

## 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. (Our PO Box has been closed.)**

**QUOTE:** "Sustainable Development Goals progress is not about lines on a graph. It is about healthy mothers and babies; children learning the skills to fulfil their potential; parents who can feed their families. It is about renewable energy and clean air. It is about a world in which everyone enjoys human rights, and human dignity." United Nations Secretary- General António Guterres.

## From the President, Elida Brereton



Our NCWV Advisers focus on the Sustainable Development Goals in their portfolios bringing issues for discussion and possible action to be taken.

We can be proud of the advocacy and sharing of information undertaken by us during this [reporting] year. **The NCWV 2023/2024 Annual Report is available on our website:** <https://ncwvic.org.au/publications.htm>

November 2024 is being dominated by two major events relevant to us: our End-of-Year Luncheon on **November 28<sup>th</sup>** and the **NCWA Triennial Conference** in Adelaide November 21-22<sup>nd</sup>. The Luncheon should be a very happy time of fellowship and fine food, with our excellent speaker, author **Hazel Edwards** a highlight for us all.

**NCWA Triennial Conference in Adelaide.** Some of us are attending this, which is the reason for our November Council Meeting focussing on discussing the resolutions to be debated by NCW delegates from Victoria, NSW, Queensland, South Australia, ACT, and Tasmania at the Conference. I am keen to see NCWV as a leader in many issues, and we needed and valued your feedback on each of the Resolutions, to guide us in the debates on them.

Details follow from sisters in South Australia who are hosting: The NCW Australia National Triennial Conference will be held in Adelaide on Thursday 21st November/Friday 22nd November 2024 at the University of Adelaide, Union House **Day 1: Thursday, starting at 9:00am,:** All day conference, including the Annual General Meeting of NCWA, NCWV members to participate.

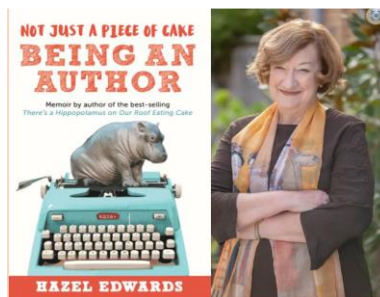
Working lunch provided to all registrants.

**Thursday 3.15 - 4.15pm,** Registered attendees are invited to a reception hosted by Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson AC.

Evening: Registrants are free to enjoy an evening of friendship and fellowship.

**Day 2: Friday - half day with morning tea** included - Expert speakers will be joining us for an important Symposium. We will be reaching out to school-aged attendees to join us.

**Book here:** <https://events.humanitix.com/national-council-of-women-triennial-conference-2024>



**NCWV Luncheon, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 12:00 noon, with Hazel Edwards OAM on Writing for Young People**  
Batman's Hill on Collins-  
cnr Spencer & Collins St

As National Council of Women Victoria Inc has long been interested in children's education and books that encourage respect for girls and other cultures, we are delighted to announce that our guest speaker at the 2024 Annual Luncheon will be **Hazel Edwards OAM Australian Educator, Author, Speaker and Literacy Ambassador.**

Hazel has written books for children, teachers and adults. Her best-known publication is the children's picture book classic ***There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*** (1980), now a series of picture books, classroom play scripts, a musical stage production and a short movie.

Hazel is a prolific author with over 200 books across numerous genre - Picture Books, Easy Reading Books, Young Adult Fiction, Adventure Writing, Adult Mysteries and Non-Fiction. Her memoir ***'Not Just a Piece of Cake'*** (2023) takes the reader behind the books, sharing the diverse workstyle of a long-term author, who also has a family. And who writes for adult as well as child audiences.

As in past years we are offering a 2-course plated lunch with a beverage on arrival and table service tea and coffee.

**28<sup>th</sup> November, 12:00 – 2:00pm** Cost \$81 -

**Bookings –** <https://www.trybooking.com/CWPRM>

**Make up a table with friends.**

**Booking close 5pm Monday 18 November 2024.**

**Email us with any dietary restrictions (before 13 November) or queries at** [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)

Pam Hammond and I were delighted to be part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Victoria, a NCWV member organisation



**Congratulations to Ukrainian Women's Association of Victoria** for 75 years of dedicated service to the Ukrainian Community, whose celebration was on October 27<sup>th</sup>



Ukrainian Women's Assoc members Natalie Soloczynskij, Nadia Soloczynskij, Pam, Elida and Sally Zabak.

I was pleased to represent NCWV at a forum conducted by the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia. Our hearts continue to go out to the victims of Russian aggression, Hamas terrorism, and the ongoing deaths in Ukraine and the Middle East.

We congratulate friend of NCWV and recent speaker Prof Manjula O'Connor on her recent honours – induction into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women as a Change Agent, and on winning the Premier's Award as Victorian Senior of the Year. Her "tireless work in raising awareness about dowry abuse and family violence in Victoria" was cited but we know that she has also worked for children and for a better, fairer, safer society where human rights are not a token, so Manjula deserves these honours.

I thank the NCWV member organisations and individuals who provide awards to students who presented at our *My Vote My Voice* event, those visiting the schools to present awards, and Pam Hammond for organising it all. Thank you all!

We are delighted to say that we have two names to bring to the NCWV Council meeting, of two volunteers willing to take on the role of Hon. Secretary, to be approved and voted in. Correct processes have been followed and we are excited by the potential appointments.

### Sylvia Gelman Grants:

The Committee of Management of the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest received two applications for grants to attend the NCWA AGM and Conference in Adelaide 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024. We are delighted to announce that Emma Fu, the new NCWV Hon. Treasurer and recent awardee of the three year Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Award, is successful.

The second successful applicant is Pam Robinson AM a recent member who is keen to learn more about NCWV. She comes to NCWV with a wealth of experience particularly in environmental issues.

Congratulations to them both; and the Committee of Management hopes they find the Conference informative and stimulating.

Elisabeth Newman AM Convener, Gracia Baylor AM, Leonie Christopherson AM, Hean Bee Wee AM, Pam Hammond, Elida Brereton Ex-officio member.

### NCWV Individual Member Report, Sheila Byard OAM

New, recently renewed and prospective Individual Members, were welcomed to the brief meeting at 11 am before the hybrid October Council meeting at Ross House, Flinders Lane. After a brief round of introductions Elisabeth Newman AM spoke about her recent travels in South America; the vote of thanks to Elisabeth, included a request to her to supply a brief outline of her address.

Beverley Kannegiesser shared the financial report of 09.24. It was agreed to donate \$150 to the Royal Children's Hospital Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship fund. It was agreed to send a letter to the Auxiliaries team requesting information about the missing 1988 NCWV Women's Grove of Honour. As the City of Melbourne has begun consultation on the latest version of the Royal Park Master Plan, it will be appropriate to raise the need for a replacement plaque when writing to the incoming Lord Mayor. Thanks to Elisabeth Newman for the return of 20 years of records of the Individual Members.

### VALE: Faye Marles AM - A fierce advocate for women's rights in the workplace.

Born in 1926, Faye graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Social Studies in 1948 before enjoying a career as a social worker, academic and later Chancellor of the university. She was Victoria's first Equal Opportunity Commissioner, and instrumental in ushering in laws to end discrimination. Her legacy for women's rights is remembered by institutions and colleagues across Australia. Faye was a great supporter of NCWV, and we send condolences to her family.



## ADVISER NEWS

### Health Adviser: Prof Cassandra Szoeké

**National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)** is an independent statutory agency and Australia's leading expert on health and medical research, providing the Australian community with health advice based on the best available scientific evidence. The [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#) are part of the [National Water Quality Management Strategy](#) and provide an authoritative reference to the Australian community, water regulators in the states and territories, and water suppliers on what defines safe, good quality drinking water, how it can be achieved, and how it can be assured.

NHMRC has released updated guideline values which indicate the amount of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water that a person can consume on a daily basis over a lifetime without any appreciable risk to health ("health-based guideline values"). The updated values have been released for public consultation and are an important step in ensuring the continued safety of Australia's drinking water supplies.

PFAS are human-made chemicals that make products resistant to heat, stains, grease, and water. Because of their widespread use, almost everyone will have some exposure to PFAS in their lifetime.

NHMRC's draft guidance includes revised health-based guideline values for:

- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)
- perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS).

The draft guidance also includes additional information on hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt (GenX chemicals). The health-based guideline values are conservative, protective of human health, and are based on comprehensive evaluations of the latest evidence.

Public consultation on the draft guidance is a critical component of the guideline development process. It allows guideline users, experts, governments and the public to provide information and evidence that will assist NHMRC in finalising the guideline values. All submissions will be considered by the [Water Quality Advisory Committee](#) in consultation with NHMRC. Therefore, it must not be assumed that these PFAS guideline values will be the final ones for the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, after public consultation is taken into account.

**The final guidance material will be published as part of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines in April 2025.** Until then, the current guidelines remain in effect. This does not mean there is an immediate risk to your health if you continue to drink tap water. The information available shows that most water supplies are already below the lower, proposed guideline values, and values are based on minimising risk over a lifetime's exposure. NHMRC uses conservative assumptions in setting these values, ensuring that even very small potential risks are addressed. Drinking water is only one of many sources of possible PFAS exposure. Do you think your water through the tap is of good quality? If not complain to your provider.

Submissions on the draft guidance will **close Friday 22 November 2024.**

For further information, [visit the public consultation website](#).

The website includes an [NHMRC statement, message from the CEO, and questions and answers](#).

### International Relations and Peace Adviser: Robyn Byrne OAM

Financial Review 11/10/2024: The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organisation of survivors of the [US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#), for its activism against nuclear weapons.

Jørgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the award was made as the *"taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure."* Watne Frydnes said the Nobel committee *"wishes to honour all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace."*

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X that *"the spectre of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still looms over humanity. This makes the advocacy of Nihon Hidankyo invaluable. This Nobel Peace Prize sends a powerful message. We have the duty to remember. And an even greater duty to protect the next generations from the horrors of nuclear war."*

Nihon Hidankyo was formed in 1956 by survivors of the attacks and victims of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific amid demands for government support for health problems.

*"The atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as the hibakusha, are selfless, soul-bearing witnesses of the horrific human cost of nuclear weapons,"* UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a congratulatory statement. *"Nuclear weapons remain a clear and present danger to humanity, once again appearing in the daily rhetoric of international relations,"* he added. *"It is time for world leaders to be as clear-eyed as the hibakusha, and see nuclear weapons for what they are: devices of death that offer no safety, protection, or security."*



## **Consumer Affairs Victoria**

If you bought toys (not showbags) at [Melbourne Royal Show](#), check for unsafe:

- ⚠ accessible button batteries in light-up butterfly headbands, fairy wings & wands
- ⚠ light-up alien toys without required product safety labelling
- ⚠ banned yo-yo water balls which pose strangulation risks

Our inspectors have been at the Show throughout, checking for dangers like these. They identified and seized 500+ unsafe products from a single stall. If you bought any, keep them out of reach of children.

More: <https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/.../unsafe-products...>

## **Education Adviser: Pam Hammond**

### **Teacher and student supports are main focus of state education system report:**

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/news/society/education-report>

The most comprehensive analysis of the state education system in Victoria since the COVID-19 pandemic has been tabled in the Upper House. The report from the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee makes 25 findings and 54 recommendations for the State Government to consider.

Its 15-month inquiry looked closely at learning outcomes, targeted supports, the teaching workforce, student wellbeing and funding of government schools. As a result, the Department of Education is encouraged to provide further help for teachers to deliver the curriculum, by giving them more resources and guidance to develop lesson plans.

The Committee also recommends the introduction of a Phonics Check for Year One students in all Victorian Government schools and set a target of 90% of students to reach the expected level of reading and writing by the end of Year Two.



There are proposals to attract and retain teachers, such as fast-tracking the employment of subject matter experts in schools and investigating the feasibility of internships for aspiring educators.

Increasing support for flexible learning options is another key focus, and the Victorian Government is urged to lobby the Commonwealth for more funding for state-run schools, to bring them in line with non-government schools.

After initially receiving 274 submissions, the inquiry held seven days of public hearings, including in Melbourne and the regional locations of Bairnsdale, Traralgon, Bendigo and Shepparton.

## **New Respectful Relationships resources**

Victorian students will learn to recognise and respond to toxic masculinity, hate speech and coercive control online – with new Respectful Relationships resources being rolled out to schools across the state. The new resources will give students the skills to help them safely navigate issues like consent, sextortion, pornography and gender-based bullying.

More non-government schools are also being invited to join over 1,950 Victorian government, Catholic and independent schools, including over 370 non-government schools already signed up to the initiative.

These schools can join via a new Expression of Interest process, with support including startup funding, implementation guidance and professional learning.

Developed by education experts Professor Helen Cahill and Associate Professor Debbie Ollis in consultation with teachers, students and parents – the new contemporary materials will help young people stay safe online and in real life, giving parents and carers peace of mind – delivering advice and resources from trusted sources.

Since 2016, the State Government has supported the delivery of the Respectful Relationships curriculum in Victorian schools. Further investment, as part of the Women's Safety Package, has supported this expansion of Respectful Relationships.

This builds on the commitment to making social media safer for our kids, including the survey to help inform age limits and safety programs, available at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/safesocials> Non-government schools can apply **until 8 November 2024** to participate in Respectful Relationships at the website: [vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships](https://vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships).

## Multicultural Issues Adviser: June Anderson



Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is a very influential organisation in the Ethnic community. ECCV is the independent voice for multicultural Victoria, representing more than 220 community organisations, multicultural service providers, and metropolitan and regional ethnic communities' councils.

The Chair of ECCV, Eddie Micallef has announced the appointment of Farah Farouque as Chief Executive Officer, the first female to become CEO of ECCV, commencing in the role on 28 October. Mr Micallef said Farah's substantial experience in social policy, advocacy and strategic communications, combined with senior leadership roles in the community sector, makes her the ideal person to build on ECCV's 50-year legacy in multicultural affairs.

*"Farah is an inclusive, values-driven leader with a deep commitment to advancing the interests of our diverse communities,"* Mr Micallef said. Farah joins ECCV from Tenants Victoria, where she has been the Director of Community Engagement since 2020. She was previously Principal Advisor for Public Affairs and Policy at the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL), where she worked for seven years. Farah was a journalist at The Age for almost 20 years, with roles including Social Affairs Editor, Law and Justice Editor and political reporter in the Victorian and Australian Parliamentary press galleries, as well as reporting assignments in Asia and the Middle East. She is also the longstanding Board Chair of The Social Studio, a social enterprise tapping into the design talents of young people from refugee and new migrant backgrounds.

Farah said it was a privilege to be chosen to lead ECCV at a critical time. ... *Cultural diversity is not a niche issue. Half of the Victorian population, just like me, were either born overseas or have a parent born overseas: we need to see multicultural perspectives penetrate every sphere and tier of policymaking. ... ECCV's grassroots connection to communities and organisational values, which include equity, courage, respect and compassion, really resonates with me. Thank you to the ECCV Board for entrusting me with this key role, it feels like a full circle for someone who arrived here with my family as a child migrant from Sri Lanka,"* she said.

### Music News: Beverley Kannegiesser

October and November have been busy in the music world with numerous competitions, recitals and operas; and late November will see the MSO's Beethoven Festival. The Melbourne Sun Aria held on 19 October celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The winner was a soprano, Felicity Tompkins from New Zealand. Felicity, a graduate in music and biochemistry, sang two arias from Verdi's Othello and Nicolai's Merry Wives of Windsor. Felicity's rich and expressive voice was a clear winner and hopefully a voice that we will hear more frequently.

Palace Cinemas have been showing an excellent documentary called Mozart's Sister. This is an Australian female produced and directed film in conjunction with Documentary Australia. It tells the story of Mozart's sister, Maria Anna, a gifted pianist and composer. The siblings performed on the concert stage from a young age, but when Maria Anna turned 15 she was forced to stop performing and remain at home, as performing in public from this age was akin to being a prostitute. Maria Anna finally returned to the concert stage at age 50 when she was widowed and with sufficient financial resources. As well, an Australian expert delves into the possible extent of her composed works and her works published under Amadeus' name. Running parallel to Maria Anna's story is an exploration of current female musicians and the difficulties they encountered in establishing themselves. Watch out for this interesting documentary on TV in the future.

With my other hat, the Austral Salon of Music held a beautiful recital last week with an emerging soprano, Agnieszka Markwell. The next recital will be a very talented pianist, Chloe Au on **Monday 25 November 12.30 to 1.30 at** the Main Hall, St Peter's, East Melbourne. Further information at <https://www.australsalon.org/next-recital-1124>

### Ageing News: New GP Aged Care Incentive Payment Resources

The General Practice in Aged Care Incentive enables eligible GPs to receive incentive payments for providing services to registered patients in a residential aged care home, rather than at their practice.

Published: Wednesday 30 October 2024: Victoria's public healthcare workforce has grown by almost 50 per cent over the past decade – with an additional 40,365 nurses, midwives, doctors, allied health professionals and other hospital staff.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas revealed that Victoria has seen the biggest yearly growth in the state's history – recording a massive 6.7 per cent jump in new roles, with 7,664 nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and other frontline positions filled in the year to June 2024. Amid significant and targeted investments, Victoria's workforce has now expanded to a total of more than 122,000 full-time equivalent public healthcare workers. Almost one in four new roles created have been in regional and rural areas, welcoming around 9,500 nurses, doctors, allied services and hospital staff since 2014.

Since May 2022, Victoria's workforce has grown by 12.6 per cent – with a pipeline of 5,800 more nurses and midwives and 2,217 more doctors joining the system. Victoria's on-road paramedic workforce has grown by over 50 per cent since 2014.

## OTHER NEWS

### NCWV congratulates the Twenty-One Trailblazing Women added to Victorian Honour Roll

An internationally renowned folk musician turned Federal Court judge, a professor transforming the understanding of genetic diseases and a broadcasting trailblazer are among the 21 women inducted into the 2024 Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins congratulated the 21 new inductees at a ceremony at the Arts Centre Melbourne. The Victorian Honour Roll of Women recognises the achievements and contributions of some of Victoria's most remarkable women of all ages, experiences, background and fields.

Retired Federal Court judge Judy Small is recognised for her contribution to the arts, as an outstanding singer songwriter in the field of folk music, about social justice, equality, feminism, peace, LGBTIQ+ lives – songs for and about women.

Women making waves in healthcare are well represented among the 2024 inductees. Professor Jane Gunn is honoured for her transformative impact on women's health, alongside Associate Professor Kudzai Kanhutu who established a first-of-its kind telehealth service breaking down barriers for rural, culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians to access healthcare.

Libbi Gorr, a trailblazer in the arts and media, is recognised for her work across television, radio, journalism, teaching and live performance – and her efforts in forging a path for women in the arts and broadcast mediums.

Community heroes recognised for their championing of local communities, include Lyndie Freestone, renowned in Geelong for her work with high risk and homeless young people, and Dalal Smiley, who works tirelessly to support women of migrant and refugee backgrounds in Melbourne's south-east.

Councillor and former Maribyrnong mayor Sarah Carter, who sadly passed away earlier this year is among the new inductees. She was the first woman to serve as mayor of Maribyrnong three times.

Since 2001 more than 750 women from across the state have been inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll for their contributions to fields including science, art, environment, law, social justice, research, health, media and education.

By celebrating women's achievements and recognising their contributions, the State Government is playing a vital role in increasing the representation of women in the public eye and building towards a more gender equal society.

The late Hon Joan Kirner AC, Victoria's first female Premier, created the Victorian Honour Roll to formally acknowledge women for their achievements and to encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

A full list of inductees is available at: [vic.gov.au/victorian-honour-roll-of-women-inductees](https://vic.gov.au/victorian-honour-roll-of-women-inductees)

## THRIVE BY FIVE



New data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that out-of-pocket childcare costs have risen by over 12 per cent over the last year. **That's FOUR times higher than the overall rate of inflation.** Early education and care costs are Out Of Control and the child care subsidy is doing nothing to provide relief to families.

**[This is a message the Federal Treasurer needs to hear. Will you tag him on our social post and tell him?](#)**

Many families are worried that fees will hit more than \$200 a day in the next few years. It's clear that the childcare subsidy, the system that is supposed to help families pay the high cost of early learning and care, doesn't work. When the government increases the subsidy, it gives temporary relief, but it doesn't do enough to bring costs down for families because some providers simply raise fees. It doesn't support educators because some providers don't increase their wages despite charging higher fees. And it doesn't work for children because they miss out on vital early learning when their parents can't afford high out-of-pocket costs.

But if we can convince the Treasurer to ditch our current ineffective subsidy system and create a new system where family costs are capped at \$10 a day per child, everyone could benefit.

### Invitation to launch of Margins to the Mainstream by the Women's Health Service Network (WHSN)

The Victorian Women's Health Service Network (WHSN) invites you to attend the online launch of Margins to Mainstream: Preventing violence against women with disabilities (M2M) and the WHSN's bid for investment in the 2025-26 Victorian state budget.

The event, **scheduled for 11am – 12pm on November 25, 2024**, includes a keynote address from Dr Wei Leng Kwok, consultant, project evaluator and project advisory group member. Broadcaster, writer, speaker and disability advocate, Jacinta Parsons will host a panel with lived experience Experts and partner organisations positively impacted by the program. Join the event by clicking the button below:

**[Join the Event Here](#)**





Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald spoke about an issue that affects all of us as we grow older; ageism. We all have the right to live and age with respect, dignity and security. Yet ageism is rife in Australia and is often socially accepted and unchallenged. We need to ensure that our workplaces treat older workers fairly. We need to address elder abuse and tackle ageism in key social sectors like health and aged care. And we need to pay attention to the rights of particular groups, including First Nations and culturally diverse people as they age. Commissioner Fitzgerald's speech outlined ways to address ageism including harmonisation of national laws, like powers of attorney, to address elder abuse. The new federal Aged Care Bill is a step forward with its rights-based, person-focused approach, but the rights set out in it are not directly enforceable. We need enforceable legal protections for older people, including through a Human Rights Act.

### **New report: How Australian media report on ageing**

The Commission has released a major new report on how the Australian media reports on ageing and older people. *Shaping Perceptions* found that negative stereotypes of older people, and the under-reporting or misrepresentation of the matters affecting them, are widely prevalent in mainstream media.

[Read the report](#)

**'Let's Talk Ageing', Age Discrimination Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald AM** sits down with Council of the Ageing (COTA) Australia CEO Pat Sparrow. In their wide-ranging chat, Pat shares with Robert how she is trying to tackle her own ageing with grace, how ageism is at the core of most of the challenges facing older people, and what she believes Australia needs to do to address their needs.

[Watch now](#)

**Social Justice Commissioner Kiss joins Hannah McGlade and Leanne Liddle** to discuss relationships between First Nations peoples and the police force.

[Watch now](#)

### **MCC Foundation partners with Cricket Victoria for Girls Leadership Program**



The Melbourne Cricket Club Foundation has partnered with Cricket Victoria to launch a new leadership program for girls, aimed at empowering young female athletes. Developed in collaboration with former Australian cricketer, Belinda Clarke AO, the MCC Foundation will directly support the female leadership, coaching and umpires program. The Leadership Playground offers personal development and leadership training to female athletes aged 14 to 16, while also providing valuable insights into the diverse roles within cricket, both on and off the field. Through mentoring, development opportunities and tailored support, these two new programs are designed to further support women's participation and pathways in cricket.

[Read more](#)

### **Protecting Victorians for Cyber Security Awareness**

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

Minister for Government Services Gabrielle Williams launched a new tool – available on the Service Victoria app – as part of Cyber Security Awareness Month, providing a new way for Victorians to protect themselves online.

**The cyber safety check** asks users questions about their online behaviour and habits such as creating strong passwords and using multi-factor authentication. Once the user completes the check, they are given tailored advice on how to improve their cyber safety behaviour. As cybercriminals become increasingly sophisticated, understanding how to safeguard personal information online is more important than ever.

Research done by the State Government shows that only 39 per cent of people are using strong passwords, 33 per cent have multi-factor authentication turned on and 48 per cent have enabled automatic updates. Some simple steps can reduce cyber risk and safeguard personal data. These simple steps include:

- using long and unique passwords
- turning on multi-factor authentication
- turning on automatic software updates
- guarding against phishing.

Both the password strength tester and the cyber safety check can be found on the Service Victoria app. Both tools are anonymous, secure and no information is collected, tracked or stored.

Victorians can learn more about being safe online by visiting the dedicated website for online safety advice. The website has a range of information on passwords, multi-factor authentication, updating devices, and online scam awareness.

For cyber safety information and advice and to check your online behaviour visit [vic.gov.au/stay-safe-online](https://vic.gov.au/stay-safe-online).

## Safer And Fairer Apprenticeships

## MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney and Minister for Industrial Relations Tim Pallas today announced the State Government is accepting all recommendations of the Apprenticeship Taskforce report – in full or in-principle – and launched a \$9 million package to improve safety and mental health support for apprentices and trainees.

The reforms will provide more support for apprentices and their employers and address the key issues highlighted in the report, including safety, harassment, training quality, and fairness at work.

Among the first reforms to be implemented will be a pilot of a central helpdesk service, where apprentices and trainees can go for all types of workplace support. This helpdesk will be run by Apprenticeships Victoria and builds on the success of the Apprenticeship Support Program.

The Government has also given in-principal support to the establishment of a dedicated regulator for apprentices and trainees, who will work to improve outcomes for Victoria's 77,000 apprentices and make the system easier to navigate, helping them stay in their chosen fields. The package of reforms will include more support for employers of apprentices, **greater inclusion and safety for women apprentices**, modernising laws that govern the apprenticeship system, and better collaboration between agencies and the Commonwealth.

The State Government has announced three new mental health programs, including the Apprentice Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP offers free counselling and can be accessed online or by phone without the need for a referral.

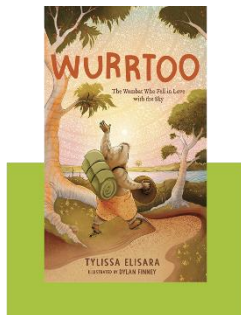
Victoria's Apprenticeship Taskforce was established through the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* and is chaired by Sharan Burrow AC, alongside representatives from unions, industry, and apprentices. Apprenticeships Victoria, established in 2021, will oversee the new helpdesk and all mental health initiatives to make sure apprentices and trainees, across all industries, are getting the support they need to do well on the job. To read the Apprenticeships Taskforce's Report and the Government's response, visit: [apprenticeships.vic.gov.au/apprenticeships-taskforce/](https://apprenticeships.vic.gov.au/apprenticeships-taskforce/).



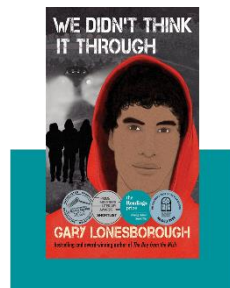
With December celebrations in mind here are some book suggestions:

This year's winners include a contemporary Muddleheaded Wombat, an action-packed tale of the repercussions of one bad decision, a heartfelt journey in search of identity and belonging on Melbourne's streets, and a puzzle of a story about three generations of mothers and daughters. Discover the 2024 winners of The Readings Prizes and the judges reports [here](#).

Children's Prize Winner: *Wurrtoo*, by Tylissa Elisara Lothian. or agFes 8+ 'Unashamedly Australian, not dated. The landscape is so vividly described you can smell the eucalyptus as you read and wonderful depictions of First Nations culture and practices.' Dani Solomon, chair of judges.



Young Adult Prize Winner: *We Didn't Think It Through* by Gary Lonesborough, For ages 14+ 'Beautifully paced a masterclass in how YA writing can tackle difficult topics and conversations without talking down to young audiences.' Alicia Guiney, chair of judges





**CEO of Days for Girls Australia, Mary Connelly-Gale: Period Poverty**

In Australia, poverty is seen through housing insecurity, unemployment, and financial stress. But there's a hidden aspect that often goes unspoken: period poverty, when people who menstruate can't afford products they need, forcing them to manage their periods in unhealthy, undignified ways. It's a reality for many Australians, especially those living below the poverty line.

According to the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), in 2023 over 13% of Australians live in poverty. For many women, girls, and non-binary people, this means choosing between necessities—like food and rent—or menstrual products. The cost of pads and tampons is high, pushing people to use makeshift alternatives or skip school/work during their cycle. Physical health implications are serious, but emotional toll is just as significant, leaving many feeling ashamed and helpless.

Young girls in particular suffer [Missing school](#) because they can't manage their periods robs them of education, one of the few pathways out of poverty. Education breaks the cycle of poverty, but without access to something as basic as period products, many girls are being left behind. For women experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, the struggle is even worse. Many are forced to choose between feeding themselves and buying pads. No one should face such a choice.

Charities like Days for Girls Australia provide free menstrual products, education and advocate for policy changes. Good360 Australia distributes surplus goods, including menstrual health products, to disadvantaged communities. While these efforts are vital, they're often reliant on donations and aren't enough to address the scale of the problem.

We need government-led policies that guarantee free and accessible products in schools, workplaces, and public spaces. Breaking the stigma around menstruation will make it easier for people to ask for help. These products are a necessity.

Period poverty is a symptom of deeper financial inequality, but it is one that is solvable. It limits access to education, employment, and even basic health, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage.

Local initiatives like Days for Girls Australia are making strides in alleviating some of this burden, but systemic change is urgently needed. Addressing period poverty means recognising menstrual health as a basic human right, not to be denied due to financial circumstances. As the cost-of-living crisis continues, addressing period poverty should be a priority.

NCWV is pleased that in Victoria, after many submissions, free period products are available in all Victorian government schools. With the provision of period products, schools must provide students with information about the safe use of these. Schools can refer to the [Guidance tab](#) for information about their obligations and strategies to facilitate menstrual health.

For breast cancer patients, maintaining a balanced diet and regular exercise is crucial for managing health and improving outcomes. A well-structured diet helps support the body's healing processes, enhances energy levels, and boosts overall well-being. Emphasising a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats provides nutrients to aid recovery and improve body's resilience against cancer and its treatments. Foods high in antioxidants, such as berries and leafy greens, may help combat oxidative stress and inflammation, potentially contributing to better health outcomes.

Exercise plays a complementary role in breast cancer care by offering numerous physical and psychological benefits. It is recommended that breast cancer patients incorporate moderate physical activity daily, such as brisk walking, swimming, or cycling. Regular exercise helps maintain a healthy weight, particularly important since obesity has been linked to an increased risk of cancer recurrence. Also, physical activity can improve cardiovascular health, strengthen bones, and enhance muscle strength, which are crucial during and after cancer treatment.

Diet and exercise also intersect in the management of treatment side effects. For instance, hormonal therapies used in breast cancer treatment can affect bone density and increase the risk of osteoporosis. A diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, along with weight-bearing exercises, can help mitigate this risk.

**14 Nov Register at: [Breast Cancer Q&A Event - Diet and Exercise](#)**

ONLINE Q&A

**THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF DIET  
AND EXERCISE IN BREAST  
CANCER CARE**

THURS 14 NOVEMBER 5-6:30PM (AEDT)

[breastcancertrials.org.au/news/qa-events/](https://breastcancertrials.org.au/news/qa-events/)

Join Breast Cancer Trials for a free online Q&A, where leading researchers and women with a history of breast cancer will discuss the role and impact of diet and exercise in breast cancer care.

Moderated by Author and Journalist  
Annabel Crabb

## New online Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS).

## MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Victim Support Enver Erdogan joined FAS Chief Executive Officer Marnie Williams to announce that the new scheme will commence on 18 November. The Government has worked closely with victims of crime to ensure the new scheme is trauma-informed and victim-centred. For the first time, the new online scheme can be accessed in the privacy of your own home and will replace the courts-based Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) – helping to minimise further trauma for victims, as they no longer have to attend court or face perpetrators.

Victims of crime will now be able to receive up to \$60,000, with some eligible for up to an additional \$25,000 in certain circumstances, and will also be able to choose to receive a recognition statement from the state – acknowledging the effects of the crime and expressing condolences. The reform also give assistance individually to each family member, significantly reducing potential conflict between family members and allow them to apply for assistance in their own timeframe and in accordance with their own needs. Application timeframes have also been extended from two years to three years, or for sexual offences or family violence cases to 10 years – giving victims more time to assess their needs.

Under VOCAT there were strict definitions around who was considered family – the FAS will expand eligibility to recognise Aboriginal kinship relations, LGBTQI+ relationships and other family members that an applicant may consider to be close family. Further information on the new scheme can be found at [victimsocrime.vic.gov.au](https://victimsocrime.vic.gov.au).

## Jean Hailes for Women's Health **Menopause info all in one place**

After 32 years of leading the way in menopause education, we've built up a long list of resources to help you. Below is a snapshot of our collection. You'll find lots more on our website.

- [Symptoms of menopause, including our downloadable checklist.](#)
- [How to talk to your doctor about midlife brain fog.](#)
- [How to talk to your doctor about menopause.](#)
- [Weight gain at menopause: Are hormones to blame?](#)
- [Menopause resources in community languages.](#)
- [Looking after yourself during menopause.](#)

**Women's Health Week - That's a wrap:** Missed any of the Women's Health Week action last month?

Don't worry, all the info is still available. [Head to our website to play catch-up](#)

## Single Mother Families - SMF

On 8 October 2024, we presented our groundbreaking report to Parliament House, outlining critical reforms needed for the child support system. Supported by prominent advocates such as Rosie Batty, Jess Hill, Terese Edwards and Prof. Kay Cook, we highlighted the urgent need for action to prevent financial abuse and ensure a fairer, safer system for families.

The **Fix Child Support** website and campaign exist to further support the report, shining a light on the systemic issues that perpetuate financial abuse within the current child support system. Together, they aim to drive meaningful reform and ensure families receive the financial support they deserve.

We are calling on Parliament to prioritise this issue in the 2025 Federal Budget. Our report, built on robust research and expert insights, is a key step towards fixing child support to better protect Australia's most vulnerable.

**NCWV supports Fix Child Support Campaign** For information: [Fix Child Support | It's Time To End The Financial Abuse](#)



2024 Fanny Reading Human Rights Lecture, will feature **Professor Ruth Halperin-Kaddari**, one of the world's foremost advocates for women's rights. She has been working tirelessly to secure justice for victims of sexual violence and gender-based atrocities, engaging with key global human rights bodies and leaders. She will join us via Zoom, while **Lillian Kline** and **Ora-Tali Korbl** will participate in person with **Lexi Kowal** our moderator. They will explore how Jewish women can reclaim and navigate human rights spaces in the wake of recent events.

**Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>, Arrive 7.15pm for 7.30pm Start**  
**Venue TBC (Caulfield Area).**



This inaugural lecture honours the life of Gwen Jones, a keen member and generous supporter of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria over many years until her death in 2021, aged 98. The Jones Collection was donated to the RHSV by Gwen shortly before she died. Gwen's creation, stewardship, and generosity surrounding the collection has ensured that future historians have an incredibly rich archive on which to draw.

**Richard Aitken's** lecture will introduce The Jones Collection by focussing on the 1953–54 study tour of Britain and Europe undertaken by Gwen Jones. This is a particularly comprehensive holding within the collection and will act as a catalyst for narrating a significant part of Gwen's life story as well as highlighting the richness of The Jones Collection for historical research and provide an assessment of its overall archival significance.

**November 19 @ 5:30 pm-7:00 pm, \$10.00 – \$20.00**

[Please click to book tickets](#)



[Gender Equity Victoria](#) (GEN VIC) is an independent member organisation representing over 40 organisations and 80+ individuals across Victoria who are dedicated to achieving intersectional gender equality. GEN VIC evolved from the Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHAV), which was formed in 1994 as a peak body for the women's health sector and expanded in 2018 to provide support to a growing gender equity movement across industries, communities and sectors. Our vision is for a gender equal society where all people can thrive.

**GEN VIC 2024 AGM, Wed, 27 Nov, 4pm - 5:30pm AEDT, Online Event, via ZOOM**

A special guest presentation will also be provided by Dr Lisa Heap, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Future Work at the Australia Institute, an expert in the prevention of gendered-based violence and harassment at work and a GEN VIC Board Director. Lisa will share her insights on "Respect at Work – Where to Next."

Registration is free, A Zoom meeting link will be sent to all attendees who register.

[Get tickets](#)

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**NOVEMBER 27**  
**2024**  
**6 - 8pm**

**210 CLARENDON ST**  
**EAST MELBOURNE**

**TICKETS: \$20**  
**FREE FOR MEMBERS**



HER PLACE WOMEN'S MUSEUM PRESENTS

# REWRITING VIOLENCE LIVING HISTORY AND ADVOCACY

A 16 days of Activism event



**HANA ASSAFIRI**  
AUTHOR OF  
THE AUDACITY TO BE FREE



**PROFESSOR  
KYLIE CRIPPS**  
DIRECTOR OF  
MONASH  
INDIGENOUS STUDIES  
CENTRE



**DR. JACQUI THEOBOLD**  
CO-AUTHOR OF  
FROM THE MARGINS  
TO THE MAINSTREAM

[Book Tickets 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
November	7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Council Meeting, with nibbles	17.15	Zoom and Ross Hse
November	14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Committee Meeting	TBC	RHSV
November	21/22		NCWA AGM & Conference		Adelaide
November	28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Annual luncheon Batman's Hill on Collins, cnr Spencer and Collins Sts	12:00	In person
December	5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Council Meeting Individual Members	10:00 TBC	Zoom
February	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday	Annual Pioneer Women's Ceremony – Women in Agriculture	11:30 - 1:30	In person, a BYO picnic to follow.

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