

Founded 1902 ~ Celebrated 123 years in 2025

Newsletter

November 2025

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.



NCWV Website: <https://ncwvic.org.au/>

QUOTE: *On the eve of the 25th anniversary of [UN Security Council resolution 1325](#)—a milestone born of the multilateral system's conviction that peace is more robust, security more enduring, when women are at the table. ... When women lead, peace follows. We made a promise to them 25 years ago. It is past time to deliver.* UN Women Executive Director, Sima Bahous, October 2025 (see p.4)

From the President, Elida Brereton



Warm greetings to you all, I hope that swings in temperature and weather in late spring are not stopping you from participating in activities that you enjoy. It was a delight to represent NCWV at a morning tea at Government House, on 31 October, where our Patron Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria Professor the Hon. Margaret Gardner AC paid tribute to the work of all organisations fostering the welfare of nurses who served/are serving Victoria.

This was the celebration the **75th anniversary of the Australian Nurses' Memorial Centre**. Founded in 1950 by Lieut.Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO MBE and Lieut. Betty Jeffrey OAM the centre was designed to commemorate the work and sacrifices of Australian nurses in wars, in peace-keeping and peace, from the Boer War to the present. (Elisabeth Newman AM has regularly represented us at this memorial on ANZAC Day with flowers).

A few of the Executive, including me, are attending the **Victorian Multicultural Commission End of Year event** on November 10th at the Broadmeadows Town Hall, where our member and VMC Chair, Viv Nguyen AM, will no doubt be inspiring all present with a positive report about the aims of VMC and their achievements in 2025.

(Guests are urged to wear the clothing of their national background: wearing "traditional" Australian clothing for us is a challenge!)

NCWV continues to be active via the Standing Committees led by Robyn Byrne OAM, assisted by member and Health Adviser Prof Cassandra Szoeka, and Sarah Barnbrook, in **advocating on Early Childhood and Care policies, and on behalf of women and girls and families**, in areas including appropriate medical diagnosis and care of women over 50 years of age who are relatively invisible in society and in many occasions, in medical care. We have a planning group of members led by Cassandra and Sarah preparing for the **Women's Health Forum** that we are conducting **at Government House** between **5.00pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 5th March 2026**, led by Cassandra. We are excited by this opportunity to gain more extensive exposure – for NCWV and for women neglected by the medical world.

Letters of condolence were sent from NCWV to **three African/Australian organisations** in Victoria after the awful murder in streets of Melbourne of two innocent young boys of Sudanese background by a ruthless gang, the members of which have been apprehended by the police. We continue also to support our Jewish and Ukrainian members morally and in our words.

There were 20 **Individual Members** and friends, led by Convenor Sheila Byard OAM, who enjoyed their visit to the Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne, on **Thursday October 30th from 12 noon**, seeing a unique Exhibition "**65,000 Years: a Short History of Australian Art**". This was extremely comprehensive, engaging, and it times confronting, which made many of us vow to return before the exhibition closes on November 22nd. There were works of art and artifacts on loan from the NGV and many other galleries and collections, all of which demonstrated the incredible artistic skill and legacy of Indigenous artists, and the impact of colonisation on the lives of Aboriginal people. Thank you Sheila, for organising this Individual Members visit, a Millie Peden excursion, honouring this previous valued member.



I urge you to sign up for our **End of Year Luncheon of NCWV**, to be held this year back at William Angliss Restaurant, on **Thursday November 27th, from Noon** and to invite friends and family. This delicious lunch plus a drink from the bar will cost you \$60, which is very reasonable given the cost of most eateries these days!

E: info@ncwvic.org.au

Reg. Number A0004465H

ABN: 18227073059

Patron in Chief: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria

Coral Ross OAM will be our speaker. She has extensive experience in Local Government amongst other involvements, and is an engaging speaker. (See p.4)

Our Adviser for Youth and ICT/online Safety, **Sarah Barnbrook**, is conducting a workshop for members and affiliates on the regulations about minimum age of access to Social Media as proposed by the Federal Government.

This will be held on the **afternoon of Friday November 28th**. This vital workshop is free and will be in person at Ross House and by ZOOM, and will be of value to anyone involved with young people or organisations where Social Media access is relevant or where there is the potential for us or our loved ones to be scammed. (See p.8)

Thank you to those who completed the **NCWA Survey** of Members so that all states and territories know what aspects of society, our lives and interests NCWA should be addressing. This survey will also assist NCWV to choose speakers and to engage with organisations of interest and relevance to our work on behalf of women and children.

I attended the AGM of the **National Council of Women Australia** in mid-October and also the October Board meeting. Past President Chiou See Anderson has resigned as acting Treasurer, and NCWNSW has a new Director who is representing that state well. Victoria, South Australia and Queensland are the most active states and I was pleased to share the fact that NCWV has gained new members and new organisational members. One of these is **Away from Keyboard Inc. (AFK)**, a registered Australian charity founded in regional Victoria, focused on preventing online harm, promoting digital safety, embedding Safety by Design and human rights due diligence in technology.

Many thanks to our Hon Secretaries Dr Julie Stevens and Phoebe Swift for their work for NCWV, and thanks to Pam Hammond for organising visits to the “My Vote My Voice” schools. Thank you to members visiting the schools to present certificates and book vouchers.

Please forward the Newsletter to friends and any organisations that might be interested in our work.

As I have said before, thank you all for your contribution to NCWV no matter what that is, and I look forward to seeing you at our **November 27th End of Year Luncheon**, William Angliss Restaurant, near Southern Cross Station and trams.

NCWV November Council Meeting, Ross House, Flinders Lane & ZOOM, 5:15pm. 6 Nov. 2025



Alexandra Pierce was a history teacher for many years. She's on the board of the [Australian Living Peace Museum](#), and is secretary of Oral History Victoria. She splits her time between history research, history curriculum work, and science fiction.

Peace work in Australia: a discussion of protesting the Vietnam War, and the Australian Living Peace Museum.

Alex's oral history project “Women, Conscription, War” started to develop student resources and it then turned into an award-winning 15-episode podcast. *Her talk is precised below:*

Australia since Federation has a long history of peace and peace activism, alongside its involvement in various wars, having boyhood conscription for military training from very early on, which some objected to, and parents – especially fathers – were fined for not enrolling their sons. Come World War 1, conscription for overseas service becomes a pressing one. The Labor prime minister called a plebiscite on conscription in 1916, which was rejected and again in 1917. Women played a significant role in this anti conscription campaign, speaking and leading rallies. Some women like Adela Pankhurst and Vida Goldstein were also involved in the broader peace campaign, advocating for the end of WW1.

After the WW1, some women continued their involvement in peace work, joining groups like the women's international league for peace and freedom (WILPF), as did women who advocated for peace during WW2. In WW2 Australia had military training for home defence, then the government expanded the concept of Australia to include New Guinea, meaning conscripts could be sent to fight for example along the Kokoda Track, which they were.

All of this is important for understanding that the involvement of women in protesting against war and conscription during the Vietnam War is not without precedent. In 1964 Robert Menzies' Liberal government military training was expanded in 1965 so that national serviceman could be sent overseas. Young men were required to register for national service at 19, then a couple of times a year little balls representing birthdays would be pulled from a barrel and if it was your birthday, you went through a whole process that might eventually see you conscripted. At the time, voting age was 21.

In my podcast *Women, Conscription, War*. I interviewed nearly 60 Melbourne women who were involved in protests between 1965 and 1972, including archival work, creating a 15 episode audio documentary. The women's motivations were varied. They came from working class and middle class backgrounds, they voted Labor, Liberal, or Communist, some were pacifist while others weren't, they were high school students, uni students, mums and grandmas, professional women – the whole range of women. Some were supporters of the Communist Vietnamese in a struggle seen as a civil war; some got involved because their son may be called up; some were incensed at Australia blindly following US foreign policy; many were appalled at America and Australia actions against a much smaller country where they had no business interfering.

But they all agreed that the National Service Act should be got rid of, and Australian troops be recalled from Vietnam.

Across those eight years, women were involved in a huge variety of actions. Some women got recognised for their individual contributions. The singer Glen Tomasetti wrote songs, gave performances and tried to withhold the amount of tax she believed would be spent on defence from her income tax. She ended up in court but I suspect that was the goal,

because she got to explain her thinking and it was in all the newspapers. Jean McLean became probably the most famous woman of the Vietnam protest movement, being a key part of starting Save Our Sons (SOS) in Melbourne. She attended a peace conference in Paris for women from the belligerent nations, which included South and North Vietnam, and ended up going to North Vietnam for a few days, while the fighting was happening. She was arrested and fined countless times for handing out leaflets and spent 11 days in prison in 1971 as one of the 'Fairlea Five' for trespassing on government property while handing out pamphlets. As a member of SOS she with other women picketed the army barracks on days when new soldiers were inducted, held vigils in City Square and helped draft resisters avoid arrest. Ceci went with Jean to the Fashions on the Field one Melbourne Cup wearing matching outfits, inspired by Jean Shrimpton. They wore incredibly short skirts and capes and when they got the attention of photographers turned the capes over to show the message on the back "Gamble on Horses not on lives."

A key group of women were university students. In 1971, students laid siege to the Student Union Building at Melbourne University occupying it for several days. One of the women, Sue McCulloch, became the voice of the pirate radio station students briefly set up. Sue was a member then both secretary and treasurer of the Draft Resisters Movement. At Monash University, a small group of students were very dedicated to opposing the war, their involvement going so far as to collect money to send to the National Liberation Front – the people Australian soldiers were fighting against, legally treason! La Trobe University most memorably had their Waterdale Road protests, which saw police violence against protesters, with several women apparently being caught up in that.

In Melbourne the first moratorium was on 8th of May. Estimates vary, but between 80,000-100 000 people 'stopped work to stop the war' in the streets of Melbourne. It was the largest protest ever up to that time. An enormous number of those participating were women. For some, it was the first time they had attended a protest.

Women wrote articles/letters to newspapers, signed petitions, copied on the Roneo and Gestetner. One woman held a two-day hunger strike in front of the American consulate, while others welcomed draft resisters on the run into their homes. Some women attended "fill in a false" parties, to fill in national service registration forms with false information, to attempt to clog up the whole system. Pensioners, politicians, horses, and at least one wombat were registered in this process.

The new Labor government Whitlam ceased conscription in December 1972. Australia had started pulling troops out in late 1971, and the last Australians left Vietnam in early 1973. It's important to note that whether the protest movement had any impact on the Australian decision to withdraw from Vietnam is contested. Less contested is: the protest movement helped the victory of Gough Whitlam's Labor party in 1972, where a key electoral promise was to abolish national service. Whitlam ended national service pretty much immediately.

One very significant victory can be claimed by the protest movement, with women significant in contributing to, Melbourne City Council had a by-law that prohibited the distribution of promotional material on Melbourne streets, largely ignored. Once protesters like SOS started handing out political material, there was a great rush of fines handed out. Some women got around this by having slogans on their aprons! The by-law was struck down relatively quickly.

I became part of the Australian Living Peace Museum due to my podcast. One of the women I interviewed, Frances Newell, was a founding member of the Museum. It seemed like a great place to host lesson plans to go along with my podcast – I started the project in an effort to get more resources for my high school students, and it got out of hand. After some discussions with Fran and others, they asked me to join the Board to have someone with practical teaching experience to help guide the Museum's future direction.

The Australian Living Peace Museum is an online museum dedicated to telling the stories of Australia's heritage of peace and non-violence, based in social justice. It's a virtual museum – which means that rather than holding our own collection we tell stories of peace and non-violence using collection items held in Australia's public museums, libraries and art galleries or in private collections. It was started by people who were dismayed by the jingoism, and the money being spent, around commemorations of Australia's WW1. We're a cooperative, so people contribute financially to be a part – we are always looking for new members – it's just \$20 to join and \$10 annually. Large projects go ahead when we secure grant funding.

I have put together a self-guided walking tour, thanks to funding from the Public Records Office of Victoria. This walk takes you to six sites in Melbourne's CBD significant in the anti-conscription campaigns of WW1. You can follow it on a desktop and on location. It's hosted through Soundtrails, an Australian organisation whose whole thing is geolocate tours. That means that if you're listening on your phone, through the app, the sound starts playing based on your GPS coordinates. The walking tour introduces you to politicians, religious and union leaders and women who were significant in the protests in 1916 and 1917. It takes about 40 minutes.

Much of the ALPM website is about individuals and groups, with an emphasis on WW1 and the Vietnam War, There's also the Peace Honour Roll recording name and details of people who were conscientious objectors during wartime or had an important role in such areas.

NCWV Organisation Report – National Council of Jewish Women Australia, Victoria (NCJWAV)
<https://www.ncjwavic.org.au/>

Member and delegate, Marlo Newton, gave a brief history saying that the Victorian organisation pre-dated the NCWA. The aim was for every member to realise their potential. 1920-1960s, many migrants arrived, support for Israel, social networks formed. 1970-1990s: Women's movement, Zionism, lobbying for childcare, migrant welfare, multifaith. 2000-2020s: programs to empower, champion, promote women at every stage of life, and into leadership.

Women are missing from peace negotiations, and strategic decision-making <https://johnmenadue.com>

An article by Meg Swarts, 25 October in electronic Journal *Pearls and Irritations*: *'There's a new international body being set up to oversee Gaza's future, called the "Board of Peace" part of Donald Trump's plan for Gaza, with Tony Blair already named as a leading figure. So far, not one woman has been announced as part of this group. Not one.'*

'Even in Israel, where women hold nearly a quarter of parliamentary seats (29 of 120 as of October 2025), the key decisions about war, genocide, occupation and peace rarely include them.... That's where the problem starts. How can the world keep claiming to fight for peace when half of humanity is missing from the table?' 'History has already shown us what happens when women are involved – and what's lost when they're not. When women are included, research shows that peace agreements are 35% more likely to last, not because women are "nicer" or more moral, but because they bring empathy, practicality and a focus on life beyond the ceasefire. They think about what happens the day after the guns and bombs go quiet.'

'We've seen in Gaza that women are keeping families fed, tending the wounded and sustaining communities – work that is essential, but often invisible. Meanwhile, the key decisions about occupation and peace are overwhelmingly made by men, including within formal Palestinian leadership structures, where women remain underrepresented. Time and time again, women are kept out of these spaces – dismissed as "too emotional" or "too idealistic". History, though, tells us who starts most wars and genocide and who ends up carrying their burden. It's time that changed.'

Congratulations Lucy

Melbourne Girls' College (MGC) alumna Lucy Skelton has been nominated as the 2026 Victorian Young Australian of the Year! 🎉 Lucy has been a MGC speaker at two My Vote My Voice events (2018/2019) and was the Keynote speaker at 2025 MVMV.



During her time at MGC, Lucy launched the Student Voice Network, a platform for young people to collaborate, discuss global challenges and make their voices heard.

Lucy launched FORE Australia, a non-partisan enterprise to strengthen the link between research, public advocacy and policymaking. Lucy remains deeply connected to her community by mentoring young leaders, especially women. Her compassionate, clear-eyed approach combines lived experience with a profound understanding of how public policy can impact lives. Read more about Lucy's nomination: <https://australianoftheyear.org.au/recipients/lucy-skelton>

NCWV Annual Luncheon, Thursday 27 Nov. 2025, Noon

We look forward to Members and Friends joining us when our speaker will be Coral Ross AM.

We will be back at William Angliss Restaurant. This wonderful face-to-face gathering starts at 12 Noon with a welcome drink, then a two-course meal, tea/coffee, with much chat, laughter, and sisterhood. **Cost: \$60**



Book yourself or book a whole table using this event link. Tables are in groups of 8, so arrange with friends your table number, so you are seated together:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGVCY>

We will be collecting items for women in need, to be donated to **Impact for Women** <https://impactforwomen.org.au>



Coral Ross AM is a founding Director and Chair of AGEC [Australian Gender Equality Council] the members of which represent over 500,000 women in the workplace. Coral has had an esteemed career in local government and is currently the National Vice President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA). She has also served as a Director of National Rural Women's Coalition. In 2014 she was named as one of the 100 Women of Influence by Westpac/Fairfax, in 2018 Coral was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to improve gender equality in local government, in 2019 was inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll. We look forward to you joining us for lunch and to hear Coral on **Thursday 27 November 2025, starting at Noon.**

Council of Christians and Jews Victoria

"History shows us the importance of people from different faiths and cultures coming together to avoid the division that can emerge so destructively in trying times. The Council's work to help strengthen our society in dialogue and friendship has never been more important, and I thank the Council for its continuing contribution to cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue." - The Hon Linda Dessau AC, Former Governor of Victoria

CCJ Vic's 40th Anniversary Celebration and Gesher Launch, Wed, 12 Nov, 7pm - 10pm AEDT Join us, with the Governor of Victoria, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Council of Christians and Jews (Victoria) and as we launch Gesher 2025 at a venue in St Kilda (exact details will be emailed to registrants in advance). **The event will feature special addresses, launch of Gesher, Dance Performance by Worawa Aboriginal College students, and performance by Lior!**

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/ccj-at-40/tickets>

ADVISER NEWS

Environment Adviser: Pam Robinson AM



The National Landcare Conference held on the Gold Coast, 22-25 September was an outstanding success.

I have provided the Landcare Australia SNAPSHOT of involvements by many at the Conference, and it was wonderful to find 2/3 of the 650 Delegates were attending their first National Landcare Conference ... and even more excitingly the age range within that number showed there has been an increased uptake by many in their 20s to 50s.

Hooray – this wonderful cohort who are themselves now well positioned working with Landcare whether it be through their employment with Government Departments, in Research and Academic Institutions, in the vast array of environmental organisations, et al, all with their wide range of expertise, augers well for the future of Landcare. Additionally, as was provided through many of the speakers, most are also participating happily as volunteers in their communities, whether as members of a local group or by joining others with a tree planting day, pulling weeds, caring for walking tracks or in clean up exercises amongst many activities undertaken.

It was very pleasing to the lesser number of white hair present to see such a big shift in ages present, many of us who have been involved for 40 years in Landcare. We 'older' Landcarers will continue our involvement as Landcare responds to the wonderful wave of intergenerational participation.

Junior Landcare has been around for many years and relates mainly to school groups with their activities which are undertaken with enthusiasm, providing learning for a lifetime. To see Delegates in such big numbers in the age group between younger and older participants was inspiring. Big numbers and what we have all been working towards for many years. So many amazing community Landcare leaders sharing their work across the broad national network.

I was privileged to attend the pre-Conference Session “**NextGen**” on Sunday 21st September, asked as one who has been in Landcare a long time and who has been working enthusiastically with the new groups emerging, Groups such as Intrepid Landcare who have been active over the past 10 years; Groups that are on about the commitment of what it means to be in Landcare but who in some cases want to participate differently. With the next NextGen’s participation being most important, I was thrilled with what I heard. This session turned out to be a coup and from it a panel of 4 teamed up in a Q&A in the main Conference. Clearly with the response from the audience and the “*whoop whoop*” responses at different times, it was clear that those coming along are resonating with their peers.

The **First Nations Landcare Gathering** was a powerful reminder of the deep connections between Country, Culture, and community. Through yarning circles and cultural exchange, participants shared stories, knowledge and wisdom through Panel sessions and presentations – all of which enriched the entire event.

Costa Georgiadis was the MC throughout the conference and at the Landcare Awards Dinner. His energy, humour and genuine love for Landcare brought every session to life and helped make the conference truly unforgettable.

There was a very strong representation from Victoria, with three Victorian winners of the National Landcare Awards – recognised for their outstanding work and leadership in the Junior, NextGen and Australian Government Partnerships categories. The finalists in the National Awards categories were the winners in their State or Territory.



Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, the Hon Julie Collins MP, announced recipients of Rd 2 Federal Government's Capacity Building Stream of the Climate Smart Agriculture Program: Upper Barwon Landcare Network, Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network, Central Otway Landcare Network and Heytesbury District Landcare Network, will receive over \$1 million in funding support. The Networks will use the funding to deliver training and mentoring to support farmers to improve their sustainability by adopting best practice, climate smart agricultural techniques.

Laura Eban, ABC; Pam Robinson; Zali Clark, Intrepid Landcare, at Federation Square on Sunday 7th Sept

Rural & Regional Report Adviser: Christine Rippon

COFFEE CHAT – Western Victoria

I encouraged some ladies involved in farming to meet for a Coffee Chat which ended up as Lunch and Wine time as well. Many of these ladies have aged rapidly and are mentally, let alone physically exhausted from these harsh times.

Concerns that the Winter & Spring rains never brought the heavy falls required, so hence the drought conditions continue:

- Livestock Water - many farm dams are less than a 1/3rd full
- Crops – many have finished earlier-than-normal maturity due to lack of rain, huge winds, and some frost-affected, so harvesting is much earlier in many cases.

Many failed crops (e.g. Wheat and Barley are not filling the head and so not coming to anything) have been cut for hay (instead of being harvested as grain) as drought continues to bite across south-east Australia.

- Hay season – started much earlier than usual whilst on many properties is a non-event as no grasses grown enough to harvest due to the very cold soil and little to no sub-soil moisture.
- Silage hay – some good quantities rolled in patchy areas, but many have huge decrease in productivity this season owing especially to lack of rain.
- Lamb prices - were looking promising 2 weeks ago but have now dropped substantially as the lesser quality lambs come on to the market, increased supply and sluggish consumer demand.
- Wool prices - have also dropped substantially especially with the finer wools.

Early October prices were up more than 40 per cent (112c/kg) from same time last year where prices were 1556 c/kg clean.

Mid October prices have plummeted (falling to 1456 c/kg clean); High pass-in rate (not sold) at 24.9 per cent.

Despite all the above, the farmers cost of productivity has risen rapidly especially with many having to buy in grain and hay, and water to keep their livestock alive.



ALL FIRED UP INITIATIVE



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GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM OCTOBER 2025 TO
FEBRUARY 2026

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY – the newly devised levy (tax) by the Victorian Labour Government has put enormous strain on the farming industry with primary production levies soaring over 197% whilst it battles its way through the current ongoing drought. Despite the “Levy” being rebated in some cases for CFA & SES volunteers, the ongoing costs have soared. The new “levy” is designed to fund multiple emergency services, not just the CFA & Fire Service Victoria.

Many farmers are CFA and or SES volunteers and are being “taxed” for volunteering their time. Yet another stressful cruel blow to farming families who have struggled financially to keep their livestock alive through this on-going harsh drought.

BLAZE-AID “All Fired Up” Incentive - **PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO ANY FARMERS YOU KNOW!**

BlazeAid is offering the “All Fired Up” initiative, a grant program for eligible farmers to upgrade their private firefighting units (PFFUs) to improve bushfire preparedness. The grant, available from October 2025 to February 2026, can fund equipment like pumps, water tanks, hoses, radios, and personal safety gear, with grants of up to \$10,000 per applicant, though most are expected to be under \$2,000. To apply, eligible farmers should visit the BlazeAid website, (www.blazeaid.com.au) or use the contact information on their social media, or scan a QR code.

I am involved with BlazeAid - feel free to contact me if you require further information.

BlazeAid also have a Facebook page which is easily accessed. This wonderful program which is a registered Not-For-Profit registered charity was started back in 2009 by a Kyneton farmer, Kevin Butler and his wife Rhonda – well worth having a look at the BlazeAid website as well for further information.

Multicultural Affairs Adviser: June Anderson

I was invited to attend a special event in Canberra. On October 8, 2025, for the first time in history, the Speaker's Courtyard of the Australian Parliament House hosted a joint celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival and Diwali. The event ran from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and marked the highest-level official Mid-Autumn Festival celebration ever held in Australia, symbolizing an important milestone in the development of multiculturalism in the country. The Mid-Autumn Festival, one of the most important traditional Chinese festivals, symbolizes reunion, joy, and sharing. The upcoming Diwali Festival on October 20, the most significant celebration in Indian culture, symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

The event was attended by many distinguished guests, including Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick, Minister for Multicultural Affairs Dr. Anne Aly, MP Sally Sitou, Independent MP Dr. Monique Ryan, Professor Andrew Leigh MP, Chinese-Australian MPs Mr. Daniel Lim (Lin Wenqing) and Mr. Xianzhi Sun, among more than a dozen Federal Members of Parliament.

A major highlight of the event was the participation of His Excellency Xiao Qian, Chinese Ambassador to Australia, underscoring the importance of Sino-Australian cultural exchange. Also present were the Ambassador of Mongolia, representatives from the High Commission of India, Chair of the Australian Human Rights Commission's Anti-Racism Committee Mr. Giridharan Sivaraman, Sex Discrimination Commissioner Dr. Anna Cody, and over 50 distinguished guests from Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra.

Also attending, National Coordinator of the Australian Asian Alliance, Molina Asthana (Melbourne), Victoria State Coordinator of Indian heritage, and outstanding Chinese-Australian representatives June Anderson and Guijia Ze.

The event was organized by the Australian Asian Alliance. Guests enjoyed traditional mooncakes and Asian delicacies, as well as beautiful Chinese guzheng music performances, all of which showcased the richness of Asian culture and Australia's embrace of multiculturalism. This historic joint celebration reflects Australia's strengthening multicultural policies in recent years. As one of the first countries in the world to adopt multiculturalism as official national policy, Australia has demonstrated through this event that it deeply values Asian cultural traditions, and shows respect for family, community, and cultural heritage.



June Anderson (second from left) with others in the Parliament Courtyard, Canberra.

Human Rights | Youth | ICT | Communications Adviser: Sarah Barnbrook

Understanding Australia's New Social Media Minimum Age Rules: What Changes and What Doesn't

From 10 December 2025, Australia's new Social Media Minimum Age (SMMA) regulations will require social media platforms to take "reasonable steps" to prevent children under 16 from holding accounts on age-restricted services. This reform, led by the eSafety Commissioner, is designed to curb risky interactions such as grooming and harassment, reduce data collection and targeted advertising to minors, and push platforms to implement stronger age-assurance technologies. In practice, this means no accounts for under-16s on age-restricted social media platforms, loss of high-risk features such as direct messaging, algorithmic personalised feeds, notifications and data profiling, and a requirement for platforms to verify or estimate age rather than relying on self-declaration.

While this new law is a major step, it's not a total ban on content. Some things remain accessible:

- Publicly viewable content: Under-16s may still watch videos or read posts on platforms like YouTube or TikTok without signing in, depending on the platform's policy.
- Non-account-based features: Browsing videos, reading public comments or viewing public pages may still be possible.
- Third-party or unmoderated sites: Content reposted or shared on forums, messaging apps or websites outside the regulated platforms.
- Algorithm-free feeds: Young people may see a generic feed rather than a personalised one, but the content can still be adult-themed or harmful if it's public.

The SMMA rules reduce the highest-risk pathways — personalised algorithms, direct messaging, and data harvesting — but they don't eliminate all exposure to harmful material. Families, schools, and communities still play a vital role in educating young people about what they encounter online, teaching media literacy and critical thinking, utilising parental controls and safe search options where appropriate, and monitoring emerging or alternative platforms.

As Adviser for Youth and ICT/Online Safety, I'm working to ensure our members and communities understand both the benefits and the grey areas of this policy.

NCWV will be hosting/supporting information sessions to help parents, carers, educators and youth organisations prepare for these changes.



As part of UN 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls. **A workshop: Ctrl + Alt + Delete Violence: Rebooting Social Media for Safety**, presented by the National Council of Women Victoria (NCWV), in partnership with Away from Keyboard (AFK) Inc. and Two Face Investigations.

Friday 28 November 2025 | 🕒 2:30 PM (AEDT) Cost: FREE

Hybrid Event, in person: Ross House, Level 4, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Online via Zoom – supplied when you register.

Registration: <https://events.humanitix.com/ctrl-alt-delete-violence-rebooting-social-media-for-safety>

Contact: Sarah Barnbrook: sarahcbarnbrook@gmail.com

About the Workshop

While the intention of the Social Media Minimum Age Regulations is to create safer digital environments, the conversation is far more complex: touching on privacy, freedom, identity, and the role of regulation in an increasingly algorithmic world.

Ctrl + Alt + Delete Violence: Rebooting Social Media for Safety invites you to step into this conversation. This interactive session offers a clear, practical, and balanced exploration of what the new laws mean, not just for platforms, but for families, schools, and those working to prevent technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

We'll unpack the realities behind the reforms, explore how online coercive control operates in everyday life, and discuss how to recognise manipulation, scams, and digital deception before harm occurs. This workshop doesn't tell you what to think, it gives you the insight and tools to make sense of changes and protect yourself and your community in the process. This event is open to everyone passionate about digital wellbeing and equality.

What You'll Learn

- Understand what the *Social Media Minimum Age Regulations* require, who they apply to, and what they might mean for young users.
- See Insights from the eSafety Commissioner consultation and Senate Inquiry processes that shaped the reforms.
- Recognise coercive control: how power/manipulation play out digitally, emotional coercion to economic abuse.
- Spot and stop deception: how scams, grooming, and impersonation evolve and what investigative tactics can help expose them early.
- Strengthen your digital safety toolkit: practical, trauma-informed steps to stay safer, respond confidently, and guide others.
- Connect to the global campaign: understand how your actions during the UN 16 Days of Activism contribute to the movement to end violence against women and girls.

Presenters

Sarah Barnbrook *Human Rights & Tech Adviser, National Council of Women Victoria; Chief Revenue Officer, Women 4 STEM; Founder & CEO, Away from Keyboard Inc.*

Sarah is an Australian advocate and international speaker on ethical technology, human rights, and online safety. She represented Away from Keyboard Inc., an organisational member of NCWV, in the eSafety Commissioner's consultation and authored a Senate submission on social-media reform. Sarah brings a clear, compassionate perspective on how technology, regulation, and lived experience intersect, particularly in the context of coercive control and digital wellbeing.

Kylee Dennis *Founder & Director, Two Face Investigations*

After 13 years in law enforcement specialising in intelligence operations, undercover investigations, and crisis negotiation, Kylee founded **Two Face Investigations** to help individuals protect themselves from online scams, catfishing, and digital coercion. Her investigative expertise and trauma-informed approach make complex online risks easy to understand, and her practical advice leaves audiences better equipped to act safely and confidently.

Digital violence is one of the fastest-growing forms of harm, yet it often goes unseen. From coercive messages and image-based abuse to the quiet data trails that expose vulnerability, the risks women and children face online are real and deeply human. By attending this workshop, you'll gain the knowledge to interpret new laws critically, recognise red flags, and help build a digital culture rooted in empathy and respect.

Together, we can Ctrl + Alt + Delete Violence and rebuild a digital world grounded in safety, respect, and equality.

Australian Professionals of Multicultural Communities (APOC) Gala & Awards Night On 5 October 2025. From Sarah Barnbrook, Adviser Human Rights, Communications and ICT. This was a night of excellence, a room full of visionaries. A celebration of our multicultural future. I had the privilege of attending the APOC Gala & Awards Night at Melbourne's Cargo Hall, an evening bringing together over 100 changemakers to honour leadership, identity, and the powerful intersection of *Humanity + AI*. The event opened with a keynote by Viv Nguyen, Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, who reminded us that *multicultural leadership must be central to Australia's future*. Her message resonated deeply, that the future of policy, innovation, and social cohesion depends on representation that reflects our true diversity. We then heard from Andrew Ko, whose thought-provoking address explored strategic change and cultural intelligence in the age of artificial intelligence. He spoke about how the values we embed in technology shape our society, a message that aligned perfectly with the evening's theme of *Humanity + AI*.

A lively panel followed featuring Dheeren Vélú, Abiola Akinbiyi, Mahesh Krishnan, and Divya Pasupuleti, who shared real-world insights on AI adoption, career transformation, and inclusive leadership. Their reflections underscored that technology must serve people, and the inclusion of diverse voices in the digital space is essential for equity and progress.

The Hong De Lion Dance Association lit up the room with a mesmerising performance, symbolising strength, unity, and cultural pride, a perfect reminder that when tradition meets technology, humanity remains at the heart of innovation.

Across seven award categories, 37 finalists were recognised for outstanding contributions to business, community, health, and innovation. Every story reflected courage, culture, and compassion, qualities that define true leadership. As a proud member of *Women 4 STEM*, I am happy that we received finalist recognition for the Corporate Committee of the Year.

As NCWV's Adviser for Human Rights, Communications and ICT, I was deeply moved by the evening's focus on inclusion and innovation. The discussions and awards reminded me that technology must never lose sight of its human impact, and that representation is not just a social good but a cornerstone of human rights.

Award Recipients



Congratulations to Vineti Anand, Founder and Director of APOC, whose vision and leadership made this extraordinary event possible, and to all the speakers, panellists, performers, and volunteers who created a night that celebrated both cultural pride and collective progress.

As Viv Nguyen so eloquently said, "*When we celebrate multicultural excellence, we are not just honouring individuals, we are shaping the collective story of who we are and who we aspire to be.*"

Education Adviser: Pam Hammond

From the Parliament of Victoria *Issued: 4 September 2025*

A Legislative Council Select Committee is calling for public input on its [inquiry into the early childhood education and care sector in Victoria](#). The Select Committee was established after revelations about child safety impacting the sector.

“Our Select Committee inquiry will take a detailed look at what’s happening in the early childhood education and care sector. We encourage parents, educators, community members and experts to have their say on how we can improve the system to support educators and ensure proper safeguards are in place,” Select Committee Chair Anasina Gray-Barberio.

The inquiry will examine the adequacy of current quality and safety standards, as well as the quality and oversight of educator training, professional development and qualifications including the effectiveness of Working with Children Checks. It will also consider the impacts of Victoria's predominantly privatised system, the impact of workforce conditions, the adequacy of staff-to-child ratio regulations, and whether there is sufficient oversight of the Department of Education.

The terms of reference also enable the Select Committee to consider any other matters in relation to the adequacy, implementation, compliance and/or enforcement of child safety standards and regulations in the sector.

Ms Gray-Barberio said “We welcome those involved with or participating in the sector to contribute their views to ensure we can recommend meaningful improvements to ensure the future safety of our children.”

Public submissions can be made [online until 30 November 2025](#).

The Select Committee will present an interim report in early 2026 and a final report to Parliament by 31 July 2026.

Australian Children's Television Foundation: Civics and Citizenship: Curated Clip Collection

Discover our latest teaching tool for Civics and Citizenship! If you're searching for an engaging way to explore democracy, rights and responsibilities with students, the Civics and Citizenship: Curated Clip Collection is an excellent choice. This resource offers a range of short video clips alongside ready-to-use activities designed to prompt discussion and foster critical thinking in the classroom. Developed in line with the Australian Curriculum, the collection supports students as they make connections between their everyday lives and broader civic concepts. By encouraging investigation and debate, it helps students develop the confidence and skills required to participate as active, informed citizens in their communities.

Perfect for teachers wanting to bring real-world civics education into their lessons, this resource can be seamlessly integrated into teaching programs to inspire curiosity and engagement around vital topics such as democracy, government, and individual rights and responsibilities. [Civics and Citizenship: Curated Clip Collection - ACTF Education](#)

Year Level: [F-2](#) [3-4](#) [5-6](#) [7-8](#) [9-10](#) **Learning Area:** [English](#) [Humanities and Social Sciences](#)

Parliament of Victoria Community Engagement team. Springboard - October 2025

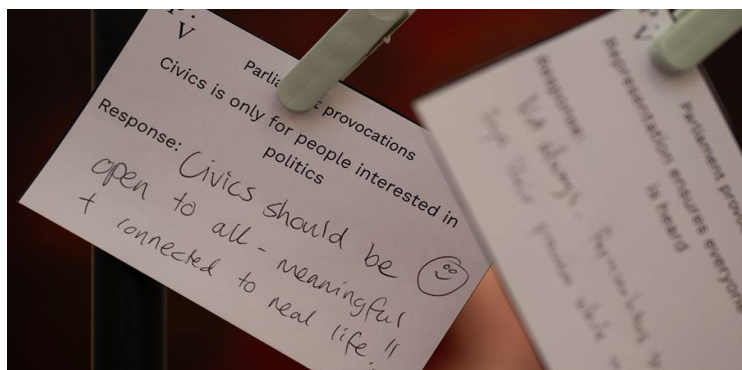
The team invites you to an upcoming workshop on the vital role census data plays in decision-making. There is also a blog post with resources and readings to help plan civics and citizenship programs, plus a series of videos to get students thinking about leadership and advocacy in their own lives.

Data informed decisions: Free online professional development

Wednesday 19 November, 4:00pm - 5:15pm

How can data help make better decisions? This is an interactive professional development session exploring the vital role census data plays in decision-making. Using [Electorate Data Cards](#), we will consider how data can shape the priorities, policies and decisions of elected representatives. Presented by Dr Carly Sawatzki, a Deakin University educator and internationally recognised researcher, this session will draw on classroom practice and curriculum design to challenge thinking, promote critical conversation and inspire innovation in civics education. Teachers will leave with practical strategies to engage students in data-driven inquiries about democracy, representation, and community needs.

Click the button to register. [Register here](#)



Arts and Letters

Westwood | Kawakubo: World-First Exhibition At NGV: A new global-exclusive blockbuster fashion exhibition is landing at NGV this summer – supporting local jobs in the cultural capital. *Westwood | Kawakubo* will open at NGV International on 7 December celebrating the careers of two of fashion's favourite rule breakers in a world premiere.

The exhibition, funded through the Major Events Fund, features five decades of showstopping designs from international fashion icons Vivienne Westwood and Rei Kawakubo, founder of Comme des Garçons. Both self-taught designers, Westwood and Kawakubo transformed fashion with their work that challenged taste, gender and beauty, as well as the function and form of clothing. From legendary punk ensembles of the late 1970s popularised by The Sex Pistols, to Carrie Bradshaw's wedding dress from *Sex and the City: The Movie*, the exhibition brings together more than 140 designs, including works from the NGV Collection and loans from international museums and private collections.

It also includes nearly 40 works from a recent donation gifted by Comme des Garçons to the NGV especially for this exhibition, including a runway version of Rihanna's 2017 Met Gala red carpet dress, and works from the 2025 Spring Summer runway. NGV will also present a free interactive exhibition for children and families – *Let's Party: NGV Fashion for Kids* – opening 28 November 2025 and featuring garments from the NGV's Fashion and Textile Collection which will allow children to create party outfit designs and have a fashion photography shoot.

Westwood | Kawakubo will be on display from **7 December 2025 to 19 April 2026** at NGV International.

Entry fees apply. Tickets and information are available via the [NGV website](#).

Habitat -Built environment - article in APO Policy Pulse

[Safe and secure accommodation solutions for seasonal and vulnerable workers in regional industries](#)

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute | 2 Oct 2025 This report develops an evidence-based policy framework for accommodating seasonal and vulnerable workers in Australian regional areas to ensure a healthy, safe and productive workforce. The research looked at ways in which these workers can be better housed and identifies policy development options to address barriers to innovative practices of accommodation provision. **Key findings**

- Regional Australia relies on a skilled and unskilled labour force, in part through migration schemes, to remain economically competitive.
- Worker accommodation is a barrier to worker participation in regional labour markets when there are accommodation shortages.
- The most important division in accommodation provision is between employer-provided accommodation and third-party-provided accommodation.
- Visa regulations exert a strong influence over accommodation provision and workers' behaviours and choices.

OTHER NEWS

WIRE Women's Information and Referral Exchange

Our weekly *Separation & Property Clinic* gives you access to a free, once off, one hour appointment with a family lawyer via phone. Book an appointment to have a supportive chat with one of our Support and Information Workers.

When: Every Friday

Where: Face-to-face or via Zoom

Phone: 1300 134 130 **Cost:** Free



From Amelia Pickering:

Trivia with a difference

A night of fun, facts, and fundraising at the **Prison Network Trivia Night on Friday, November 21, 6:30 for 7:00 start.**

An evening of friendly competition, great food, and silent auction in support of women rebuilding their lives after prison.

Venue: Box Hill Town Hall, 2022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128

Cost: \$30 + booking fee \$2.41 Humanitix. **Book online now:**

Prison Network Trivia Night <https://share.google/PMTylg2JxZgkQ1SfP>

BYO drinks. Or purchase Mocktails \$5 each. Food: order share platter - \$33 + \$3.65 fee, (serves up to 5 people). A generous selection designed for sharing, featuring a selection of meats, vegetable antipasto, dips, crudités, cheeses, crackers, fruit paste, fruit and nuts. Perfect for grazing with friends while you enjoy trivia.

Extras: Win fabulous door prizes and snap up treasures in our silent auction. All prizes have been generously donated.

Victorian Multicultural Commission Newsletter

Victorian Multicultural Review, the Government's response. The Review contains 41 recommendations that aim to bolster unity and inclusion, and support a refreshed whole-of-government approach to multicultural affairs. The Victorian Government's response to the Review was rapid, broad and genuine.

In coming weeks, the criminal reforms of the **Justice Legislation Amendment (Anti-vilification and Social Cohesion) Act 2025** take effect. These amendments increase safeguards to protect more Victorians from vilification. See the changes via the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission [here](#).

Until every Victorian is safe – Victoria's third rolling action plan to end family and sexual violence 2025-2027 Family violence remains widespread across Victoria. It is fuelled by gender inequality and harmful gender stereotypes, in a society where women are still treated as unequal to men on many levels. Ending family violence involves everyone. We all have a role to play – at home, at work and in our communities. The Victorian Government has committed to 106 actions to help prevent and respond to family and sexual violence over the next three years. This plan was informed by extensive stakeholder engagement, reflecting a diverse range of perspectives and priorities. For more information about *Until every Victorian is safe* and what the Victorian Government has committed to, visit www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-reform-rolling-action-plan-2025-2027.

Victorian Multicultural, Vivienne Nguyen AM, invites you to their **End of Year** 2025 event, an opportunity to come together to celebrate the strength, diversity and achievements of our multicultural communities. As we reflect on the year gone by, we'll recognise the remarkable contributions that continue to enrich our state and the collective efforts that make our communities stronger and more connected. This event is also a chance to connect, reflect and engage in meaningful conversations about our collective hopes and vision for the future.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Monday 10 November 2025
- **Time:** 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM AEDT
- **Location:** Broadmeadows Town Hall
- **Address:** 10 Dimboola Rd, Broadmeadows VIC 3047

To ensure you don't miss out, we encourage you to register as soon as possible. It's first come, first served!

REGISTER NOW - Should you have any questions or need further information, feel free to contact the VMC at events@vmc.vic.gov.au We look forward to celebrating with you.

Tradeswomen Australia



Tradeswomen Australia Group (TWA) is a non-profit organisation working to increase the representation of women in skilled trade roles and create safe workplaces for everyone. We aim for gender equality and empowerment for all women to access, participate and succeed in trades.

TWA is launching a pioneering initiative aimed at directly addressing systemic barriers women face in clean energy careers, at the same time creating a sustainable framework for industry-wide transformation. Powering Her Pathway is being collaboratively delivered with key partners TAFE Gippsland and global energy leader ENGIE Aus, whose expertise and commitment will be instrumental to the project's success. The project will operate across multiple Gippsland locations, including Morwell, Loy Yang, Yallourn, and Hazelwood.

Despite progress in workplace gender equality, Australia's clean energy industry remains imbalanced. Women represent 47.2% of the workforce yet comprise only 26% of the energy industry workforce, with only 5% in hands-on trades roles. The sector also has an average gender pay gap of 17.1% – significantly above the national average (WGEA). Cultural and systemic barriers include recruitment bias, workplace discrimination, inadequate facilities, and limited career pathways continue to undermine women's participation and advancement in trades. <https://tradeswomenaus.com>

Amplify.

The newsletter for Victoria's social and community sector.

Climate Network meeting: Climate action within community service organisations

The Climate Network for Community Organisations is facilitated by VCOSS. It aims to build capacity within the Victorian community services sector around climate change response.

The next Climate Network meeting will be held **online on Wednesday 19 November from 10-11:30am AEDT**.

This meeting will explore how community service organisations are taking action to address climate change. How are organisations taking steps to reduce their emissions? How are they ensuring they can maintain operations while facing increasing pressures due to climate change? How can community organisations be involved in advocating for greater support for organisations to do this type of work?

Register During this meeting, attendees will hear from:

Jennifer Tobin from **Your Community Health** about efforts to address the organisation's emissions

Elyse Anderson from **Salvation Army** about adoption of renewables and energy management

Presentations will be followed by an opportunity for discussion in breakout rooms. Attendees are more than welcome to join breakout room discussions to observe.

You don't already have to be part of the Climate Network or be a VCOSS member to attend this meeting.



We greatly appreciate your support for the Gender Equality Evidence Hub and are delighted to invite you to the launch!

Date: Monday 17 November 2025

Time: 4pm–7pm AEDT

Format: In-person and online

Venue: Kaleide Theatre, Building 8, 360 Swanston Street, RMIT University, Melbourne

Online audience: Watch live via Microsoft Teams (a link will be emailed to you before the date).

To register (in-person or online): <https://events.humanitix.com/launch-of-the-gender-equality-evidence-hub>

About the event

At the launch event, you'll hear from the creator of the Gender Equality Evidence Hub, **Dr Leonora Risse**, joined by special guests the **Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP** (Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury in the Australian Government, and Parliamentary Member for Fenner in the ACT), **Mary Wooldridge** (CEO of the Australian Workplace Gender Equality Agency), **Dr Niki Vincent** (Victorian Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector), **Siri Chilazi** (Gender Equality Researcher at Harvard University), **Stacey Ong** (Executive Director of One Red Step and Women's Leadership Institute Australia Fellow) and **Professor Matt Duckham** (Director of Information in Society Enabling Impact Platform at RMIT University).

The event will include a networking reception with drinks and canapés.

The launch will be recorded and available for viewing on the Hub's website following the event.

About the Gender Equality Evidence Hub

Once launched, the Gender Equality Evidence Hub will be freely available at www.genderequality.com.au. You are welcome to [subscribe for updates](#) and follow the [LinkedIn page](#). The Hub is about building a community.

The Gender Equality Evidence Hub is supported and funded by philanthropic and educational organisations – the [Trawalla Foundation](#), [Women's Leadership Institute Australia](#) and [RMIT University's Enabling Impact Platforms](#) – who share a common goal to advance gender equality through the greater sharing of knowledge and practice.

We are excited to bring together a range of people across the gender equality landscape – researchers, practitioners, policymakers, business and community leaders, educators, students, advocates and members of the wider public – to harness the strengths of collectively sharing our insights and experiences. The Hub is designed to uplift, strengthen and amplify the gender equality work that so many of you are passionately pursuing. We hope you'll feel illuminated and empowered by the resources that the Hub offers, and a feeling of connection to community that the Hub aims to create.

With appreciation, **Dr Leonora Risse, Gender Equality Economist** www.genderequality.com.au



The voices and needs of children in foster care and other forms of out-of-home care should be prioritised, according to a new report from the Australian Human Rights Commission. *'A ground to grow from'* is the latest report from the National Children's Commissioner's Supporting Quality Engagement with Children project. Funded by Australian Department of Social Services, the project aims to enable voices of children, young people and their families to influence the design and delivery of policies and services that are meant to help them.

Based on consultations with over 500 children and young people, the new report makes 8 recommendations to centre the experiences and views of children in an upcoming review by the Australian Government of the National Standards for out-of-home care. A key finding is that children and young people need a meaningful sense of belonging and identity so that they can be safe and thrive in out-of-home care environments.

National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds: *'What we've heard from hundreds of children across the country is that a positive sense of self and strong personal and cultural connections are vital for their wellbeing in out-of-home care, as well as in the health, education and social services systems. The importance of relationships with family, friends and community has been a dominant theme across all our consultations. This shows that support for meaningful relationships should be core to all policies which aim to help children, not just the children in out-of-home care. ... The young people also said how important it was to them that their voices were heard and acted on to help shape a more positive experience of out-of-home care.'*

A panel of young people from Youth Consult for Change with experience of out-of-home care discussed the importance of participation. Some of their comments included:

- *'It's incredibly powerful for young people in out-of-home care to have a say in how the system works because lots of kids in out-of-home care, their voices are usually pushed aside, their opinions shutdown.'*
- *'There can be a lack of trust in agencies, and you carry that into adulthood. Systems can cause harm to children and young people and create barriers that stop them from engaging with systems in the future.'*

The new report builds on previous work through the SQE project on how to improve services and supports for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse; available on the Commission's website: [Read it here](#)

Groundbreaking report on neurotechnology and human rights

The Commission's new report *Peace of mind: navigating the ethical frontiers of neurotechnology and human rights* is the first human rights report of its kind produced by a National Human Rights Institution. It explores how we can embrace the benefits of neurotechnology while making sure human dignity stays front and centre. The report also considers the ways that neurotechnology could impact rights such as freedom of expression, the right to privacy and freedom of thought. [Peace of mind: New report explores neurotechnology and human rights | Australian Human Rights Commission](#)

The Australian Human Rights Commission's new report *Human rights on a warming Earth* Climate change directly threatens our human rights to life, health, a healthy environment, housing, food, water and work. The message of the report is clear: if we want to protect our quality of life, we must address climate change with greater urgency.

The report outlines: [Human rights on a warming Earth | Australian Human Rights Commission](#)

- the human rights affected by climate change
- Australia's human rights and climate change obligations
- our legislative framework
- climate legal action
- the role of national human rights institutions.

Justice Connect's Not-for-profit Law - Not-for-profit News: October 2025

We're excited to announce our new webinar: [AI for Not-for-profits](#). Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the not-for-profit sector. Infxchange's 2024 Tech Report shows 76% of not-for-profit organisations are already experimenting with AI tools, but only 12% have policies to guide safe and effective use. Many organisations face challenges such as limited resources, data readiness, and cybersecurity risks - making strategic adoption essential.

The AI adoption journey for not-for-profits

Thursday, 20 November **Free** [Register here](#)

We're partnering with Infxchange, leaders in technology for social justice, to deliver this free webinar to unpack the early stages of the AI journey. Through sector examples and practical insights, you'll learn how to set the right foundations, bring staff along with confidence, and take clear first steps towards safe and strategic AI adoption.

New AFP taskforce to crack down on networks targeting young girls, by [Brianna Boecker](#)



Australia's new Federal Police Commissioner Krissy Barrett says officers are set to crack down on men using online networks to exploit and radicalise vulnerable children, particularly young girls. In her first speech at the National Press Club on Wednesday, 29th October, Barrett will announce the creation of Taskforce Pompilid to combat the network's crimes, which have "real world consequences". She warns that victims are being groomed online and then forced to perform serious acts of violence on themselves, siblings or pets.

"While these networks do not have a centralised hierarchy or a single ideology, they are prolific and are attracted to violent extremism, sadism, Nazism and satanism," Barret will say, according to reported excerpts from her speech.

"They are crimefluencers, and are motivated by anarchy and hurting others, with most of their victims pre-teen or teenage girls." ... these crimes represent a "new and disturbing front in traditional gender-based violence", with most networks run by young boys and men from Western, English-speaking backgrounds." "As a priority under my Commissionership, the AFP will set up Taskforce Pompilid to use the full powers of the AFP to target these offenders ... we will protect victims, arrest offenders, expose facilitators and remove anonymity that shields offenders from law enforcement," Barrett says.

The AFP will work with Microsoft to interpret Gen Z and Alpha emojis and slang in encrypted group chats, to dismantle communications to children at risk of harm. Barrett will reassure parents that the AFP is dedicated to providing "relevant, timely and truthful information about what is happening in the world and how to best mitigate these criminal threats".

Taskforce Pompilid is part of the AFP's push to stop online harm creating real consequences, with Barrett also focused on the way social media and online platforms are reshaping counterterrorism, pulling young Australians into extremist movements. *"In Australia, 59 alleged offenders have been identified as being members of some of these prolific decentralised online crime networks," she will say, highlighting a series of successful arrests. "The AFP, working with law enforcement partners in Australia and overseas, has moved quickly against offenders, resulting in nine international and three domestic arrests. In Australia, those arrested were aged between 17 and 20 years old."*

Three weeks ago, when Barrett was officially [appointed the first woman](#) to lead the AFP, she laid out her five-year term strategies, declaring her leadership would focus on supporting social cohesion in Australia.

"Under my leadership, the AFP will have a laser focus on disrupting crimes that impact our sovereignty, our democracy, our social cohesion, our financial systems, our future prosperity."

Fanny Reading lecture for 2025, entitled **Her Health, Her Power. Tues 25 November, 7:30**

NCJWA will be in conversation with **Professor Leslie Cannold**, renowned ethics and advocate for reproductive rights and gender equity, and **Dr Fatima Khan**, leading menopause specialist and educator. This discussion will trace the continuum of women's health, from the first period to post-menopause, and challenge us to imagine a system that respects women's pain, choices and dignity.

Women's health is not a single story but a lifelong journey, one that evolves through adolescence, motherhood, menopause, and beyond. When we understand our bodies and advocate for our needs, we reclaim ownership of our health and future. This conversation invites us to see every stage as an opportunity: to nurture strength, embrace change, and age with confidence and vitality. Together, we can redefine what it means to live well, age well, and thrive as women at every stage of life.

Register using this [link](#) and we look forward to welcoming you.

NCWV Pioneer Women's Ceremony 2026 – Save the Date – **Sunday February 1st !!**

Pioneer Women in Aviation, commemorating *Women of Aviation Week*

Let's Add Some Pink in Aviation. We will celebrate the achievements of the Australian women who have contributed to the development of the industry over the past century. Women have played an important role in the founding of Australia's aviation industry. Young women in Australia saw accomplishments elsewhere and dreamt big. One was Nancy Bird Walton. Known as the 'Angel of the Outback', Nancy Bird always aspired to a career of flying. During a time where aviation was a curiosity for women, other women such as Jean Burns, Millicent Bryant and Mary Bell also had ambitions to make a living out of flying and being a pilot. Under the tutelage of Charles Kingsford Smith, at the age of 19, became Australia's youngest woman to gain a pilot licence.

Speakers at NCWV's celebration will include **Adrianne Fleming OAM**, Pilot and Head of Operations and CASA Flight Examiner for Tristar Aviation, has held various state and national positions in the Australian Women Pilots' Association, encouraging women to pursue their aviation dreams. She received the Nancy Bird Walton award 2012 for most noteworthy contribution to aviation in Australasia, and the Order of Australia Medal for services to the Aviation industry in 2016.

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 2025

| Month | Date | Day | Meeting Type | Time | Method |
|---------------|------------------|----------|--|---------------|---|
| November | 6 th | Thursday | Council Meeting | 17:15 | Ross House |
| November | 18 th | Tuesday | Standing Committee Meeting | 16:30 | ZOOM |
| November | 20 th | Thursday | Committee Meeting | 10:00 | RHSV |
| November | 27 th | Thursday | Annual Luncheon | 12:00 | William Angliss |
| November | 28 th | Friday | Ctrl + Alt + Delete Violence: Rebooting Social Media for Safety Workshop | 2:30 – 4:00 | Ross House & ZOOM |
| December | 4 th | Thursday | Individual Members & Council Meetings | 11:00, 12:15 | Ross House |
| January 2026 | th | Thursday | Committee Meeting | 10:00 | RHSV |
| February 2026 | 1 st | Sunday | Pioneer Women's Ceremony Pioneer <u>Women in Aviation</u> | 11:00 – 2:00 | Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, King's Domain, St Kilda Rd |
| March 2026 | 5 th | Thursday | International Women's Day Women's Health Panel | 5:30 – 7:30pm | Government House Victoria |