



# NCWQ 2023 **BURSARY RECIPIENTS**

## President's Message



I extend a warm welcome to the 15th year of the Bursary Program hosted by the National Council of Women of Queensland.

Today, we gather to applaud and honor 35 remarkable individuals who have been bestowed with our bursaries. As you delve into their narratives, you'll undoubtedly discover moments of inspiration, and perhaps, you'll even draw parallels between their journeys and your own.

Queensland, being a vast state, showcases the diversity of its towns through our recipients. The sheer expanse of our state presents formidable challenges; some of our recipients must traverse great distances to access education and secure affordable housing. Among them, there are those who skilfully balance family and work commitments in their pursuit of higher education, with the noble aspiration of bettering the lives of their loved ones. Others amongst our recipients have displayed immense resilience in overcoming adversity, determined to carve a brighter future for themselves through the power of education. It's also profoundly moving to witness the strength and determination of those who have refused to let disability hinder their pursuit of dreams and ambitions.

At the core of the NCWQ Bursary Program lies the ethos of education and empowerment. Over the past 12 months, I had the privilege of serving on the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Women Economic Equality Taskforce. Our work has been on eliminating barriers to employment while simultaneously bolstering productivity and nurturing a high-calibre workforce through skills enhancement, training, and migration. Given the persisting gender disparity in workforce participation, it is imperative that we collaborate to enhance educational access and rally behind one another in fostering career opportunities.

Our annual NCWQ Bursary Program wouldn't be viable without the unwavering support of our incredible sponsors. However, I must truly thank the dedicated women of Team Bursary, led by our NCWQ Bursary Coordinator, Kathy Cavanagh. These diligent and industrious individuals invest countless hours promoting the bursaries, managing applications, and liaising with both applicants and sponsors. They undertake these responsibilities so that we can shine a spotlight on the narratives and achievements of our recipients. To me, these women are the catalysts of change and the genuine champions of our cause.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Chiou See Anderson'.

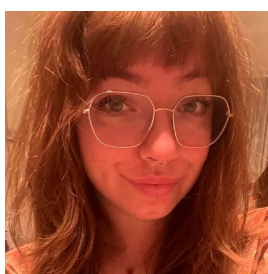
Chiou See Anderson  
NCWQ President

## Brisbane Women's Club Bursary

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**This inaugural bursary sponsored by the Brisbane Women's Club, is for a Brisbane-based, first-year tertiary student.**

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Sally Cairncross

My background has included many bumps along the road. I was raised in Logan with a supportive and loving family. My high school journey was abnormal, having left mid-way through year 11 to focus on my health. I returned amidst my recovery to TAFE to acquire my ATAR.

My background has led me to studying a Bachelor of Law at QUT, where I aspire to advocate for the rights of domestic violence victims and youth in parliament. My degree will allow me to be the voice I wished I once had.

This bursary will provide me with the tools to complete my degree to my fullest ability. With this bursary I will be able to afford taking time off work to focus on my education, purchase technology to assist my studies and improve my diet.

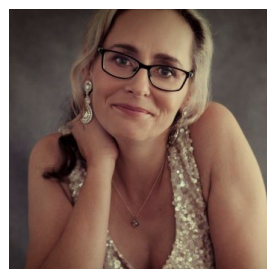
I cannot express enough how appreciative I am for the support of the NWCQ and my sponsors. This opportunity is more than life changing. Thank you.

## Claire Moore Bursary

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**This bursary for a student of special education, reflects the view of former Senator Claire Moore that education provides the best opportunities for us all.**

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Jessica Dominko

I am an experienced senior teacher with a Bachelor of Education degree and Master of Education majoring in special education. I was a recipient of the USQ university medal at the completion of my undergrad. I have worked in alternative educational settings for over 10 years including special education units. I was a complex case behaviour teacher at Edens Landing SS and have been employed as a teacher at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre since 2018. I'm an active community member and in past years, have volunteered with the Pyjama Foundation, NASCA (National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy), Signal Flare and Rosie's. I have recently become an accredited Classroom Profiler and am enrolled at QUT in a Master of Education degree specialising in Trauma Aware Education.

The bursary will help towards the cost of study expenses such as course fees and textbooks.

My goal is to continue working with children and young people who find school to be challenging including those who have disabilities, complex learning needs or those who are disengaged or at-risk of disengaging from school.

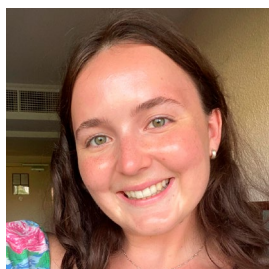


## Cr Vicki Howard Bursary

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**For a female student living in the Brisbane City Council area, this bursary supports a recipient who identifies with the LGBTIQ community.**

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Anna Hawkins

My name is Anna and I feel proud and fortunate to be a recipient of this bursary and surrounded by women who are forging inspiring paths within their own lives and communities.

I am in my third year of studying nursing and midwifery, and this degree, more than anything, has opened my eyes to the power of midwifery care over the health trajectories of women from all backgrounds. This time also marks about a year since I came out as queer and chose to be shamelessly myself.

Something I have observed within both my own coming-out journey and women's journeys of pregnancy and birth, is the transition from vulnerability to empowerment. In this career, I get to witness the transformative experience that is birth, and I am committed to providing midwifery care which fosters equity, self-determination, empowerment, and positive long term health outcomes for women.

Whilst I find my study so rewarding, it has many unpaid hours of placement, and this bursary helps ease the financial burden of this and has been personally encouraging for me as I push through my final semesters of study.

## Hon David Littleproud MP Bursary

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**Recognising the difficulties for country students wishing to pursue their education, this bursary is for a female resident of the Maranoa Federal electorate, who is commencing first year of tertiary studies.**

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Mackenzie  
Wedrat

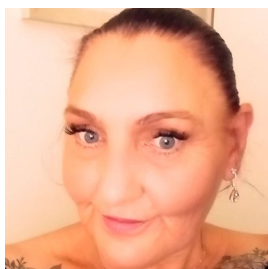
As the recipient of the NCWQ Hon. David Littleproud MP Bursary for 2023, I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunities this bursary will present. I have commenced my tertiary education at the University of the Sunshine Coast, in a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours). Having previously lived in Dalby, QLD and completed year 12 at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, I have relocated to Sippy Downs. To begin my journey, I have become involved in the ongoing development of a social netball club and became a member of both the Society of Occupational Therapy Students and the Health Students at UniSC. My career development and inspiration began in Dalby, where I became interested in Allied Health and then specifically in Occupational Therapy, currently interested to practice in the areas of rehabilitation, disability, or aged care. This bursary offers a meaningful contribution towards my professional development and will be a significant financial support for sourcing course requirements, overall, aiding my transition from a rural community. I would like to formally acknowledge the generosity of NCWQ and to thank the Hon. David Littleproud MP for their ongoing educational support towards regional-based women.

## DiH Health and Wellbeing Bursary

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**As a health professional, sponsor Diane Hickey recognises the difficulties those with a mental illness face as they work towards their study goals.**

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Bronwyn Ennis

I am a second-year mature-aged Bachelor of Social Work student at QUT, having already completed Diplomas in Mental Health and Business. With an intellectual impairment and mental health issues, I have faced many barriers. In previous decades disability did not allow anyone to pursue their life goals, so I have grasped this opportunity now to follow my life aspirations later in life.

I am a mother of 4 children, and I am currently volunteering in the community and expanding my studies in the human sector field. I have an interest in the arts and enjoy dabbling in painting with acrylics when time allows.

I am a member of Stepping Stone, a mental health pathways organisation, allowing me to be involved in all aspects of the organisation. I also work with helping people struggling with AOD (alcohol and drugs) addictions in a community-based organisation.

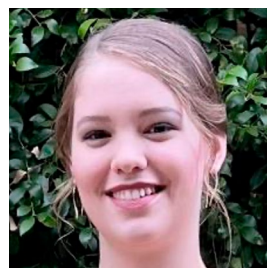
My goal as a social worker is to walk with others specifically in the mental health area, to realise they can still take steps towards their aspirations. The bursary will help with my studies with consumables and technology items so I can complete my degree in Social Work.

## Elsie Byth Bursary

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**Sponsored by Dr Susan Byth, this bursary recognises the work of her grandmother, Elsie Byth OBE, (1890–1988) in the National Council of Women, serving as both Queensland and National President.**

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Isabelle Logan

Isabelle is a Year 12 student at Lourdes Hill College, in Brisbane. During her school life she has embraced the opportunity to serve the school and broader community. She is passionate about community service, and has been particularly involved in raising awareness and support for mental health initiatives, and supporting food security through the St Vincent de Paul winter appeal; the Eat Up sandwich making; and Community Meal Programs, providing meals to vulnerable in the community.

The role of College Captain in 2023 has given her the opportunity to serve the community in a deeper capacity, enhanced her appreciation of the teaching and leadership staff, and reinforced her desire to teach secondary students in the future and make a difference in their lives. Isabelle has always had a passion for education, truly believing in lifelong learning.

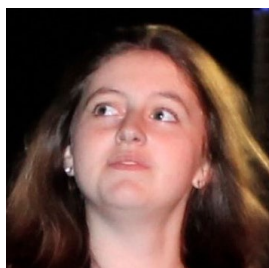
As an aspiring teacher, Isabelle wants to widen students' eyes to the world around them. She wants to make a difference in the world and plans to use the Elsie Byth Bursary to assist her in fulfilling her dream of teaching in a rural setting.

## ESA International Bursary

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ESA International is a women's service organisation for Education, Service and Association. With a long history of supporting cancer research and care services, the bursary reflects this focus by assisting a female student whose family is affected by cancer.

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Esme Desertiaux

My name is Esme Desertiaux, and I am currently studying a Bachelor of Paramedicine at the University of Southern Queensland. I often get asked why I want to be a paramedic and I always say one thing. My Grandad. I've always been extremely close to my grandad, due to the passing of my other grandparents who died from cancer.

In 2018 my Grandad had a heart attack, and I watched the paramedics work hard to save him. Thankfully he made a full recovery and my relationship with him only grew stronger along with my goal to become a paramedic. In January of 2023 my Grandad was diagnosed with Metastatic Melanoma Stage 4 and we were told its terminal.

Both my mother and I help to take care of him but unfortunately to attend university I had to move 7hrs south which prevents me from seeing my grandad as much as I would like. This bursary allows me to do so, easing the cost of travel. This bursary will assist me in furthering my education as a paramedic to help provide critical lifesaving response to others, just like my Grandad.

## Forum Communicators Bursary

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Initially established to assist women to improve their public-speaking skills, Forum, with open membership, offers advice in conducting meetings and organisational procedures. This bursary reflects Forum's passion for communication.

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Priya  
Virdee-Hero

I am a young woman of Indian/French heritage, studying my first year of a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at QUT. I hope to use my degree to work in international affairs or diplomacy. I have recently been selected as the 2023 YMCA Youth Parliament Member for Southport, within the 'Justice, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Police and Corrective Services Portfolio,' enabling me to connect with other young leaders throughout QLD to push for parliamentary change. I am a member of the Headspace Southport Youth Advisory Council and the Bravehearts Youth Advisory Council, and the Vice President of AIESEC QLD. I also volunteer for the Women's Legal Service Queensland, am an active Surf Life Saver, and a Run Director at Parkrun.

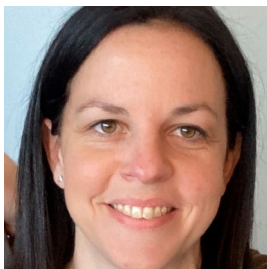
Due to economic burdens on my family, the Forum Communicators Bursary, will give me autonomy over the opportunities that I engage with. Hopefully allowing me to engage with enriching events, improve my confidence and public speaking skills, and provide me with platform to continue to represent and advocate for youth, gender equity and mental health awareness.

## Helen Ovens Memorial Bursary

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Helen was well-aware of how easy it is for mothers, especially of young children, to lose their sense of identity. This bursary reflects the importance she gave to maintaining those interests which nourished her as an individual.

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Lauren Maher

My life is very full in the best way possible. I am a happily married mum with four children aged 15, 14, 11 and 7. I have been a stay-at-home mum for almost 16 years and becoming a nurse is something I have always wanted to do but pushed to the side. I felt I was not smart enough to achieve such a goal. After my youngest was diagnosed with a serious illness my passion for nursing grew even stronger, so I jumped in and have been excelling in my studies.

I also have a casual job in a local hospital as a student nurse which has exposed me to so much and reiterated my calling into nursing. It is quite the juggle to fit in studies, university placement and paid work, into family life.

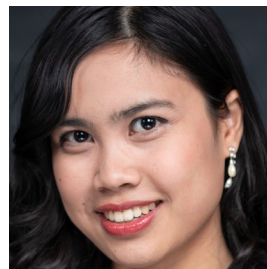
I am so very thankful for this bursary which will allow me to make appropriate arrangements for my family while on nursing placement. I would like to thank the NCWQ along with the family and friends of Helen Ovens for this bursary. I hope that I can inspire other stay-at-home mums out there to go for their dreams and don't be afraid to set those goals!

## Lady Justice Bursary

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Sponsored by Senior Sergeant Anna Dwyer and Joanna Robinson, this bursary acknowledges the value of law and justice, wishing to support a Queensland woman to achieve her goal of studying within this area.

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Rebecca Le

I am very fortunate to be the first in my family to attend university. My family's experiences with the convoluted legal system opened my eyes to the gaps faced by disadvantaged and vulnerable minorities. I was inspired to study law after being a finalist in moots, since organising competitions to inspire others.

Throughout my studies while balancing work, I have: been named 'Student Leader of the Year'; received Leadership honours; been a Queensland Family and Child Commission Youth Advocate; led teams that successfully advocated to change sexual assault; and mental health laws (as Youth Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Attorney-General); held student executive positions, represented Australia and been a keynote speaker and volunteered in different areas. On weekends, I run children's birthday parties.

My ultimate (and admittedly lofty!) goal is to become CYJMA Minister to implement large-scale legislative changes.

This bursary would alleviate my financial stress so I can decrease night shifts to focus on study and buy a new laptop.

## Lavis/Wilson Qld Child Watch Committee Bursary

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After 30 years of advocating for quality early childhood education, this Committee continues its legacy by the ongoing sponsorship of a bursary for a student in this field, with a commitment and passion for the education of the 'whole' child.

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Asha Higgins

My name is Asha Higgins, I am from a cattle and sheep property near Texas QLD. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Education (early childhood) externally, whilst I nanny for two beautiful families. I love nothing more than being at home with my family, exploring new places, and spending time with friends.

This Bursary will be indescribably beneficial towards my studies, especially my placements. I have ambitions to venture out of my comfort zone, by doing some of my placements in remote rural communities - which I am extremely excited about!

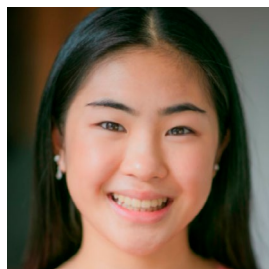
When I think of my goals and aspirations for the future, I first and foremost think of becoming a kindergarten or prep teacher in a small rural community. With a very personal goal and 'pedagogy' of creating a positive, loving, nurturing, fun and supportive learning environment, each individual child is catered for as a 'whole', and supported to strive for their absolute best. I have always been passionate about helping to shape young children's lives, and what better way to do that than become a teacher specializing in early childhood education.

## Moreton Bay Regional Council Bursary

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This bursary is to assist a female tertiary student from the Moreton Bay council region, with her studies. She will have also contributed to the local community.

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Kathleen Tan

I graduated The Lakes College in 2021 as Academic Prefect and first in the subjects Chemistry, Physics and Chinese. Now I am in my second year of studying an integrated Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)/Master of Engineering majoring in mechanical engineering at the UQ. As someone who grew up in the Moreton Bay region, I am very honoured to receive this. As I aspire to pursue a career in renewable energy engineering and how mechanical engineering can contribute to this field, the bursary will support my attendance at relevant national conferences.

I am keen interest to improve my leadership capabilities and giving back to the Moreton Bay community. In the past two years, I have volunteered at The Redcliffe Breakfast Club. As part of The Lakes College's leadership team, I organised various fund-raising events.

Through the UQ integrated Bachelor/Masters in Engineering program, and their partnership with Central Supélec in France, I can complete work placement and my thesis at both an Australia and French University. The bursary allows me to work towards this goal and I am ever so grateful for this support.

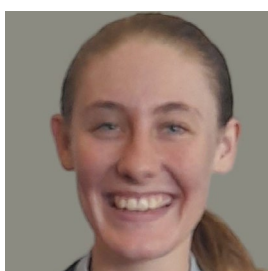


## National Council of Women of Queensland Regional/Rural Bursary

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Sponsored by NCWQ since the establishment of the bursary program in 2009, the bursary focus is to assist young women living in regional/rural Queensland relocate for their studies.

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Hayley Simmons

I was raised in regional Queensland, completing my primary and secondary education, graduating high school in 2022. I developed a strong passion for science during high school and decided I wanted to share that passion with others and provide more opportunities to regional and rural students.

Living regionally, I have experienced and witnessed firsthand the some of the disparities in opportunities and resources that regional and rural centres have access to.

Due to my regional location, I was required to move to Brisbane to study my degree of choice, a Bachelor of Science/Arts at the University of Queensland. The bursary will help me these costs.

Since moving to Brisbane, I started a job in Community Outreach, working with high school students from backgrounds underrepresented in university, including those from regional and rural areas. I am very passionate about my current work, and it has cemented my goal of working in science communication and community outreach. I would like to provide more opportunities to those in underrepresented areas, engaging them in the wonders of science and promoting more students to be engaged in STEM.

## National Council of Women of Queensland, Student from a Refugee Background Bursary

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An original bursary sponsored from 2009 by NCWQ, this bursary assists a student currently at high school, to further her educational outcomes.

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Farishta  
Mohammad Ali

My family and I came to Australia in 2013 from Pakistan, when I was 6 years old. Currently, I am determined to finish my High School alongside completing a Diploma of Business.

To further my education after Grade 12, through university I am hoping to pursue a pathway in law. It would be extremely valuable for me to reach my aspirations of completing university and establishing a career in law, as English is my second language and I come from a background where women face a number of challenges when trying to advance their education.

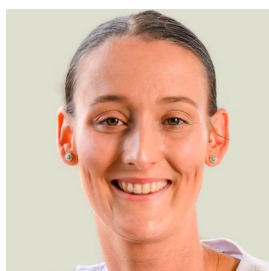
Though I am not provided with the same support many of my classmates possess, this bursary is a huge contribution to me being able to attend university and I cannot help but be overly thankful for being elected as the recipient of this award.

## National Council of Jewish Women, Brisbane Section Bursary

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**This bursary reflects the sponsor's interest in the education and advancement of women through support for a student studying in the field of education.**

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Portia Rennie

I am a proud Indigenous Australian from a small town in rural NSW. I moved to Brisbane, QLD, in 2020 for more educational opportunities and to develop independence and confidence in my academic abilities. Growing up in a town with a population of 550 people, I had little focus on my education, let alone attending university. My focus was on elite sports (cycling) and caring for my father, diagnosed with MND. Through my studies and life experiences, I have found strength and belief in my potential.

I have a passion for supporting youth from disadvantaged and Indigenous backgrounds from rural/remote areas to access resources and quality education while creating culturally safe spaces within the classroom.

My short-term goal is to attend the next couple of placements in rural/remote QLD, and this is where my bursary will be of assistance, spending a minimum 6-week next year in rural QLD.

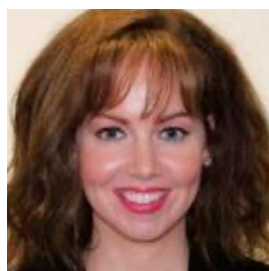
My long-term goal is to develop strong relationships with communities locally in Brisbane and rural/remote so that I can help create safe spaces for Indigenous youth and help make a difference in young children's lives.

## PhD Student Bursary

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**This anonymously sponsored bursary is for a female PhD candidate, whose research focus will be of benefit to women and their families.**

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Carly Whelan

Carly Whelan is currently a PhD in Law candidate at the University of Cambridge. Prior to this, she was a Senior Crown Prosecutor with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Queensland. In this role she obtained extensive experience dealing with victims of crime, particularly women and child victims. Recently, she undertook a position as Principal Legal Officer for the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Carly is also passionate about legal and criminology higher education and works as a Sessional Academic at a number of universities.

Her background has led to her interest in improving how criminal justice systems operate and the experiences of participants in the court process, including women and child victims. Carly will be examining this in her PhD, with a focus on criminal courts in Australia. This bursary will assist her to attend various courts throughout Australia to conduct this research.

This PhD research will enable Carly to influence legislative and policy reform that will strengthen public confidence in the Australian criminal justice system. Carly plans to continue to work as a Barrister and Academic, with her research expertise equipping her to be impactful in improving criminal justice systems around the world.

## Office for Women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bursary

## Office for Women (Leadership) Bursary

**The Department of Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, through the Office for Women, has been a supporter of the NCWQ Bursary Program for a number of years. Four bursaries were sponsored in the 2023 Bursary Program.**



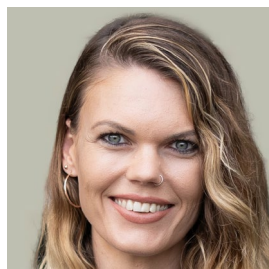
Courtney  
Peleseuma

I am a proud Muluridji woman who acknowledges my ties to the Yirrigandji, Djabugay & Kokomini people and South Sea Islander. I am a married mum of 6, with my children ranging from 4 -19 years of age, living in Cairns.

Due to being a fulltime student and stay at home mum with a large family often means that I have a very tight budget that doesn't leave a lot of wriggle room. This bursary will help by assisting with travelling to placement and allowing me the option of being able to attend courses or any additional costs that may occur regarding my university studies.

I am a 3rd year Midwifery student at ACU. I became passionate about becoming a Midwife after my own personal experiences of birth, both negative and positive. I wanted to be the person that helps support a woman and her family bring new life into the World. I want to be there for women in the way I felt I wasn't but should have been.

There is something so special about being there to witness birth and the transformation of those involved. I would like to say a big thank you to the sponsors for my selection.



Morgan Rooney

I'm Morgan Rooney, I am a mother to two school aged children and work full time in a male dominated industry. I also study a Bachelor of Urban Development (Honours) Construction Management & Architecture, am the Co-Chair of NAWIC QLD Awards Committee (National Association of Women in Construction) and a mentor in the Women Building Australia Mentoring Program.

As the Female Participation Manager at Hutchinson Builders, I create opportunities for women within the organisation and develop the ethical and community-minded side of our businesses. By building meaningful relationships in the community and industry I can connect people to roles, organisations and support services whilst raising awareness of Hutchies commitment to sustainable social responsibility. I am proud to be able to provide disadvantaged members of our community opportunities to gain employment which changes their life from struggling to thriving. It is also rewarding to develop policies and procedures for the organisation to support our employees.

In my spare time, I like being outdoors, travelling or doing creative art projects.

## Office for Women (Return to Work) Bursary

## Office for Women (STEM) Bursary

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**The Department of Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, through the Office for Women, has been a supporter of the NCWQ Bursary Program for a number of years. Four bursaries were sponsored in the 2023 Bursary Program.**

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Terri Homans

In 2015 after my partner suddenly left, I found myself as a full-time single parent trying to resurrect my career in project administration in commercial construction after a five-year absence.

Following four years of working in lower salary jobs that did not align with my interests or values, I enrolled in a Bachelor of Counselling at age 47. I received several academic awards and was a finalist in the Head of School Award, graduating in July with Distinction.

I am very interested in the intersection of career decision making and its effects on mental health, so I plan to continue post-graduate studies in the field of career education and development. This bursary will help fund those studies.

I am hoping to combine my counselling and career development skills to engage adult learners in career guidance and employability skills training activities to enable them to achieve career readiness and life goals.

My volunteer work has inspired me to utilise my qualifications to advocate for, and assist women especially, to upskill, re-enter the workforce or change careers and improve their life outcomes.



Bianca Vidler

My name is Bianca Vidler and I am a first Year Engineering student at QUT. I am from the Gold Coast and completed high school with my International Baccalaureate in 2021.

I have a strong passion for encouraging women to explore STEM careers and feel honoured to receive the NCWQ Office for Women STEM Bursary.

The bursary will be extremely helpful in supporting my first year of the Engineering course, by helping me fund my daily train commute to the QUT campus as a full-time student. While I am still exploring the diverse fields within engineering, I am particularly drawn to projects related to transportation, sustainability, and defence. I would love to major in Electrical & Aerospace engineering but will have to see what the future holds!

By receiving this bursary, I have been granted the amazing opportunity to dedicate more time to my studies, actively engage with university groups, and participate in industry events.

This support gives me a huge stepping-stone toward my future career aspirations, and I want to extend my sincere appreciation. Thank you.



## Qld Medical Women's Society Bursary

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From its strong focus on supporting professional development including participation in international conferences and networking, the sponsorship of a bursary by QMWS assists female medical students or recent graduates to take advantage of these opportunities.

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Stephanie  
Sardinha

My name is Stephanie Sardinha and I am in my 5th and final year of the Bachelor of Medical Studies/ Doctor of Medicine at Bond University. Originally from Sydney, I have been living on the beautiful Gold Coast for the past 4 years. As part of my MD, I am required to complete a research project, choosing a systematic review into educational training provided to healthcare professionals assessing and managing patients with eating disorders. I have found this topic to be of interest to me, particularly given the rapidly expanding role of interactive modes of medical education. I have successfully submitted a poster presentation to the Australia and New Zealand Academy for Eating Disorder (ANZAED) conference later this year.

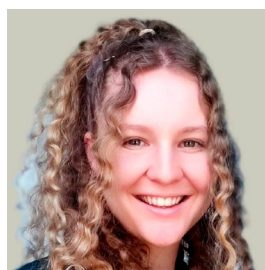
This bursary will cover my registration fees so that I may present my hard work, network to meet leaders in the field of eating disorders and learn from the lectures and plenaries. In the future, I hope to enter physician training, potentially in the field of young adult medicine. I also hope to continue participating in various research projects, and eventually complete a PhD.

## AMAQ (QMWS) Professor Tess Cramond Memorial Bursary

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Former President of AMAQ, Professor Cramond's career ranged across her role in anaesthetics, CPR for Surf Life Savers, and establishing multidisciplinary pain clinics. The purpose of this bursary is to assist the recipient to attend a medical event or conference.

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Jasmin Somers

I am a Doctor of Medicine student who is also the Chair of the International branch of the Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA), which is a role I started after serving as the Australian National Officer for Human Rights and Peace. I am also the External Affairs Assistant for Human Rights and Peace in the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). I have the privilege of representing medical students internationally at various high-level meetings, including with the UN and WHO, as well as representing Australia at IFMSA meetings around the world. One of these meetings was the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York earlier this year. I envision myself working in the humanitarian field, being involved in a combination of global health governance, advocacy, and clinical medicine.

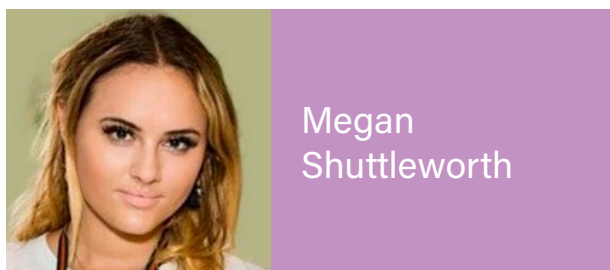
This bursary will provide me with the financial means to continue travelling internationally to attend UN, WHO and other high-levels meetings, allowing me to become a strong voice in the world of global health advocacy.

## Mater Health (QMWS) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bursary

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**As part of their commitment to reconciliation and the broader goal to advance the parity of representation of First Nation Peoples in the Australian medical workforce, and its leadership, this bursary sponsored by Mater Health is for a female Indigenous medical student.**

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Megan is a Yugambeh and Torres Strait Islander woman who grew up on Minjungbal country in rural Northern New South Wales. From her first-hand experiences she has striven to make a personal contribution to Closing the Gap.

In her final year of the Doctor of Medicine program at Griffith University, she is looking forward to her internship next year, giving back to her community as a doctor. She aspires to train and work in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, with an emphasis on addressing the cultural and psychological aspects of wellbeing. Megan also strives to be a part of the health workforce develop and implement programs which are both community driven and aim to improve the health outcomes of First Peoples.

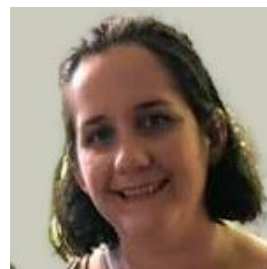
She is grateful for the support of this Bursary, using it to attend the 2024 AIDA conference, which brings together medical professionals to celebrate both medicine and culture. This will provide an opportunity to expand academically and connect with leading health professionals across the country.

## Rotary E-Club of Nextgen Bursary

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**This inaugural bursary recognises the difficulties for regional/rural tertiary students to continue their education.**

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Cheyenne Hall

I live in sunny NQ with my husband and two daughters. Following school, I spent a decade working in administration before becoming a mature-aged student.

This year has been tough for me personally. On Boxing Day 2022 my father passed away from cancer. Shortly before, my daughter had broken her arm. On developing a bone infection, she underwent 4 surgeries and months in a cast. Between managing my own emotions as well as her medical needs, trauma and the upheaval of her starting school this year, I managed to maintain a GPA of 6.5 and continue working as a Tutor. I also volunteer in various capacities and enjoy crocheting blankets for others.

This semester I will complete a 5-week full-time placement and be unable to work. Additionally, my husband's income will be reduced as he takes leave to care for our children. Receiving this bursary will be incredibly valuable for keeping our family fed and my mental well-being positive during this challenging time. I look forward to beginning my career as a teacher, and working towards my passion of career development, helping young people to find and follow their own path as they transition from compulsory education into the real world.

## Science Bursary

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**Sponsored by June McNicol OAM, June's experience as a metallurgist, gives her understanding of the difficulties for women working in the physical sciences field. This bursary reflects her desire to assist female students following in her footsteps.**

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From a young age, I knew that I wanted to work in a job that involved helping people and making the world a better place. Now, I have completed a Bachelor of Medical Science, two years of medical school, and this year I will graduate with an engineering degree with majors in mechanical and medical engineering.

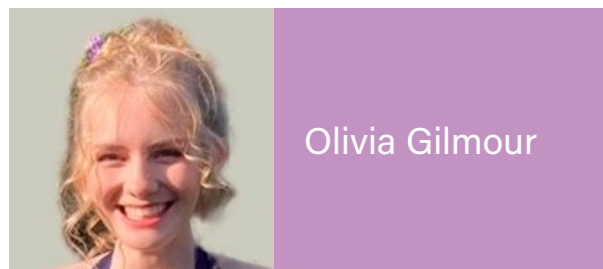
I take pride in my studies and my ability to push myself to reach my potential. I enjoy being constantly challenged to learn more and to use a creative approach to solve complex problems. My goal moving forward is to put my learnings from my studies into practice by pursuing a career in medical engineering. I am passionate about helping others and would find it rewarding to contribute to improving the lives of others by working on innovative solutions to medical engineering problems. Receiving this bursary will allow me to focus more on my priorities including achieving high grades at university and seeking networking opportunities to further my career after graduating.

## Senator Susan McDonald Bursary

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**Sponsored by Senator Susan McDonald, this bursary reflects the importance for regional students to be given the opportunity for tertiary study.**

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My name is Olivia Gilmour and I grew up in the rural town of Miles on a cattle property. I attended the State School available in Miles until 8th grade when I moved to St Ursula's College, Yeppoon as a boarding student – a good fit for me with their music program allowing me to take every opportunity I could to continue my musical interests. In Year 12 I played 'Sandy' in the school musical Grease, receiving awards including the 'Public Performance Award' and a 'Footsteps Award' for a student who had made a significant impact on the school community.

Following years of drought, the family moved to Woopen Creek, Nth Qld. I have relocated to study a Bachelor of Music (Honours) at UQ in Brisbane, St Lucia majoring in Classical Voice.

This bursary will help me greatly at university in seizing musical opportunities otherwise prohibitive given cost of living pressures.

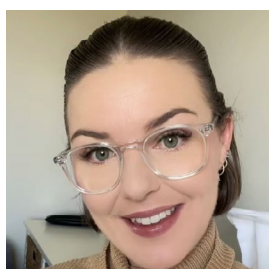
In the future, I hope to study my Masters in Music Therapy to then achieve my goal of becoming a Music Therapist and travelling to rural areas helping children with disabilities including autism and elderly people with dementia. I also have a strong interest in composing my own music and wish to record my own songs in the future.

## Soroptimist International Bursary

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**With the theme “Soroptimists - Lead to Educate, Empower, Enable” this bursary for an Indigenous woman studying in the areas of Medicine, Health or Education, reflects this ideal.**

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Cassandra  
Rumler

I am a proud Nharangga woman.

I have always been passionate about caring for, helping, supporting, and empowering others. After gaining qualifications and working within the Aged Care and Disability sectors I decided that I wanted to go to university to continue to develop my knowledge and skills. As a mature aged student, I have much lived experience. I am very driven and excited for my future.

The bursary will help me towards the costs associated with relocating back into Brisbane, to be closer to my University. In early 2022 I moved out of Brisbane to be alongside my Mum during her cancer journey. It has been a very difficult year for my family so the bursary will help alleviate some financial stress to better focus on my study and career goals. I am extremely grateful for this support.

Following graduating with my degree in Behavioural Science (Psychology) I plan to continue studies within the health space, hoping to enrol in a Doctor of Medicine. Having worked very hard on my grades I hope to one day be a doctor and play an active role in improving the health outcomes of my community.

## Soroptimist international Moreton North Inc Bursary

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**This bursary is to assist a veterinary science student, especially recognising the costs involved with placements and assessment.**

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Bonnie Wetherall

My name is Bonnie and I am a 25-year-old final year Bachelor of Veterinary Science student at the University of Queensland. I come from a small cattle property in the rural town of Mackay and relocated to the Brisbane region at 17 years old to pursue my goals. Now, finally, I am on the cusp of completing my degree and entering the industry I have long dreamt of being part of.

The journey has not been without its adversities, regarding the immense financial limitations of being a student in an intense degree, and more significantly, mental health implications. I can safely say I would not be here today without the unwavering support of my parents, friends and the veterinary community.

This bursary will greatly assist me in completing my placements both directly (fuel, educational resources, etc.) and indirectly (allowing me to be more autonomous and repay those who have helped me thus far). I aspire to work with wildlife, avian species or marine animals when I graduate. Thank you to all who have contributed to this bursary, it is deeply appreciated.



## South Burnett Bursary

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Sponsored by the South Burnett Regional Council, this bursary is for a female student from the region, who has contributed to the local community. The bursary recognises the additional difficulties for regional students.

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Mia Glenny

I grew up in a rural community and always enjoyed helping with work on our farm at home with mum, dad and my older sister. I completed my schooling at Nanango State and then High School, finishing in 2021.

I have been heavily involved in the sporting community in my town and have continued this involvement during my time at the residential colleges at my local university. Now in my second year of studying a Bachelor of Nursing I am passionate about giving back to my community through caring for others.

I will use this bursary to assist with the increased costs associated with leaving home to pursue tertiary study and assist with extra costs during clinical placements. I am inspired by the healthcare workers who worked during the pandemic and wish to continue the dedication and passion throughout my nursing career.

I aspire to have a positive impact on the people I assist and work with in my career and provide the best care to those who need it most. .

## The Kathleen Langan Sports Management Bursary

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The bursary, sponsored by Ronda Nix OAM, is in honour of the late Kathleen Langan, recognising her contribution to sport and its administration, when those roles were voluntary, and male-dominated. She was a Life member for hockey at the Brisbane, state and national levels and internationally qualified.

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Eloise Mullins

Eloise is enrolled in a Bachelor of Business (Sports Management) through Deakin University, and working full-time in the sports industry. A high-achieving athlete, coach, and referee, the transition to a career in sports administration has complemented both her professional and personal skills.

Eloise is a Regional Manager for Netball Queensland. In 2022, Eloise participated in the Women Leaders in Sport program through the Australian Sports Commission, aiming to empower female leaders in a male-dominated industry. Eloise is a member of the Squash Australia diversity and inclusion advisory panel, Moorooka AFC committee, and Moby Chicks WPC committee. Also an aspiring Water Polo referee, she participated in the 2022 National State Championship, a first as an all-female refereeing cohort.

Eloise is grateful and honoured to be the recipient of this Bursary, namesaked by a true pioneer of female sports administrators. It will assist with fees and professional development.

# The Boyce Bursaries for Students with a Disability

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**As a long-term advocate for those with a disability, Sue Boyce has been an NCWQ bursary sponsor for a number of years, sponsoring two bursaries.**

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Casey Feltham

Last year, I was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention-deficit/hyperactive disorder (ADHD). This came as quite a shock to the people in my life. From their perspective they saw me excelling in balancing my academics, volunteer commitments and part-time work. For me the diagnosis was a relief. I have silently struggled with university since the beginning, overlooking my mental and physical health to maintain my grades. I fall deeply into toxic hyper focus and then burn out every other week and I could never understand why things that are so simple to some – simply seem unattainable to me.

Being a student, I'm only able to work part time, so unfortunately, I can't always afford the medical assistance I need. I applied for The Boyce Disability Bursary to assist in financing access to medical help so I can develop the skills I need to better manage my mental health and learn more about how my diagnosis can help me, rather than hinder me.

I'm not sure what my future career holds, but I do want to advocate for those not able to advocate for themselves. I am especially passionate about gender studies, so hope to help vulnerable persons who have been affected by domestic/family violence or sexual assault.



Lailoma Joya

I am Lailoma, I was born in Afghanistan and grown up in Pakistan. I finished my high school and teaching in a primary school for 5 years. We came to Australia in 2011. I commenced studying Bachelor Medical Laboratory Science at QUT in 2017.

As I have 2 young children, being student was not easy but now I am at the end of my journey, and it is my last year. Due to illness, I receive the Disability Support pension. I have hard time sometimes due to some pressure and having no family around me, but I am thankful for kind and supportive people like Kathy and the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc("NCWQ"), and the Bursary Team.

This bursary will help me with completing my last placement at a pathology lab with less stress. My goal is that I complete this course and work in a lab as a scientist. In addition, my future aspiration is to treat women with cervical cancer in undeveloped countries also to develop the cervical screening test and vaccination programs in these countries.

# Transport and Main Roads

## Women in Engineering Bursaries

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The TMR Women in Engineering Bursaries form part of TMR's ongoing commitment to increase the number of women in the traditionally male dominated engineering profession. These two bursaries aim to promote continued female engagement with engineering courses, ensuring a strong pipeline of qualified female engineers for today's contemporary workforce.

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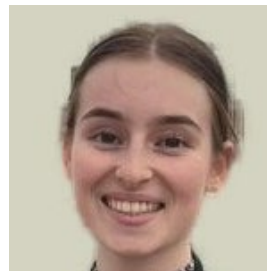


(Regional)  
Charlotte Grima

I am currently a second-year engineering student studying at James Cook University, majoring in civil engineering and undertaking a minor in infrastructure and planning. Originally from a small town south of Cairns called Innisfail, I decided to make the move to Townsville to prioritise my goals and pursue a career in engineering.

Being an active committee member and civil engineering representative in JCU's Women in Engineering society, my goal is to advocate for women in engineering and break down barriers for women pursuing a career in STEM. I aim to create opportunities for engagement through the university to connect likeminded women together, as well as to introduce a rewarding career pathway for high school students.

This bursary will ease financial pressures, where I can focus solely on my academic success and my practical engagement within the professional industry. This bursary will assist in funding necessary tools such as textbooks, and ensure I have necessary equipment and training to comfortably complete my degree and industry work.



(SEQ)  
Halle  
Taylor-Pritchard

Being awarded 'The Department of Transport and Main Roads (SEQ) Bursary' is a tremendous honour and a significant turning point in my journey. This bursary will provide me with vital financial support, allowing me to fully focus on my studies.

As a dedicated student with a strong drive for academic excellence, I am fully committed to making a positive impact through my studies. My passion lies in the field of mechanical engineering, particularly in automotive engineering. My goal is to specialise in manufacturing and contributing to developing sustainable transport systems.

Beyond my academic pursuits, I am committed to making a positive impact in society. I intend to inspire and mentor aspiring engineers, particularly young women, encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM.

With this support, I am determined to excel in my studies, contribute to sustainable transport solutions, and make a meaningful difference in society. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity and the confidence that the bursary sponsors have placed in me.

## Val French AM Memorial Bursary

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**This bursary, sponsored by Older People Speak Out, an organisation founded by Val French with the goal of accepting positive ageing, and to give older people a voice. For a student in journalism, the bursary honours Val's career in journalism.**

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Netta Finney

My name is Netta Finney Mejia. I'm a proud 50-year-old Colombian-Australian woman and mum of three awesome teenagers. Studying a Master of Communication (Journalism) at Deakin University. I am passionate about social justice issues that affect culturally and racially marginalised women.

I am immensely grateful for Val French's legacy in advocating for older women and female journalists. Her generous bursary will help me support my family while I finish my degree. My aspiration is to be a good role model for my kids, showing them the value of education and grit, and that if you get knocked down, you get back up. My aim is to become a respected narrative and investigative journalist. My projects include creating: a podcast series about domestic abuse; a guide for journalists reporting on the Family and Federal Courts of Australia; and a memoir. I plan to continue my volunteer work for ethnic community radio 4EB, and the domestic violence charity, Broken to Brilliant.

## In Conclusion

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A big thank you to the sponsors of our 35 bursaries in the 2023 NCWQ bursary program. Without you, the program wouldn't be.

To Team Bursary – thank you. We also rely on you for your hard work in coordinating and making those hard decisions of selection.

To our amazing cohort of 2023 NCWQ Bursary Program recipients – Congratulations! We are thrilled to share your stories in this year's E-Yearbook. We appreciate that for some the road to where you now stand, has not been easy. You all inspire us.

*"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."* - Zig Ziglar

**Kathy Cavanagh**

NCWQ Bursary Program Manager



*Special Thanks to these dedicated  
people who work with me as  
Bursary Coordinators*

Samantha Behrendt

Fran Cahill

Jenny Hendriks

Paula Ivanovic

Noela O'Donnell

Lyn Peacock

Yvonne Matta

Ronda Nix

Pam Nugent

Pat Pepper

Karin Walduck

Kathy Cavanagh

*We would also like to thank the  
following donors for your support*

Ramona McGregor

Cheryl Gray

Kathryn Mainstone

Leah Gabriel

Claire Moore

Susan McGinley

Beverley Rowbotham

Cris Cairncross

QUOTA Club of Brisbane Inc



National Council of Women of Queensland

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