Street is supported through a partnership between the State Government and City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces program, who will manage the site. Formerly an empty office floor, the facility offers more than 1,100 square metres of affordable space for more than 100 creative organisations and practitioners to work, collaborate and connect. So far 50 individuals, microbusinesses and organisations have taken up residency including leading digital games company Summerfall Studios, street dance company Cypher Culture, architecture and heritage group Robin Boyd Foundation, and publisher No More Poetry. Find out more at www.creativespaces.net.au



The next round of volunteer phone support worker training commences on **August 14th..**

If you are interested in providing support using an intersectional feminist framework and strength-based service delivery model.

If developing your active listening skills and getting hands on experience sounds like something you would like to do, **[find out more here!](#)**

A new round of the Women's Public Art Program – to install six new public artworks honouring remarkable women.



Three Kurnai Women on Country

Aboriginal women are often invisible in public artworks. Aunty Pam Pedersen is highlighting the opportunity to recognise Aboriginal women through public art such as the sculpture of her mother, Lady Gladys Nicholls, at Parliament Gardens. Lady Gladys Nicholls was a prominent Aboriginal rights activist, and the statue of her with husband Pastor Doug Nicholls was the first in Victoria to acknowledge Aboriginal leaders.

In partnership with McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, this program will support the creation of another six new artworks including sculptures, murals or installations. The first round unveiled artworks that celebrate women such as journalist, comedian and disability rights advocate Stella Young, and equal pay campaigner Zelda D'Aprano.

To apply, visit www.vic.gov.au/victorian-womens-public-art-program.



The Hatchery: Women are woefully underrepresented in Australia's STEMM industries. Join us on the **18 - 19 of September in Sydney or online** for **[the Women in STEMM Leadership Summit](#)**: **Celebrating triumphs & diversity in technical fields**. This event seeks to champion women that are leading the charge for women to thrive across Australia. Attend and uncover strategies for breaking barriers, overcoming challenges and ultimately support a more inclusive future for all in STEMM. **[Details here.](#)**

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 2024

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
July	4 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
July	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
August	1 st	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Zoom
August	9 th	Friday	My Vote My Voice	9:00	Parliament
August	12 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
August	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
September	5 th	Thursday	NCWV AGM	12:15	Zoom and Ross Hse
September	9 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
September	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
October	3 rd	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and Ross Hse
October	14 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
October	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	7 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom
November	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	28 th	Thursday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	In person
December	5 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and Ross Hse

This publication is compiled and edited by Pam Hammond, Vice-President NCWV, with support from President, Elida Brereton.