



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

## National Council of Women Queensland Inc. September 2019 Newsletter

### NCWQ Annual General Meeting

**President**

Chiou See Anderson

**Secretary**

Avril Kent

**Treasurer**

Paula Ivanovic

**Recording Secretary**

Noela O'Donnell AM

**State Co-ordinator**

Pat Pepper

**Newsletter Editor**

Steph Carter

**Website**

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

**Email**

[info@ncwq.org.au](mailto:info@ncwq.org.au)

**Bursary Information**

[bursaries@ncwq.org.au](mailto:bursaries@ncwq.org.au)

**Postal Address**

PO Box 6128,  
Woolloongabba,  
QLD 4102

**Telephone**

0414 771 736  
ABN 43 025 349 777

**Acknowledgement to  
Hon Jackie Trad South  
Brisbane Electorate for  
the kind provision of  
printing services**

The 114<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc. (NCWQ) was held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Brisbane.

Preceding the meeting we heard from Guest Speaker Judy Menary, Executive Principal, Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE). Judy, the first female in this role, spoke to us on the importance of education, especially for girls. The education model has changed from the days of correspondence school, with the school now having a fixed time table, like the regular schools, encouraging participation with the other members of the class. The classes are recorded so if a student is absent, access to the on-line class is available to them.

Judy shared with us the importance of relationships with students and the staff. The mission of the BSDE is to provide highly engaging learning opportunities with a focus on Each Student Succeeding through Innovation, Inspiration and Inclusion. Judy's presentation highlighted the work of the school. Our thoughts turned back to those significant teachers that we were fortunate to have experienced in our own education.

During the AGM Pat Burgess, Irene Cayas OAM and Erin Cunningham were all acknowledged for their contribution to NCWQ.

Pat Burgess has held NCWQ positions since 1997 when she was both Youth Adviser and a member of the then Executive Committee. She served as president for two terms - from 2002 to 2004 and again from 2008 to 2011. In the interim her roles included Recording Secretary, State Coordinator and Country Branch secretary. Pat convened the Parents' and Children with Potential Conference for a period of 4 years. Pat stood down from the NCWQ Management Committee last year.

Irene Cayas OAM did not seek re-election this year having served NCWQ well as a member of the Executive/Management Committee since 2008



Erin was acknowledged as the recipient of the inaugural NCWA Encouragement Award. Both Pat and Irene were thanked for their long contribution and Erin congratulated on her award.

The formality of the Election of Office Bearers and Committee took place with the following results:

PRESIDENT	Chiou See Anderson
VICE-PRESIDENT	Noela O'Donnell AM
VICE-PRESIDENT	Kirsty Miron
SECRETARY	Avril Kent
TREASURER	Paula Ivanovic
RECORDING SECRETARY	Noela O'Donnell AM
STATE COORDINATOR	Dr Pat Pepper

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Bursary Program Coordinator: Kathy Cavanagh

Supre Paleyanda Ponnappa

Saalihah Seedat

Sandy Smith

In accordance with our By-laws, Kirsty Miron, as Coordinator of the NCYWQ sub-committee is a Vice President of NCWQ.

The 2019 – 2020 Management Committee looks forward to the upcoming year as we continue the work of many others before us.



## 2019 NCWQ Bursary Program Presentations

By Kathy Cavanagh

The highlight of the bursary program is always the presentation function and this year was no exception. I think I can borrow those "best ever" words.

Held on Tuesday, 23 July, at Brisbane Girls' Grammar School, the Barbara Fielding Room was filled with about 130 people to share in the event. The awarding of inaugural bursaries is always special, and we thank those new sponsors for their participation. Most new sponsors are affiliated organisations of NCWQ.



2019 Bursary Recipients attending the presentation on Tuesday 23 July

Coming from a diverse range of fields of study; area of residency; cultural background; and possible disabilities, recipients continue to WOW us. Their stories are so heart-warming and their achievements thus far, astounding. We are amazed at some of their accomplishments, and then hear that they are only 18.

At times I doubt there was a dry eye in the house. The word I am told so much in feedback is "inspiring".

As Bursary Program Coordinator, my thanks go to Team Bursary – now almost 30 strong – who attend to managing, selecting, and communicating with the all the applicants. And a big Thank You to the sponsors – you enable the program to continue. Plans are already underway for NCWQ Bursary Program 2020, with more details in the December newsletter.

For more information, or if you are interested in being a member of Team Bursary 2020, please contact Kathy Cavanagh, Bursary Program Coordinator at [bursaries@ncwq.org.au](mailto:bursaries@ncwq.org.au) or phone 0407 117 378.

## Getting to know Supre Ponnappa: 2018 Office for Women 'Return to Work' Bursary Recipient



The Office for Women 'Return to Work' Bursary Recipient, Ms. Supre Ponnappa is a young scientist in STEM, aspiring to contribute to the field of biosensors. She has been recently awarded "**Higher Degree Research Student Award 2019**" in August by Science and Engineering Faculty, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.

As a Materials Scientist Supre Ponnappa has developed and used a simple technique for synthesizing polymers called "Electropolymerization". In this method, a polymer film is deposited on the electrode surface by applying current. The obtained polymer films are used for detecting nucleic acids and the mi-RNA from the novel ovarian cancer cell. This work has great potential to open us a new generation of biosensors, which, is targeted for early cancer

detection. So far she has published 3 first-author papers and 1 co-author papers in the peer-reviewed Journal and recently one of her paper on "Detection of nucleic acid by newly synthesized Naphthalene based polymer film" has been published as **a Cover Page article in the Journal "Polymer Chemistry"** Impact factor (4.9) **in July 2019**, and has gained enormous attention in the field of Bioelectronics community.

She has also involved in volunteering "Share the Dignity; It's in the bag" by collecting the bags across universities as a part of NCYWQ. She was also the keynote speaker in the Redlands Cancer Council AGM 2018, for creating awareness about "Early Cancer Detection using Biosensors". She has volunteered to fundraise for a child affected by leukemia, and for women who are the victims of acid attacks in the developing countries.

## Vales and Awards from the Annual General Meeting

### VALES

**Beryl Llewellyn** (Quota International) 15 June 2018, **Jean Vallis** (BGGSOGA) 15 August 2018

### AWARDS

**Erin Cunningham** recipient of the inaugural NCWA Encouragement Award for a member of less than five years, making a significant contribution to the success of NCWA through her Constituent Council. October 2018

**Madison Birtchnell** 2018 Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Award

**Dr Donnell Davis** SIMNI 2019 International Community Volunteer – March 2019

**Elise Stephenson** Young Australians in International Affairs (YAIA) named Elise Stephenson as one of 25 IWD 2019 Young Women to Watch in International Affairs. 8 March 2019

**Madison Birtchnell** Soroptimist International Seven News Young Achievers Awards QLD semi-finalist – May 2019

**Taylor Birtchnell** Soroptimist International Beenleigh Stella Rickhoff Award – July 2019

## Assistance to support refugee families

- *Soroptimist International*

Soroptimist International (SI) Brisbane Club is seeking to partner with other community minded clubs working to support people in Brisbane. As an organisation, Soroptimist International promotes the improvement of the lives of women and girls with consistent human rights and empowerment and enabling opportunities.

A donation from your club and several other clubs, added to SI Brisbane \$1000 donation, could make a huge difference to assist people with limited or no income seeking safety and human rights having fled danger.

The Romero Multicultural Hub is sponsored by Mercy Community Services. Romero Centre has many families coming to them for support who have no income at all, and no place to live. These people have to apply to the court for residency, and await decisions, often taking extended periods of time. The refugees have to prove they are vulnerable and have no money and have no work rights and no support. Given their status, they are not eligible for any Centrelink support. Romero at present has over 1000 people in that category.

Housing support is a big problem, as the refugees do not have any, or enough income to pay rent, cannot get a lease, and struggle to pay for electricity and other household bills. Currently there are 334 women accessing services, a number which does not include female children. In the last four months the centre has housed 20 homeless females. Romero has some accommodation, and is currently supporting 34 people in accommodation, and has one support worker who works 10 hours per week.

Romero is seeking financial assistance to extend the hours of that support worker. No additional government funding is available for this purpose.

Several clubs and organisations are being requested to support this initiative. If twelve (12) clubs donated \$500 each there would be money to provide increased support to 30 families per year. It is recognised the need for a support worker will be ongoing, however, at this stage we are focusing only on the year ahead.

**The direct bank account for your donation is the Romero Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is:  
BSB: 064-000: Account Number: 14741507: Account Name: Mercy Community Services SEQ Limited: Reference: Romero Housing Worker**

Tax deductible receipts will be provided to individual donors/clubs by sending a receipt request, to the Manager of the Mercy Centre fundraising advising of the donation direct to the above bank account at [Khatra.Nekzad@mercyys.org.au](mailto:Khatra.Nekzad@mercyys.org.au)

SI Brisbane has requested to have 6 monthly brief/report to demonstrate how the funds are spent. To receive copies of this report please email: [sibrisbane@siswp.org](mailto:sibrisbane@siswp.org)

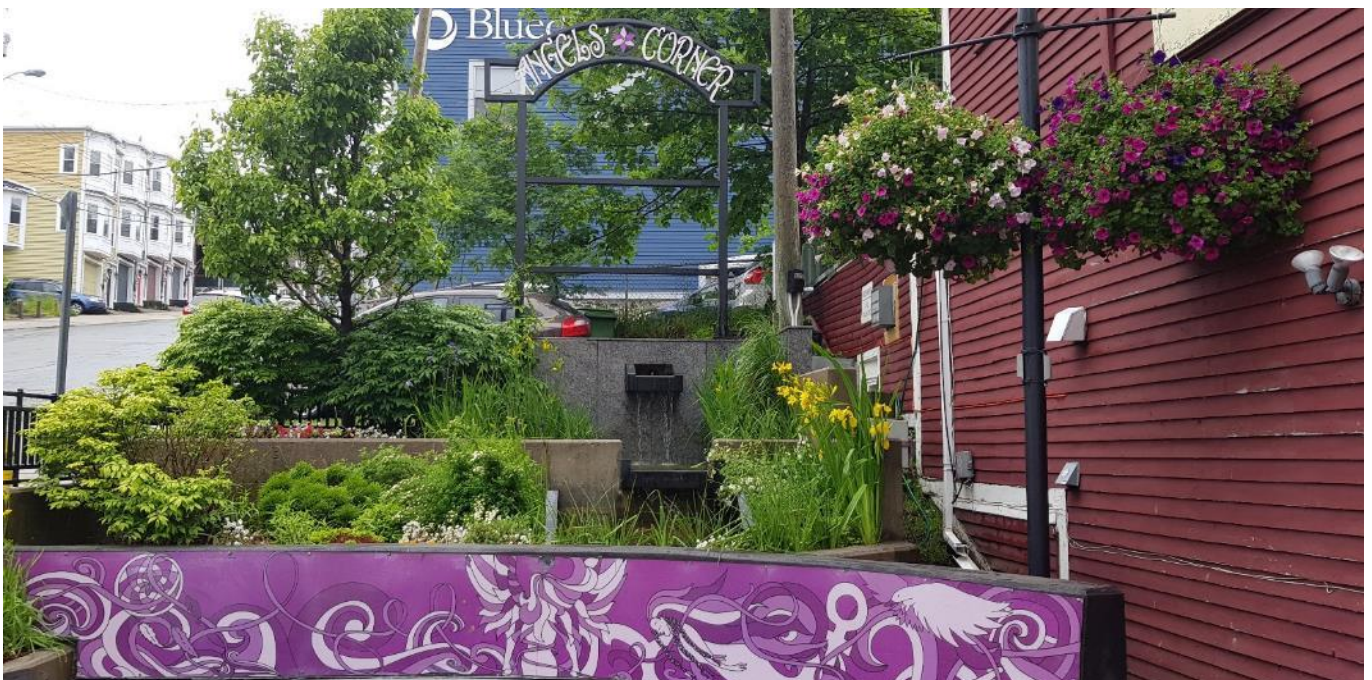
Should you have any questions and your club is willing and able to support this worthwhile cause, please contact the Romero Centre Manager, Beata Ostapiej-Piatkowski on 3013 0100 or mobile 0438 112 076 or email: [beata.ostapiej-piatkowski@mercyys.org.au](mailto:beata.ostapiej-piatkowski@mercyys.org.au)

## Learn more about Angels Corner

Angels Corner shines a light on the violence and abuse faced by women in our society. It stands as a reminder of women who have lost their lives to violence and of the help available for women living with violence and abuse. Angels Corners is a place of reflection on the past and hope for a society free from violence against women.

Angel streets, crescents squares and corners are being developed all across their country as a reminder that violence and abuse are unacceptable and that respect, fairness and equality are the rights of all citizens.

The photograph shows Angels Corner which was established in the heart of downtown St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada to remind all that we have a role to play in ending violence and abuse against women and instilling positive change in the community.



## Communicating Australia's Aid Program in Indonesia

*For the past two and a half years, Steph Carter, NCWQ's Newsletter Editor, has been working as Communications Manager for the Innovation for Indonesia's School Children (INOVASI) program, based in Jakarta, Indonesia. In this role, Steph has managed a team of 7 communications specialists and officers in the implementation of INOVASI's communications strategy and DFAT's public diplomacy objectives.*

The INOVASI program is a unique one for DFAT, using an approach called 'Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation', developed by Harvard University, to guide pilot design and

implementation. Working across 17 partner districts and four partner provinces, including North Kalimantan, East Java, West Nusa Tenggara and Sumba Island in East Nusa Tenggara, INOVASI partners with thousands of schools and teachers. By piloting a number of different approaches to improved education quality, it is hoped that the program can help increase basic learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy, for early grade students in diverse classrooms across Indonesia. Key issues that INOVASI tackles at the classroom level include community and parental engagement, numeracy and literacy, multi-grade teaching, school leadership, mother language transition, inclusive education, assessment and teacher working groups. In her role as Communications Manager, Steph manages a range of areas, including INOVASI's digital platforms and strategy, media engagement at the sub-national, national and global levels, content development, public diplomacy, event management, and advocacy and policy engagement.

Earlier this year, Steph published a blog on INOVASI's mother language transition work with DevPolicy blog. It is republished below and provides insights into some of the education challenges facing countless Indonesian children.

### ***Improving learning for local language speakers in Eastern Indonesia***

For an estimated 221 million school aged children around the world who are without access to schooling in their local language, the challenge of delivering linguistically and culturally inclusive education could not be more important.

In Indonesia, one of the most linguistically diverse nations in the world, the constitution mandates Bahasa Indonesia as the sole language of instruction in formal education – a decision driven by national unity and identity. Although the constitution does allow for local languages to be used in a supplementary sense during the early grades, few teachers are trained in appropriate teaching methodologies for second language acquisition. Furthermore, many local languages in Indonesia do not have a standardised alphabet or existing learning materials.

The Australian Government funded [Innovation for Indonesia's School Children](#) (INOVASI) program is working to address this issue through selected pilots in [West Nusa Tenggara](#) and East Nusa Tenggara.

#### **Learnings from Bima**

Planning for INOVASI's first language and learning pilot commenced in August 2017 in Bima, a remote district of West Nusa Tenggara. Learning from the pre-pilot phase, which we reflected on [here](#), a full pilot got underway in 2018. From the pool of teaching strategies tested in the pre-pilot, the 'language bridge' method emerged as most effective with partner teachers. This sees the gradual process of language transition, first using local language Bahasa Mbojo as the language of classroom instruction, and then gradually introducing Indonesian. After this, Indonesian is used during all lessons, usually by Grade 3. The existence of some written materials and an alphabet in Bahasa Mbojo supported the decision to use a language bridge approach, with supplementary strategies including reading corners, classroom wall dictionaries to improve vocabulary, and constant teacher reflection.



*Ibu Nurdiana, a teacher involved in the INOVASI Bima pilot, teaches strategies for language and learning in the classroom*

### **Improving literacy and learning for local language speakers in East and Southwest Sumba**

In Sumba, a remote island in Eastern Indonesia, INOVASI is also experimenting with differing approaches to the issue of local language use in early grade classrooms. All four Sumba districts scored well below the national test average in reading, mathematics and science, and all districts face issues of remoteness, low teaching competency, and high prevalence of local languages in homes and communities.

Two pilots are underway in Southwest Sumba and East Sumba. While the East Sumba pilot is similar to the Bima experience, in Southwest Sumba there is the additional challenge of no written language. As such, the pilot approach has also focused on the orthographic development of the Kodi language.

Kodi (pronounced 'kod-hi' by native speakers) is actively used by 20,000 speakers across Indonesia's Southwest Sumba district. It is the second largest ethnic language in Southwest Sumba after Wewewa.

Since late 2018, INOVASI has partnered with the Summer Institute of Languages (Suluh Insan Lestari – SIL) to pilot their Bloom book approach to support local language literacy learning. While language transition remains a core focus - given national language requirements - there is a strong element of native language preservation.

SIL's innovative Bloom software eases the process of bookmaking so that more people can participate – users can create an original text or select a template, called a "shell book," and insert culturally appropriate pictures and local translations of text.

Consensus has already been reached around a Kodi language alphabet, at a recent workshop attended by 16 native Kodi speakers, a Kodi language specialist, observers, district education office representatives, teachers and principals. Moving forward, levelled children's



reading books will be developed in Kodi, to foster a love of reading and provide an essential stepping stone for students. School-based reading corners will also help to rally community support for reading.

a	bh	mb	(c)	dh
nd	e	gh	ngg	h
i	(nj)	k	l	m
n	(ny)	ng	o	p
r	t	u	w	y

a	b	<sup>m</sup> b	c	d
<sup>n</sup> d	e	g <sup>ɟ</sup> (ɣ)	<sup>ŋ</sup> g	h
i	<sup>n</sup> j	k	l	m
n	ɲ	ŋ	o	p
r	t	u	w	y

The agreed-upon Kodi alphabet. On the left is the alphabet written in letters to show what letters sound like; this is suitable for readers in general. On the right is the original letter symbol, for linguistic purposes.

Petrus Lambe, Program Manager of SIL's Southwest Sumba branch, described why it is important for children to learn the basics of reading in their first language, before transitioning.

“Creative reading in Kodi Language can be a bridge for helping children learn Indonesian. Mastery of mother tongue is very important because by mastering the practical concepts in their first language, only 20% of the original effort is needed to master the concepts in the national language.”

In East Sumba, local language prevalence is equally as strong, but with written materials available. INOVASI's recent baseline study found that 72% of children in East Sumba use a local language, the most common being Kampera (27%) and Bugis (21%).

Working with the Sulinama foundation, INOVASI is training teachers in local language-based early-grade reading and writing with child-friendly and levelled books. Local facilitators mentor teachers in partner schools, demonstrating the appropriate use of local language and Bahasa Indonesia as an instructional language according to the needs of the children.



Naomi Padjadja, an early grade teacher at SD Wunga primary school, East Sumba

Early in the pilot, teachers faced many issues with the strong prevalence of local language. Ill-equipped with effective strategies and knowledge, they often mixed both the local language and Bahasa Indonesia when teaching, an unhelpful strategy for students.

At one remote primary school, SD Wunga, classroom teaching has now improved with the use of better lesson study planning and a transitional teaching model that supports the acquisition of Bahasa Indonesian. This is similar to the approach used in Bima. In implementing this method, teachers arrange their lesson study plans together in advance, selecting a 'model teacher' each week to implement the plan, with other teachers sitting in to observe and watch.

"Students are more comfortable when teachers speak mother tongue language in the classroom using the 50:50 strategy - using full mother tongue in the first 35 minutes and using Bahasa Indonesia in the next 35 minutes," explained Andika Dewantara, an INOVASI district facilitator in East Sumba.

"There are interesting lessons from the process of learning in grade two. Now, students experience the learning, there is more intensive interaction and good communication between the teacher and student," said Naomi Padjadja, an early grade teacher at SD Wunga.

As both the Bima and Sumba pilots continue in 2019, we will certainly see more and more of what does and doesn't work to help improve language transition and literacy learning outcomes for Indonesian children in the classroom.

## What are NCWQ advisers doing?

- By Dr Pat Pepper, State Coordinator, NCWQ

NCWQ Advisers' July/August Reports or Annual Reports are briefly summarised below. The full July/August reports are available on the NCWQ website

### COMMUNICATIONS:

#### ARTS, LETTERS and MUSIC:

Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Arts, Letters and Music Adviser whetted our literary appetite with

- SHELL by Kristina Olsson in which the lives of two people each traumatized from past events, are played out against the tumultuous political times of the 1960's with conscription for the Vietnam war and the symbolic potential of the visionary designed Opera House which was in the process of being built;
- BRIGHTLY BURNING by Alexa Donne, set in slowly disintegrating spaceships circling the solar system with the remnants of the human race, examines aspects of class, romance and survival in a dystopian future.

Jennifer also alerted us to:

- the Royal Ballet productions of famous ballets being relayed live to cinemas around the world;
- an English translation of 1100 years of Old Slavonic literacy from Macedonia, which covered the Macedonian language and literary tradition to the present day at the British Museum Library;
- wildlife photography competition showcasing extraordinary animal behaviour and the breathtaking diversity of life on Earth, at Natural History Museum, Great Britain;
- Pre 1950 advertising posters representing the ideas of their times, showcasing printing techniques, and are often spectacularly illustrated by well-known artists, at the National Library of Australia;

- *Queen's Land Blak Portraiture* at the Cairns Art Gallery This included early archival photographs taken during first settlement, juxtaposed with paintings and prints by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists from the twentieth century through to the present day;
- RED JOAN, a film based on the life of Kremlin agent, Melita Norwood, who believed the communist system needed to be given a chance to ensure peace.

[NCWQ Arts, Letters and Music Adviser's Report, July/August 2019](#)

**SOCIAL ISSUES:**

**CHILD, YOUTH and FAMILY:**

Leanne Francia, Child, Youth and Family Adviser reported on

- National Indigenous Australian's Agency aimed at co-ordinating Commonwealth policy development, program design, implementation, and service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Queensland Law Reform Commission to consider archaic laws.
- Reporting of Women's Death in Family Violence
- Number of Children Being Held in Adult Watch houses
- Youth volunteering to gain skills and improve future employability
- Australian Institute of Family Studies holding forums to discuss key reforms needed within the family law system

[NCWQ Child, Youth and Family Adviser's Report, July 2019](#)

**GENERAL WELL BEING:**

**ENVIRONMENT:**

Pat Pepper, NCWQ Environment Adviser reported on

- The Australian Institute of Marine Science's Annual Great Barrier Reef Condition Update report showing variation in the hard coral cover of individual reefs caused by disturbances such as crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, cyclones and coral bleaching events over the past five years and the effects on the reefs' recovery;
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority position statement on climate change;
- Shipping Risk to Great Barrier Reef and North-East Shipping Management Plan which aims to address some issues;
- Quality of Coal from proposed mines in Galilee Basin.

[NCWQ Environment Adviser's Report, July 2019](#)

**HABITAT:**

The NCWQ Habitat Adviser, Donnell Davis's report encompassed the concise history, evolution of focus, and roles for women in human settlements now and in the future. She has six suggestions how can women do better to make cities safer, fairer and more sustainable.

1. Participate in your own community, city, and state and nationally in any urban development proposal that does not appear ethical or regenerative. Write to your respective politician.
2. Speak up if infrastructure is unsafe (like walking to public transport) and suggest solutions to the problem. It may as simple as lighting, gardens, artwork or making attractive to broader community use.
3. Participate in NGOs contributing to international debates for shelter for all, safe climate-sensitive-infrastructure, social collaboration, environmental stewardship, and good local governance
4. Support women in professional decision-making roles by providing informed research and community voice to important local policies and practices, so they have credible evidence.
5. Encourage girls and women to study in professions that practice sustainable development and get involved with community wellbeing.

6. Change the way you behave to reflect a regenerative attitude and leave an honourable legacy.

[190704 NCW report on UN Habitat.pdf](#)

#### **NUTRITION:**

Val Cocksedge OAM, NCWQ Nutrition Adviser's Annual Report covered the following problems and what measures could alleviate them

- Increase in obesity and health related disease and ; and
- Overseas demand growing for food grown in Australia's clean, green environment

[NCWQ Nutrition Adviser's Annual Report](#)

#### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

##### **CONSUMER AFFAIRS:**

Val Cocksedge OAM, NCWQ Consumer Affairs Adviser warned about a number of issues and what could be done to combat the problem -

- Cyber crime;
- product safety;
- waste;
- danger of plastic particles;
- combustible cladding and
- lack of progress in protection of subcontractors and home owners when building companies collapse.

[NCWQ Consumer Affairs Adviser's Annual Report](#)

#### **ECONOMICS**

Melanie O'Toole NCWQ Economic Adviser reported on unemployment and programs to address this, both Government and not for profit organisations

[NCWQ Unemployment Aug2019V2.docx](#)

#### **STATUS OF WOMEN:**

##### **HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & PEACE:**

Georgina Pickers NCWQ Human Rights & International Relations & Peace Adviser reported on

- 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The plight of refugees from Syria, Latin America and Northern Africa
- Dangers of social media:

[Adviser Report NCWQ Human Rights & International Relations and Peace February 2019](#)

**Welcome to our new members!**

**Paula Ivanovic**  
**Anu Pandey**  
**Anne-Marie Carroll**  
**Ammarah Seedat**  
**Deslyn Taylor**  
**Olivia Anderson**  
**Supre Ponnappa**  
**Ella Madigan**

# SAVE THE DATES!

**Saturday 5 October 2019** – Forum Communicators Workshop

**Thursday 10 October 2019** – Bursaries fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade. The event will be held on Thursday 10th October 2019, 9:45am for a 10:00am start, at Tattersall's Club – 215 Queen Street Brisbane. RSVP here and learn more: <https://ncwq.org.au/ncwq-morning-tea-and-fashion-parade>

**Thursday 5 December 2019** – Annual Christmas Luncheon. The Women's College, University of Queensland, Cnr College Road and Thynne Road, St Lucia. RSVP here and learn more: <https://ncwq.org.au/ncwq-annual-christmas-luncheon-2019>



*The NCWQ acknowledges the elders and traditional custodians, past and present, of the land on which we live. We recognise, respect and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' role in and contribution to Australian life and culture.*