

Newsletter

August 2026

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/>

This is link for our social media LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-council-of-women-victoria-inc/> Members with a LinkedIn account, can like the page and share content that they feel resonates with them.

QUOTE: "The United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated on August 12 each year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities." United Nations General Assembly, 1999



I hope that this Report finds you well
I thank you for your loyalty to NCWV.

President/ Executive Events:

In response to a letter to then Minister for Education, WorkSafe and TAC, the Hon Ben Carroll, NCWV was invited to meet with WorkSafe. On Monday July 27th, Robyn Byrne OAM, Ronniet Milliken and I met senior members of **WorkSafe Victoria** including Sam Jenkin, Chief Health and Safety Officer, regarding

our concerns about, and submission regarding, the provision of safe and hygienic toilets for women tradespeople on work sites in Victoria. We were well received and received assurances that WorkSafe was working to ensure that toilets were provided and monitored, but they agreed that there were deficiencies in the system which they are hoping to address. We will continue to press this vital case.

As NCWV President, I was invited to Parliament House, July 29th by **Dr. Niki Vincent**, inaugural Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner at the release of the 5-year Gender Equality in the Workforce Report. Dr Vincent spoke to the report which is now available: [State of Gender Equality in Victoria's Public Sector 2026 report](#)



Standing Committees members have continued to be **active in advocacy** under the leadership of Robyn Byrne OAM and we have received some replies from the relevant Ministers regarding our requests, including one acknowledging NCWV's plea for a review of the nature and quality of food provided to aged care residents.

Strategic Planning for NCWV by the Executive, Committee and Standing Committees: I led a meeting last year where we examined opportunities for the growth and even greater relevance of NCWV in today's society, and we have continued that work with a planning meeting on July 19th of the Executive, and a fuller meeting on Sunday afternoon August 9th. We are using the results of member surveys, NCWA Resolutions, and our own observations as a basis but I welcome all and any suggestions from you regarding our mission and the areas in which NCWV should advocate. We will of course share our findings and involve you in major decisions as a flow on from this work.

New members: we continue to welcome new members but know that there are women out there who would love to be involved in the work of NCWV, so please feel free to invite them to try us out by attending or zooming in to meetings.

On **Friday August 21st** the annual "My Vote My Voice" event involving student teams from more than 12 secondary schools will take place in the glorious Upper Chamber of Parliament House, and I invite you to consider being part of this special and engrossing event. Details are on **P 8** and I know that the quality of the student presentations on the topic: **How AI Affects your Education** and the message from the guest speaker **Dr Rumbi Nyanhoto** will be impressive.

Thanks go to **Pam Hammond** for her excellent work in producing the Newsletter and organising MVMV, and I thank Advisers to the Standing Committees for their reports. Our new Honorary Treasurer **Meenakshi Bhayani** has been working hard to familiarise herself in this key role, with Hean Bee Wee AM offering advice as needed.

Individual Members AGM August 6th: I thank retiring Convenor Sheila Byard OAM for her leadership and work, and Beverley Kannegiesser for being the IM Book-keeper. See **P. 2**

NCWV Annual General Meeting, September 3rd: nominations are being sought for all key roles and forms will be available very soon. I encourage you to nominate or allow yourself to be nominated if there is a role that suits you or someone known to you from NCWV. NCWV Health Adviser Professor Cassandra Szoek, and Dr Kaele Stokes from Dementia Australia will brief us at this meeting.

Individual Members Excursion: I enjoyed meeting some IMs and their friends at the Old Treasury Building (1858-1962) in the City on Thursday July 23rd, where our tour leader Jacqui was excellent. We visited areas not normally open to the public, including the room used every Tuesday morning when Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria Professor the Hon. Margaret Gardner AC (our Patron) comes to chair weekly meetings of the Executive Council and to sign any legislation into law – a tradition that has lingered from Federation, when Melbourne was Australia's capital.

We were staggered to learn that a 19-year-old architect from Liverpool, John James Clark, was appointed architect of the Treasury Building, and that this same young man is responsible for numerous public buildings in Victoria including Pentridge Gaol, the Royal Mint, Melbourne City Baths, Port Melbourne Courthouse, and Government House! Why do we not know about this man we asked.

Our thanks to Sheila Byard OAM and Beverley Kannegiesser for organising this interesting excursion, which was followed by lunch in Spring Street.



On behalf of NCWV I offer our deepest sympathy to former President Rysia Rozen OAM on the death last month of her beloved husband Richard. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rysia and continue to be with Hean Bee who lost her much loved husband Victor in June.

End-of-Year Luncheon on November 24th at William Angliss Restaurant should hopefully be in all our diaries.

Please ensure that the **NCWV Newsletter** is sent to your friends and acquaintances, and feel free to send them emails announcing the monthly meetings. Until we meet again, in person or virtually. Warmest regards

Elida Brereton,

Coral Ross and Elida at launch



, NCWV August 6th Individual Members' Annual Meeting and Election, 11:00am. Jenny Florence Room, Level 3 Ross House.

Address by retiring Convenor, Sheila Byard OAM: This is my final report as Convenor for the Individual Members Group, and the representative for the Individual Members at the monthly meetings of the NCWV Executive Committee. My thanks to Beverley Kannegiesser as Book-keeper, Barb Joyce and June Anderson who signed my nomination last year and others for their support.

One of the important aspects of Australia's democracy is the vitality of member-based organisations.

What used to be called NGOs are now referred to as CSOs; much of our work as volunteers is through Civil Society Organisations, and the story of National Council of Women is as an 'umbrella' or 'roof' organisation, for member-based groups, to facilitate evidence-based input to policy processes, and a non-party voice for the vulnerable.

Over the twelve months since the last General Meeting, the Individual Members Group conducted two 'Millie Peden' excursions, one in September 2025 to the Potter Gallery to see the 65,000 years of First Nations Art, and in June 2026 to learn about the civic function of the Old Treasury and the room used for meetings of the Governor in Council.

The list of Individual Members published in the NCWV 2024-25 Annual Report showed nearly 50 names, many more than my first attendance at an Associates meeting in the 1990s when there were just six in the room, and it is gratifying that new members continue to join.

Although the Individual Members Group meets only every second month, an examination of the attendance book for our customary hybrid Council meetings shows that, in general, more than half of the attendees, whether in the room or via Zoom, are Individual Members. NCWV activities over the last year including the August 2025 student event 'My Vote My Voice' at the Parliament of Victoria, the 122nd AGM for NCWV, the end of the year luncheon at William Angliss, the 2026 Pioneer Women Garden celebration of firsts & forerunners among 'Women in Aviation', the Governor of Victoria's forum on Women's Health, the 82nd NCWV Geelong Branch luncheon, were all well attended by Individual Members.

Several Individual Members attended the NCWA Mid-Term conference in Canberra, June 2026, including those who were assisted by the NCWV Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest Award Program, and the report back session with Sarah Barnbrook's slide-show summary was most effective.

Individual members used to pass around a purse at meetings and hold a trading table at Council meetings. More recently we have put out a bowl for both IMG meetings and the Council meeting so that donations have been banked to NCWV directly. A sum is provided annually to NCWV for a MVMV award and an additional amount yet to be approved will support the publication of the book 'Leaders in Women's Health in Victoria'.

At the election, Pam Hammond was elected IMG Convenor and thanked Sheila for her unwavering commitment to IMG; also, to Beverley Kannegiesser who retired as an efficient Book Keeper over many years.

Hean Bee Wee AM was elected as Book Keeper.



Hean Bee Wee was the speaker, taking us through 'My Journey to NCW'.

Born in Penang where her educated mother insisted that all the children, sons and daughters, be educated overseas. The girls went to a Girl's School, but Hean Bee went to a nearby boys school for top-level Mathematics classes. With many challenges as a female and Asian, Hean Bee was determined to achieve. Most Malaysian girls leave at end of primary school and have limited career or job opportunities. After High School she enrolled at Adelaide Uni. in Bachelor of Economics adding Maths and Statistics – all-male classes, then accepted into Honors with 8 males who ignored the only female and Asian!

She was unable to get a job – female, married, and Asian - so, the spirit of supporting girls and women was embedded!

As an international student she needed to apply for continuation. The Chair was Director General of Education and very keen to support teaching with on-the-job training in good schools, One was very multicultural. In Adelaide many engineers etc from Scandinavia were coming to work on submarine building! So Minister for Education wanted to include the International Baccalaureate in schools. Hean Bee was appointed to the one school and had the opportunity to visit universities to promote the IB program. She developed many skills and exposure, including confidence in presenting.

Hean Bee shared photos showing her involvement and leadership roles in National Council of Women of South Australia, NCW Australia and the International Council of Women, including regional meetings in Perth, Taiwan, Moscow, including her election as the first Chinese Australian president of NCWA in 2009. She spoke of Margaret Davey (Troll Club) who she met with in her home, who bequeathed money to NCWSA and NCWA.



Three Asian Australian NCWA Presidents: Chiou See Anderson, Hean Bee Wee, Fiona Dorman.

Hean Bee has been Vice-President of ICW, President Asia Pacific Regional Council (ICW), Treasurer, President NCWA, Treasurer of NCWV, encouraged by Elisabeth Newman AM. She conducts the International Women's Day event in Adelaide. Finishing, she acknowledged 3 men who mentored her along the way, noting that men as well as women can make a difference.

August 6th Council Meeting, 12:15pm, Level 3 Ross House. The speaker was Tracey Beaton, a former nurse.

She has served as Chief Practitioner and Executive Director of the Office of Professional Practice, Department of Health and Human Services, where she provided strategic advice and delivered reforms to strengthen child welfare and embed evidence-based practice. She was Victoria's Chief Mental Health Nurse for 7 years, introducing *Safewards* into mental health hospital settings to reduce occupational violence and contributing to the development of the state's Mental Health Act. She brings more than 35 years of experience as a clinical practitioner and academic, improving child protection systems and delivering better outcomes for children, young people and families.

The Commission holds strongly our responsibility to listen to Aboriginal communities, children and young people, to elevate their voices, because they're often over-represented in areas of child protection, youth justice, disability, gaps for Aboriginal people is significant, and we're committed to learning from those communities.

I haven't been around very long, and so it's always interesting to go to different events, meet people and hear about the work that they do as a community, with NCWV elevating the experiences of women.

I can tell you a little bit about myself, I'm a Kiwi, I'm a mum, and, my background is originally as a mental health nurse. I trained a long time ago, when it was hospital-based, and I trained as a psychotherapist as well, working a lot with children, young people, and their families, particularly around complex presentations, young people who are suicidal, and those with significant histories of harm. I did my Masters studies around women's experience with postpartum disorders. So, I was particularly interested in women's mental health. So I'm really, interested the work that you do, and the experience of children.

I came to Australia in 2007 with my two kids and husband for two years, and we're still here, clearly. Originally we came to New South Wales, I was managing, mental health services and, community health services the Hunter New England region.

Then came the opportunity to be the chief mental health nurse, and shift the dialogue around people being able to live well with symptoms of mental illness, tackling the stigma and discrimination that stop people getting help. We were able to focus on neurodevelopment, that kid's brains don't develop fully until their early 20s, particularly for boys, who can be even further delayed. Reducing the use of restrictive practices like seclusion, over-medication, is a priority and trying to establish different ways that people could work with those who need care and support.

I'm the Executive Director of the Office of Professional Practice, establishing practice parameters and safety around child protection for people with disabilities as well, enacting the Disability Act. My purpose has always been about how to create a better experience for children and young people.

The Commission is an independent, statutory body, so it's got its own legislation. Its role and function is about the oversight and monitoring of children and young people as it relates to protection, justice and care services run by the state. We have a range of different functions, within that. We monitor those children at some of the greatest risk and support some children. We might provide an oversight function for the courts, for example, for some children that are involved in Supreme Court matters, looking at the oversight of service provision, in order to inform the court about what's working well for a young person. We conduct inquiries into the services provided to children in different ways. We do individual inquiries, which might be that I'm concerned about some of the matters coming into the commissions, and concerns about particular children, so I might decide to do a formal inquiry, a very formal process where I'll provide advice to the Minister about what should be happening for those children and what isn't happening, right through to systemic inquiries, like Left Behind, and we do child death inquiries, looking at the services that may or may not be provided by Child Protection. In the majority of child deaths, they had comorbid health conditions.

The Disability State plan is out, so we'll provide a submission to government on that. We're often asked, to provide advice into Senate inquiries around particular issues that relate to children and young people. I've just given advice, to the Commonwealth around the Victorian incarceration systems.

I like to look at what the evidence is, so we've got a very strong strategy and policy team, research team, data team, that look at what the evidence is, then try and provide our advice that informs government, but also holds them to account. So, it's tricky being an oversight body, because you'll get more bees with honey than you do with vinegar, but occasionally you might have to send a really strong signal, and the best way we do that is through our systemic inquiries, and make recommendations to government. We can't provide recommendations to the police or the courts. But that does not always stop us -

There's some legacy inquiries to be finished. One is looking at experiences of children, aged from 10 to 14, of the criminal justice system. What we are seeing is a lot more evidence of significant harm to children. For example, with

34% of children starting school having at least one adverse life experience, and some form of developmental delay.

We do know in Australia that the majority of children have between 1 and 3 adverse events in their early childhood, exposure to some form of harm.

People used to think that neglect wasn't as bad as abuse. Evidence says it is equally as problematic for children, and the view that kids need to be resilient, and this is born out of adversity is wrong. It's born out of secure attachment, belonging, being able to feel good about yourself, know who you are, and who your family is, and making connections all meet.



We're not seeing that type of connection for kids in the same way. People are very quick to judge information. TikTok's a great example of that. Kids are getting 10 to 20 second bursts of some sort of information, and then it's on to the next thing. So, there's a whole lot of stresses for kids that we didn't have. We've been responding to that by trying to stop kids accessing it. I think the purpose is to hold the big tech companies to account, but we're needing to teach kids to learn how to manage those sorts of things. But service fragmentation is a reality, and availability of services and support for children, is not easy. So, for example, if you want to get into the developmental clinic at the Royal Children's, there might be a two and a half to three year wait.

Childhood is short. When you think about what children need, they need adults to be advocating for the services and support that they need, rather than some of the rhetoric that we have, particularly about children and young people now. So we do see this sort of compounding disadvantage and trauma as alarm bells for us as a community, and the Commission as a System. We are concerned about the policy context of exclusionary and punitive measures, that these kids know that if they do something wrong, they will be harmed, because that's their early childhood experience. When they do something wrong, and that's not to take away from the harms that they might be creating, I'm not, taking away from that, but if we treat like with like, then we're just going to get like, and that's certainly what all of the evidence says. So, if you don't provide kids with the things that they need, which is, acceptance, consistency, belonging, we're in a terrible cycle. So for us, as the Commission, it's critical that we really talk about disadvantage, the issues for children, young people, and advocate for much better outcomes for them, but outcomes that result in positive outcomes, because the evidence tells us, what is the right sort of support for young people.

Over 12 months in Victoria, there are well over 10,000 children in out of home care at any one night.

Of the 26 children's files that we deep dived into, the highest issue, at about 88% was family violence. They were exposed to significant family violence over enduring periods of time. For those 26 children, they had 250 reports to Child Protection, and most of those were in their infancy. So they're little, little people who can't move, or talk necessarily, so they experience significant harm from an early age. They might have a mum who's managing the relationship with a partner, and trying to attend to him so that the violence doesn't evolve, all sorts of complicating issues for women, and children in those settings. Sadly, there were multiple points of intervention that could have occurred well before child protection. Child protection is your ambulance at the bottom of the grave.

So last year, *Left Behind*, was our systemic inquiry into understanding the response of children who were reported to Child Protection, where it was deemed not to require a statutory response. From those 250 children, there were 150,000 reports to Child Protection in the previous year that those children might be in need of protection from a parent, or they had a parent that thinks they made contact incorrectly, or had a very good parent, that was unable to protect her kids. That is not necessarily true. All that means is that somebody's formed a reasonable belief that it needs to be tested.

Of those reports, just over 50,000 were investigated by Child Protection, a workforce of 2,500 people.

About 50,000 investigated were referred in through what's called the Orange Door, an intake system for the child and family system. People often think it's just an intake for family violence, but it's actually an intake into child and family services, as well as family violence services. It is a voluntary service. We saw that when Child Protection, through their community-based workers in Orange Door, worked with Orange Door to get engagement, that was a little better. The majority of people did not accept services. What the kids said to us, as an example, *I tell my teacher, or my nurse, that this is happening*. They report it, Child Protection says there's not enough evidence for a statutory response, which has to have strong evidence, or to be on the balance of probability. Families with intergenerational poverty, harm, parents want a different outcome, and the kids want a different outcome. But what we found in our work that we tabled with government, was that the kids would say to us, *I've told somebody*, they've told somebody else, maybe or not, because a mandatory reporter is protected under the Child, Youth and Families Act. So people can't actually know that the person has referred a matter to them, but nobody talks to the child. So the majority of these kids said to us.

We're not saying anyone's failing in this scenario, we're saying demand is stripping supply. There aren't enough practitioners. They have said it's really hard for us to know how to respond to children and young people, because we mostly work with adults. There's a lot of service providers in schools, but that's about identification, not necessarily therapeutic engagement or work, and so these kids miss out. We know that you're at greater risk of perpetrating family violence if you've been harmed yourself.

The other element that's really strong is, sexual violence towards children. That is harder to prove.

At the Royal Commission into Institutional Sexual Abuse, all of those kids told people, it's hard for children to articulate what is happening to them, smaller children in particular, for adults to take it at face value. I think of the 'third rule', where a third of people will believe the child, a third will go, *he'd never do that*, then the other third go, *maybe*.

People get the law and order agenda going, and my view is that people are scared. The evidence doesn't support prison as creating safer communities. The evidence says, that you need to provide them with support, it is certainly not what is being suggested. If you look at the trajectory of kids going into those facilities, they are not coming out better rehabilitated.

We have a youth council, and three ongoing positions within the Commission for Kids with Lived Experience, and so we have kids working in there who've been involved in youth justice, who have had experiences of residential care and so on. I did an interview with one of them, a young man, who said, *I got nothing in there. It wasn't until I got a connection to faith and my community that I felt like I had a way out*.

A young boy, exposed to incredible torture, trauma, as were his parents in their country of origin, migrated here, didn't fit. You can look at their trajectory, and they're disengaging in school very early.

So if we know that, that's where the effort has to be, so that kids aren't disengaging, school isn't linear for some kids, it's different. As we grow, we develop, but we don't all do it at the same rate, and if you've had experiences of trauma and neglect, it's much harder to go on. The circumstances and connection to people, and the support that we might get, shifts that and how we manage and cope. We need to think about children first. Their childhood is short.

We understand that there is middle ground, so the departments are building something specific for 10- to 12-year-olds. The Commission says is that the age of criminal responsibility should move to 14, aligned with human rights entities. There's a thing called Dolli Incapax, which talks about whether a child is developmentally mature enough to understand the consequence of their actions. That's been built into the new youth justice legislation, enabling them to look at children and young people differently.

We really want Government and others to look at the evidence, to hold hope for kids when they themselves don't have it. If the evidence says this works, then let's invest in that, but let's not get them there in the first place.

About doing evidence-based information gathering, we often go to something like the Australian Institute of Family Studies. A lot of their reports are focusing on burnout in people who are working in child welfare. The expectations being placed on the individual social workers of supervising were not being heard by their manager. We need good advocacy, so that those roles are valued for a start, mostly women work in those settings around children. They're highly skilled people, poorer paid, even though social work is a four-year degree.

In Victoria, there is Universal Child Care and Universal 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten happening. There's

also the *Thriving Kids Program* a shift from the NDIS, an opportunity to think about, hubs that look at what this kid needs, not what's wrong with this child, we can give them 4 units of this, 7 units of that, and 12 of that, and then review it in 12 months, so I'm hopeful that this implementation will make a difference. The other area that I'm pleased about is there's opportunity for kids to play.

It was Bruce Perry who said, by the time a child is 3 yrs old, if they have suffered significant neglect, their brain mass/capability, is about 50% less. So early help needed.

If we can deeply value community again, and social connection, that will make a difference.



Tracy being thanked by Pam Hammond

SYLVIA GELMAN AM MBE BEQUEST

The Committee Members of the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest were pleased to provide grants for three new members of NCWV - Meenakshi Bhayani, Niti Bhargava and Dr Rumbi Nyanhoto to assist them in attending the NCWA Conference in Canberra at the end of June. All three found the experience most rewarding as their following reflections illustrate.



Meenakshi reflects: I would like to sincerely thank the Committee of the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest for the financial assistance provided. Your generous support covered most of my expenses and enabled me to attend what was a valuable and rewarding Conference.

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the work of the NCWV and NCWA, meet members from across Australia, and gain a deeper understanding of the important role the organisation plays in advocating for women and the wider community.

Thank you again for your generosity and for investing in my participation. I am grateful for the opportunity and hope my report reflects the value I gained from attending.

Niti reflects: I sincerely thank the Committee for the opportunity to attend the National Council of Women Australia Mid-Term Conference. It was an honour to be among so many strong, committed voices advocating for the rights and

wellbeing of women and girls. I left feeling deeply inspired and more committed to the work we continue to carry forward.

Being part of those conversations reinforced for me how important it is to remain a persistent, visible, and informed voice on women's issues, not just within policy spaces but also at grassroots and community levels where change truly begins.

I would also like to express my interest in contributing more formally to the Council's work, particularly in the area of financial wellbeing for women. Over the years, I have worked as a financial wellbeing advocate and finance strategist supporting migrant communities across Australia, with a strong focus on financial literacy, empowerment, and long-term stability for women and families.

I was also honoured to be recognised as a Governor's Award highly commended business and to represent small business voices through Business Victoria. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to ensuring that women, especially those from diverse and migrant backgrounds, are not left behind in financial systems and conversations that directly impact their futures.

A few key takeaways from the conference for me were:

- Importance of being a persistent and prominent voice for women's issues, in policy shaping and community influence
- Need to actively ensure young women and girls are included in conversations, so leadership pathways are strengthened early
- The urgency of addressing emerging challenges such as AI and its impact on women and girls, particularly around safety, bias, and access to opportunity
- The power of collaboration across generations and sectors create lasting systemic change.

These reflections have only deepened my belief that financial wellbeing must be seen as a core pillar of gender equality. Economic empowerment is not separate from rights and safety—it is foundational to both.

I would be truly honoured to explore how I may contribute as an Advisor within the Council, particularly in shaping conversations around women's financial resilience, migrant women's economic inclusion, and practical pathways to empowerment.

Thank you once again for your support and for creating such a meaningful and impactful space at the conference. I look forward to staying connected and contributing in whatever way is most valuable to the Council.

Rumbi reflects: I am sincerely grateful to the National Council of Women Victoria and the Sylvia Gelman Bequest for providing me with the opportunity to attend the National Council of Women Australia Conference at Old Parliament House in Canberra. The conference brought together women leaders, advocates and professionals from across Australia who are committed to advancing the rights and wellbeing of women, children and communities.

One of the most valuable aspects of the conference was the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of presentations and discussions on issues affecting Australian society. The breadth of expertise represented reinforced the importance

of collaboration across sectors and generations in influencing policy and creating meaningful social change. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to learn from experienced leaders whose commitment to advocacy continues to shape national conversations on equity, safety and community wellbeing.

A personal highlight was presenting my proposed resolution on child-headed households in Australia. As an academic, social worker, researcher and Adviser on Children and Families to NCWV, I have become increasingly aware of the emerging needs of vulnerable children from migrant and refugee communities. It was encouraging to see from other states engaging thoughtfully with the issue and ultimately support the resolution. Knowing that the resolution will now contribute to the NCWA's advocacy provides renewed motivation to continue research, community engagement and policy advocacy in this important area.

The conference also reinforced the importance of prevention and early intervention. Many of the discussions highlighted that sustainable change requires not only responding to crises but investing in education, families and communities before problems become entrenched. This resonates strongly with both my academic work and my *Safe Future for Girls* Initiative, which focuses on education as a preventative strategy to protect children and young people.

Beyond the formal sessions, the conference provided valuable networking opportunities with women from diverse professional and community backgrounds.

Building these relationships has opened possibilities for future collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective advocacy on issues affecting women, children and families.

Overall, attending the conference has strengthened my commitment to translating research into practice and ensuring that evidence informs policy and community action. I returned inspired by the dedication of so many women working to improve the lives of others and with renewed enthusiasm to continue contributing through research, teaching, advocacy and community partnerships.

I am deeply appreciative of the Sylvia Gelman Bequest for making this opportunity possible. The experience has had a lasting impact on my professional development and will continue to influence my work in promoting the wellbeing of women, children and families.



Sarah Barnbrook, a Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest Awardee also attended the Conference saying she, too, found it beneficial. She presented Resolutions 5 and 6 on behalf of NCWV, both of which were passed.

Sarah and Rumbi

Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest aims to encourage and promote talent within the NCWV family, by stimulating innovation and the strengthening of NCWV and its Organisations. Members, particularly if recently joined NCWV either as a Delegate or Individual Member, are encouraged to apply for an Award. There is no age restriction. The Bequest also provides grants to assist members to attend NCWA meetings. For further details and application form contact the Convener, Elisabeth Newman:

convenersgbequest@gmail.com.

NB The Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest now has a dedicated Gmail address as above.

Elisabeth Newman AM Convener Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest
Committee of Management: Hean Bee Wee AM, Alex Jeffreys, Tracey Ahern
and Ex-Officio Member & NCWV President Elida Brereton

Leading Women in Health - grateful thanks for generous donations towards planned publication in November 2026

We are excited to be producing what is a unique publication, profiling numerous women in the health sector who have made a significant and sometimes unique contribution. Limited to around 100 women, the book only touches the surface of women's leadership and yet provides a wide and telling story about the enormous impact women of Victoria have had in improving health in Victoria, Australia and globally.

The Introduction will recognise medicine and health provision by First Nations People before European settlers arrived, and their continuing influence in the development of holistic medicine in Australia.

Our Editor, NCWV Committee Member Dr Deborah Towns OAM, an award-winning author, social scientist, and historian, provides an introductory chapter.

We are delighted that Ms Ita Buttrose AC, OBE has generously agreed to write the Foreword. Ms Buttrose is a prominent journalist, editor, and businesswoman. In 2013 she was Australian of the Year, recognised for her career in publishing and advocacy on health issues.

As a not-for-profit volunteer organisation, it is impossible to take on special projects without support. Donations will enable the publication celebrating women's achievements in the past and current leaders, planned for November 2026.

We are hoping that you will support the publication of this landmark publication.

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Bank:
WESTPAC 263 Victoria Street Abbotsford 3067

BSB: 033 031 Account Number: 263920

Reference: Please provide your last name and initial and words – Health Book Donation

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser – Pam Hammond

National Council of Women of Victoria: My Vote My Voice, Friday 21st August 2026

A reminder about **My Voice My Vote**. This event will be held in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria on **Friday 21st August 2026, 9:00am – 12:30pm**. This year's theme is: **How AI Affects Your Education**. Students carry out research, and gain insights from their peers and others to inform their views on the theme. Students make a 10 minute **group presentation** of their findings from the Speaker's lectern in the 'Red' Chamber. Awards are determined based on the quality of their content and presentation skills. All are welcome.

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit this magnificent building, experience the Legislative Council Chamber and hear these students who may well be future leaders of our society.

Cost: NCWV Members (Individual, Delegates, Organisational) - \$25

Non-Members - \$30

To book, please go to TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/DOEZP>



Children's Week 2026 runs from Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Applications are open for grants towards the cost of an event or activity. Up to \$700 is available for councils and up to \$1,000 for eligible not-for-profit organisations across Victoria. For more information visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/childrens-week-grants-program>

Environment Adviser - Pam Robinson AM



Celebrating our impact during Landcare Week

During Landcare Week 3-9 August, Landcare Victoria provided the incredible achievements of the Victorian Landcare community that were highlighted in the Landcare Plan for Victoria Impact Report (2024 & 2025).

This report demonstrated the strong progress toward the Landcare Plan's vision of resilient, biodiverse, and productive landscapes supported by thriving communities.

The story of success has been told through 26 case studies, a set of impact statistics and an assessment of progress against actions from the Plan.

Some of the incredible stats highlighted include:

- More than 89,000 people participated in Landcare in Victorian in 2025
- There was more than a 25% increase in formal members of Landcare organisations between 2024 and 2025
- Landcare volunteers contributed more than 1,000,000 volunteer hours in 2024 & 2025
- Total volunteer hours and unpaid work for public benefit valued at \$56.8m in 2024 & 2025 (combined)
- Total combined income of Landcare organisations across 2024 and 2025 was \$64m, of which half was from non-government sources
- Landcare engaged with 16 Traditional Owner and First Nations communities across Victoria through 2024 & 2025.

The 'Forty Years of Landcare Special Edition' of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine is available online at www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine

Community Planting Days: Contact your local Council about activities in your area and practical ways to get involved.

Such events include:

August 16 *August Park Care Day at Darebin Park* for an afternoon of planting native trees and shrubs with the community, to help build habitat for wildlife around the old tip site. Further information email kim@dcmc.org.au

Special Environment Dates:

August 27 *World Lake Day* – “Conserve, protect, restore”. Protecting Lakes today for sustainable life tomorrow. Lakes play a key role in maintaining biodiversity, offering a habitat for countless species of fish, plants, and wildlife. Beyond their ecological significance, Lakes contribute to climate regulation by keeping the planet cool, absorbing floodwater and storing carbon. Additionally, and wonderfully, they provide recreational and economic opportunities, attract tourism, fishing (where permitted) and other activities.

September 1 *National Wattle Day* – “Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is our National Floral Emblem”. Wattle, as a symbol of Australia, certainly brightens up this already special day and is used by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs as decoration on many citizenship products.

September 7 *National Threatened Species Day* – “A day to commemorate almost 2000 Australian plants and animal species that are listed as threatened”.

There may be threatened wildlife living near you? Discover what animals need protection in your local area using WWF-Australia’s “My Backyard” tool.



You can check more information regarding these days through your local Council, through www.eev.vic.au and for some, through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

As we all know with the various organisations and associations we belong to, the value of volunteering is immense – both with the personal wellbeing and benefit we get through our involvement but also in knowing the value of our ‘free’ care that we provide to our communities is what would otherwise be an added cost to the State and National budgets.

Landcare Victoria recently released their report on this matter and during this 40th anniversary year of Landcare it is timely for all volunteers to see their input reflected.

Finally, and light-heartedly – Is this perhaps an idea for saving water for the future?

NCWV Member, Hon Treasurer, Meenakshi Bhayani: Status of Women in Australia 2026: Progress Continues, but the Work Is Not Done.

The **2026 Status of Women Report Card**, produced by the Australian Government’s Office for Women, shows that Australia continues to make steady progress towards gender equality. Improvements in workforce participation, leadership representation and women’s health are encouraging, while the report also reminds us that violence against women, unpaid caring responsibilities and economic inequality remain significant barriers to achieving true equality. Compared with the 2025 Report Card, the latest findings demonstrate continued momentum, while highlighting the need for sustained action to ensure all women can participate safely, equally and fully in Australian society.

Australia has improved its global ranking for gender equality from **43rd in 2023, 26th in 2024, 24th in 2025 to 13th in 2026**, its highest ranking to date. Women’s workforce participation remains at record levels, while the national gender pay gap has narrowed from **11.9% to 11.5%**.

Women’s representation in leadership also continues to strengthen, with women now making up **49.6% of Federal Parliament**, compared with **44%** reported in 2025, and **54.3% of Australian Government board positions**. These results reflect continued progress under the Australian Government’s **Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality (2024–2034)**.

The report also highlights positive changes in caring responsibilities and women’s health. More fathers are taking parental leave, with **33% of government funded Paid Parental Leave recipients now men**, compared with **17% of primary carer parental leave recipients** reported last year. Women’s health outcomes continue to improve through greater access to affordable contraception, Medicare funded menopause health assessments, and the milestone of **no cervical cancer diagnoses in women under 25 years of age** for the first time since records began.

Despite these gains, the Report Card reinforces that significant challenges remain. Although intimate partner homicides fell from **37 women in 2024 to 28 women in 2025**, nearly **one in four women** has experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15. Women continue to shoulder the majority of unpaid care, and First Nations women remain disproportionately affected by violence and experience the largest gender pay gap. The report also draws attention to emerging issues, including the normalisation of technology facilitated abuse among young people and the continued gender segregation of many occupations, both of which contribute to ongoing inequality.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls continue to face disproportionate barriers in health, justice, housing and safety, patterns the report identifies as national in scope and deeply rooted in long-standing structural inequities.

The 2026 Report Card reinforces the message from 2025 that meaningful progress is being made, but equality has not yet been achieved. Continued collaboration between governments, employers, community organisations and advocates such as the **National Council of Women Victoria** will be essential to build on these gains and ensure all women and girls can participate safely, equally and fully in Australian society.

NCWV Standing Committee Coordinator: Robyn Byrne OAM

National Council of Women Victoria Inc.: Response Supporting Proposed Reforms on Online Safety and Artificial Intelligence

The **National Council of Women Victoria (NCWV)** welcomes the **Victorian Government's Ministerial Statement** announcing proposed nation-leading reforms to strengthen protections against online harm and improve accountability for social media and artificial intelligence platforms. NCWV appreciates the opportunity to participate in the consultation process as these important reforms are developed. As an organisation that has advocated for the rights, safety and wellbeing of women, children and families for more than a century, we recognise the significant impact that online abuse, anonymous vilification and harmful digital environments can have on individuals and communities.

We strongly support the proposal to provide the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) with powers to issue "demasking orders" requiring social media companies to identify anonymous users accused of online vilification. Women and girls are disproportionately subjected to online abuse, harassment, misogyny and threats... Proposed powers represent an important step towards improving accountability while ensuring that victims have access to appropriate legal remedies. NCWV also supports the proposed reforms to make it easier for families to seek justice where social media or artificial intelligence platforms have contributed to psychiatric harm suffered by children. Evidence shows that features intentionally designed to maximise engagement can negatively affect children's mental health, emotional development and wellbeing. Removing the current impairment threshold for negligence claims involving minors acknowledges the unique vulnerability of children and recognises the responsibility of technology companies to design safer products.

We encourage the Government to ensure that the consultation process considers the experiences of women, children, older Victorians and other vulnerable groups who may experience online abuse in different ways. NCWV also encourages consideration of whether similar legal protections should ultimately extend to adults, where online abuse results in harm. As AI technologies continue to develop, it is essential that legislation remains flexible, evidence-based and capable of responding to emerging risks while supporting innovation that benefits society.

NCWV commends the Victorian Government for taking a leadership role in addressing online harms and strengthening protections for Victorian families. We welcome the opportunity to contribute constructively to the consultation and look forward to working with Government and other stakeholders to develop legislation **that promotes safety, accountability, fairness and respect in the digital environment.**

Arts & Letters News

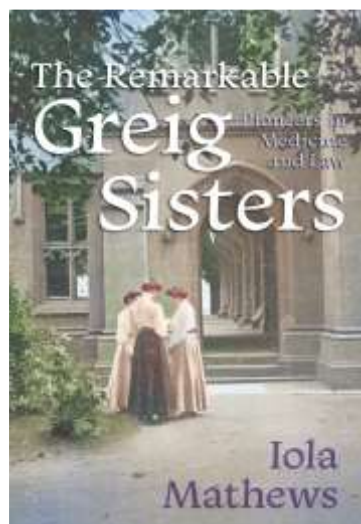
Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) <https://actf.com.au/>

Ronniет Milliken, past NCWV President, checked out the ACTF website. It is upbeat with announcements of projects about to go to screen with content that reflects our culture and values of Inclusion, diversity, resilience, imagination, and having fun. They also do advocacy annually on topics like *use of program content to prevent racism*; and have a calendar that has links to content like International Day of the Girl Child. <https://share.google/RnNEUXkRqerVx0J6o>

Latest Releases:



Pioneers in Medicine and Law, By Iola Mathews



Flos Greig said, 'Women are men's equals in every way and quite competent to hold their own in all spheres of life.' Then she and her sisters set about proving it.

The Greig sisters – including Jane, Janet and Flos – arrived in Melbourne in 1889 in search of a university education. As the nineteenth century turned into the next, Jane and Janet would be among the first women doctors in Australia. And once an enabling act of parliament was passed, Flos became the first woman in the young nation to practise law.

They were unusual for the time and yet not alone. With other similarly remarkable women, they fought for women's rights and established organisations such as the Queen Victoria Hospital, the Women Graduates' Association and the Lyceum Club. Keenly researched by their great-niece Iola Mathews – this provides insight not only into their own lives, but into their times.

Published by Monash University Press Publishing

OTHER NEWS

COTA Wise Helpline: 1300 135 090 | **Seniors Rights Victoria Helpline:** 1300 368 821

COTA Australia led the successful consortia of organisations to fund different models of navigation that would help people understand and engage with the aged care system. Evaluation at: [Health.gov.au's Navigator Measure](https://www.health.gov.au/health-navigators).

The findings from these trials informed the design of the Care Finders program. [COTA Australia created a number of Care Finder resources](#) to assist Care Finders in their work. Local Care Finders can help older people who need extra, intensive support to access aged care services and supports in the community. [Find your local care finders here](#).



Future You starts now: The health choices you make today shape how you feel tomorrow. So with support from the Alan and Kate Gibson Foundation, we've created a healthy ageing hub. It's designed to help you understand your body and

take steps to support the future you. Whether you're approaching midlife or supporting someone who is, jump in now for information on bone health, sexual health, nutrition and more.

Health checklist – your 40s: Future-proof your health with our essential health checklist for women in their 40s. Features expert advice from GP Dr Melanie Hemsley

40s checklist

Health checklist – your 50s: Dr Hemsley shares her future-proofing checklist for your 50s. Includes advice on menopause, Health checks and bone health.

50s checklist

Get answer

Brain ageing – what's OK? 9 tips for brain health

Get tips

If you have been diagnosed with dementia or want to reduce your risk, these tips can help

2026 National Care Sectors Conference: NDIS, Aged Care & Childcare | 28 Aug

Join care and support leaders on Friday, 28 August 2026, in Melbourne or online via LIVE Stream for a powerful national conversation on the future of care in Australia.

Bringing together voices from across NDIS, aged care, childcare, disability, mental health, community services and the wider care economy, this conference will explore the reforms, challenges and opportunities shaping the sector.

[Secure your place](#) and be part of the conversation.

o **Date:** 28 August 2026

o **Location:** Online & In Person (Melbourne – Pullman Albert Park)

o **Speakers:** [View speakers](#)

Registration: [Please visit the event website](#) Get tickets: [National Care Sectors Conference: NDIS, Aged Care & Childcare Tickets, Friday 28 August • 7:30 AM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#)



[National Youth Volunteer Week](#), 10–16 August.

Organisations, schools, community groups and volunteers across Australia will come together to celebrate the impact of young people who strengthen communities through volunteering. The campaign now recognises the many ways young people contribute to their communities – **Year to Lead!**

National Youth Volunteer Week celebrates these contributions while encouraging more young people to discover volunteering. It also recognises the important role schools, families and community organisations play in creating safe, welcoming and rewarding volunteering opportunities.

[Access here](#)

Campaign Resources

A range of digital campaign assets are available to help you take part in National Youth Volunteer Week, including logos, social media tiles, banners, and posters.

[Learn more](#)

Key Research & Statistics

Did you know that 69% of young people under 25 are involved in some sort of volunteering in Victoria? That's the highest of any age group! Explore the latest research around youth volunteering on our website.

Victorian Multicultural Commission (VWC)



It is a privilege to write to you for the first time as Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission. I am honoured to have the opportunity to serve our multicultural and multifaith communities. I look forward to meeting many of you over the months ahead, listening to your experiences and learning from the people and organisations who contribute so much to our state every day. This is an exciting time for multicultural Victoria. This week, the Bill to amend the Multicultural Victoria Act was introduced into the Victorian Parliament.

The Bill seeks to establish Multicultural Victoria, creating opportunities to strengthen the way government listens to, engages with and supports multicultural and multifaith communities. I look forward to helping build an organisation that reflects the aspirations and diversity of the communities we serve, prioritising a recalibrated and coordinated approach that promotes cohesion, equity and inclusion through legislation, policies, programs and partnerships. Read the Bill [here](#).

As part of this transition, applications are now open for a range of leadership opportunities, including membership of the new [Multicultural Community Advisory Group](#). This is a unique opportunity for community leaders to contribute their experience, insights and perspectives, helping ensure community voices remain central to the future direction of Multicultural Victoria. I encourage anyone with the passion and commitment for shaping Victoria's multicultural future to consider applying.

[Learn more and submit an application by Sunday 9 August \[here\]\(#\).](#)

Louise Perry, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission

Diverse talents, shared achievements — Honouring the brilliance of multicultural youth



Across Australia, multicultural young people are leading, creating, advocating, volunteering, competing, performing, building businesses, supporting their communities and inspiring those around them.

Know a change maker? Now is the time to recognise them.

Nominations close 31 August 2026. To nominate:

<https://multiculturalyouthawards.com.au/nominations>

Australian Muslim Poll

Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia in Australia has launched **the Australian Muslim Poll**, a national initiative delivered in partnership with Deakin University that will capture the diverse experiences, perspectives and wellbeing of Muslims across Australia. The Australian Muslim Poll is Australia's first nationally representative, annual study of its kind. It will build a robust evidence base to better understand Muslim communities and inform policy, community programs and public discourse with high-quality, data-driven insights. **It will run across 2026–2027, with the first findings expected in September 2027**, to be shared through reports, events and briefings.



NCJWA 2026 National Conference, Sun 23 Aug, 9am - Mon 24 Aug, 5pm

Join us for all or some of NCJWA's 2026 National Conference.

Sydney Location to be announced.

Together with women from across Australia and the world, experience phenomenal local and overseas speakers, musicians, a unique Bondi Vigil and an at-home dance party - [see the full two-day program on our website here](#). [Get tickets](#) Powered by: Humanitix
Hosted by [National Council of Jewish Women Australia](#)

In addition, and for the first time ever, NCJWA demonstrates solidarity with WIZO by encouraging people to attend the WIZO Gala, following our Sunday program, which will end at 3pm to accommodate it. (Note that the WIZO event is a fundraiser, benefitting all Israeli women and children: Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze and others.)

Host information: [National Council of Jewish Women Australia](#) [Contact host](#)



Amplify.

The newsletter for Victoria's social and community sector.

[VCOSS Disaster Resilience Network](#) is a space for community organisations to come together to build our collective capability to support our communities to prepare for and recover from emergencies.

Our August meeting will focus on supporting people most-at-risk from emergencies. We will be joined by two guest speakers:

- **Kathy Mickan from SACOSS** (the VCOSS equivalent in South Australia) will share about the development of SA's [People at Increased Risk in Emergencies Framework](#)
- **Cherie Howe from Baw Baw Shire** will share a case study of their amazing recent work planning with people at higher risk and creating an action group with community sector organisations



Tuesday 11 August 10:30am–12pm AEST



OnlineThe Network is open to all community organisations.

To receive an invitation for this meeting, [sign up to the network](#) or email lucy.manne@vcoss.org.au.

The experiences of young children in contact with the criminal justice system

The **Commission for Children and Young People Victoria** has published *With us, not against us*: a systemic inquiry into the experiences of children who entered the criminal justice system before they turned 14.

Too many children experiencing significant vulnerability in Victoria are criminalised at an early age and exposed to responses that increase the risk of repeating and escalating offending behaviours and ongoing involvement in the criminal justice system. Effective responses reflect the evidence about what works, respond to the child's stage of development, circumstances and age, and provide the best opportunity to prevent harm from happening again.

The inquiry sets out 15 recommendations about how systems can respond earlier, collectively and more effectively so Victoria can better support children, prevent future harm, and build stronger and safer communities.

[Read the report here.](#)



Meet the sector leaders and lived experience advocates helping to shape a connected, engaging conference experience

Meet the MCs and register now

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) together with our MCs will help create stronger connections between sessions, bring fresh perspectives to conference discussions and ensure lived experience and sector expertise remain at the heart of the program.

Join us in **Melbourne from 9–11 September 2026** as we explore our theme, *Changing families in changing times*.

Apology To Victims and Survivors of Abuse in Schools

MEDIA RELEASE

The Victorian Government is formally acknowledging victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in public schools.

Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll will deliver the formal apology today in Parliament House. The apology recognises the impacts of child sexual abuse on victim-survivors and their families – including the fundamental trust broken in our schools. The apology has been informed by victim-survivors' experiences shared through the Forum for Truth and Recognition and the Beaumaris Board of Inquiry.

It's also shaped by the observations documented in the Systemic Review into historical child sexual abuse in Victorian public schools. Together, these reports deepen our understanding of child sexual abuse in Victorian public schools in the decades before 2000. The reports found that perpetrators exploited weak regulation and schools failed to prioritise child safety.

The Government acknowledges the strength and courage of all victim-survivors who came forward – through the Beaumaris Inquiry, the Forum, civil claims or other means.

Since 2000, Victoria has made a raft of reforms to prevent abuse of children in schools and to change the way those in authority respond to abuse allegations. These include *Working with Children Checks*, mandatory *Child Safe Standards* in every school, the *Reportable Conduct Scheme* and strengthened teacher registration requirements through the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

In response to the Board of Inquiry, the Government established a range of supports for victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in government schools. These include a dedicated website and phone line, a restorative engagement program and improved access to personal information and records. For more information on support options and services available for victim-survivors, visit vic.gov.au/victim-survivor-support-former-students.



National Council of Women of Australia. We're excited to partner with the Women in Leadership Summit, a national series running across five cities, **1-3 September 2026**, delivered in partnership with **UN Women Australia**. This year's theme is **Leading with Momentum** - because leadership today requires more than resilience. It requires the ability to transform ideas into action and build real influence in complex environments.

Our President, Fiona Dorman, will be chairing the Adelaide summit, alongside 120+ speakers nationwide.

Your attendance also contributes to UN Women's economic empowerment and leadership programs for women across Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

Women Leaders Institute is offering NCWA members a saving of \$100 with code NCWA100.

👉 Learn more <https://australia.womenleadersummit.com/...>



by [Madeline Hislop](#)

The program is run by the *Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA)*, and the new funding comes after a successful pilot to extend the program for another two years. It has a goal of supporting 120 small businesses nationally, an increase from 30 it has already supported in the pilot.

"If we want a more inclusive economy, we need to actively break down the barriers that prevent women from thriving in male dominated industries," Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Amanda Rishworth said this week.

She Means supports women in different ways, including by backing them to gain new qualifications, build their leadership capacity and access the right tools, networks and greater opportunities in small businesses. The next phase will bring onboard 120 Australian small businesses into a six-month program. These businesses will receive support to implement improvements, with independent evaluation tracking progress and longer-term outcomes. During the pilot program, newly qualified electrician Mikayla Van Deyk, who works for *Capital Home Electrical*, was supported to complete air-conditioning and specialist electrical training receiving tools and equipment to support her career.



COSBOA CEO Skye Cappuccio said the program will help bring more women into small business sectors where they are underrepresented. *"This innovative program will build women's confidence, capability and skills across the country, while providing small businesses with a practical blueprint for attracting, retaining and supporting women in the workplace,"* Cappuccio said.

Feature image: COSBOA CEO, Skye Cappuccio with Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Amanda Rishworth and Deputy PM Richard Marles.

[HER Mind. HER Health. Conference | 31 Aug – 1 Sept 2026](#)



HER Mind, HER Health is a national conference dedicated to advancing women's mental health as a core component of women's health, not an add-on or afterthought.

The conference will be held on the Gold Coast

Monday 31 August – Tuesday 1 September 2026. Register today.

NCWV Pioneer Women's Annual Ceremony, Sunday February 7th 2027, 11:00am

Conducted early February in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, King's Domain, Melbourne to celebrate pioneering women in Victoria.

Topics recently, Pioneer Women: in Education; in Sport; in Aviation; and in 2027 Pioneer Women in Trades, including the first women's garage and taxi service.

Save the date and Join the NCWV, Sunday February 7, from 11 – 2:30.

Bring a picnic and enjoy this beautiful location.



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 2026

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
August	6 th	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
August	17 th	Monday	Standing Committees Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
August	21 st	Friday	<i>My Vote My Voice</i>	9:15	Parliament
August	20 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
September	3 rd	Thursday	NCWV AGM	12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
September	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
September	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
October	1 st	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	tbc
October	12 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
October	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	5 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
November	16 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
November	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	24	Tuesday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	William Angliss
December	3 rd	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
December	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
February	7 th 2027	Sunday	Pioneer Women's Ceremony	11:00	King's Domain

NCWV is Inviting expressions of interest to work with the current editor on the Monthly Newsletter. Please contact with a CV to: info@ncwvic.org.au

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