



**NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc**

*Dedicated to the Advancement of Women and Their Families*

**PATRON: Hon Kerry Sanderson AO**

**VICE PATRON: Janet Davidson OAM JP**

**PRESIDENT: Marion Ward**

**SECRETARY: Helen McDonagh**

**TREASURER: Sally Warner**

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## President's Message

April 2016



Dear Members

**T**he NCWA teleconference was held early in the month with matters discussed and work held over for directors to complete and return to the Board. Of interest is the decision of the President of NCWQ Annette Lourigan to run for the Senate at the next election. This has brought about the need for her to vacate the presidency until the result of the election is known. The Board wished her well in her endeavors.

On invitation from our Associate member Senator Linda Reynolds I attended a function to participate in the Women in Cabinet Networking Series. This function was held in the premises of Jackson McDonald (Lawyers) and we welcomed Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne and Minister for Employment and Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash. It is usual for us to see the Ministers on TV in parliamentary debate, very serious and controlled, however on this occasion the presentation was made so enjoyable by the humorous comments and banter which passed between the four MP's.

Affiliate member, Mothers Union held their Observance of Lady Day on 5 April. We gathered in the glorious chapel of St Mary and St George which stands in the grounds of Guildford Grammar School. My thanks for your invitation to attend and join with you on this very important day in the calendar of the Mothers Union.

With Jan Rose I attended WA in the Spotlight workshop – exploring the Wealth Divide: Social Impacts across the Life Course. Sponsored by Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre and attended by over 60 people. The presenters and panelists were

Helen Hodgson Associate Professor,  
Curtin Law School, Curtin University.  
Garth Kendall Senior Lecturer, School of  
Nursing and Midwifery  
Trish Langdon Chief Executive Officer  
COTA WA  
Maurice Swanson Chief Executive Heart  
foundation WA

A summary and report of this event is available in our office.

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At our recent general meeting we were privileged to hear of the work of a group of compassionate people, Angelhands. Dr Anne O'Neil gave the, at times, quite confronting presentation and she told of the assistance needed by people who have been affected by crime, homicide and personal violence. I am aware that we have members who carry a burden of grief because of such actions and my thoughts were with you during the presentation.

The meeting attracted a large attendance and I was able to introduce our new Associate member Maryse Aranda, also Viv Glance the Greens candidate for Curtin and NCWWA Intern Monica Viviani. Monica has recently completed a report for Council, where she has examined "Indigenous women and their incarceration for minor crime". Thank you Monica, for your hours of research and thought which is reflected in this report. Monica is a Communications student at Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley Campus.

Marion Ward



## GOVERNMENT HOUSE



### OPEN DAY

*Sunday 15 May 2016*

*Gates open from 11.00am until 3.00pm*

*Self-Guided House Tours*

*Book early for 'Meet the Gardener Tour' or 'Cellar Tour' – (08) 9429 9199*

*Refreshments for purchase*

*For further information: [www.govhouse.wa.gov.au](http://www.govhouse.wa.gov.au)*

## AFFILIATE NEWS

### Australian Family Association



**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

*Meet 6.45pm for*

*7pm start, outside*

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL**

*Respite, CENTRAL PARK*

*(cnr Hay & Willam Sts)*

**8pm PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

*9pm finish*

*The National Council of Women of WA respects the opinions of all women and supports their right of self determination.*




### CSW60 - Themes and issues

As CSW got underway on the 14 March, SI took a look at the themes of this year's Commission on the Status of Women and explored the big issues surrounding the empowerment of women and the eradication of gender violence.



### SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL





**Eliminating Violence Against Women & Girls**

To eradicate gender-based violence everywhere, women and girls should be empowered so their needs drive laws and policy. Equal access to justice is essential to victims and survivors - it is possible to bring an end to this human rights violation.

**No woman or girl has to live with the effects of violence.**

[sorooptimistinternational.org](http://sorooptimistinternational.org)

 Soroptimist Global
 

 @SoroptiTweet

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

## April 2016

3.

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Adviser : *Robyn Nolan*



As you all would be aware there are a wide-ranging number of important consumer affairs issues which may have an impact on the community. On this occasion I am reporting on the following:

#### ***Changes to Australia Post:***

On 4 January 2016 Australia Post increased the price of regular stamps from 70 cents to \$1 and introduced a new two-speed postage service. Australians are now sending 1.4 billion fewer letters a year than they were in 2008. A fifty cent charge will be for the priority service which will remain the former delivery timetable and regular letters will be delivered up to two days slower. The concession stamp price will be frozen at 60 cents for 5.7 million concession card holders and the Christmas stamp price will be frozen at 65 cents for all Australians. Posties will continue to deliver mail five days a week to almost all Australians (around 98% of delivery points).

#### ***Refunds and Returns:***

“No refund” signs are unlawful. A supplier or manufacturer must not tell a consumer that a consumer guarantee does not exist, may be excluded or may not have a particular effect. A consumer has a right to a refund when there is a major problem with something purchased. Stores cannot take away your right as a consumer by claiming they have a “no refund” policy or displaying a “no refund” sign. This also applies to online stores’ refunds and return policy. The following signs are against the law:

“No refund”, “No refund on sale items”, “No refunds after seven days”, “Refunds on unworn items only”, “We will only exchange, repair or give credit notes”.

*Signs which state “No refunds will be given if you change your mind” are acceptable.*

#### ***Do Not Call Register now Permanent for registration of telephone numbers:***

Western Australians and all Australians wanting to opt out of unsolicited telemarketing calls on the Do Not Call Register for registered numbers are now permanent. For anyone wanting to opt out of unsolicited telemarketing calls all new registrations will be permanent. Under previous arrangements registrations of numbers expired after eight years. The register is not however designed to stop or reduce scam calls, as such West Australians are encouraged to be cautious when receiving unsolicited calls. To register telephone numbers on the Do Not Call register contact 1300 792 958 or [www.donotcall.gov.au](http://www.donotcall.gov.au).

#### ***Bulk Billing Incentive for Pathology tests:***

There are no changes proposed regarding the Medicare rebates patients are entitled to for pathology tests. The Medicare rebate for the most commonly claimed pathology item, a set of five common blood tests for liver and kidney function or checking cholesterol levels, is currently \$15.05. From 1 July 2016 the Medicare rebate for this item remains unchanged at \$15.05.

The Medicare rebate for pathology tests for pap smears remains unchanged.

The proposed changes announced in MYEFO simply relate to an inefficient payment- worth between \$1.40 and \$3.40- which is paid directly to pathology corporations and is separate to the Medicare rebate.



### **Subsidised Dental Care**

In November 2015 the Commonwealth Government allocated additional Commonwealth funding for the provision of adult dental care to patients with a valid Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card. This National Partnership Agreement (NPA) is running until 30 June 2016 with the goal of improved access to dental treatment for these patients. Patients can call the Western Australia Department of Health's Dental Health Services (DHS) from Monday to Friday on 08 9313 0652 or 08 9313 0656 to check eligibility and register for treatment. The greatest capacity for treatment is in the metropolitan area. In country regions without a public dental clinic, they will be directed to the closest participating private dental practice. Costs will vary according to treatment but care will be subsidised up to a maximum of 75% of their total account by the West Australian Government

### **The Elder Relationship Service**

The launch of a new counselling and mediation service aims to help support families deal with the complex issues of ageing. It is run by Relationships Australia, supported by Federal Government funding, and was launched in January 2016. Initially the service will run as a pilot for 12 months in Canberra ACT, Wagga Wagga NSW, Kew VIC, Adelaide SA, Launceston TAS and Moreton Bay QLD. It will be staffed by trained counsellors and mediators with specific skills in elder services. Family conflict emerges around significant health issues, where older parents will live or how estates will be divided. Families will be supported to plan for future medical, health, financial or living arrangements and make decisions that protect the interests, rights and safety of all family members

### **Rural and Remote Issues**

Myriad social and economic issues in rural and remote areas are combining to seriously challenge the provision of aged care services, which providers say needs to be reflected in better policy.

Consumer Directed Care (CDC) has increased choice for consumers but the reality in rural and remote areas was often limited choice.

Travel and fuel costs plus additional time for staff to travel must be met within the overall budget

allocated to each individual care recipient, and disadvantages those who live further away from their provider and town. Aged care recipients in rural and remote areas generally have lower financial means which influences availability of accommodation deposits. There are also skill shortages for direct care staff in rural and remote areas. Staffing and related costs are higher, including higher wages to attract staff, additional recruitment costs, relocation costs and increased training and professional development.

### **Residents' Mental Health Needs Ignored**

Leading mental health experts and seniors groups have panned the Federal Government's new mental health reforms for failing to address the needs of older people and those living in residential aged care.

In late November, the Minister for Health, Sussan Ley, also the Minister for Aged Care, unveiled sweeping changes to Australia's mental health system. A new Digital Mental Health Gateway will be developed, however the government's 26-page document outlining the reforms contained no mention of seniors, older people or aged care. This is despite longstanding calls for improved access to mental health services for older people, particularly residents. Currently, older people living in residential aged care are excluded from Medicare-funded psychology services, yet studies show that more than half of permanent aged care residents have symptoms of depression and CALD residents show even higher rates of moderate or major depression.

### **Senior Australian of the Year 2016**

Professor Gordian Fulde, Director of Emergency at St Vincent's Hospital and Sydney Hospital for more than three decades, has been named as Senior Australian of the Year. Gordian is passionately outspoken about the scourge of 'ice' and alcohol-fuelled violence which delivers a flood of people into Australian hospitals each weekend. He is also involved in teaching and training students and staff in many facets of emergency medicine. Gordian also shares his stories of working in an urban warzone, and warning of the dangers of a binge drinking culture, which is overwhelmingly the main cause of injury in Australia's emergency departments.

## MASS MEDIA

Adviser: Gwen Roderick



*This report was written by NCWA Mass media adviser May Hu. Gwen Roderick, NCWWA Mass media adviser, thought it would be of interest to our readers and it is printed here for your information, with May's permission.*

### **This Quarterly Report on Mass media**

focuses on Internet and Social Media Scams.

Most people have an endless deluge of spam, scams, fraud attempts or hoax messages in their emails every day and on the website they visit on the internet. It seems that despite all the antivirus tools you employ and the attempts by the browser provider to block the junk some always gets through. This means that you have to have a way of recognising it and dealing with it. The tricksters and internet criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated with lots of new tricks and strategies to deceive you. Some are even masquerading as Virus detection tools or system error tools, system updates or Software Upgrades. Some are very good at generating the 'look and feel' of legitimate websites such as your online bank or PayPal. The worst scams, fraud, identity theft and social media risks happen to online banking and dating website.

### **Online banking SMS scam snares victims with fake websites**

According to The Age (10 Feb 2016), a proliferous SMS phishing scam is catching victims by directing them to fake websites which look identical to those of real Australian banks, and then capturing their private banking login details.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has [listed dozens of fake URLs](#), many of which are similar to those of genuine online banking sites but with added words or letters such as "mobile", "m" or "mobi". The ACMA issued an alert in 10 February for "all mobile phone users" in Australia and New Zealand after receiving numerous victims' reports via the ACMA's SMS spam reporting number.

The banks that are known to have been targeted in the scam are ANZ, Bank of Queensland, Bendigo, GE Money, Heritage, Macquarie, National Australia Bank, St George and Suncorp. The ACMA said the scammers were progressively targeting different banks. Anyone who thinks they have been sent a scam text message can notify the ACMA on 0429 999 888.

### **\$22.7 million lost to dating scams in 2015**

Nowadays, online dating perhaps is the most dangerous affair. It could steal personal identities, unveil privacy, as well as cheat for money. This Valentine's Day, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is warning the online dating community to watch out for any love interest that asks for money. Last year, 2,620 Australians reported losing almost \$23 million to dating and romance scams to the ACCC.

The Age reported on 12 February that the [ACCC's Scam Disruption Project](#) has sent over 6,000 letters asking individuals who sent money to high risk jurisdictions to reconsider sending money offshore. 75 per cent of those people who received these letters ceased sending money for at least six weeks.

If online dating sites don't have advice about safe dating practices, then consumers should carefully consider whether those sites have their best interests at heart.

If you think you have fallen victim to a fraudster, contact your bank or financial institution immediately and report it to [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

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#### **Note from the editor:**

*In March I was scammed by a group calling themselves **Telstra Team Support**. I had been expecting contact from Westnet or Telstra in response to many months of complaints regarding our internet speed. So they had me completely fooled!*

*Beware!! They are crooks!!!*



# FOUNDERS DAY 21 APRIL 2016

To celebrate FOUNDERS DAY 2016, the history Book of National Council of Women of Australia, **RESPECTABLE RADICALS** was presented to the State Library WA by NCWWA President Marion Ward. Prior to the presentation a group of members enjoyed a most interesting and informative tour of the WA State Library conducted by our Guide Carina. Carina had also organized a collection of fascinating NCWWA archival material displayed for perusal by the group.



The tour group looking at historical maps of WA



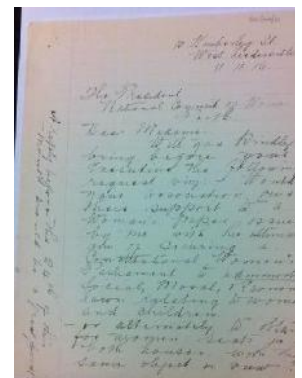
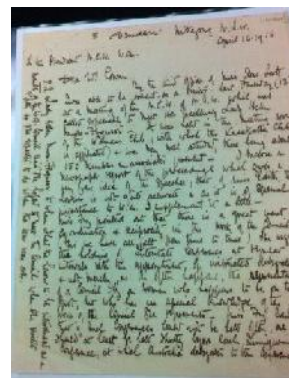
The presentation of Respectable Radicals by Life Member Gwen Roderick and President Marion Ward



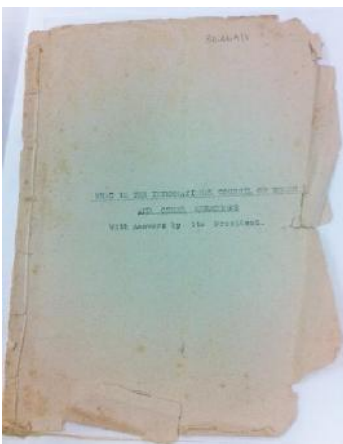
The NCWWA group with FOUNDERS DAY "birthday" card



The layout of NCWWA archival material as it was displayed



LETTERS TO: L. Edith Cowan 16/4/16 and R. The President 11/11/16



(L) A publication titled

**"WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AND OTHER QUESTIONS"**

"With Answers by its President" 1912

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Constitution and bylaws 1911



To further appreciate these archival documents you may need to zoom in on your computer. They are fascinating reading.



A reference document on

**THRIFT**  
THE NATIONAL NECESSITY

**DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING**



MAY  
23  
1.00pm

Monday 23 May 2016

1.00 pm

Rod Evans Community Centre  
160 Hay St East Perth

**Guest Speaker**



**Rayna Lamb**

*President WWDA National Management Committee Rayna Lamb has lived with disabilities since birth. In 2003, she established a network of women with disabilities in Perth which evolved into the community based organisation **Women With Disabilities WA Inc**, which she still runs on a voluntary basis. She has also worked with mainstream women's groups and organisations to educate them around issues that face women with disabilities. As a result of her own experiences she is particularly passionate about raising awareness about women with disabilities who are victims of family and domestic violence, and finding ways to reduce the isolation of women with*



In addition **Richard Appleton**

Will speak to us about the

**Threat Project**

**A personal security app for the smart phone**

See flyer on the next page

*ATTACHMENT 1. is a copy of the letter written to the Hon Peter Collier MLC Minister for Education, regarding the **SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION PROGRAM**. Readers may find the content interesting.*

[www.ncwwa.org.au](http://www.ncwwa.org.au)



**Anzac Day 25 April 2016**

Cecilia Brooke,  
Delegate for Affiliate Member  
**WA Liberal Women's Council**  
will make the wreath for NCWWA  
and present it at the  
**South Perth War Memorial**  
In memory of all the women  
who lost their lives in the conflict of war.



**FUNDRAISING**

**MOVIE**

*(note change of movie)*

**Florence Foster Jenkins**



MAY  
22  
3.30pm

**Sunday 22 May  
3.30pm**

**Cygnnet Theatre, Preston St, Como  
\$18 per person**

*The story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress who dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice.*

*A fizzy, funny, period dramedy with top-notch performances, Florence Foster Jenkins doesn't take many risks but it's a very entertaining experience.*

*And yes, she was bad.*

**Starring: Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant**

**Tickets:** Email: [ncwwa@inet.net.au](mailto:ncwwa@inet.net.au)

Ph: 6161 9991

# We're right by your side

Protect yourself 24/7 with Safe Haven, the app that turns your smartphone into a powerful personal security device.



**Safe Haven**  
by Threat Protect



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## Guaranteed personal response

Because your friends, family or colleagues may not always get the message in the event of an emergency, Safe Haven is monitored around the clock from our Australian Standards approved central control room. Your alert will not be handled by a computer or automated system, but by a trained operator, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If your situation is not resolved by speaking to our staff or through your contact network, a licensed security guard can be sent to your location.



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Safe Haven offers a range of packages for different needs and levels of protection. Custom packages are available for businesses of all sizes. Safe Haven is used by small and large organisations alike to secure their employees. Essential for shift-workers, night-staff, couriers and front-line personnel.





## **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF W.A. Inc.**

*Affiliated with National Council of Women of Australia and International Council of Women*



PATRON: Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia  
 VICE PATRON: Cr Janet Davidson OAM JP PRESIDENT: Marion Ward SECRETARY: H. McDonagh ACTING TREASURER: S Warner

18 April 2016

The Hon Peter Collier MLC  
 Minister for Education  
 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Dumas House  
 2 Havelock Street  
 WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

As you are aware the Federal government announced changes to the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program on Friday 18 March 2016 after a review of the program by Professor Bill Louden identified numerous shortcomings that needed to be addressed. The review of the program was instigated by the Federal Education Minister after significant community outrage.

NCWWA is concerned that the changes announced by the Federal Education Minister could take time to implement and as such is concerned that the program will continue to be available to students in a number of schools.

It has also been announced by the Victorian Government that the program will continue to be available in its current form to Victorian government schools and that if the Federal Government refuses to continue to fund the program the funding will be provided by the Victorian Government.

NCWWA is very concerned that the program is still available in its current form to some WA schools. As Minister for Education I am writing to you to request that the program be withdrawn for use in WA schools until the changes are fully implemented and that under no circumstances should the WA Government fund the program under similar lines to the proposal by Victoria.

While NCWWA understands that there are now a number of government independent schools in Western Australia such a program in its current form, given the significant community outrage must have the proposed changes fully implemented before further use.

These changes include:

- Fix the content of the program resources
- Address concerns about third party links, advocacy and materials in resources
- Limit the distribution of certain materials
- Align the location of resources with other inclusion, support, tolerance and anti-bullying measures by housing official resources only on the official Australian Government Safe Schools Hub web-site
- Ensure parents are appropriately empowered and engaged

NCWWA awaits your understanding regarding this very important matter involving our most precious resource, our children.

Yours sincerely

Marion Ward  
 President NCWWA