



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

Celebrating 111 years

Affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. Ltd
And The International Council of Women

Patron: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

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June 2016
Newsletter 236

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Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily coincide with those of the NCWQ.

We need more green ladies

The Herald Sun's Leader Community News recently reported that the Yarra Council and VicRoads installed a pedestrian signal at the corner of Bosisto St and Bridge Rd, Richmond, with the walk sign featuring a green lady, paying tribute to Mary Rogers, who was Victoria's first female councillor.

What a great way to honour women in our communities and start conversations about their achievements. We encourage other Councils to take the opportunity to feature green lady walk signs to honour the women's achievements in their communities.

May 2016 was Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month, helping to raise awareness of the impacts of domestic and family violence. Through the work of our affiliate organisations and others, the message of zero tolerance of domestic and family violence will continue to be shouted beyond the month May and women experiencing domestic violence will be encouraged to speak up and seek support. Prevention Month provided an opportunity to highlight new and existing local domestic and family violence services that provide a range of assistance such as, counselling and support to people affected by domestic and family violence, including children. One such new program in the Moreton Bay region is RUBY (Rise Up, Be Yourself), an initiative developed by the Deception Bay PCYC to connect with women experiencing domestic violence. RUBY is a physical fitness program that aims to build women's self-esteem, confidence and connection with other women to reduce the feelings of isolation and disempowerment. The program will gradually be rolled out through other PCYCs in the region.

NCWQ's submission to the Government's Women Strategy highlighted many of the barriers faced by women today to achieving gender equality. Domestic violence, the gender pay gap, under-presentation in leadership positions, access of health services still persist despite changes achieved over the past century. NCWQ, together with representatives of community (both urban and rural), industry and government are working with the Office for Women to develop a plan of action to implement the priority areas of the Qld Women's Strategy ie Participation and Leadership, Economic Security, Safety and Health and Wellbeing.

The Department of Housing and Public Works has released a discussion paper titled Working Together for Better Housing and Sustainable Communities. NCWQ's Prevention of Poverty and Homelessness of Older Women project is working to formulate responses to the discussion paper to advocate for changes to improve services and support for older women who are at risk of living in poverty and facing homelessness. One area of concern is the lack of security of tenure for those people renting in the private rental market. We will advocate for a change in the regulations for the minimum term of leases to be 12 months for those seeking long term housing in the private rental market. The Department is encouraging organisations and individuals to respond to the discussion paper (submissions close 30th June) and complete the online survey at <https://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/>

Please visit our new website for information about NCWQ, our activities and coming events or like us on Facebook.

Kind regards

Lyn Buckley

Acting President



With the Federal Election being just around the corner, it is interesting to read the following extract from the Courier Mail's about Irene Longman's Campaign Launch Speech from April 1929. Mrs Longman managed to win the seat of Bulimba on 11 May 1929 and served as the Member to 11 June 1932. She was Queensland's first female candidate and first female elected to State Government. Many of the issues that she raised at the launch of her campaign at the Morningside School of Arts are still issues today: unemployment, women in politics, and government spending. Several times in Mrs Longman's address she refers to the changes and services that were implemented owing to the constant and at times long agitating of women's groups and organisations under the umbrella of NCWQ. The style of language used in Mrs Longman's campaign speech would not be considered "politically correct" today, however it was definitely "frank and fearless". Mrs Longman served as the President of NCWQ from 1920 to 1924 and changed the political face of Queensland when she powerfully graced the halls of Parliament House. Mrs Longman opened the doors to the Red Chamber for other women, she was clearly a mover and shaker and definitely a respectable radical.

HISTORIC FIGHT AT BULIMBA MRS. LONGMAN, FIRST WOMAN CANDIDATE.

Transcript from the Brisbane Courier Mail Tuesday 16 April 1929

Opening her campaign in the Morningside School of Arts last evening, Mrs. Irene Longman, the endorsed Country-National Party candidate for Bulimba, and Queensland's first Woman candidate, made a very favour-able impression on a big meeting of electors of the district. There were a large number of women Included in the gathering, which was presided over by Mr. E. Taylor.

Giving reasons why she was offering her services to the electorate and the State, Mrs. Longman declared that politics were as much the concern of women as of men, and women should be taking their share in Queensland as in many other countries, where the benefits of co-operation between the sexes were fully proved. It was impossible to have a true democracy unless women were directly represented in the Government. Women naturally understood better than men questions dealing directly with women and children and the home. At the same time, the woman's viewpoint was just as essential on all national problems. As a sex women were practical, and they had shown in public work that their judgment was by no means sentimental or ill-balanced-a fact worth remembering when the Premier of Queensland excused the errors of his Government as "being mistakes of the heart rather than of the head." Since women had organised for public welfare work they had accomplished many reforms, but it was a slow procedure. Mrs. Longman gave as instances the baby clinics, which, she stated, were advocated by women' long before they were established, and classes for backward and sub-normal children, which were started after representation on behalf of the National Council of Women. The necessity for women police in the interests of young people and for the preventive and reformatory work that they would be able to do for girls and women had been pointed out to the Government, but Queensland was still waiting for this necessary adjunct to city life. With women in the House to advocate such measures much time might be -saved and necessary reforms hastened. Had women been included in the present Government it was unlikely, continued the speaker, that the promise made by the Premier last election with regard to widows' pensions would have been shelved, to quote the Premier, "owing to the depressed state of our finances," while at the same time the raising of members' salaries cost the country £18,000, and money to the extent of over £3,500,000 was wasted on State enterprises.

It was in no spirit of antagonism that women were entering political life, she declared, but in the belief that the co-operation of men and women was essential to the welfare pf the country "We do not expect to bring about the millennium, but we do' expect to make things better," said Mrs. Longman. And a change for the better is needed in Queensland to-day. No one will deny that, unless it be Mr, Larcombe, with his childish talk of the "miracle of progress" worked by his Government. His list of "record achievements" was a tragic attempt to glorify failure. There are certain "records "attained by this Government which Mr. Larcombe failed to mention. They are record waste, record debts, record taxation, record decrease in Industry, and record unemployment." There was flamboyance about Mr. Mc Cormack's policy speech which failed to hide the poverty of attainment, went on the speaker. Reading the inflated list of "achievements" and "honoured promises," one thought that were the Weather Bureau a State, instead of a Federal department, the present Government would have taken the credit for the recent good rains out West.

Unemployment, which received, scant mention in the Government's policy speech, was the most serious feature of the present time, said Mrs. Longman. So many different estimates of the number of unemployed had been quoted that one hesitated to use figures at all. It was a suspicious fact that the Government did not make a definite announcement with regard to this. Sometimes facts were more impressive than figures. In the Bulimba electorate alone there was house after house, in street after street, where men and boys and girls were out of work. In some instances men had had no regular work for two years; others had been months without employment. There were boys who could not find jobs. Many boys of 16 and 17 years had done nothing but odd jobs ever since they left school. That young people should be cast adrift with no opportunity of obtaining regular employment, and with every opportunity to become slackers and wasters, was breaking the heart of many a mother. In 1927 there were 1311 applications for apprenticeships, and only 526 boys were able to secure positions, in Queensland at present there were good conditions for labour, good hours, good wages, regulations guarding the worker on every hand, but there was not enough work to go round. In a comparatively new State like Queensland, with its resources, there should be work for all. The condition of Industrial stagnation had been largely due to exorbitant taxation and to class legislation and administration. "Queensland needed less waste and more efficient work; greater production and better production; and the only way to achieve it was by a change of administration, which would free industry from the strangle-hold of exorbitant taxation and crippling regulations, and give investors new confidence, and encourage enterprise. The greatest enemies to Queensland were those who strove 'to set up barriers of hatred and distrust between employers and organisers of industry and the employees. Both the organisers of Industry and the employees were workers. Industry must be encouraged and assisted by the employees and by the Government as well as by those who had the ability to organise it. The scientific organisation of industry on the basis of co-operation and fair play was needed, and when that was achieved the curse of unemployment would cease to be the curse of the State. The aim of the Government, declared Mrs. Longman, should be the ideal social organisation of the State,' and not the art and science of capturing and keeping office. Legislators should be chosen who were fitted for the 'responsibilities of leadership, and not those who would be mere party hacks, following blindly in the ruts of party procedure. More honesty was needed in politics, less personal selfishness, and a finer sense of citizenship. Electors now had the opportunity of returning to power a Government that stood for sound economic conditions, for development of resources, for revival of industries, for employment for all, opportunities for all and legislation which would be fan to all sections of the community.

The Deputy-Leader of the Opposition (Mr. R. M. King, M.L.A.) also addressed the gathering, strongly supporting the candidature of Mrs. Longman. He touched upon several points in the National Party's policy, comparing them with the lack of progress which Queensland had made under the Labour Government. Several questions asked at the conclusion of the meeting were satisfactorily answered by the candidate and r. King. Mrs. Longman was introduced by the president of the Q.W.E.L. (Mrs. JH. Goldsmith), while also on the platform were Mr. J. G. Bayley, M.H.R., Mesdames W. S. Anderson, M.B.E., ex-president of the Q.W.E.L., M. A. Ogg, general secretary, and Mrs. w. G. Wilmore, one of the pioneers of women's movements in Queensland. A. R. Winden, 240 Queen-street, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/21395942>



Irene Longman (1877-1964)

June is National Bowel Cancer Awareness month and we need to be aware because Australia has one of the highest rates of Bowel Cancer in the world. With 1 in 12 Australians' diagnosed in their lifetime it is still our second biggest cause of cancer deaths.

The main risk factors for developing bowel cancer are:

- Increasing age - bowel cancer risk rises sharply from 50
- Personal history of bowel cancer or polyps
- Family history of bowel cancer
- Personal history of inflammatory bowel disease
- High alcohol consumption
- Eating lots of red meat & foods that are high in fat
- Obesity and physical inactivity
- Smoking.



SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT BOWEL CANCER? The evidence says that increasing physical activity, and improving your diet to include more dietary fibre, could reduce the incidence of bowel cancer by up to 75%. Interestingly, there is also evidence that the consumption garlic, milk and calcium probably protect against bowel cancer

The good news is that 90% of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated if detected early. Sadly, at the moment, less than 40% of cases are actually detected early.

Bowel Cancer Australia encourages all Australians from age 50, who do not have symptoms or a family history of bowel cancer, to undertake bowel cancer screening every 1 to 2 years using a non-invasive, Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT). The test kits are available from your GP or Pharmacist.

If you have risk factors for bowel cancer or if you develop bowel symptoms, such as rectal bleeding, abdominal pains, unexplained weight loss or a persistent change in your bowel habit, you should see your GP to arrange a Colonoscopy – a medical procedure that allows your doctor to examine the inside of the Colon.

So eat less meat & more fibre, stop smoking, get out an exercise & keep up to date you're your bowel screening tests, to keep your colon happy and healthy.

**Dr Erin Waters - MBBS, FRACGP, BSc, Dip Child Health
GP, Wellers Hill Medical Centre - Senior Lecturer, Griffith University
NCWQ Health Advisor**

QUEENSLAND'S WOMEN STRATEGY

Towards the end of 2015 the Office of Women called for submissions on The Queensland Women Strategy 2016-21. The four main areas that the submission focused on was

1. Participation and leadership
2. Economic security
3. Safety
4. Health and wellbeing

Submissions and ideas for the strategy were collected through InstaBooths allowing for people to provide short, sharp thoughts and ideas on their areas of concern (the best way to hear the voice on Gen Y); and through online and written surveys.

An overview of Consultation Findings can be found at <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/women/queensland-womens-strategy/consultation-findings> which will also give you access to the Queensland Women's Strategy 2016-21 document that can be downloaded and shared through your networks.

One quote from the surveys conducted echoes the thoughts of women since the early days of the Suffragette movement

Without gender equality, only half the population receives the best opportunities and therefore only half the population can participate and contribute fully to society. - Woman, 63, Everton Hills

Hopefully such quotes one day soon will be part of history because we will live in a world where "gender parity" is normal and no longer an issue.

A NEW LIFE AT MANTLE'S CLEAR BREEZE APARTMENTS

Our son is forty three years old and suffers from a schizophrenia-depressive disorder. As is the case with many with this condition it did not become manifest until his early twenties, although he had always been more difficult to manage than his elder brother and sister. Despite his difficulties he completed a mature age apprenticeship as a motor mechanic before his condition was finally diagnosed and appropriate medication brought his psychotic episodes under control, following admission to Royal Brisbane Mental Health Ward. He was unable to hold down employment and in common with many with mental illness he drifted into substance abuse which exacerbated his problems and consumed his money.



We endeavoured to provide accommodation for him during this time but his behaviour made life for us very difficult, stressful and worrying, such that on more than one occasion we had to eject him. This added to our concern as we were anxious about where he was living, his safety, and whom he was mixing with. His life was a continual anxious round of couch surfing, dependent on friends and acquaintances for a bed for the night.

Finally he acknowledged his substance abuse problem, referred himself to 'Biala', and undertook a rehabilitation programme. This has proved effective, resulting in much improved behaviour and quality of life for him. He returned home and lived with us in a generally acceptable manner. To his credit he is meticulous in taking his medication and adhering to the advice of Biala.

Meanwhile we, his parents, are in our late seventies with increasing concern for his future well-being and accommodation when we are no longer able to look out for him or provide a home. Affordable accommodation for persons on a disability pension is almost unobtainable; our son's application for Government housing has been frustrating due to very long waiting lists, the need for repeated applications and priority given to more urgent cases.

Several years ago we learned of Mantle Housing and joined the 'Friends of Mantle', doing our best with other parents to raise funds toward the objectives espoused by Mantle to build safe, affordable accommodation for persons with enduring mental illness. The realisation of Mantle's aim, in partnership with Wesley Mission Brisbane, in building fourteen units at Mitchelton has proved to be a godsend for our son and for us. Mantle Housing and Wesley Mission Brisbane's approach to the project, wherein the potential residents were involved in workshops at the early design stage to define their likes, dislikes, needs, and social setting, were imaginative and motivating for them. The resultant design has proved very satisfying for the residents.

Our son's successful application for a unit at 'Clear Breeze' Mantle apartments in Mitchelton has transformed his life. He feels secure and safe, with the chance to live the lifestyle he wishes. He greatly appreciates being able to have his own possessions around him without the worry of them being stolen, and the privacy which the unit design provides. The anxiety over where he would ever find a permanent home has been removed for him and us. He has settled in well and enjoys his new found independence. He enjoys shopping for his own particular needs at the local shops where he is known, and at the nearby Brookside Centre.

The 'Clear Breeze' apartments provide a high standard of private accommodation for the residents, with on site social worker support, and are generating a mutually caring community of residents. The location at Mitchelton is ideal offering easy access to transport, shops and community facilities, which further enhances the Clear Breeze residents feeling of well-being. Prior to residents moving into their units Mantle Housing with Wesley Mission Brisbane staged a 'Meet the Residents' street function involving local business people which ensured acceptance by local residents and businesses and helped introduce the 'Clear Breeze' residents to them.

Mantle Housing's 'Clear Breeze' apartments have transformed life for our son and for us his parents; we feel greatly indebted to Mantle Housing and Wesley Mission Brisbane.

Colin and Phillipa



QUOTA INTERNATIONAL CRAFT FAIR

July 2, 2016 at 9am—3pm

Webb Hall, Redcliffe Showgrounds, Redcliffe

Cost - \$5.00



National Council of Women of Qld
Presents

Creators of Change

Connecting the women who care to make a difference

Tuesday 16 August 2016

NCWQ's August Creators of Change will provide an opportunity for our Affiliates to promote their passions, purpose and people. Thanks to White Lady Funerals at Kelvin Grove we will be able to set up a mini expo where our Affiliates can display their banners, brochures and promote the wonderful work that they do in the community.

There will be the chance to catch up with friends and make new ones (who knows you may even be able to sign up new members)!

The event will include "On the Couch Conversation" with Dr Julie Ann Carol, Dr Lilach Avitan and Caroline Snow who will discuss the QLD Women Strategy and where will we be in 50 years and how we are to get there. Canapes and drinks will be served.

The \$50.00 for an NCWQ Affiliate Member will include tickets for two people and display area for brochures and banner. Single tickets are \$30.00. For more information please contact Annette Lourigan at alourigan@invocare.com.au



NCWQ/BGGSOGA YOUNG WOMEN'S FORUM

This year's annual NCWQ/BGGSOGA Young Women's Forum, aptly titled 'Service is in our DNA', was held earlier this month on 11th May. The YWF is a joint event hosted by the NCWQ and BGGSOGA, and one that we started in 2009 with just a small crowd of NCWQ and BGGSOGA members. It is incredibly exciting to see how the event has grown, and what professional and personal networking opportunities are available to the women who attend each year. The forum theme builds upon NCWQ and BGGS's strong focus on community service and outreach, and the role that young women can play in actively participating in and contributing to their communities around them. Each year we hear from some incredible guest speakers, 2 sourced by NCWQ and 2 from BGGSOGA, each one with her own personal and professional aspirations and achievements- but each with a common thread: a commitment to service and community in their respective areas of work and study.

This year's forum attracted a diverse and engaged crowd of 70 women, young and old. We welcomed students from Brisbane Girls Grammar School, tertiary students from Griffith University and the University of Queensland, young professionals at varying stages of their careers, and of course, key members of the NCWQ and BGGSOGA. Much to our delight, Senator Claire Moore was also able to attend.

This year's four guest speakers spoke to a diverse range of topics, including social entrepreneurship and social enterprise, micro finance, domestic and gendered violence, volunteering and international development, and the invisibility of student carers in Australia. Our speakers shared their inspiring personal and professional stories of commitment to service and community. Read more about them attached.

Our featured NGO this year was Share the Dignity, a local organisation providing homeless and at risk women nationally with sanitary products to allow them a sense of dignity at a time when they need it most.

Thanks to all those who were able to attend!

Steph Carter - Webmistress, NCWQ



Gil Dwyer has provided for us a personal insight to her Mother Joie Dwyer OAM, Honorary Life Member of NCWQ. Gil has provided a beautiful account of Joie as a Mum and influence she had over her childrens' lives.

JOIE DWYER AM: A GENEROUS, LOVING AND COMMITTED LIFE

Our mother Joie Elwyn Malone was born in Brisbane on 28 July 1924 and died on Good Friday, 25 March 2016, after a long illness. Joie's enormous contribution to community organisations over many years included a strong commitment to the NCW, recognised in the award of a Centenary Medal. Joie was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1992 in recognition of her service to the community. Since her death, there have been many tributes to this intelligent, loving and generous woman.

Mum's unusual name was chosen by her father Ted, who had served in France in the Great War. Ted never spoke of his war experience, but we believe he was treated for wounds at an aid station at Joie Farm.

Joie was a good student, excelling in maths and loving art. After one year of teacher training, she began a country school teaching career at the tender age of 17. A posting to Kalbar when she was about 20 (where she ran the Kalbar primary school for two weeks by herself, when the principal was ill) led to her meeting our father Patrick Dwyer, 15 years her senior. Family legend records a ruse involving a stray tennis ball and the verandah of her room on the first floor of the local boarding house in Kalbar. They married in January 1948.

This young city woman moved into Fassifern Homestead with no electricity, rudimentary plumbing and a wood-fired copper under the house for washing. Modernising Fassifern Homestead, where she entertained so many family members, friends and colleagues, was a life-long project. She had five children over the next 16 years, four of whom survived her.

Early attempts to integrate into a small community included a visit to the local CWA, where a very young Tim put his hand into the prize cake, discouraging any further involvement in that organisation. Undaunted mum pursued her earlier involvement in the Girl Guide movement, commencing in the role of Brown Owl, where she liked to remind her daughters of the virtue of doing good deeds. The rest as they say is history!

While mum had a long and productive life, it is difficult to imagine how she ever had the time to do all the work that she did, while also being such a caring mother, and a wonderful host to an array of visitors. Mum prepared countless meals, made almost everything we wore, including a selection of creative fancy dress outfits, and nursed us all through the inevitable childhood illnesses and Tim's occasional life-threatening adventures, with selfless care. Undertaking three degrees by correspondence, she rose at 4.30 am for years, to get in a couple of hours of study, before the rest of us got up. She zealously guarded that precious time.

As a mother she was fearlessly protective of all of her children. While she once told us that she got most of her knowledge about feminism from her children, particularly her daughters, she was a pretty good role model.

All mum's children have been enormously proud of what she has achieved in her life, and been glad that she and our father also had time to relax with their adult children. Many a night at Fassifern was spent in lively and at times quite political discussion of issues of the day and mum was very fond of debate – often taking an opposite perspective to expand the discussion. Mum and dad both brought knowledge, intelligence and a keen sense of humour to such discussions.

After Dad died suddenly in 1980 and community became the focus of her life, she also travelled to at least 40 countries, from American Samoa to Zimbabwe, on every continent, and some more than once. She had the teaspoon collection to prove it – more than 500 of them. She also had an international network of friends and extended family that would put a diplomat to shame.

One of mum's last big adventures was a journey on the Trans- Siberian Railway, made in September 2007 when she was 83. While we all knew so well that she would have hated to have become dependent, she approached the last years of her life with her characteristic grace, good humour and (while she could do it) organisation. As her NCWQ and guiding colleague Ann Fletcher wrote following a visit: It was good to see Joie looking well and happy. Of course it was sad to see such a brilliant and wonderful mind so diminished but she is obviously loved and cared for and that is how I will remember her.

The Dwyer Family



NEW CARER MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Carers Queensland, the state's peak body for supporting unpaid family carers, is delighted to announce the launch of two new resources for carers of people with mental illness.

Mental Health Resources 4 Carers is a website that aims to answer questions and provide coping support for those who are new to the mental health system in Queensland; have had a loved one unexpectedly diagnosed with mental illness or are in doubt in a caring situation.

The project is the brainchild of the Sunshine Coast Mental Health Carer Reference Group, who wanted to create a single, widely available and succinct online resource which could be accessed from any part of Queensland.

Group member Bev Tickner said the idea behind the site was to create a place where stories can be shared, questions can be asked and information can be retrieved with the touch of a button.

"We really wanted to build community knowledge and capacity to support family carers right across Queensland," she said.

"There's sometimes a feeling of distress, loneliness and burden in the carer community and we thought an online forum and a place to share stories could help in overcoming that.

"If carers don't receive assistance to help their loved ones, they won't cope themselves."

"Preserving the health of carers is crucial in having their loved ones well looked after".

The site, which was developed by and in partnership with Carers Queensland, takes carers through a 'course' in caring for persons with mental illness, is free to use and provides a platform for users to share stories and engage with others.

The SANE Carer Forum is now also available through the Carers Queensland website. Designed for carers and people with a lived experience of mental illness, the forum allows you to access peer-to-peer advice and support in a safe, online environment.

The Carer Forum will be:

- moderated and available 24/7

- anonymous

- for people to connect with others in similar situations and experiences

- can be a place to get support and advice

- can offer social connection, especially useful for those who are isolated socially or geographically

Members can post questions, answer them, and participate in discussions ranging from symptoms and treatment, to television and cooking.

Mental Health Resources for Carers - www.mhr4c.com.au

Carer Forum - <http://carersqld.asn.au/resources/mental-health>



Dust off your walking shoes and join fellow Queenslanders to walk Ks for Carers!



10 – 17 June 2016

\$10 entry fee

www.justgiving.com/carers-queensland



RECONCILING GENDER INEQUALITY FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN

It is well known and accepted that women are yet to enjoy the same liberty and equality as men in Australia. But how does this inequality affect minorities that are *already* disadvantaged by their race? For Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander women and girls, the statistics speak for themselves. The alarming facts tell a story of deeply entrenched inequity that we *cannot* omit from the conversation about gender-equality, nor *ignore* in our policy decisions to correct the gender imbalance.



For Indigenous women, their battle for equality is two-fold; because they are up against both gender and race stereotypes. Nationally, these women are **34 times more likely to be hospitalized for family violence related to assault**, and **10 times more likely to die from violent assault than other women**. Tragically, studies indicate that around 90% of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait women is not disclosed.

Within the prison system, Indigenous women are being imprisoned at a disproportionate and rapidly increasing rate and are now **the fastest growing group of prisoners in the nation**; representing one third of the prison population. Almost all Aboriginal women in prison come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Their offences are those commonly associated with extreme poverty, like non-payment of fines, shop-lifting, driving and alcohol related offences and welfare fraud. The majority of women prisoners are themselves victims of crime, with many being the survivors of physical and sexual abuse. Most women were unemployed prior to incarceration with few having completed secondary education.

“We cannot close the justice gap, the family violence gap – without closing the gender gap for Aboriginal women and girls,” Opposition Leader Bill Shorten explained while addressing the Melbourne Law School late last year.

Until these gender gaps are addressed in conjunction with other Closing the Gap targets for Indigenous peoples – including closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031), halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018), halving the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment rates (by 2020) - it's likely our nation will fall short of reaching our full potential.

But family violence and incarceration are not the only areas where Indigenous women and girls experience significant barriers to achieving equality and reaching their own full potential. They are also adversely affected by the lack of education and employment opportunities. **Only six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Straight Island female students complete secondary school**, as opposed to eight in ten for non-indigenous students.

As Sharon Davis, @IndigenousX host, explains “I see education as essential to our freedom and self-determination”.

“When it comes to the determinants of health and wellbeing, Aboriginal people draw the short straw every time. High incarceration rates, poor health, disproportionate suicide rates, and low education outcomes are, in many people's minds, our fault and synonymous with being Aboriginal”.

Reconciliation CEO Leah Armstrong says investing in Aboriginal women and girls raises the fortunes of their families, communities and, ultimately, the nation.

“We need to create the right environment which supports Aboriginal women and girls to participate in the economy and continue to maintain their family obligations and cultural connectedness. This is where reconciliation is important”.

In the 2016 State of Reconciliation in Australia Report, Patrick Dodson says, “There is a discernible lack of appreciation by settler Australia about the grievances and sense of historical injustice that Indigenous people feel. This must be addressed for Australia to be reconciled”.

Bianca Banchetti

Youth Advisor - NCWQ



If you are on Facebook don't forget to like us at
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Council-of-Women-of-Queensland-NCWQ/>

NCWQ 2016 BURSARY PROGRAM

The culmination of this year's bursary program took place on Thursday 2 June, with the presentation of the 26 bursaries on offer this year.

Our tradition continued with sponsorship and representation on Thursday of all three levels of government – Senator Claire Moore; State Parliament members Leanne Linard, MP for Nudgee representing Minister Fentiman, whose portfolio includes the Office for Women; and Tracy Davis, MP for Aspley; and Mayor Paul Pisasale, Ipswich, Mayor Keith Campbell, South Burnett, Deputy Mayor, Mike Charlton, Moreton Bay, and Councillor Vicki Howard, Central Ward, Brisbane City Council.



NCWQ feels both honoured and humbled by this level of recognition of the bursary program, as we strive to empower women in their study and career aspirations.

However, it is the recipients who are the real stars. Their stories of achievement, often paralleled by their life struggles, continue to amaze us. A mother steering her family, with all sorts of their own problems, volunteering their time to help others; leaders of their local communities, whilst teenagers themselves; dreams of education being fulfilled against the odds; stories of taking action, rather than being victims; and of success in male-dominated fields.

The 2016 program was a first with the range of educational level extending from Year 12 students now to Masters and PhD level. It was thrilling to hear of the work being done, and with such passion.

As to be expected, not all recipients or sponsors were able to attend. A video, with snippets from both sponsor and recipient, was a first, and has set a new benchmark for managing these situations.

My thanks to the bursary sub-committee and selection panel members for again putting in the work to allow such a program to happen. And to the sponsors for their generosity in allowing the bursary program to not only continue, but to flourish. The inspiration we embrace from the recipients ensures our ongoing drive towards the **NCWQ 2017 Bursary Program**.

Kathy Cavanagh

NCWQ Bursary Program Coordinator



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Simplicity Funerals
Simply Affordable.

Proud Member of InvoCare

NCWQ wish to thank Ms Grace Grace MP, Brisbane Central, for the printing of this newsletter from her office as a service to a local community organisation.

CHILDREN WITH POTENTIAL

Parent and Children's Conference

The Lakes College - 20 & 21 September 2016



This two-day conference features speakers for children and their parents followed by exciting children's workshops and seminars for parents.

A range of workshops will be on offer, with challenging activities pitched at abilities rather than age. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet other children of like mind and to establish new friendships.

The **Children With Potential** conference seeks to give children and their parents insights and self knowledge of lasting value.

REGISTER ONLINE AFTER 20 JUNE 2016

Hosted by The Lakes College and
the National Council of Women
of Queensland Inc



DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE – NOT NOW NOT EVER.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is an annual event held each May to raise community awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence. Here in Queensland we used the Not Now Not Ever message from the Special Taskforce Report into Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland. Nighttime vigils were held across the state as we remembered victims of domestic and family violence. During this years vigil in Brisbane we learned that of the 14 homicides in Queensland this year 8 have been the result of domestic and family violence, including one child.

Across Australia police deal with an estimated 657 domestic and family violence matters on average everyday. That's one every two minutes or more than 239,000 families impacted by domestic and family violence every year in Australia. In Queensland the average is 180 per day.

The cost to our economy is estimated to be between \$2.7b and \$3.2b, our police, emergency service and support workers are working day in day out to respond to calls for service involving domestic and family violence. The impact on children across our state must be horrendous.

Despite all the power of governments, police and legislation we have not as a community been able to make progress on tackling this affliction on our society. Many thousands of women and children have been murdered or harmed by most typically men who love them. We recognise men also experience violence and this is unacceptable. This is an epidemic. The prevalence of violence against women and children in Australia is a disgrace.

Kate Jenkins, the newly appointed Sex Discrimination Commission tells us the research is indisputable – gender inequality lies at the heart of domestic and family violence.

The research tells us our ideas about gender start at a very early age and these attitudes and values are very difficult to change. Our Watch defines gender inequality as the “unequal distribution of power between women and men and adherence to rigid or narrow gender roles and stereotypes”. It is the patriarchy, and all the sexist assumptions that go with it, that is the root cause or key driver of domestic violence against women.

Legislation and money are important to solving the domestic and family violence crisis but none of these can change or influence the attitudes of our children or the deeply entrenched gender narratives that exist in our society. We must all change our attitudes to gender if we are ever to make progress on domestic and family violence.

After becoming Prime Minister last September Malcolm Turnbull called for a “cultural shift” in Australia’s attitudes to women: “Let me say this to you: disrespecting women does not always result in violence against women. But all violence against women begins with disrespecting women.”

As a society:

We make excuses for boys, and subtly encourage girls to do the same.

We are sympathetic to boys’ behaviour and more suspicious of girls’.

We dismiss boys’ sexual aggression as a function of their masculinity.

We minimise the behaviour. We rationalise it.

We say:

Boys will be boys.

But it’s different for girls.

Our attitudes mean:

Boys are taught to blame circumstance for their aggression – girls to contemplate how they might have provoked it.

Boys learn by acting out – girls by simply enduring their experiences.

Boys are told it’s appropriate to defend yourself against a girl – but there isn’t a reciprocal lesson.

But we encourage girls to internalise their experiences – to imagine that the fault lay somewhere deep inside them.

We as a society have been complacent in our language and attitudes to gender. We need to challenge these embedded attitudes about gender. Perhaps one of the most alarming examples is the response to the rape of a 14 year old girl in a park at 4am in Victoria last year. What followed in the media was significant public discourse questioning what the young girl was doing out at 4am. The Detective in charge of the case challenged those commenting asking why we as a society were not questioning what the four men were doing allegedly raping a 14 year old girl. This is a shameful example of how our society values women and girls. Each of us needs to question our own deeply ingrained behaviours no matter how uncomfortable.



The Not Now Not Ever Report also talked about cultural and attitudinal change around respectful relationships. Our attitudes about women require fundamental change and that change must start with each and every one of us. Families see it, work colleagues see it, friends see it, and doctors see it. Do we stand by quietly claiming 'its not our business' or do we step out, step up and say 'Not Now Not Ever'. If we don't, we enable men who perpetuate domestic and family violence to be supported by an indulgent and unaccountable culture that blames the victim.

Gender Equality – if she can see it she can be it! A significant barrier for our society is the lack of women and diversity at decision-making levels. This affects the economic and social participation of women. We have had laws prohibiting sexual discrimination in the workplace since the 1970s year in recent years have become aware of many sexual harassment and discrimination cases including in institutions such as Defence and policing, institutions that we as a community look to for protection of the vulnerable. The Australian Defence Force Review found 1 in 4 women experienced sexual harassment while the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Review of Victoria Police revealed 40% of women had experienced sexual harassment which for many was an everyday occurrence, that there was a culture of silence and a stigma attached to reporting, that there was at all levels, attitudes that minimised and excused sex discrimination and sexual harassment. The Review also found the lack of women at supervisory ranks and above reflected barriers to women that operated at every part of the system.

It is 2016! How is this still happening? It is abundantly clear this is a community wide problem with deeply ingrained attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality. We must shift these attitudes if we are to make progress on gender equality and on violence against women.

There are structural impediments to gender equality and gender stereotypical attitudes that are holding us back. We must change the norms in our families, workplaces and communities that work against gender equality. We need to broaden the public discussion and our narrative to engage everyone.

Notwithstanding that Queensland has more than 50% of women in the Governments cabinet, women in Queensland remain significantly underrepresented in management levels right across the public, private and community sectors and government. The wage gap remains at 18%, the worst in the nation. Women are overrepresented as victims of domestic and family violence and underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles. Domestic Violence and gender inequality restricts women's full participation in society. It costs our society enormously from both the social and economic aspects.

Representation matters. Our leaders must be representative of the communities they serve as clients, customers or constituents. Without diversity in our leadership we have a lack of diversity in decision-making and the ideas and attitudes are skewed by one point of view. The ideas of women as half of the population must be considered if we are to make progress on tackling domestic and family violence in our community.

Gender equality will never be achieved without women have meaningful and truly representative roles in leadership and decision-making. We must remove the obstacles and barriers to women's participation and leadership both visible and invisible. We must do more than deliver education and awareness campaigns. It is true, achieving gender equality requires strong and visible government commitment as well as commitment from business, industry and the community. However that commitment must translate to actions and measureable outcomes if we are to make progress on eradicating domestic and family violence and enhancing our capacity as a state to realise our economic and social potential.

Virginia Nelson

Please join NCWQ and FORUM Communicators for a

BE CONFIDENT WORKSHOP on MODERN MEETINGS

PRESENTED BY: members of the FORUM State Committee

PROGRAM:

- Running a Modern Meeting
- The role of the leaders
- Q&A: Meeting procedures
- Speaking made easy



A workshop designed to help you get the most out of your meetings.

Location: Queen Alexandra Community Centre 347 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo

RSVP: JULY 1

Register at: www.trybooking.com/LMPD

Contact: Michelle Ehmann
mehmann.ncwq@gmail.com

forum
BE CONFIDENT
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS 1941-2016

SATURDAY
JULY 9, 2016
INVITATION

10am - 2pm
\$20

Includes a light lunch