

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: "50 Years of Deadly recognises the leadership and cultural authority that carried this movement forward and affirms that NAIDOC's next chapter will be shaped by community leadership, long-term vision, and a stronger, more sustainable future." NAIDOC Co-Chair Steven Satour



I hope that this Report finds you well at this time of mid-winter, and I thank you for your loyalty to NCWV. Warm thanks and congratulations to Nonie Crozier and all members of the **Geelong Branch** of NCWV for warm hospitality extended to all at their Annual Luncheon on July 17th. The venue and catering was excellent and guest speaker, Sarah Barnbrook, was truly engaging and informative. Thank you to all Members and friends of the Geelong Branch for this special event.

NCWA held its Mid-term National Conference in Canberra on Sunday June 28th and Monday June 29th

NCWV was represented by: President Elida Brereton, Vice-President and Hon Life Member NCWV Pam Hammond, Convenor of Standing Committees Robyn Byrne OAM, Hon Life Vice-President NCWA and past NCWV President Elisabeth Newman AM, Hon Life Vice-President NCWA and past NCWA President Hean Bee AM, past President NCWV Ronniel Milliken, Hon Sec Dr Julie Stevens, Hon. Treasurer Meenakshi Bhayani, Assistant Hon. Treasurer, Niti Bhargava, Adviser /Committee Member Sarah Barnbrook, and Adviser Dr Rumbi Nyanhoto.

Our Victorian delegation was the largest, and we held the proxy votes of NCW Tasmania. The venue was Members Dining Room, Old Government House, in all its 1926 Art Deco glory, and it proved to be an excellent venue with frequent and quite delicious offerings of food arriving.

Federal Minister for Women **the Hon. Senator Katy Gallagher** opened the Conference with an appropriate speech, and as she left to cross the space to the new from the old Parliament House to resume the daily Parliamentary sitting, Senator Gallagher urged us to make a difference in Australia with our advocacy on behalf of women and girls. The major purpose of the Conference was to establish the directions NCWA should take, via the debate about the draft Resolutions and other focused discussions, and to inform all delegates of salient issues which were linked to our priorities, which the NCWA organising group did well: all external speakers were excellent in their fields and we learned a great deal from those sessions. **See pp 4-7**

All Nine Resolution Passed

All Resolutions were voted upon as per NCWA rules / by-laws and each passed, most unanimously. The draft Resolutions in the Conference Booklet sent last week are now part of the future directions of NCWA and the Constituent Councils that moved and seconded them.

To summarise - greatly:

- Resolution 1: that **child protection and consent** education comprising a mandatory **national curriculum** be adopted in Australia, by all states and territories.
- Resolution 2: that **laws** relating to the **safety of women and girls** be standardised across the nation.
- Resolution 3: that there be equity in **access to healthcare** across Australia, in regional areas especially.
- Resolution 4: that the Government assist in the promotion and cost of **installation of residential rainwater** tanks across Australia.
- Resolution 5: that **child marriage** in Australia be eliminated under the age of 18, with a focus too on eradicating **forced marriages**.
- Resolution 6: that a national framework be developed and implemented to **prevent and respond to technology-facilitated abuse**, coordinating justice, child protection, online safety education and AI.
- Resolution 7: that effective and culturally-sensitive and community approaches to locating and supporting **child-headed households** be developed, (in light of issues facing some immigrant and other groups, which is leading to school avoidance, crime, child neglect etc)
- Resolution 8: that issues of **cost in compulsory work-placements by student women** be addressed, including travel and accommodation costs of trainees in nursing, social work, teaching etc across Australia
- Resolution 9: that a **gender-responsive climate, economic, humanitarian and environmental lens** should be applied by NCWA Advisers that recognises the **disproportionate impact on women and girls of climate change**.

NCWV moved Resolutions 5,6, & 7, and seconded Resolutions 1,2,3, & 4!

We were complimented by NCWA President Friona Dorman for our strength and positive contribution to the Conference. I was proud to be part of NCWV and, with all eleven of us, to share this time of collegiality with fellow NCWs across Australia, to embrace old and new friendships, and the networking, including via the expert speakers from all over the nation, whom we may invite to address us in the future.



Ronniet, Rumbi, Pam, Niti, Hean Bee, Sarah, Elisabeth, Julie, Meena, Robyn, Elida

Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest

Thank you to the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest (convenor Elisabeth Newman AM) for providing grants to assist three new members of the Committee to attend the Conference.

Individual Members' Annual Meeting

August 6th our IM Annual Meeting will be held at 11.00am, an hour before the **August 6th Council Meeting**. I know we need a new **IM Convenor, and IM Treasurer** as Sheila Byard OAM and Beverley Kannegiesser are retiring, and some other not-too demanding roles need to be filled.

Council Meeting, August 6th from 12.15pm, speaker will be **Tracy Beaton, Principal Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young People & Commissioner for Aboriginal Children**. I urge you to be part of this meeting and to invite others. [Pam Hammond and I met Tracy at Government House in January and were thrilled when she promised to speak to NCWV.]

Excursion to Old Treasury

I know Sheila Byard OAM would like me to remind **Individual Members and friends** to sign up for the excursion named in honour of past Member Minie Peden on **Thursday July 23rd** at the **Old Treasury Building** from **10.20 am sharp**. [See p.7](#)

Keep **August 21st** free too: **My Vote My Voice** at Parliament House from 9.15 am. [See p.8](#)

NCWV expresses our deep sympathy to Hon Life Member Hean Bee Wee AM on the sad loss of her husband Victor, and our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family. We also send thoughts to those experiencing loss, grief and anxiety. We continue to remember our members of the Ukrainian community and the Jewish community as you face ongoing conflict and challenges, and we think of those in Venezuela. 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*,

NCWV July Council Meeting, July 2nd, level 3 Ross House, 5:15pm

- This meeting was an opportunity to share the outcomes of the NCWA Triennial Conference.

The NCWA Mid-term National Conference, Canberra, was held on Sunday June 28th & Monday June 29th; at Old Parliament House

This Conference of the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) marked a significant point within our triennium - a time to reconnect, reflect, and reaffirm shared purpose. It brought together members from across the nation, a chance to strengthen relationships, share knowledge, and shape future advocacy agenda. Through collaboration and dialogue, this conference centred members and affiliated organisations, to advance the status of women in Australia:

- * NCWA and its Constituent Councils from Queensland, NSW, South Australia, Victoria, and proxy for Tasmania.
- * National Affiliate- Australian National Chinese Women's Federation Inc.
- * Australian Multicultural Women's Alliance (AMWA)
- * Our Watch
- * Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Hub

President Fiona Dorman welcomed all, stating that First Nations women have always been leaders over the generations. She spoke of our diversity being our strength and community being our power. Advocacy comes from evidence-based data and collective voices and discussion.

Opening this event, the Hon. Katy Gallagher Minister for Women said it was an important conference, and there was a lot to acknowledge about the activity of NCWA over 133 years.

Katy said she is building on 100 years of fighting for women and respect for women. She is invigorated by the activities of current women and the younger women advocates.



Photo by NCWV member

Meeting at the old Parliament House is appropriate, where in 2023 statues of two women were erected: Rosemary Tangney and Enid Lyons - the first two women Members of Parliament in the early 1943. They persisted and turned up even after obstacles were put in their path.

“Since 2022 there has been the first gender equal Parliament and in 2026 was the first gender equal cabinet. There's a lot of new first happening now: the five economic agencies are run by women; the first and second law officers at the Attorney General Department are women; the head of the army is a woman; the head of Department of Defence is Meghan Quinn PSM; the AFP commissioner is a woman. Normalising women in leadership roles, tells women and girls what is possible.”

As Finance Minister she has been looking at gender responsive budgeting for the Federal Government and all departments now must analyse the gender impact on all policies that they submit to government.

“90 percent of women are left on the bottom of their wage range, so we need to find out why and what Government policies contribute to that.”

Katy has helped deal with some issues e.g. superannuation and personal parental leave. In the women's health area she and some women colleagues have looked at Medicare issues: longer consultations for women, the fact that there had been no new menopause drugs on the PBS for the last 20 years and now we have new drugs; the contraception pill has new drugs on the PBS, after no changes for 30 years. Now 50 percent of free places in TAFE courses will go to women to help remove barriers to women entering professions.

A question was asked about the economic impact when women leave the workforce. The Minister spoke about economic loss as women are “the sandwich generation”, looking after children and caring for older parents. She said it was very important to make sure that women are paid properly, had access to superannuation and that employers were encouraged to have flexible workforces. She is looking at who has the economic levers and how to pull them.

As Minister for Administrative Services she is responsible to review government systems. The child support system was such an example, but she also talks to the private sector about their systems. She's talking to superannuation companies where perpetrators are named as beneficiaries and benefit even if they killed the woman.



President Fiona thanking the Minister, Katy Gallagher, with Hean Bee Wee

Constituent state Councils shared their activities.

NCWV Adviser Sarah Barnbrook shared the slide show she created from input of the Committee: “Voices of Progress”. This was a summary of 18 months of impact and advocacy work, covering speakers, events, submissions, advocacy themes, partnerships, outcomes, achievements, including: Advocacy e.g., health policy, gender equality, digital safety. Programs *My Vote My Voice*; youth engagement initiatives. Partnerships and events (forums, luncheons, conferences). She also covered the 9 draft Resolutions. Well done Sarah!

Advocacy in Your Experience. A Panel Discussion featuring Suzanne Howarth, Rachael Burkitt, and Pru Mooney.

Suzanne Howarth, Pacific Correspondent for UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law)

stated that advocacy starts with conversations that engage the listener/s who learn and reflect leaving them more informed. Suzanne quoted from the NCWA book *‘Respectable Radicals’*, a love letter to decades of collective wisdom and action, acknowledging those who have contributed to women’s lives, emphasising the struggles they faced.

Nowadays, some women feel left out. ***Every woman needs to be heard, be included, regardless of outlook.*** We need to be ‘Honest Brokers’ in our advocacy.

Key Messages from Rachel Burkitt:

- Advocacy should be aligned with your personal values and moral code.
- Feelings such as anger or frustration can be transformed into positive action, e.g., frustration about dominance of patriarchy can become a catalyst for advocacy and meaningful social change.
- Advocacy can also begin with kindness and by building genuine relationships with others.
- Effective advocacy occurs at many levels, including grassroots initiatives, community organisations, industry, and through simply starting important conversations.
- Building diverse teams strengthens advocacy efforts. Surround yourself with people who bring different perspectives, experiences, and skill sets rather than only those who think like you.
- Be prepared to take opportunities to advocate whenever they arise. Small actions and everyday conversations can create meaningful impact over time.

Prudence Mooney, member of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council for Gender Equity, added to this:

Prue reflected on advocacy as something that begins with recognising unfairness and choosing to respond constructively. Drawing on her own experiences, she recalled questioning why only boys were invited to hear Australian rugby captain Nick Farr-Jones speak at her school in the 1990s. Through a creative writing assignment, she used storytelling to challenge gender inequality, an approach encouraged by activist and poet Ujuru Nuckil, who advised her to “nurture the rage” by channelling frustration into creative, purposeful action. Storytelling is a powerful and often unexpected form of advocacy. Meaningful change can occur at every level—from individual conversations to broader systems—without the need for formal leadership.

Reflecting on advocacy throughout her career, she challenged the notion that authority is required to influence change. Drawing on her early experience in the Australian Public Service, she described how advocacy organisations such as the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights shaped government policy through well-crafted submissions, demonstrating that influence can come from outside formal positions of power.

She highlighted the importance of supportive mentors and workplaces, building relationships, and being prepared to act when opportunities arise, noting that an idea may be right, but success often depends on timing.

An example of advocacy translating into lasting reform, she highlighted her leadership of the Workplace Gender Equality Act review. Bringing together experience in industrial relations, international policy, and gender equality, she led a small team through an intensive consultation process, drawing on expert advice and diverse

stakeholder perspectives, focusing on practical, politically achievable recommendations. Review resulted in all 10 recommendations accepted by the government, leading to enduring policy change for gender equality in Australia.

Prue acknowledged the women leaders she had worked alongside and the enduring friendship between Judith Wright and Ujurdu Nuckil as an example of the power of shared advocacy.

She encouraged us to embrace discomfort, recognise that advocacy is about being effective rather than simply being right, bring others along pursuing meaningful, lasting change.



Centering Multicultural Voices in Women's Advocacy: Malini Raj, Exec Director of the Australian Multicultural Women's Alliance (AMWA) a government funded national alliance that *advances the voices and priorities of multicultural migrant and refugee women*. Malini's group trains women for leadership. She has had 20 years in this area and represented Australia at the *UN Commission on the Status of Women*, focusing on gender equality, prevention of gender-based violence, economic security, health equity and leadership presentation. **"Most women needing to be heard, needing assistance, are often not consulted, their lived experience is dismissed or ignored and credit is not given for training skills and qualifications they bring with them, even in areas where Australia has a shortage of skilled workers. Lived experience equates with expertise, not just stories about their past.**

Malini said that in Australia, the number of qualified immigrant women living here with degrees and diplomas in teaching, nursing, trades etc locked out of skilled employment, is **340,000**. Malini wants AMWA and NCWA to work together. They have expertise in applying for grants. Multicultural women she works with have so much they can contribute to Australia; **women closest to the problems they face are the women who should be consulted** by government bodies etc.

Malini, as an immigrant was skilled enough to become Head of Community Engagement at the CBA, but was often ignored and not consulted. She has finally been diagnosed with a chronic illness after 15 years of navigating the Australian healthcare system and being turned away.

Malini presented us with five women who exemplify issues facing multicultural women in Australia.

Aisha has a violent husband who has a work visa in Australia so she and her 5 children have been allowed in, she on a bridging visa only. Husband beat her but she has little English and the Immigration Dept used an interpreter known to her husband, **so** she and children were sent home to their country.

Fatima cares for her mother who has no English. As her mother can't give permission for treatment and accommodation etc in English Fatima takes days off work to care for her and after 30 years work here has low superannuation.

Pria, an Indian immigrant with excellent skills in software engineering and English, suffers from endometriosis and takes some days off in great monthly pain. Because she doesn't complain, she is overlooked for promotion etc. Her culture says she must not talk about the pain to men.

Chen with a Chinese background and quiet manner, has lived in Australia for 18 years as a permanent resident. She is an adviser to a state government committee managing a culturally-diverse society, but has not been asked for her opinion or to contribute. Told she misses promotion because she is "not quite right culturally" and seen as lacking initiative and leadership.

Marina (from an Asian minority race in South-Asia) has a Ph.D in structural engineering. She applied for refugee status but was refused because she was "over-qualified"!

Photos given with permission at Conference by Malini Raj



Making Change to prevent Violence against Women:

Dr Sanjutta Vas Dev and Patty Kinnersly, the new CEO, from Our Watch. Sanjutta gave a history of Our Watch and what they've been doing since being formed 16 years ago. Their focus now is on stopping harm before it starts - Primary Prevention, via public health promotions, campaigns, interventions, proactive approaches to address the drivers of Gender Based Violence and strengthen communities.

Patty is a change maker and strategist who is looking at the way *Our Watch* has been operating and is bringing in these Primary Preventions as a major focus over the next year. Helplines are available for people to contact them.



Elisabeth, Hean Bee, Niti, Meena, Julie, Rumbi, Pam, Robyn, Elida, Ronniel.

Gender and Family Violence, Coercive Control and the Manosphere: Dr Naomi Pfitzner from Monash University, and Assoc Prof Penelope Mathew, President and Human Rights Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission.

Dr Pfitzner currently leads an ANROWS- funded national project evaluating professional learning programs for secondary school teachers addressing the influence of Manosphere in classrooms. She has also led projects on Respectful Relationships. Manosphere was described as loosely connected networks of groups, websites, platforms, influencers and podcasters advocating issues faced by men and boys, claiming male victimisation, social change, equality and diversity as threats, encouraging hostility towards women, gender and race discrimination, and promoting male dominance. Empathy is seen as weakness. Much is to do with identity, and where they fit, e.g. How do I build confidence, look better, talk to girls, have success? They treat women as sexual objects, and need to take control. Some women amplify and normalise harmful narratives, e.g. 'Tradwives', dark feminine influencers 'Femcels'. Concerns about values given to young women. Social media algorithms can send them to inappropriate sites and videos which can normalise misogyny.

In their research they found that one in five males 16-25 years believe violence against women can be excused if they apologise or express regret!

Technology magnifies DV harm creating new channels for abuse, like shielding identity, financial abuse, stalking, posting abusive acts, doxxing, impersonations, control.

Need for transparency and to investigate algorithms.

Conference Dinner at the Kurrajong Hotel, a 1920s building. Our speaker was **Dr Penelope Mathew**, President and Human Rights Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, which is almost all women! In 2004 ACT was the first to adopt a Human Rights Commission. In January 2027 the Right to Housing will be added – 65 percent of social housing will go to women.

ACT has an ATSIC voice to Parliament. However, it also has the highest number of ATSIC people in prison, and only one prison for all prisoners, male, female, youth, including ATSIC, with little access to education – on her list to address. On the positive side, ACT has raised the age of incarceration to 14 years, with a MPM team of three involved who visit centres. Causes include: out-of-home care; cognitive issues, drug and alcohol, being Indigenous, poverty in some communities. Commission intervenes when needed, including presenting to legal professionals about human rights. "On Just Terms".



NCWV August 6th Individual Members' Annual Meeting and Election, 11:00am. Jenny Florence Room, Level 3 Ross House. Followed by: Council Meeting, 12:15pm. Snacks in between.

Tracey Beaton, newly appointed Commissioner for Children and Young people will be our speaker at the Council Meeting.

Tracey is a former nurse and was Victoria's Chief Mental Health Nurse for seven 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, with a strong record of improving child protection systems and delivering better outcomes for children, young people and families.

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.

NCWV Individual Members Excursion



2026 NCWV Individual Members Excursion Thursday 23 July to the Old Treasury Building, Spring St, Melbourne.

This NCWV tour will showcase the beautiful building.

On this guided tour you will see areas of the building inaccessible to the general public, including the Executive Council Chamber where the Governor of Victoria has met for over 160 years to sign legislation. All welcome.

Tour meets at rear Accessible Entrance for entry via lift.

Date: Thursday 23 July 2026, 10.20am Cost \$15:

TryBooking by 20 July at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/1599542>

To join us for an early lunch at Cafe Excello, corner Spring Street and Little Collins Street please text message lunch booking to Beverley at 0422 508 183

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser – Pam Hammond

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

My Voice My Vote started as a result of research finding that young people were disengaged with the democratic processes. Since 2014, 40 different schools (19 Government, 10 Independent, 10 Catholic, one Islamic) have participated, many several times, and 600 students. The topics have raised students' awareness of: *the Rights and Responsibilities of Voting; Gender issues in Local and State Governments; Diversity in Local Organisations and Councils; Attitudes of Young People to Voting; When Women and First Nations people were able to vote; the Role of Treaty in achieving Reconciliation; Social Media – a blessing or a curse; What is special about Australian Democracy* and others.

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 is Affecting Your Education**. Students may 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: please contact NCWV for more information on: info@ncwvic.org.au Details to follow.



EARLY YEARS

As outlined in the [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework\(opens in a new window\)](#), play-based learning is central to developing children's cognitive skills and wellbeing.

In this edition, you can learn how to strengthen culturally safe and inclusive practice for First Nations families at your service through a series of professional development opportunities. First Nations community and departmental stakeholders designed the online learning modules which provide practical guidance and activities. [Bringing Change Together: First Nations professional learning](#)

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 [Children's Week 2026 Grants program\(opens in a new window\)](#).

Arts & Letters News

Children's book *'Once I was A Giant'*, by Zeno Swords, has won Australia's Book of the Year, 2026. A beautifully illustrated book about a pencil that was once a tree, it includes the cycle of life and the interconnectedness of every living thing.

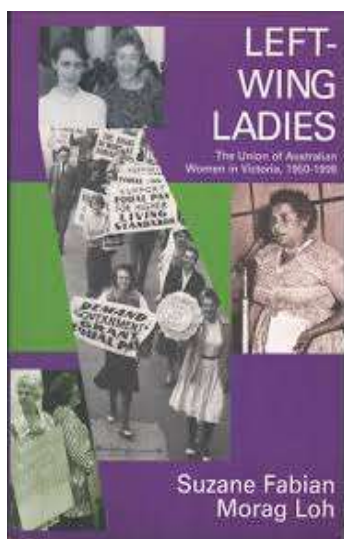


Stella Miles Franklin's story is one Australians can be proud of yet so few people know she was a woman, let alone any other details of her extraordinary life. A quintessential Aussie battler, Stella battled poverty and sexism to be a writer, enduring two World Wars and terrible personal bereavements to emerge as an advocate for conservation, first nation's rights, young writers and Australian literature. Franklin's own words are funny, engaging and inspiring for modern Australians - her enduring legacy is in her own literary works as well as the establishment of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in her Will.

Standing Committee Coordinator Robyn Byrne

writes: After going to the new Australian musical called "Stella" I am really amazed at what a career she had and how she saved to leave a bequest in her will called the **Miles Franklin Awards** that were won by 42 men as opposed to 26 women. The [Stella Prize](#) was created in 2013 as a reaction to the underrepresentation of women as winners of literary prizes, in particular the 2011 Miles Franklin Awards. Since 2013, only three men have won the Miles Franklin Award.

STELLA: The Musical has been publicly workshopped in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and was showcased at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University, 12-20 June 2026. Donations are sought to fund the continued development of this work, including artist and creative team fees, theatre and rehearsal space hire, set/costume/lighting/sound design, choreography, production/technical team. Enquiries: Stella@StellaTheMusical.com



Alexandra Pierce has written a review of this book, a gift after her NCWV talk:

This book is based on a lot of archival research – someone has clearly been very conscientious at keeping minutes, pamphlets, letters etc – and some oral history interviews. I knew a very small amount about the Union of Australian Women before diving into this: that they existed, in the first place, which is probably more than most people my age. I had come across them in my anti-Vietnam War research, as there were several women in both Save Our Sons and UAW, and they kept getting discussed in passing with regard to other actions around peace and women's stuff. What I did *not* know was the extraordinary breadth of issues that the UAW took on, nor anything about their internal politics.

For me, the most interesting aspect is what the women in the UWA worked towards. They started out as an explicitly working-class organisation, and saw themselves as more aligned with unions than anyone else; there's a really interesting discussion about being concerned with *wages* not keeping up with price hikes, rather than being concerned with *salaries*, which I think is a difference that doesn't get discussed so much these days.

When you add that concern for class difference to the fact that in Victoria, in particular, the UWA had Aboriginal members and worked to support ideas like land rights – well before that was popular – *and* that they printed their information in languages other than English and worked to support migrant women workers: I rather think these women – many of whom would not have described themselves as feminist! – were expressing intersectional feminism decades before it was being discussed in those terms. Which is not to say they were always on the cutting edge of women's issues; the book points out how members reacted to discussions of prostitutes as workers, for instance, and the early reluctance of UWA to support ease of abortion access. On both topics, though, the UWA did come around to supporting women broadly. One of the things I can't get over is that so many of the things they were agitating for from the 1950s on are still relevant today. Pay equity (although that's now legislated...). Accessible childcare. The problem of the price of goods rising faster than wages. Aboriginal rights. Environmental issues. Safety for women and children. And their number one issue, across five decades: peace.

The Victorian branch of the UWA was the last one in existence. It has basically folded now: in 2021 they announced that their remaining funds would be used to fund activities for "the leadership, training and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, girls, non-binary and gender diverse young people." I can't help but be a bit sad that I will never experience the UWA, although I have met some women who were themselves members.

Mother Stories from the NGV collection, National Gallery of Victoria, **Federation Square, until 12 July, free**. This is an amazing collection of NGV treasures, paintings, icons, photographs, both religious and secular. Well worth a visit.

Environment Adviser - Pam Robinson AM - Congratulations, well deserved!

I was in Canberra with the Australian Local Government Women's Association commitments (prior to NCWA Conference), which was for the 75th Anniversary of ALGWA.

At the end of the Reception at Government House Canberra, I was honoured by the Governor General, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, with being awarded with the "**Governor General's Medallion**".



"The Governor-General's Medallion is an official commemorative token presented as a direct gift from the Governor-General of Australia to recognise outstanding community service. The Medallion functions as a personal gesture of gratitude from the Governor General".

The main things that were recognised, and in terms of ALGWA as the focus on the evening were: as an ongoing active ALGWA Member for 47 years, as a Life Member of ALGWA Victoria and a former National Vice President and the First Member in ALGWA History to be a President of two States/Territories (Vic and NT). Being a founding member of Landcare for 40+ years did also come up!



I want to recognise that NCWV members too have had long associations and commitment to many great causes. We have all shared support and commitment in all the ways we can, and do, contribute as women to 'making a difference'.



Landcare Magazine Winter 2026 Issue 91

This edition is full of interesting articles showcasing individuals and groups around the State undertaking wonderful environmental projects. As a special edition it provides the background to the beginnings of Landcare in Victoria – Victoria being the State that initiated Landcare forty years ago - and three years before it became a National Program. It was possible by the leadership of two great women - the then Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands and later first female Premier of Victoria Joan Kirner AC and Heather Mitchell OBE AM , the first female President of the Victorian Farmers Federation – both women of different political persuasions but who knew the strength of working together in a bipartisan way for the important matter of environment and conservation.



Within the July edition, as can be seen in the magazine with the beautiful Helmeted Honeyeater in full flight, you can read about the formation of Victorian Landcare 40 years ago, along with the current amazing work being undertaken around the State by 'hands on' communities, of all ages, who are making a difference in caring for our land, water, and biodiversity. You can read the quarterly Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine, or arrange to receive it by contacting Landcare Victoria at info@landcarevic.org.au

Parliamentary Friends of Landcare: On 17 & 18 June the 2026 Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare – Environmental Volunteer Showcase - was a great success. In the spirit of bipartisanship, two days in Queens Hall in Parliament House saw some 150 Landcarers and environmental volunteers showcase activities they are undertaking in their local communities and regions. It was a great opportunity to engage with policymakers, MPs, as well as groups from around the State and visiting school groups and international visitors touring Parliament as they stopped going through Queen's Hall, some learning about Landcare for the first time – and several finding out about activities in their community which they can join.

The Climate Systems Hub is where you can find the latest "State of Climate Change Adaptation in Australia Report".



NAIDOC 2026 theme: "50 Years of Deadly", 5-12 July.

For fifty years, NAIDOC themes have spoken to survival, resistance, culture and pride. They have honoured Elders and leaders, celebrated creativity, and challenged the nation to listen, reckon and act. Each theme has marked a moment in time, capturing where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were, and where the country needs to pay attention.

50 Years of Deadly is both a reflection and a declaration. It acknowledges the strength it has taken to reach this milestone, not by chance, but because generations of people refused to be silenced. It recognises the organisers, artists, activists and communities who carried NAIDOC forward year after year, ensuring it remained grounded in culture and community.

NAIDOC has always been more than a single week. It is a platform for truth-telling, a celebration of identity, and a statement of continuity. Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are leading change across every field. From health and education to media, business and the arts — telling their own stories, in their own way, on their own terms.

As part of the national launch, NAIDOC has also [opened nominations for the 2026 National NAIDOC Awards](#) and the [2026 National NAIDOC Poster Competition](#), inviting communities, artists, schools and organisations across the country to participate in the milestone year. It is a reminder that NAIDOC belongs to community, that culture leads, and that the work continues.

One Million Victorians Get 20 Per Cent Off Rego, 3rd Jun 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Within 48 hours of opening, more than one million Victorians have applied for 20 per cent off their rego.

That's one million families getting real help right now. Money is already being paid to applicants and will continue to be paid over the coming months. **Here's how it works:**

- A driver with one car gets up to **\$186 back**
- A family with two cars gets up to **\$372 back**
- You get the full rebate whether you pay yearly or in instalments
- **Applications close 31 July 2026**, to claim what's yours.

To be eligible for the rebate, Victorians need to have paid their registration between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 for a light vehicle for personal use. You can claim for up to two vehicles in your name.

For more information and to apply, download the Service Victoria app or visit service.vic.gov.au/rego-rebate

Victorian Multicultural Commission (VWC)



Dear Community Member,

On behalf of the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, the Victorian Multicultural Commission is delighted to announce that tickets are now on sale for the Premier's Multicultural Gala Dinner 2026 — an evening that honours the contributions of Victoria's multicultural and multifaith communities.

This year's theme is **Stories of Us** celebrating the unique individual journeys, ancestry and migration narratives that combine to form our shared identity and a strong Victoria. We look forward to celebrating our rich and diverse community with you through conversation and connection with food and performance on the night.

Date: Saturday 22 August 2026; 5:30pm - 11:00pm

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf VIC 3006

Dress code: Formal attire or cultural dress

Click on the button below to purchase your tickets by 11:59pm Friday 31 July, unless sold out prior.

[Purchase your tickets here](#)

"Despite the progress we continue to make, recent acts of hatred remind us that there is still work to do. My thoughts are with the Muslim community following the recent assault on a father outside a mosque in Hampton Park. Acts like these have no place in Victoria and remind us of our shared responsibility to foster respect, understanding and inclusion. I also welcome the timely launch last night of a national media awareness campaign, [Report Islamophobia](#), by the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia. Initiatives like this help us better understand the experiences of Muslim Australians and strengthen a Victoria where everyone feels safe, respected and valued".

Vivienne Nguyen AM, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission

Right now, Victorian families are doing it tough.

MEDIA RELEASE

The cost of groceries, fuel and bills are all adding up and families are facing tough decisions.

A \$5 million investment will support food rescue organisation **SecondBite** to expand its Derrimut warehouse. The investment means **SecondBite** can triple its food relief volume and double its support to regional Victoria and Melbourne's north.

This is the equivalent of around 100 million more meals over the next decade or an extra 316,000 households. It will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions by eliminating transport between its two existing warehouses.

It follows an \$11.2 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2026/27* to strengthen the state's grassroots and large-scale food providers. This includes \$2.7 million in immediate support for food relief charities facing rising fuel costs.

The state government also supports neighbourhood houses, multicultural, faith-based and volunteer-led groups with food security grants. Funding will support volunteers and can cover food parcels, groceries, community meals or fuel vouchers.

The third round of the \$8.5 million Community Food Security Program is now open and closes on 9 July.

Organisations can apply for grants of up to \$100,000 to provide vital food relief in their communities.



The program for this year's Open House Melbourne Weekend was unveiled at [The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre](#), a feature of this year's program. With over 180 buildings, places, and experiences, you are invited to explore our *Generous City* this **Open House Melbourne Weekend (Friday 24 July–Sunday 26 July)**.

This year's program features exciting first looks at city-shaping projects, new precincts and places rarely open to the public, including the new [Transurban Freeway Control Centre](#) in Footscray, which operates CityLink and the new West Gate Tunnel, the [Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio](#), cafe icons [ST. ALi Coffee Roastery](#), [Rock Posters](#) printing factory in Thornbury, and the sprawling [Melbourne Quarter precinct](#) at the meeting point of the CBD and Docklands. Tour [Melbourne Airport's new Drop Off and Pick Up Zones](#), [Foodbank Victoria's](#) brand new purpose-built facility, [South Yarra Prahran Social Housing](#) and see Olivine Place and Gumnut Park lit up after dark for [Oli Glows at Olivine Place](#), a captivating after-dark light display experience

Unusual favourites people know and love include the [Albanian Mosque in Carlton North](#), [Hawthorn Tram Depot](#), [Melbourne Park](#) (including a behind-the-scenes VIP access to Rod Laver Arena), the [National Institute of Circus Arts](#), [New Preston Tram Depot](#), [Parliament of Victoria](#), [Sun Theatre](#), [Victorian Archives Centre](#) and much, much more.

Special itineraries designed for [families](#) and those interested in [density done well](#) and [creative spaces](#), will help you make the most of your Weekend. You can also explore the [Access Map](#) which highlights inclusive and welcoming spaces across the program, a [First Nations](#) itinerary showcasing the stories and places that shape Naarm.

The full program is now on the [Open House Melbourne website](#) or pick up a printed program from any **Readings Bookshop**.



GET INVOLVED in our 40 YEARS PROGRAM: [Find out more about our 40 Years program](#)

We're inviting everyone be part of activities marking our 40th anniversary as Australia's national human rights institution.

Nominations for 2026 Australian Human Rights Awards: Help honour and celebrate the work of everyday human rights heroes by nominating individuals and organisations for this year's Awards, our annual showcase of the best in all of us. If you know or admire someone who inspires others, stands up for fairness or drives positive change, then nominate them and help shine a light on their impact. Categories are: Human Rights Medal; Young People (under 25 years); Law; Community; Media and Creative Industries.

Nominations close 3 August 2026 <https://hra.awardsplatform.com/>

Children's voices are the key to ending violence before it begins

National Children's Commissioner Deb Tsorbaris has released a new national report highlighting the power of positive relationships, and the critical importance of listening to children, when designing the systems, services and supports that shape their lives. This is about stopping violence before it begins: **Supporting Quality Engagement with Children** draws on the insights of more than 300 children and young people from across Australia. It offers a hopeful, evidence-based roadmap for building respectful, safe and supportive relationships and preventing violence before it starts.

[Watch animation](#)

[See the story](#)



Melbourne
Women's
Foundation



Melbourne Women's Foundation (MWF) - Our Impact

When **Prison Network** came through MWF's grants process in 2023, the intention was clear. They wanted to strengthen recovery support for women leaving prison who had also experienced family violence. One woman described the timing simply.

"I was released on the Tuesday and attended my first recovery support meeting on the following Monday."

In those first days after release, when so much can feel uncertain, she found a group of women who understood what it means to begin again. Women who could listen without judgement, notice when someone was struggling, and help each other stay connected to a safer future. She later wrote: *"We are like family.* For many women, release is not a simple fresh start. It can mean navigating housing, family relationships, employment, trauma, stigma, substance use, and safety all at once. Prison Network understood that the support women needed after release could not be rushed. It needed to be steady, practical and relational.

This is the kind of work MWF members chose to back.

In November 2023, MWF members awarded Prison Network our \$80,000 Signature Grant. The grant supported a Recovery Program built around protective factors: peer connection, tailored workshops, social outings, retreats and long-term individual support. Women met regularly online. They took turns leading discussions. They planned activities together. Between sessions, a group chat became a daily source of encouragement, accountability and care. That everyday connection matters.

The outcomes speak to the strength of this approach. Among women engaged in the group, 96% had not returned to prison, none had gone back to a violent relationship, 85% had secured housing, and 70% had secured employment or study.

For MWF, this is collective giving at its best.

Now, Prison Network is entering another important chapter. **From July 2026, the organisation will begin operating as Hope Network.** The new name came from listening carefully to women and families. They shared that while Prison Network carries deep history and trust, the word "prison" can also carry stigma as women rebuild their lives, look for housing or work, reconnect with children, and access support in the community. Hope Network reflects the full journey of the work: inside prison, after release, in homes, in families and in community. [Learn more about Hope Network](#)

That next chapter is also taking shape through **New Leash Dog Salon** in Canterbury, a social enterprise creating paid work, training, mentoring and employment pathways for women with lived experience of the justice system. You can book your dog in for a pamper at New Leash Dog Salon. <https://www.newleashdogsalon.com.au/>



Geelong Convention Centre, 28-29 July

Member Registrations: \$1450 | NFP Non-Member Registrations: \$1750

[Register Here](#)

- **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?** Presidents & Board Directors | Company Secretaries | CEOs | Professional, Industry & Special Cause Groups | Small, medium & large not-for-profits.

The cost of care wait times and 'temporal flexibility penalty' women suffer. by Abby Bloom



What's the *actual* cost to Australian families waiting the median 294 days for *already approved* Aged Care services? For starters: \$200,000. Here's how that's calculated: A family member on Australia's median wage who leaves full time paid work for 294 days at the age of 45 to care for an ageing parent, loses the compounded cost of lost wages and superannuation by age 67 for the median wait period (294 days) – and misses out on just short of \$200,000.

That's a huge dent in superannuation and savings at retirement. For many, especially women, the cost of today's Aged Care wait time may be the difference between a [dignified old age and homelessness](#).

One approach to these costs is via the work of Claudia Goldin, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2023, "*for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes*". She showed how even small interruptions in paid work can result in lower lifetime earnings, lower retirement savings, reduced asset accumulation, and a greater poverty risk later in life. Goldin analysed decades of data and demonstrated how women's lifetime earnings suffer during periods of caregiving, a term used to differentiate care for ageing parents from childcare. Women suffer from what she called the "*temporal flexibility penalty*." That's the penalty women and others bear when, for whatever reason, they cannot work predictable, long and continuous hours. Taking time off work to care for an ageing parent for 294 days until help arrives is a perfect illustration of Goldin's work.

For a working Australian of median age, about 45, on the median adult wage, who takes only 2 hours per day, or a day a week, away from paid work to care, the compounded lifetime loss in wages and superannuation will be approximately \$39,000. But the lifetime loss at age 67 for those aged 45 who leave work entirely for the duration of their parent's waiting time will be \$197,000. And that assumes the caregiver will have hopped right back into work, at the same salary level. We know from the literature and annual surveys conducted in Australia by Carers Australia/University of Canberra and others that unpaid caregiving not only reduces hours worked, it also interrupts careers, forecloses promotion opportunities, and causes damage to mental health and physical resilience.

Going further, Princeton Professor Viviana Zelizer showed how caring, framed as love, duty, or family obligation, results in caregivers' labour being routinely under quantified. She maintains that despite its intimate and moral nature, the cost of caring is an essential component of the broader economy. Without external support (and on a 294-day waitlist) families as units absorb those costs, typically invisible to traditional economists. The substitution of unpaid care for paid care is also easily quantified – and it's staggering, unaffordable for nearly all of us, and is already having a significant impact on the lives and futures of thousands of Australian unpaid family carers.

When systems like Australia's troubled Aged Care system create delays – 294 days in our system – and services are unavailable, or support rationed, it's families who fill the gap and pay the immediate costs. But in the long term, it's also the states and the Government of Australia who pay in other costs: increased health and hospital costs for lack of care, lost productivity, lost tax revenue, and lower Gross Domestic Product.

The actual cost of not caring is a cost we all bear. Addressing the actual cost of not caring goes well beyond the waiting lists. And it's up to politicians, not a Nobel Prize winner, to address.

Ronnieta Milliken, Past President NCWV says *This resonated with my experience when I started to work part-time before my husband actually went into aged care. It probably translates well into the NDIS context for unpaid carers also. In terms of advocacy it is another approach to take with the government regarding the 294 day 'wait time' for aged care support.*



SYN is an Australian community radio station broadcasting to Melbourne,

Victoria Jane Gazzo, Station Manager, SYN:

"SYN is where young people find their voice and create their future. We empower young people to develop media and storytelling skills, build career pathways and create connected communities."

First broadcast in January 2003, the station is operated by SYN Media under a youth license, with programming presented entirely by volunteers aged 12–25 years old. Source: [Wikipedia](#)

Minister for Youth Luba Grigorovitch today announced \$240,000 for SYN to keep doing what it does best.

SYN is run by young people, for young people – it trains young Victorians in broadcasting, television and digital media.

Last year alone SYN media:

- Supported 390 people through media, production and leadership development programs
- Produced 1,940 radio programs
- Delivered more than 700 blogs, vlogs and podcasts
- Engaged 130 volunteers to gain industry skills with pathways into careers

SYN's Media Learning Programs welcomed more than 3,500 primary and secondary school students last year.

More Information: <https://www.syn.org.au/#:~:text=Home,Workshops>



[Have your say on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse](#)

We're seeking your views to inform the development of the Second Action Plan under the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030. **Complete the survey by 17 July 2026.**

Read about WDV's response to the changes to NDIS here: <https://wdv.org.au/news/wdv-stands-with-australias-national-dros-in-calling-for-robust-senate-scrutiny-of-ndis-reforms/>

[Understanding child sexual abuse](#)

Preventing child sexual abuse starts with understanding what it is, how it occurs and how we can create safe environments for children and young people. Learn about signs, grooming, online safety, and the role you can play in prevention.

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
July	2 nd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
July	13 th	Monday	Standing Committees Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
July	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHS
July	23 rd	Thursday	Individual Members Excursion	10:20	Old Treasury Building, Spring St
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	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