

NCWQ NATIONAL
COUNCIL
OF WOMEN OF
QUEENSLAND

ANNUAL REPORT
2023 - 2024



Motto

“Do unto others as ye would that they should do to you.”

NCWQ Mission Statement

National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) is a non-party-political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. It seeks to raise the awareness of members as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourages their participation in all aspects of community life.

NCWQ Goals

- ▶ **Unite** associates and societies of women, and of men and women, into an organisation for mutual counsel and cooperation.
- ▶ **Work** for the empowerment of women and families and to promote equal status for women in law and fact.
- ▶ **Develop** policies and responses on behalf of women on a state-wide basis.
- ▶ **Act** as a voice on issues and concerns of women at state and regional levels.
- ▶ **Link** with the women of Australia and the International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



REFLECTION

Installed as President in November 2023, my initial address included a focus on actively involving members. No time was lost as the new Management Committee met in December via Zoom and in January for a face to face meeting reflecting on the past year and planning the year ahead based on those learnings.

January saw members engaged in a survey to identify areas of interest and priorities. The results of the survey informed the way forward.

March saw NCWQ partner with the United Services Club for an International Women's Day event where funds were raised to support the Bursary Program. A discussion panel focused on women's need for economic independence.

NEW APPROACH TO ADVOCACY

My vision of forming Advocacy Hubs was realised. Actually we formed an Advocacy Hub which includes members, Advisors and Committee Members with the provision to consult outside of the organisation.

Our first task was to write a formal response to the Australian University Accord. A letter was submitted to the Federal Minister for Education the Hon. Jason Claire MP, Queensland Ministers and Shadow Ministers advocating for a change to HECS Indexation and introduction of paid placement for students who undertake compulsory work experience. A copy of the letter is included in this publication. (See *Advocacy Hub section pages 34-45*)

The recent announcement by the Government to change the way student debt is indexed and the introduction of paid placements were pleasing outcomes impacting thousands of students.

We also took the opportunity to request training for women to return to the workforce after extended leave and were pleased to be informed by the Minister for Women, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP, that the Office for Women's budget includes free courses for women returning to work after extended leave. What a great start to our Advocacy Hub journey. Special thanks to our Advisors who guided us in providing an evidence based approach.

CONNECTION

Monthly updates have allowed me to keep members informed about state, national and international news.

New members were welcomed in May with a reception at the Knowhere Restaurant in Brisbane. They were presented with NCWQ lapel pins and invited to join the Advocacy Hub and/or the Bursary Team, and the bimonthly meetings via Zoom.

EDUCATION

The NCWQ Bursary Program saw 35 bursaries on offer - from year 12 students about to embark on Tertiary Education, to post grad. Details can be found in the Bursary Yearbook on the NCWQ website.

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The online bursary application process went live on 15 April and closed on 3 June which was earlier than usual to take advantage of the Uni break.

The Bursary Team, some of whom are past Bursary Recipients led by Kathy Cavanagh raised awareness of the program and considered the applications. Recipients were presented with their Bursaries on 20 July at The Women's College followed by the President's Luncheon.

Special thanks to Isabelle Logan and Priya Virdee-Hero, 2023 Bursary Recipients who assisted with the presentations. Professor Susan Moloney, Head of Paediatrics, Gold Coast Hospital, was the motivational speaker at the President's Luncheon, along with Past Bursary Recipient Netta Finney who shared how the Bursary assisted her to complete her studies. I was pleased to be able to acknowledge all of the leaders in the room, past and present, and to welcome the new Bursary Recipients as future leaders. My address focused on building on the legacy left by our former leaders, some of whom were present on the day.

The NCWQ Bursary Program application process is now online. Thank you Kley McPherson for volunteering hundreds of hours of your time and skills to bring us into the digital age. After five years, Kley will be stepping away from the Webmaster position. In an effort to make management of the website easier, it is a priority for the website to be reconfigured. Thank you to Cheryl Gray who will step into the Webmaster role and to Netta for offering to assist Cheryl with the website and Social Media going forward. I am pleased that this year for the first time we have been able to produce the Bursary Yearbook and Annual Report in-house and entirely by the wonderful women on the team.

The Bursary Program relies on Sponsors to provide the Bursaries and the members of Team Bursary to consider the applications. It was a pleasure to invite them to the Reception to support NCWQ by our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland, along with members and delegates for our Affiliate Organisations to be held on 19 September at Government House. It is very generous of Her Excellency to support us in this way and to acknowledge the advocacy work we are doing and have done in the past.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

As the President of NCWQ I hold a position on the Board of the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA). The Pacific National Council Forum instigated by NCWA President Chiou See Anderson saw women from Australia, Pacific Islands and New Zealand connecting and sharing perspectives relating to challenges impacting women and girls. Common ground was reached and insights shared relating to the care economy and women's health impacted by climate change and financial challenges. NCWQ was well represented at the Forum with members of the Advocacy Hub and Management Committee participating on the day and others taking advantage of the recording.

HIGHLIGHTS

The briefing provided by Managers Lisa Mc Arthur-Daly and Shellee Valentine about the recently released *Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032* was thought provoking and gave the Advocacy Hub members some direction going forward.

It was my pleasure to meet with our Advisors Des Taylor and Dr Pat Pepper and to welcome Dr Jeni Wellington as the new Advisor for Health. Jeni will lead the Advocacy Hub in a response to the Strategy.

As I reflect on the past months I realise the many achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of the Management Committee who have stepped up, multitasked when needed and supported me to reach out to members and make things happen.

I wish Ramona Mc Gregor all the best as she steps down from the Committee to embark on the wonderful motherhood journey. Ramona served as Treasurer prior to becoming Vice President this year. Ramona provided leadership in the Education Series which focused on Estate Planning and promoting economic independence of women and has been able to step into any role I have asked her to do. You will be missed. Hopefully, we will see you back and involved again in the future.

I also wish Dana Voyle all the best as she steps away from the Honorary Secretary position. Dana has brought with her a wealth of knowledge in Microsoft and Google Suites. Thank you Dana for being prepared to stay involved to assist in the transition. I have appreciated Dana's eye for detail and her assistance with putting the finishing touches to correspondence.

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IN CLOSING

As a State organisation we have taken the opportunity to reach out utilising Zoom, the website, social media and events so that members can connect with us.

The message I want to leave you with is to encourage you to step up, to be involved, to put yourself forward.

We cannot achieve our goals of education, advocacy and economic independence for all women and girls without your involvement.

Sandy Smith

Sandy Smith
PRESIDENT



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
QUEENSLAND



National Council of Women of Queensland Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland



GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND

Message from the Governor of Queensland

As Governor of Queensland and Patron of the National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ), it gives me great pleasure to provide this message for your 2024 Annual Report.

The work undertaken by the NCWQ continues to be vital in representing the women of Queensland. As a voice for women across the full gamut of issues and concerns they face daily, your advocacy is necessary and appreciated.

The ongoing program of events offered, and publications produced, by the NCWQ plays an important role in highlighting matters of great significance for women. Through your continued strong activism around such matters, priorities based on promoting safe and satisfying lives for women are foregrounded.

Gender equality, harassment and domestic violence remain high on the list of issues requiring attention, and so it is very encouraging to see the NCWQ tackle such matters head on. Encouragingly, health, human rights, equity, and security also continue to be among the organisation's areas of focus.

The NCWQ Bursary Program represents a strong support platform for many young women embarking on tertiary and post graduate studies. This program exists thanks to the many sponsors and individuals who selflessly contribute to it with the view that the value of education cannot be understated in the growth of economic independence for women. This, in partnership with the advocating for change to HECS Indexation and for paid compulsory work experience, constitutes commendable progress in your work for women.

In congratulating the NCWQ Management Committee, advisors, members and volunteers on yet another outstanding year of advocacy and activism for women and girls, I wish you well in your endeavours to support and develop the role of women in Queensland.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeannette Young".

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland

OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable
Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland

Honorary Life Members NCWQ

Mrs Ailsa Scurr Dip.T
Mrs Noela O'Donnell AM

Honorary Members

All Queensland female members of Federal and State Parliaments are granted honorary membership during their term of office. Bursary recipients receive honorary membership for the year of their bursary

President

Mrs Sandy Smith, Dip Ed. Primary Teaching; Post-Grad in Special Ed;
Master of Education - Guidance & Counselling

Vice-Presidents

Mrs Ramona McGregor, B. Bus, CA
Mrs Cheryl Gray, B. Bus (Comm)

Secretary

Mrs Dana Voyle

Treasurer

Miss Olivia Anderson, B. Com

State Coordinator

Ms Chiou See Anderson BBus, FCPA, MBA, GAICD

Management Committee

Mrs Kathy Cavanagh, Cert T; BA; Grad Dip Ed
Admin; Grad Dip Ed Computing; MEd
Mrs Ronda Nix OAM
Mrs Leah Gabriel
Ms Rebecca Hall, BBus(IntBus), MIR, GCHED

Advisors

Deslyn Taylor M.Ed(Q.U.T.), BA (U of Q), Grad. Dip.
Comp. Ed. (BCAE), Grad Dip R.E. (U of SA),
Cert Teach (BCAE) Cert 4 Multi-Media (QANTM)

Dr Pat Pepper PhD, PG AutComp, MSc, BSc

Dr Jeni Wellington LRCPI LRCSI MB BCH BAO

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA

President

Ms Chiou See Anderson BBus, FCPA, MBA, GAICD

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

President

Martine Marandel



*Patron: Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland*

**AGENDA FOR 119th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
[UPDATED]**

1. Welcome and attendance
2. Minutes of 2023 AGM
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report including Statement for ATO
5. Advocacy Hub action and outcomes
6. Advisor Reports - Advisors will be invited to speak to their reports
7. Affiliate Organisation Reports - Delegates are welcome to speak to their reports which are included in the Annual Report
8. Election of 2024-2025 Office Bearers and Management Committee
9. President's vision for 2025 and confirmation of NCWQ Advisors

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF
QUEENSLAND INC.**

MINUTES 118th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at QUT Thursday 30th November 2023

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME: Chair Chiou See Anderson, NCWQ President, declared the Annual General Meeting open at 4:34 p.m. with a welcome to all present.

ATTENDANCE: As per registration sheet on Humanitix, whereby a quorum was established.

APOLOGIES: As per list recorded by Recording Secretary Sandy Smith and Secretary Dana Voyle.

2.0 MINUTES OF 2022 AGM: Moved **Ronda Nix** OAM seconded **Olivia Anderson** that the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting circulated to all members electronically be taken as read and be signed as a true and accurate record of the National Council of Women of Queensland 117th Annual General Meeting. **Carried**

3.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT: included in the Annual Report. Chiou See presented her report 'Four Years in Review' during which time she was involved at State, National and International levels as well as involved in working parties with pleasing outcomes.

4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT: distributed electronically before the meeting and will be in the Annual Report. Treasurer Ramona McGregor presented her last report as Treasurer. She presented the external financial statement and the Treasurer's Report 2022 to 2023.

Ramona McGregor moved, seconded by **Kathy Cavanagh** that the financial statement be verified, and the Treasurer's report be received. **Carried.**

Ramona McGregor moved, seconded by **Olivia Anderson** that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. **Carried.**

5.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: Treasurer Ramona McGregor moved that Trevor Vogler of GV Accounting be appointed auditor for the 2023-2024 year. Seconded **Dana Voyle.** **Carried**

6.0 ADDITION OF REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS: All reports from Affiliate Organisations are included with the 2022 Annual Report again this year along with the Bursaries Year Book which are distributed electronically to members and uploaded to the NCWQ website.

In accordance with the Libraries Act 1988, a copy of the annual report will be uploaded to the National edeposit (NED) to fulfill state and Commonwealth digital legal deposit responsibilities.

7.0 SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE CONSTITUTION:

The proposed changes to the Constitution were circulated to members prior to the meeting. An opportunity was given to discuss the changes recommended by Thynne & Macartney Lawyers. The changes include adding a grievances rule, addition of an honorary class of membership for

Bursary Recipients free for one year with no voting rights, remove 'before Parliament' from the Mission Statement to enable the organisation to continue to be recognised as 'Not for Profit'.

The Special Resolutions were presented together and carried with over 75% support.

1. Amend the Association's Constitution in the form contained in the Annexure of the notice.
2. The Association sign all documents in respect of the making, administration, settling and recording of the arrangement and to do any matter, and to execute and deliver any documentation as they may deem necessary or desirable in connection with these special resolutions including complete and lodge a rule amendment form to the Office of Fair Trading-Queensland and paying the required fees. **CARRIED**

8.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE: The Chair Margaret Vallance Past President NCWQ to take the chair to conduct the election of Officers and members of the Management Committee.

Margaret thanked retiring President Chiou See Anderson for her inspiration to the organisation. She also thanked the outgoing Committee and declared all positions vacant.

As there was only one nominee for position, these members were elected unopposed.

PRESIDENT	Sandy Smith
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ramona Mc Gregor
VICE-PRESIDENT	Cheryl Gray
HON SECRETARY and RECORDING SECRETARY	Dana Voyle
TREASURER	Olivia Anderson
STATE COORDINATOR	Chiou See Anderson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (5)

Kathy Cavanagh, Ronda Nix OAM, Esha Sharma, Rebecca Hall

It was noted that it will be up to the Executive Team to enlist additional members to the Management Committee depending on the skills needed.

9.0 NEW PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: President Sandy Smith took the floor and started by reflecting on her journey. She outlined her vision for NCWQ moving forward which includes continuing the focus on Empowerment through the Bursary Program and Advocacy including the introduction of Advocacy Hubs based on the National Council of New Zealand Model. Sandy is passionate about involving members and building on the successes of past leaders and their teams.

10:0 MEETING CLOSURE: Chair Chiou See Anderson declared the meeting closed at 5:20 p.m. and the group retired to Lady Harriet's Restaurant for drinks and nibbles to say thank-you to Chiou See, the outgoing Committee, the Bursary Sponsors and other volunteers and to welcome the new Management Committee.

RECORDER: Sandy Smith

Apologies/Attendance List NCWQ 2023 AGM

Apologies: Jennifer Davies, Yvette D'Auth MP, Di Farmer MP, Mayor Flannery, Julieanne Gilbert MP, Kim Harrington, Terri Homans, Jenny Howard MP, Cr Vicky Howard, Cheryl Gray, Anne Leahy MP, Shiela Levine, Ali Lingard, Yvonne Matta, Saalihah Seedat, Esha Sharma, Fiona Simpson MP, Naomi Wilson OAM, Bev Rowbotham, Marjorie Voss

Attendance List:

Financial Associate Members/ Delegates for Affiliates: Chiou See Anderson, Olivia Anderson, Kathy Cavanagh, Rebecca Hall, Di Hill, Ramona Mc Gregor, Ronda Nix OAM, Pat Pepper, Lydia Pitcher, Sandy Smith, Margaret Vallance, Dana Voyle, Emily Hall, Lisa Daly, Natasha Montesalvo, Lee Hodgson,

None Voting Members of Affiliates/Guests: Shirley Leuthner, Wendy Pavey, Brendon Rook, Sonia Diaz, Sophy Edmonds

TREASURER'S REPORT



This report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. The Verification Statement and the Financial Statements for the above period, including a comparison to the Financial Statements for 2022/23, are set out in the Annual Report. This year, the Management Committee had decided to not go ahead with the Accountant's Verification Statement due to NCWQ being considered a small association as per the changes to the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999*.

The net asset position at 30 June 2024 was \$158,413 (surplus), and we consider the association is solvent given the high asset reserves and net overall profit position.

For the 2023/24 financial year, NCWQ recorded a net surplus of \$1,680, a significant decrease compared to the surplus of \$106,192 in the previous year, which had been inflated by a generous bequest. Normalised, the profit was still positive despite a reduction in revenue from functions and donations.

Membership dues remained stable at \$6,973, close to the prior year's \$7,878. We express our gratitude to our 30 affiliated and 67 associated members for their ongoing support throughout the financial year. During this financial period, council functions incurred a small deficit of \$428 compared to a surplus of \$2,822 in the previous period. This was due to not having a bursary fundraiser in 2023/24.

As of 30 June 2024, the association's total assets were \$212,740, compared to \$195,239 at the end of FY23. Cash and bank balances were strong at \$197,304, reflecting prudent financial management throughout the year. Liabilities also increased, with current liabilities rising from \$16,023 to \$38,586, mainly due to an increase in bursaries payable as bursary sponsorship invoices were generated and sent during the financial year.

The NCWQ remains in a strong financial position with a solid asset base. While revenues from events and donations have decreased, the association remains solvent and capable of meeting its financial obligations.

Madame President, I move that the Financial Statements as set out and this report be received.

Olivia Anderson, B.Com
NCWQ Treasurer

**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND
INC.**

ABN 43 025 349 777

Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Bequests	-	100,000
Donations	1,015	2,591
Functions	7,277	24,191
Interest	4,819	199
Membership Dues	6,973	7,878
Sales - Badges, Pins etc	-	-
Total Income	20,084	134,859
Expenditure		
Functions	7,770	21,369
Audit Fees	330	330
Badges & Pins	513	682
Filing & Other Fees	60	59
Honorarium	500	-
Insurance	525	520
Legal Expenses	2,200	-
NCWA - ICW Dues	2,122	1,680
Sponsorships & Donations	3,000	3,452
Subscriptions	550	277
Website & Online Expenses/Fees	834	299
Total Expenses	18,404	28,667
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	1,680	106,192

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and Bank		
Bendigo Bank #5674	55,956	151,964
Bendigo Bank #5724	6,098	6,010
Commonwealth Bank #1888	-	-
Term Deposit - Bendigo #3098	10,977	10,719
Term Deposit - Bendigo #3189	24,273	23,704
Term Deposit - CBA #1948	-	-
Term Deposit – Laurel #8018	100,000	-
Total Cash and Bank	197,304	192,397
Other Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	10,760	2,842
Cheques to be Deposited	-	-
Total Other Current Assets	10,760	2,842
Other Assets		
Accrued Interest Receivable	4,156	-
Prepayments	520	-
Total Other Assets	4,676	-
Total Assets	212,740	195,239

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024	2023
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,736	1,823
Bursaries Payable	36,850	14,200
Membership Prepayment	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	38,586	16,023
Long-term Liabilities		
Committed Funds - Child Watch Bursaries	4,521	5,521
Committed Funds - June McNicol Bursaries	10,977	10,719
Committed Funds - Office for Women Bursaries	-	4,000
Committed Funds - OPSO Bursaries	243	2,243
Total Long-term Liabilities	15,741	22,483
Total Liabilities	54,327	38,506
Net Assets	158,413	156,733
Retained Surplus		
Opening Balance	156,733	50,541
Adjustment for change of Accounting Basis	-	-
Add Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	1,680	106,192
Closing Retained Surplus	158,413	156,733

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the association and for use by members of the association. The executive committee have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and therefore there is no requirement to apply Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) in the preparation and presentation of these statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act and the following Australian Accounting Standards.

AAS5 : Materiality

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are drawn up using the accruals basis of accounting. The accruals basis of accounting recognises income and expenses when they are earned or incurred as opposed to a cash receipts and disbursements basis.

(b) Income Taxes

The operations of the association are exempt from income tax under the principals of not-for-profit and mutuality.

(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The organisation is not registered or required to be registered for GST.


THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.


STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that the financial statements have been prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 and in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements, and in our opinion:

- (a) The attached financial statements and notes are in agreement with the accounts and records of THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC;
- (b) the prescribed requirements regarding the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects;
- (c) the statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, on a basis consistent with that applied in the previous financial year (pursuant to any changes outlined in the attached Notes), of the activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2024 and of the state of affairs as at that date; and
- (d) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President: **Signature** 
Print Name SANDY SMITH

Secretary: **Signature** 
Print Name DANA VUOLE

Treasurer: **Signature** 
Print Name OLIVIA ANDERSON

Dated at Brisbane this 9th day of September, 2024.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION BY THE TREASURER AND PRESIDENT

We, the Treasurer and President of THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC; declare that:

(a) The association's financial records show that the association keeps adequate financial records that correctly record and explain its transactions and enable a true and fair financial statement to be prepared.

(b) As of 1 July 2023, due to changes in the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999*, our association is now considered a small association.

(c) As a small association, we are not required to have the financial statements audited under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*.

President:

Signature



Print Name

SANDY SMITH

Treasurer:

Signature



Print Name

OLIVIA ANDERSON

Dated at Brisbane this 9th day of September, 2024.



ADVISORS
REPORTS

ENVIRONMENT REPORT



Along with many other countries Australia has set ambitious targets to reach net zero emissions. Given the Australian Energy Market Operator expects coal plants which supplied 28.7% of Australian domestic energy consumption in 2020-21, to mainly be retired by 2035, there is a need to develop sufficient and reliable replacements. Various pathways to transition towards net zero were considered in a report available on the NCWQ website www.ncwq.org.au. In particular, renewables which could be underpinned by reliable baseload power, on demand power and storage were canvassed.

A number of aspects to be taken into account included:

- stability and reliability
- life of components e.g. nuclear small modular reactors, solar panels, wind turbines
- end of life disposal
- emission from resources
- availability of fuel sources
- disposal, management and use of waste
- legislation and licensing
- need and use of water.

It is concluded that comprehensive feasibility studies are needed to assess, on merit over a long time run, mixes of power sources for generation, storage and transmission to end user, considering the benefits, limitations and costs with different mixes. For generation renewables (wind, solar) could be underpinned by reliable baseload power (nuclear), on demand power (gas in the short term, pumped hydro) with storage e.g. hydrogen, lithium batteries.

As a matter of urgency, bipartisan support should be sought for developing a successful energy transition that includes a mix of renewables underpinned by reliable baseload power, on demand power and storage.

Details are available in a more fully documented report with references on the [NCWQ website](#).

Pat Pepper, NCWQ Environment Advisor, B.Sc. M.Sc. Ph.D

SDGs 7,11,12,13

HEALTH REPORT



We are exceedingly pleased with the reception of our recommendations leading to the new Commonwealth Practice Payment which will provide students with \$319.50 a week when they are on clinical and professional placements.

Those eligible will include people studying teaching, nursing, midwifery and social work.

The money is to help students who often have to give up work to undertake their placements and so are left out of pocket. The government's Universities Accord report recommended the issue should be addressed, as did the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce.

A mentor in the early years of my career in Queensland, would say in reference to the womb during a gynaecology surgery "Jeni, behold the Seat of All Humanity".

And it is with the same reverence Dr Yogesh Chadha (of the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital – RBWH) imbued upon me, that I deliver my inaugural Health report for Health 2023-2024.

The Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) In Healthcare

AI is transforming the way we think about health and wellness. The use of digital technology has grown exponentially in healthcare since the pandemic. It has also brought new ethical issues. The US, EU and now Australia have led the way the use of AI is legislated. From 1 July 2024, all clinical decision-making software is mandated to follow the guidelines and standards set by the Therapeutic Goods Administration at the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Furthermore, software deemed to be Class IIb, for health professionals, and Class III for patients, require an application for assessment to be listed in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

The intention of the Department of Health remains ensuring every person in Australia who needs, or is advised to use software with AI, is provided with an avenue to vet the quality and integrity of the it before its use.

With the rise in the incidence of chronic diseases in Australia from 2015 (35%) to a reported 46% over the last 9 years, innovation has come to the fore as the next hope to reverse and prevent the rise.

The First Femtech Unicorn

July 2024 - Flo, a UK-based company which created a purely female digital health application, became the first femtech company to be valued at over a billion US dollars.

The application which is reportedly used by over seventy million women each month and has over five million paid users including women living in Australia.

There has been controversy around the all-male founding team of the company, receiving support that blazed a trail through the market where women in the industry continue to not receive the same level of support. Many women had developed or had been part of the development of similar products preceding the arrival of Flo. They report mixed emotions at the success of Flo. Many say they were told the market for femtech was "too niche" to reach such a valuation as they were denied funding for their innovation.

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The Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2023

August 2024 - The Council was privileged to welcome two Managers for the Unit that developed the Strategy – Lisa MacArthur-Day and Shellee Valentine - for an official briefing.

The research that preceded the development of the Strategy was integral to informing the actions needed to meet the WHO Health Equity Goals for the priority communities:

- First Nations women and girls
- culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women and girls
- women and girls with disability
- members of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) communities
- women and girls living in rural and remote areas
- women and girls in contact with the justice system, including women in custody.

It is our intention to submit a response to the Strategy. Our Advocacy hub is still in the process of reviewing the research that went into developing the Strategy before we look at the Strategy itself. We should be better equipped to consider the initiatives eventuating from the outcomes published in the study.

The report included a statement of nearly \$250 million of new investments over the period to 2027-28 to address health inequity for women and girls. The Government is anticipated to spend more than \$1 billion over the next 5 years on women and girls' health and wellbeing programs in addition to new services to better meet their needs.

We welcome this much needed funding into the Women and Girls' Health sector and look forward to supporting the initiatives.

Qld joins NSW with coercive control laws

April 2024 - This move by the Queensland Parliament is a massive step in the right direction to support the mental health of Women and Girls who are the recipients of the majority of domestic violence orders (DVOs) in Queensland. 77% of DVOs are aimed at safeguarding women and 73% of perpetrators identified as male.

Coercive control will be a criminal offence in Queensland from 26 May 2025.

It will be illegal for an adult to use abusive behaviors towards their current, or former, intimate partner, family member, or informal (unpaid) carer with the intention to control or coerce them.

The legislation has passed with bipartisan support and will require free and voluntary agreement to take part in sexual activity. A news report published by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) revealed that 97% of intimate partner violence stems from coercive control.

The WHO has reported Intimate partner violence (IPV) as a public health concern that has been linked with long-term mental health consequences including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, alcohol and substance use disorders, as well as thoughts of suicide.

Coercive control is a form of abuse where the main goal is to degrade, isolate, and deprive a person of their rights to physical security, dignity, and respect. This places the victim in a state of terror and entrapment, and includes tactics such as monitoring movements, social isolation, and restriction of access to financial resources, employment, education, or medical care.

Studies reported that coercive control was associated with increased parental mental ill-health, poorer family functioning, harsher parenting, higher levels of child abuse, and strained parent-child relationships.

Children are often psychologically manipulated as tools for the perpetrator and are co-victims of the coercive control. They develop mental ill-health due to an increased risk of them internalising and externalising problems, having limited access to socialising opportunities, increased involvement in bullying (victims or perpetrators), poorer perinatal outcomes, limited access to healthcare, and increased risk of mortality.

We hope to support increasing the awareness of women and girls in the state of Queensland to the presence of these laws. We will help to support informational initiatives to skills all women and girls to better recognise the signs, symptoms and unhealthy patterns of behaviour in relationships. We will support awareness of where to seek help.

Continued next page...

Queensland increases the limit on financial assist offered through Victims Assist for victims of domestic violence to \$120,000

November 2023 - The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Honourable Yvette D'Ath released a statement reporting a major increase in assistance to victims of crime passed by parliament. The Reform package to better support victims of crime and their families increased the maximum financial assistance for primary victims from up to \$75,000 to up to \$120,000. Victims of sexual violence will also be eligible for greater payments, with special assistance increasing across all categories.

This is phenomenal news for victims and their families in their recovery from the adverse effects of domestic and family violence.

In addition to support with accessing counselling and medical expenses necessary for recovery, victims may also access financial assistance for income lost as a direct result of the violence.

I would like to thank NCWQ for welcoming me to the Advisory Board as the Health Advisor for the state of Queensland.

It is an honour to serve in this capacity. The responsibilities are not ones I intend to take lightly. It is my intention to use my understanding of the current health systems to increase the support given to the betterment of the Women and Girls' Health in the state of Queensland.

2024-2025 will see us respond to The Queensland Women and Girl's Health Strategy 2032 and monitor the progress of the initiative to ensure we are achieving the WHO Health Equity Goals for Women and Girls in Queensland.

We will prepare for the enactment of the Coercive Control Laws ahead of 26 March 2025. And we will continue to support the Bursary Program which supports the stream of young women and girls aspiring to a Career in Health.

I look forward to supporting the Council with the Health Portfolio.

Dr Jeni Wellington, LRCPI LRCSI MB BCH BAO



EDUCATION REPORT



Girls and STEM

STEM is science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

Both State and National governments are still promoting programmes that encourage girls to plan a career in STEM. 'Learning a STEM subject gives students – from school to technical and further education through to university – opportunities to pursue fulfilling careers and make real differences locally, nationally and internationally' (1). The Queensland Women in STEM Prize is still running. 'Presented by Queensland Museum and the Queensland Government, QWiSP recognises and celebrates women who are making a difference to the world in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).(2)



Women in STEM Prize winners 2023 (2)

Although women's role in STEM has been recognised there are still many problems to overcome including the final result when women have a career in a STEM - the Gender Pay Gap still exists. (3) 'In 2023, the pay gap between women's and men's full-time total remuneration (which includes discretionary pay) in STEM industries was \$26,420, or 16%. This pay gap is slightly lower than it was in 2022, when it was \$27,012 (17%).' (3, 4). The battle continues.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence is 'revolutising' education. It can provide tutorial assistance for students as well as assist teachers to prepare lessons (5). We must recognize that it is here and help students and teachers learn how to make best use of AI as well as being aware of privacy and security concerns. The Australian Government now has produced an Australian Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Schools. (6)

Social Media

Currently the Australian Government is considering ways to prevent children under 16 to access Social Media platforms such as Tik Tok. The current age is 13. Is this even possible. Many sites simply ask the user to give their age but users can easily lie. The government is currently funding a trial of ways to ensure that underage children cannot access Social Media. These include:

- User-provided Age verification e. g. passport or driver's licence
- Verified parental consent (e.g. parents would need to provide such as a driver's licence)
- Age estimation using behavioural data (e.g. Analysis of online behaviour using AI)
- Age estimation using biometrics (e.g. facial scanning) (7)

Is this the way forward?

'Social media platforms provide vital pathways for young people to engage with peers and seek information for school, work and personal needs. For example, YouTube and LinkedIn are critical professional development and networking tools, often used in education.

Would a social media ban only target specific tools, or apply to all platforms, regardless of purpose?'(6) Using Social Media should be part of their education.

We educate children to live in our world. They need to know how to do this. They need to learn to recognise 'fake news' and what to do if they fall prey to a scammer or are bullied online. The problems will not magically disappear when they turn 16. 'Social media – as with television, internet and other media content – are best explored by children with the support of parents, teachers and other caregivers to guide their use.' (8)

Deslyn Taylor

NCWQ Education Advisor
M Ed.(QUT), B.A. (U.Q); Grad. Dip. Comp.Ed.
(QUT)

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2024 BURSARY PROGRAM



The Bursary Program in 2024 marks its 16th year. With 35 bursaries on offer, the number of recipients is now a grand total of 386 female students from Queensland since the commencement of the program in 2009, when two bursaries were offered.

Bursary sponsors continue to be from the three levels of government; affiliated organisations of NCWQ; and individuals. Thank you – your support enables the bursary program to continue.

Our bursary sponsors are:

- Brisbane Women's Club, inaugural bursary for a first-year tertiary student from Brisbane
- City of Moreton Bay for a student from that Council area
- Claire Moore for student studying special education
- Councillor Vicki Howard, Brisbane City Council, for student identifying with the LGBTIQ community
- Hon. David Littleproud MP for student from the Maranoa electorate.
- Dr Susan Byth, honouring her grandmother Elsie Byth, stalwart of NCWQ and NCWA
- ESA International for student with family member with cancer
- Ethel Rowbotham Memorial Bursary, sponsored by her daughters, for a Year 12 student planning on studying nursing
- Forum Communicators, bursary for students in debating, public speaking
- Helen Ovens Memorial bursary, sponsored by friends and family of Helen
- Lady Justice bursary, sponsored by Anna Dwyer and Joanne Robinson, for a tertiary student of a law or justice degree
- Lavis/Wilson Queensland Child Watch Committee, funds from disbanded committee supporting early childhood education
- NCWQ – a bursary for a first-year tertiary bursary from regional/rural Queensland
- NCWQ student with a refugee background
- National Council of Jewish Women, Brisbane Section for a student becoming a teacher
- Office for Women, two bursaries for: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; and Leadership
- Older Women's Network, taking over the Return to Work bursary for a mature female studying to return to the workforce
- PhD student, sponsored anonymously, researching to benefit to women and children
- Queensland Medical Women's Society for a medical student and an AMAQ bursary in honour of Professor Tess Cramond
- Queensland Medical Women's Society and Mater Health for an Indigenous medical student
- Quota Brisbane /NCWQ, joint sponsorship for a student of ophthalmology, in honour of the late Dr Laurel Macintosh, OBE
- Rotary E-Club of Nextgen, inaugural bursary for a regional tertiary student
- Science bursary, sponsored by June McNicol OAM for student of physical sciences
- Senator Susan McDonald bursary for a tertiary student from Far North Queensland
- Soroptimist International for Indigenous student in health/medical field
- Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc for a final-year veterinary science student
- South Burnett Mayor bursary for a student from that Council's area
- The Boyce Bursary for disability students, including learning disability (2 bursaries)
- The Kathleen Langan bursary for a tertiary student majoring in sports management
- Transport and Main Roads Department, for sponsorship for 2 "women in engineering", one from SEQ area, the other regional
- Women's College UQ, offering Associate Membership, allowing access to Women's College programs of support and facilities.

Thank you to Team Bursary. Consisting of our bursary coordinators and selection panel members, this group of about 30 people is essential to our success. Congratulations to all recipients – you are our inspiration.

Kathy Cavanagh AM
Bursary Program Manager



The Women's College
Isabelle Logan



Dr Lydia Pitcher - QMWS



Melissa Weier - Brisbane Women's Club



Netta Finney



2024 Bursary Recipients with Kathy Cavanagh AM, Sandy Smith and Noela O'Donnell AM



Professor Susan Moloney



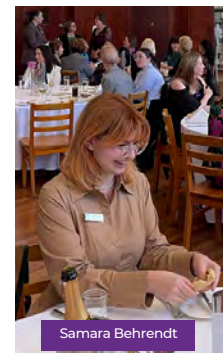
Lena Nabizada with Sandy Smith



Bree Glasbergen with Cr Jodie Shipway



Emma Day with Sandy Smith



Samara Behrendt



Shirley Leuthner - Quota Brisbane



Jessica Davidson, with Irene Henley
- Forum Communicators



The Women's College
Dr Jennifer Schafer - QMWS President

VALE

Valerie (Val) Jean Cocksedge (nee McDonald) OAM

Val Cocksedge OAM (22/03/1927 - 21/07/2024) is remembered with fondness by those who knew and respected her.

In tribute, we republish the following article from January 2012 that paints a picture of her life and contribution.



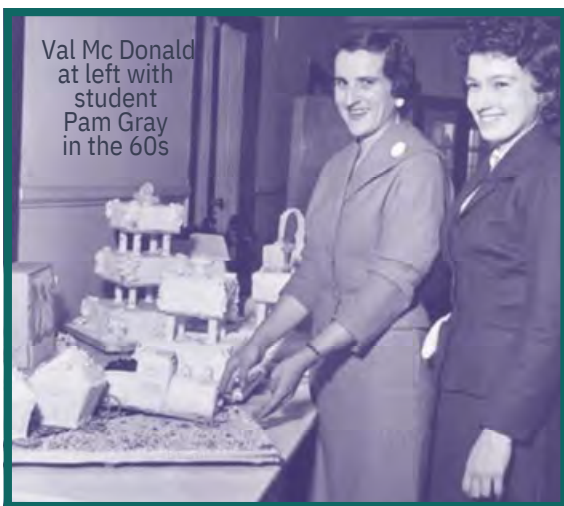
Val Cocksedge OAM Honorary Life Member NCWQ

Val Cocksedge OAM, was born Valerie McDonald in 1927, and I think at that moment she decided to commit her life to community service.

Val began teaching, first at schools in 1946, and then with a Diploma in Home Science (Hons) in 1955, as a lecturer at the Teachers' College, Kelvin Grove (now QUT) in 1956, becoming Senior Lecturer from 1959-1966. Also during those same years Val was a Chief Junior Examiner of the Education Department and a lecturer with the Board of Adult Education, resuming that position from 1975 – 82.

In 1966 she married Lt Col AE Cocksedge DSO ThA. Married women were usually obliged to resign from their jobs and so Val retired until the ruling was reversed. She took up teaching Distance Education from 1982-1992 and continued with the School of Distance Education as a course writer, teacher and administrator. During the years 1955 to the early 90s Val's career involved many responsibilities in the field of education: Committee, Bachelor Applied Science 1977; Committee, Tertiary Studies Curriculum 1988; Editor, Board member, Committee, Home Economics Institute of Australia (HEIA) and HEIA Queensland foundation member; member Australian Delegation to International Conference, Hanover, 1992; part time tutor for unemployed youth, Commonwealth Youth Support Scheme, 1979-81; and served on numerous Syllabus sub-committees, panels and boards at Junior, Senior, Tertiary levels. She was granted life membership of HEIA Qld in 1993.

Always involved with students and with her broad interests, Val felt that, post retirement, she could use her experience as a consumer representative. She had joined the NCWQ in the early 60s as Adviser for Consumer Affairs and Nutrition and in 1977 was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for community work. Val says, "The National Council of Women was very upfront in improving conditions, medical and schooling, for children and families; NCW seemed to be the voice for change in these days." From 1979-82 Val was also a Board member of the NCWA and until 1999 was Convener of Nutrition and Consumer Affairs for the Australian Council writing many submissions to ANZFA (now FSANZ) on food regulations and standards, the Food Act, genetic engineering, food irradiation and food safety. She was consultant to the International Council of Women Standing Committee from 1995-98, attended the Triennial Conference NCWA and International Assembly of NCW in Perth in 2003.



Val Mc Donald
at left with
student
Pam Gray
in the 60s

NCW was instrumental in bringing about changes to the Milk Supply and Distribution and Val was the consumer representative of NCWQ to the Brisbane Milk Board as well as being on the Milk Sales Promotion Committee for fourteen years.

While a Councillor with the Consumers Federation of Australia (CFA) Val also sat on the Bread Industry Committee for eleven years. Unsold bread had been dumped but this practice was ceased, some charities getting the bread and some bread being sold as day-old at reduced prices. Val was the only woman on many committees and says that the men were not realising the financial effects on families.

It doesn't seem fair to Val to just list her participation in community affairs but a newsletter article cannot do her achievements true justice, and so I will list some others:

- Member of Tripod Food Working Party (Qld) 1979-8 – looking at food regulations in the food industry including better availability of food.
- Represented CFA on panels, forums 1994-96.
- Membership Consumer Complaints Committee, Dieticians Association 1996-2001.
- Panel member (consumer rep) Queensland Government Inquiry into Security of Payment in Building & Construction Industry 1996.
- Credit Union Dispute Resolution Council 1997.
- Speech Pathology Board 1995-2008.
- Member National Competition Policy Consumer Working Group (Treasury) 1997
- Member Supply Management Working Group - NCP Review of the Dairy Industry Act 1998
- Consumer Rep National Competition Policy Review of Engineers Act (DPW) 1999

- Consumer Rep Caterers' Gold Licence Accreditation Board
- Consumer Rep Food Safety Partnership Forum BCC
- Food Safety Stakeholders' Group (for Qld Catering Sector)

Val Cocksedge OAM, and Dr Laurel Mackintosh OBE, another longstanding member of NCWQ, were both made Honorary Life Vice Presidents of NCWA and Honorary Life Members of NCWQ for their outstanding contributions to both organisations.

Val Cocksedge on the right of photo with Laurel Mackintosh on the left at the Bursary Fundraiser, Tattersall's Club, 2011.

At the end of the table are Chiou See Anderson and Annette Lourigan, younger members continuing the NCWQ tradition.



Of course, Val has also volunteered in her local community, being a Girl Guides badge tester; Meals on Wheels volunteer at Crosby Park; Parochial Councillor, St Clement's Anglican Church; and committee member with Grange National Seniors. Val has remained for over 30 years an adjudicator at the Brisbane Exhibition in fine arts and cookery, a position that she doesn't take lightly. "People put an awful lot of effort in so you want to make sure you do as good a job as possible. It's only fair to them."

This amazing woman was acknowledged on the 70th Anniversary of International Women's Day, received a Certificate of Appreciation in 2001, the International Year of Volunteers and was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2002 – the culmination of a life of continuing service.

Val has stepped down from the NCWQ Management Committee but remains the Adviser for Nutrition and Consumer Affairs. Her achievements both personally and for the good of the community are truly re-markable and we would wish her well in retirement – if she would ever do such a thing!

Reproduced from NCWQ Newsletter 210, January 2012



ADVOCACY
HUB

NCWQ introduced a new way of approaching Advocacy involving members and Advisors working as a team to further our goals aligned with the National Council Of Women Australia and the International Council of Women.

The NCWQ Advocacy Hub was formed in March 2024 adopting learnings from the National Council Of Women of New Zealand. Members were invited to join the Hub and contribute in the areas of their interests. We acknowledge partners outside of the organisation to access relevant research. An email of advocacy@ncwq.org.au was established.

Following is the submission on the Australia University Accord was made in March 2024, and the responses received are also provided.





Established 1905

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland

18th March 2024
Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
House of Representatives
PO Box 622
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email:

Dear Mr Claire,

RE: NCWQ Response to Australian University Accord

The National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) is a not-for-profit umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. We work to improve conditions for women and their families. NCWQ who represents over thirty women's organisations and over forty individual members welcomes the opportunity to comment on this important review.

This response has been prepared by our new Advocacy Hub which includes NCWQ Advisers, members from the Management Committee and interested members some of whom are tertiary students.

NCWQ commends the Australian University Accord for its frank review with a simple message that Australia needs a more equitable higher education system. NCWQ agrees that significant change is needed to address skills shortages in the areas of early childhood education, teachers, care workers and nurses which are traditionally filled by women as well as increases in graduates from engineering, manufacturing and innovation.

In order to address current and future skills requirements, significant investment, new approaches and openness to change are vital. Students will need to be supported to complete their studies and fees charged reviewed to encourage more people to engage in further education and to complete their studies. More graduates are needed. Engaging and supporting women to engage in and complete higher education study in traditional and non traditional fields would be a step in the right direction.

The Accord recommends making significant changes which NCWQ supports including; changes to student contributions and repayments and suggests paid placements along with new ways to approach compulsory work experience.

Student Contribution: Current fees associated with higher education, indexation of loans, and repayment expectations impacts on student's willingness to engage in higher education studies and to engage in full

time employment post graduation. This debt impacts career pathways and earning potential. Debt carried forward impacts credit ratings affecting the ability to gain future finance for example for a home. NCWQ feels strongly that the debt incurred gaining the qualification should not exceed the earning potential of the student as suggested in the Accord. The burden of this debt impacts women disproportionately due to the high percentage of women in the lower paid care industries and limited earning capacity given the proportion engaging in part time employment due to family responsibilities and for some, to avoid having to repay the debt. NCWQ agrees with the fee-free preparatory courses suggested but feels it should be expanded to other courses for example the modular, stackable skills suggested. Fee free courses targeting older women who are emerging as the demographic most at risk of homelessness in addition to the suggested cohorts would empower them to become more economically independent. Ultimately this would save the government money.

Paid Work Experience: Currently placement poverty impacts student's ability to reach their full potential and engage fully in their studies. Students of social work, child care, teaching, nursing, aged care etc are expected to undertake unpaid work in order to gain experience in their chosen field. This expectation places pressure on the students who have ongoing living expenses and an inability to engage in paid employment while doing their compulsory placements. Paid placements would enable increased participation, promote retention and completion of study. Alternative approaches are also worthy of consideration and have been trialed by Social Work students with positive outcomes. NCWQ supports including, as suggested in the Accord, work experience in an existing paid employment, recognition of prior learning, sponsoring students during placement in industries where it is difficult to place students and forging partnerships between large companies and government to secure paid placements.

NCWQ Recommendations in Summary:

- Fee Free higher education and preparatory courses going forward particularly for older women who are increasingly at risk and an underutilized resource
- Removal or reduction of the burden of debt of students of higher education by the removal of indexation to halt the spiralling debt of students and graduates
- Paid placements and adoption of alternative approaches for students to undertake compulsory work experience to enable them to engage fully in their studies, improve retention and course completion.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Smith

President

Email president@ncwq.org.au

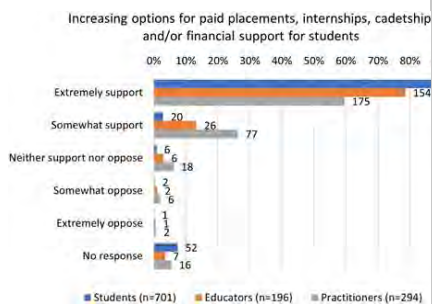
Ph: 0410080430

www.ncwq.org.au

ABN 43 025 349 777

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Re-Envisioning Field Education in Australian Social Work to Combat Placement Poverty: Students', Educators' and Practitioners' Perceptions

In Australia and internationally, there is increasing pressure from people within the social work profession—including students, educators, practitioners and pe



‘We can no longer justify unpaid labour’: why uni students need to be paid for work placements

A new survey has found the financial burden of work placements
on students can be crippling.



**Office of the Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education**

Reference: MC24-001593

Ms Sandy Smith
President
National Council of Women Queensland
info@ncwq.org.au

Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 March 2024 to the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, regarding the Australian Universities Accord Final Report (the Accord) and its recommendations. Minister Clare has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Thank you for your considered response to the Accord and the potential impacts on Australian women. The Accord was the biggest and broadest review of the higher education sector in 15 years. It sets out a blueprint for higher education reform for the next decade and beyond.

The Accord was clear that many more Australians need tertiary qualifications if Australia is to meet its future skills and employment needs. Consistent with this, the Australian Government has set an ambitious target of lifting tertiary education attainment to 80% of working age people by 2050 so more Australian can obtain the life-changing benefits it provides. This includes increasing access for young women coming from secondary education as well as those re-entering the workforce, with carer responsibilities or currently working. It will also assist older women who, as you mention, are increasingly at risk of homelessness.

The Government's response in the 2024–25 Budget will help to achieve the ambitious tertiary target. This includes a fairer Higher Education Loan Program system, cost of living relief for students, support for people from the outer suburbs and regions to go to university and structural reforms to our tertiary education system. The 2024–25 Budget delivers on many of the NCWQ recommendations outlined in your letter.

We are lowering the indexation of HELP debts by capping HELP indexation rate to be the lower of the Consumer Price Index or the Wage Price Index with effect from 1 June 2023. This will wipe around \$3 billion in student debt from more than 3 million Australians.

The Government will also introduce a Government Prac Payment for teaching, nursing and midwifery and social work students undertaking mandatory placements. From 1 July 2025, eligible students will be able to access payment of \$319.50 per week when they are on a mandatory placement, which will provide important cost of living relief and combat against placement poverty.

To give more Australians the skills they need to get into the course they want, the Government will increase funding for FEE-FREE Uni Ready courses providing more students with an enabling pathway into higher education. This is expected to increase the number of students undertaking these courses by 40% by 2030 and double the number of students by 2040.

You can find more information about these measures on the Department of Education website.

The Government will be undertaking a range of consultation and close engagements with the tertiary education system on the implementation of the Accord related measures. An Implementation Advisory Committee is being established to engage with and represent the views of the sector and wider community. The Government will also consult with those stakeholders that are the focus of the equity reforms at the centre of the Accord, including:

- regional and remote perspectives
- representatives of First Nations people and Coalition of Peaks
- people living with disability and disability stakeholders.

Minister Clare is looking forward to working closely with all stakeholders to build a better and fairer higher education system that supports more people to gain the life-changing benefits of tertiary education.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



KORENA FLANAGAN
Chief of Staff

12/6/2024

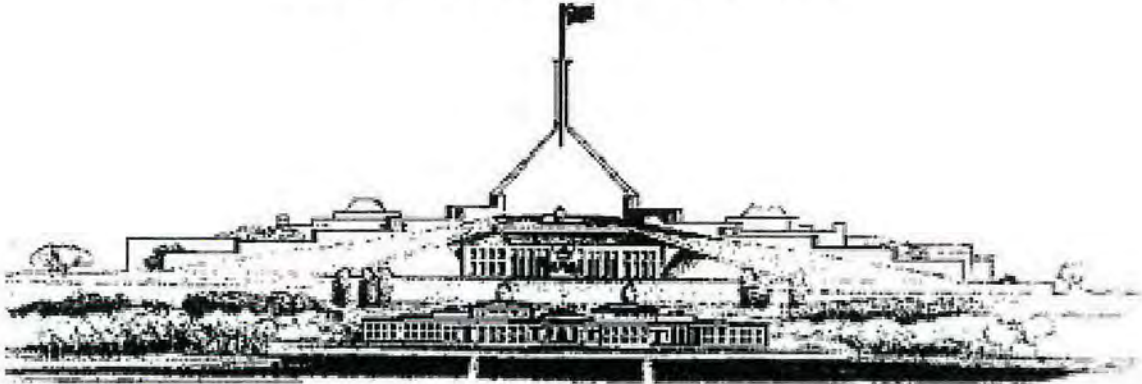
I have attached a copy of an answer to a Question Without Notice the Minister recently gave which tells the story of women who have undertaken Fee Free Uni Ready courses. The Minister appreciates your feedback on these important courses

Korena



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Education

QUESTION

Tuesday, 28 May 2024

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Tuesday, 28 May 2024
Page 27
Questioner Rae, Sam MP
Speaker

Source House
Proof Yes
Responder Clare, Jason Dean MP
Question No.

Education

Education

Mr RAE (Hawke) (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Education. How is the Albanese Labor government building the workforce for a future made in Australia and opening the doors of opportunity wider for all Australians?

Mr CLARE (Blaxland—Minister for Education) (14:37): I thank the sensational member for Hawke for his question. Two weeks ago I told the House the story of Jennifer Baker. Jennifer was a single mum at the age of 19. She worked in hospitality for 10 years till she saw an ad in the local paper for a University of Newcastle FEE-FREE university ready course. She did that course. Now she's got a science degree, an honours degree and PhD. These are free courses are effectively a bridge between school and university to give you the foundational skills that you need to succeed when you're at uni. She's one of 70,000 people who've done one of these courses at Newcastle university over the last 50 years.

I was there last week with the member for Newcastle and got to meet more people like Jennifer who have done these courses. One of them is Liam Gleeson. In his early 20s, Liam struggled with drug addiction and tried to take his own life. He was saved by paramedics and nurses at John Hunter Hospital. It was in that hospital that he decided not only that he wanted to live but what he wanted to do with his life. He wanted to repay that debt and become a paramedic. Now he's doing one of those free courses and using it as a springboard to a nursing degree and paramedicine degree.

I also met Roy Turner. Roy dropped out of school in year 10 He became a fitter and machinist and worked in the oil and gas industry. When COVID hit, he lost his job and that's when his fiancée said to him, 'Why don't you do one of these free university ready courses?' He did that and now he's doing a degree in medical engineering—from making valves for the oil and gas industry to making valves for hearts.

I also met Zee Johnson. She did one of these free courses at the age of 48 when she was on a carer's pension, looking after her husband, who'd had a stroke. In the next few months, she'll complete her honours degree in ovarian cancer research. Next year, she's going to start a PhD.

From pension to PhD—that's what these courses do. That's why we're backing them in the budget. That's why we're massively expanding funding for these courses to give more Australians the life-changing chance that Jennifer and Liam and Roy and Zee got. We expect it'll double the number of people doing these courses over the next 15 years, help more Australians to get a crack at going to university—and succeed when they get there—and help to build the skills that we need for a future made right here in Australia.



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
Services
Minister for Women

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

C-ECTF-24/4972

Ms Sandy Smith
President
National Council of Women Queensland Inc.

03 JUL 2024

Email: info@ncwq.org.au

Dear Ms Smith, *Sandy*

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2024, regarding the National Council of Women Queensland's (NCWQ) response to the Australian University Accord. I acknowledge some time has passed since you wrote and I thank you for your patience.

I appreciate the NCWQ sharing your recommendations with me in response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report with a particular focus on the importance of engaging and supporting women when completing higher education studies in both traditional and non-traditional fields.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank NCWQ and your patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, for your advocacy and dedication to empowering women. The Office for Women has been a proud supporter of the NCWQ Bursary Program since its inception in 2009. Together the Queensland Government have assisted Queensland women to gain tertiary qualifications and addressed issues of unemployment and intergenerational disadvantage.

As you are aware, to achieve the Accord's vision for higher education in Australia, the Report outlines over 70 policy ideas for further exploration with key targets by 2035, and five priority actions for immediate implementation. Cross-jurisdictional Working Groups have been established to support the priority actions, with representation by each State and Territory. The Department of Education is the nominated Queensland Government representative. Therefore, I have referred your correspondence to the Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice, for consideration and response.

I agree with you that unpaid placements for trainee nurses and midwives can be a barrier for students, so I was pleased that the Commonwealth Government announced the Commonwealth Prac Payment in the Federal Budget and from 1 July 2025 eligible students will receive \$319 per week during their placement. This payment will support students in female-dominated courses of nursing, teaching, midwifery and social work.

The Queensland Government is providing a nurses and midwives a \$5,000 Cost of Living Allowance in their final year for undertaking unpaid placements in rural, regional, and remote communities. The Queensland Government does not want cost to prevent Queenslanders from pursuing a career in healthcare that they've worked so hard for.

Economic security is key for women and girls to achieve gender equality, which is why the Queensland Government has put it at the heart of the *Queensland Women's Strategy 2022-27*. Lower wages in female-dominated industries, gendered stereotypes, workplace segregation and education inequity all contribute to the imbalance that can prevent women and girls from leading safe, healthy and successful lives.

Thank you once again for bringing your recommendations regarding the Australian University Accord to my attention. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Ms Cynthia Kennedy, Director, Office for Women, on telephone 0408 672 905 or via email Cynthia.Kennedy@health.qld.gov.au, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', written in a cursive style.

Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford



AFFILIATED
ORGANISATIONS

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS 2023 - 2024

Anglican Mothers Union Australia - Diocese of Brisbane

Breast & Prostate Cancer Association of Qld Inc

Brisbane Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association Inc

Brisbane Women's Club

Catholic Women's League

ESA International

Forum Communicators Assn Inc.

Girl Guides Queensland

Graduate Women Qld Inc

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia

Of One Mind

Older Women's Network (Qld) Inc

Queensland Country Women's Association

Queensland Medical Women's Society

Quota Club of Brisbane Inc

Red Rose Foundation

Save the Children Aust - Qld Div

Scope Clubs of Australia Inc

Search Light Inc

Soroptimist International Brisbane Inc.

Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc.

Soroptimist International Region of South Queensland

St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School

The Girls' Brigade Qld Inc.

The Queensland Women's Historical Association

The Women's College

Wanwod Association of Qld Inc

Women Lawyers' Assn (Qld)

Women's Network Australia

Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc

ANGLICAN MOTHERS' UNION AUSTRALIA

DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Report to the National Council of Women Queensland Inc.

2023-2024



AMUA is a missionary agency of the Anglican Church of Australia and a part of Mothers' Union Worldwide which has around four million members in 84 countries. In 2024 the Brisbane Diocese has 724 financial members in 44 branches. It is our mission to 'share Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life' and prayer is at the centre of all that we do.

AMUA members are involved in projects and activities within their parish, their communities, the Diocese as well as nationally and globally. To this end there are five Diocesan Projects supported by the branches' voluntary contributions. These are:

1. Emergency Relief for flood, fire or drought
2. Family holiday offered to a family in need –one family given a holiday this year
3. Support to the Toowong Women's Shelter -\$2,200 given in 2024
4. Fresh Start Baskets of household cleaning items given to those who arrive at the Shelter –a total of 30 baskets given to the end of July 2024 @ approx. \$30 each
5. Support to children at risk through Scripture Union - \$1,200 given

In 2024 the Brisbane Diocese awarded two full bursaries of \$2,100 each to theological students studying for the priesthood at St Francis College. It also presented students who were ordained Deacon with a new Diocesan stole.

Branches also support our National Project in remote communities in the Diocese of North Queensland, Northern Territory and Northwest Australia. In June 2024 \$6,800 was donated to this Northern Outreach Fund for a variety of projects.

An Overseas Fund, managed by Mary Sumner House in London, provides for indigenous MU members in developing countries to be trained to work with local people in various health, nutrition, literacy and parenting programmes. This year \$ 4,200 was donated to this fund by the branches of the Brisbane Diocese.

Two Retiring Collections were facilitated by branches in the parishes of this diocese. On Mothering Sunday in March, \$14,000 was collected for the MU Overseas Target Fund which supports the 'Disaster and Climate Change in the Pacific' project. On Mary Sumner Day in August 2023 \$15,000 was collected for Anglicare Southern Queensland for their Rapid Response Project and given to that organisation on Lady Day 2024.

Apart from financial support our members continue to serve the community in many different ways. They knit beanies and rugs for the Seafarers' Mission and the homeless, sew prayer shawls and children's clothes, knit comfort and baptismal teddies, collect items for organisations like

Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening, and supporting marriage and family life.

Zephyr Education, work with other community organisations like Zonta, run Mainly Music programmes, visit hospitals and Law Courts, make up toiletry and blessing bags and so on. Friendship and fellowship are important by-products of all of these activities. All members receive a copy of our national Mia Mia magazine four times each year, along with a copy of the Poinsettia Post, the Brisbane Diocesan magazine.

Most branches in the Diocese participate to some degree in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence programme held in late November and early December each year. At least 13 branches have installed red benches in church grounds as symbols of 'Change the ending – let's stop Domestic Violence'.

In May 2024 Worldwide President Sheran Harper visited Australia and was welcomed to Brisbane with a reception held at St Francis College and attended by around 220 members. She proved to be an inspirational speaker, loved and respected by everyone. She challenged us all to be more visible, articulate and relevant in the future.

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Jenny Bullock

Brisbane Diocesan President

12/08/2024



ESA Queensland is honoured to be an affiliate of NCWQ. We are especially proud of our member Kathy Cavanagh AM for her leadership as NCWQ Bursary Program Manager.

ESA Q celebrated 60 years of service to the people of Queensland last year with a series of events year-long, which culminated at the annual Convention held in Mackay on the May long weekend. Representatives from all four branches – Proserpine, Mackay, Gin Gin and Redcliffe - attended. One former branch, Southern Brisbane, closed during the year due to insufficient membership. However, three members remain as Members at Large and attended Convention. In July, Proserpine celebrated 60 years, the oldest surviving branch in the State. Pat Burns OAM is a foundation and current member, being the daughter of ESA Queensland founder, the late Dorothy Banks.

ESA Q continues to provide the Wig and Turban Service with outlets across the State to assist anyone who has lost hair from medical intervention. Mackay Branch maintains its commitment to local charities especially RACQ Rescue Helicopters, mostly funded through their gift-wrapping services in the lead-up to Christmas and Mother's Day, as well as Lucky Numbers stalls at District Shows. They raise in excess of \$60K annually, vital to these services. All Branches hold fundraisers and support Cancer Council Queensland and Leukaemia Foundation Australia, as well as three bursaries.

Past State President Jenny Hendriks, along with Debbie O'Grady, Anne Maree Comer and I attended the NCWQ Bursary Presentation, a wonderful celebration of inspirational young women. One, a refugee from Afghanistan, would have had a vastly different life had she stayed there. She would not have been attending university, not even high school.

Unfortunately, ESA winner, Chelsea Wood, was unable to attend as her partner is in Wesley Hospital, having had a negative reaction to a bone-marrow transplant for leukaemia, so Chelsea cannot be in crowded places or use public transport for fear of infection. She is his only visitor.

Jenny Hendriks arranged that she and I would meet Chelsea in a small coffee shop near Wesley to ensure we didn't create risk. She studies nursing and spends 7am to midnight with her partner each day. He is in constant extreme pain and needs a mind-blowing cocktail of medication for relief, so he sleeps a lot, and Chelsea uses the time for study. She said her laptop is quite old and slow, so she plans to put the bursary to effective use by replacing it. She was delighted to meet us to receive the bursary and so thankful for the financial support in an extremely demanding situation. She is incredibly positive, talking of plans to buy a house and travel overseas which her partner has never done. The costs of treatment are astronomical, and although they have private insurance many services needed frequently are



not covered. Meeting someone in that situation makes one realise how valuable good health is. Treasure it!






Congratulations NCWQ on another successful year.

Carmel Mulcahy

ESA Q State President 2024-2025

Report to The Annual General Meeting of the NCWQ on Key Matters of Interest to Forum Communicators Inc for the period 1 October 2023 to year to 31 August 2024

From: Forum NCWQ Delegates - Ronda Nix OAM and Dr Pat Pepper

-  **Forum Communicators Inc** was founded in 1941 to foster public speaking skills for women. Since that time innumerable members have benefited from the training and encouragement Forum has provided. At the upcoming **“Journey to Success”** Convention being held on Saturday 7th September at the Lions Club of Redlands City, 122 Shore St N, Cleveland, for the first time Forum is inviting members of other organisations and the general public to participate, **free of charge**, from 9.00am – 12.15pm Saturday morning to hear high-profile experienced speakers share their journeys to get ‘beyond the fear’, to become confident and so go on to success in their chosen fields. Bookings close 28 August. Phone 0421 129 253
-  **The Forum Bursary:** For the 8th year Forum offered a Bursary under the auspices of the NCWQ to a female enrolled in their first or second year of a tertiary course with a demonstrated record of achievement in the field of communication and leadership in their local community. The recipient for 2024 was **Jessica Davidson**. Jessica is a first-year student studying a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honors) majoring in Environmental Science at QUT. She aspires to pursue a career in environmental research, investigating the relationships between humans and the environment, allowing her to identify complex challenges and address them with innovative solutions. In her final year high school, she participated in the Lions Youth of the Year program where she was awarded the overall winner and public speaking award at the Morayfield/Caboolture district round. She was also invited to a Zonta dinner meeting where she presented a speech on child marriage. She has demonstrated a commitment to leadership through several positions during high school including Triple S leader, International Student Ambassador, and Environmental Chair on the student council where she contributed to projects and fundraising for the school community. The Forum Bursary judging panel consisted of Dr Pat Pepper (Coordinator) and Panel Members Irene Henley (President), Anna Bowman (Secretary), and Joy Martin.
-  **NCWQ Team Bursary:** Forum was well represented on NCWQ Team Bursary. The Forum Delegates to the NCWQ, Ronda Nix OAM and Dr Pat Pepper, were Coordinators on several other bursaries. Pat Pepper was also the Coordinator of the Science Bursary and the PhD Student Bursary, Ronda Nix was the Coordinator of the Office for Women Leadership and ATSI bursaries and for the OWN Return to Work Bursary, and Joy Martin was a panel member for the Rotary E-Club of Nextgen Bursary.
-  **Digital Marketing:** The Forum Management Team continues to enthusiastically promote Forum by providing a digital library and making use of Zoom for online coaching and mentoring programmes to complement face to face meetings. Marketing Officer Julie Rodgers also produces a quarterly online newsletter “Forum Life” highlighting the activities of all Forum clubs wishes to participate.
-  **E-Forum:** Forum has introduced E-Forum meetings via Zoom for members who may not be able to attend their club’s meeting in person, or for anyone else who may wish to participate. E-Forum is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm. Pam Tranter is the E-Forum Co-ordinator.

Annual Report July 2024
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia
Brisbane Section



I present my report for the year ending July 2024.

NCJWA Brisbane Section is alive and well, but operating entirely differently these days. We still have a presence in Brisbane and the National Board are keen to see this group continue, despite our sister branch on the Gold Coast closing earlier this year. We were present at the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut function at the Jewish Communal Centre and it was wonderful to have the support of my executive to bake the cakes and serve them with tea and coffee on the day. I am saddened that fewer and fewer of our members attend this community day, especially when solidarity is so needed in an antisemitic world.

Each year we hold our MICHA raffle and continue to make donations to some regular recipient charities and groups and add in some new ones as the need arises. We fund an annual bursary as part of the National Council of Women of Queensland Bursary scheme. We also raise funds through the Entertainment Book. This year we supported Mummy's Wish, Gan Gani Kindergarten, Hummingbird House and Angel Flight Australia. We have made some large donations to special causes - Magen David Adom and Sinai College to support families from Israel.

In April we were involved, through the Catholic Church, in funding and catering and then presenting a mock Shabbat dinner at St Stephen's Cathedral. This proved an incredible evening of delicious food, excellent educational presentations, and warmth all round. Most attendees were Catholic but members of other denominations and religious groups were also present. Members of the Jewish Community were at every table to talk about the traditions and answer questions.

The Jeanette Lesnie and Jocelyn Kann Scholarships remain part of our funds but have not been awarded this year as there were no appropriate needs for them.

We are affiliated with State Zionist Council, Jewish National Fund and the Qld Jewish Board of Deputies and also National Council of Women, Queensland.

It is wonderful to have Gail Paratz involved in the interfaith community in Queensland and through this we have a connection to other faith groups.

When it comes to community service, many of our members are involved within the Jewish Community and in the wider community too. Carolyn, together with other members, sews shrouds for the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha and she also runs the Seniors Group that benefit from wonderful speakers and delicious food each month. Many of our members attend that lunch regularly.

Thank you to Mavis for her involvement in our Facebook page as well as keeping our finances in check and providing reports, setting up payments to charities and making sure we are meeting our commitments financially.

Membership increased slightly and payment after invoices were issued, was fast and efficient. I thank the members for that.

For **2023-24** we **ended up with 53 members** (*2 of these are life members*)

At **21 July 2024** we have **41 members** (*2 of these are life members*), awaiting those to whom reminders have been sent. This membership is for the coming year and we expect that numbers will increase as membership is paid. Membership uptake has been slower this year.

The committee meet via Zoom or otherwise through email as and when decisions need to be made. I thank them all for their support: Gail Paratz as Vice President, Carolyn Goldsmith as Secretary, Mavis Rudd as Treasurer and Lorraine Jacobs, Leah Kaye and Janine Arenson as committee members.

Thank you for the good year and we look forward to continuing and meeting the needs of the group as it evolves with time. We also look forward to a new incoming National committee and hope to meet up with the President very soon in Brisbane, together with other community groups.

Sheila Levine
President
28 July 2024



The Queensland Women's Historical Association

Report for 2023-2024

President: C. Polson.

Secretary: R Wallace.

Treasurer: D. Foreman.

Like many small Museums, QWHA and Miegunyah depend on visitors. In 2023 -24, visitor numbers increased significantly. Being able to book on the QWHA website has translated in more people coming to enjoy the heritage collection and displays at Miegunyah.

Here is a summary of the highlights of the year.

- Miegunyah is now appearing on a major Chinese social media app, and we entertained many, mostly international students, who admired the history, the architecture and the Devonshire teas on the Miegunyah verandah. They also took numerous photographs and selfies!
- We welcomed twenty-two members of the Korean Women's Policy Network to Miegunyah in June 2023. The group of professional women were representatives of ten separate districts across South Korea and were in Australia researching the history of Australian women and successful programs promoting women and family policies.
- Our major long-term project, the conservation of the 1808 Kent Quilt is progressing well under the leadership of Dr Michael Mareudy and a team of enthusiastic sewers. Working two Sundays a month, the team has been working for 15 months and has now stabilised the outer border. We are still seeking donations and financial support.
- Displays are a major attraction at Miegunyah. 'Pioneers in Petticoats' (stories of the Macarthur sisters) ran from May to November. Artist and educator Mia Hacker produced "Women with Fortitude", an exploration of her family history through art. In 2024, "Threads of the Dragon", not only displayed costumes and homeware with Chinese designs but included a history of Chinese immigration in 1800's. Currently, "Flappers and Feminism" – with 20 outfits and other accessories from the 1920's is on display and includes an account of the impact of three women (Dr Lillian Cooper, Margaret Ogg (poet and journalist) and Irene Longman (Queensland's first woman M.P.), all members who held positions in NCWQ in 1920's.
- QWHA produced 8 well attended lectures given by members. Three Archive Discovery Days were held, a great opportunity for members to explore and research some of our archival material.
- Financially, we received a Brisbane City Council Historical Organisation Assistance Program grant which is \$11,000.00 a year for 3 years to assist with paying for specific expenses including insurance. projects. The State Government Community Climate Action Grant for the provision of solar panels to the rear of Miegunyah has assisted us in reducing our electricity costs.
- Jenny Steadman resigned from the committee after over 15 years of service. Jenny, a past president of QWHA, has been instrumental in setting up the collection management system and has been a powerhouse in developing displays.
- QWHA is undergoing a Systems Review through Museums and Galleries Qld in 2024. This involves a thorough investigation of the processes and procedures of the organisation.



Quota Club of Brisbane Inc. President's Report 2024

The Club is honoured to have member Sandy Smith elected President this year. Sandy is the immediate Past President and currently Secretary of our Club and a Past District Governor of Quota.

A highlight of 2024 was the presentation of the inaugural Quota/NCWQ Dr Laurel Macintosh OBE Bursary on 20 July To Dr Shiney Seo to assist her to attend professional development in her field of ophthalmology. Sandy and I were pleased to spend time with her at the lunch following the presentations.

During the year the Club supported other students with annual awards:

Quota Maibry Wragge Award – to an Associate of Trinity College London student in speech and drama

Quota Vera Garland Award – to a Kelvin Grove State College Dance Excellence program student in ballet

Quota Joyce Phillips Award – to a promising student of piano nominated by the AMEB Queensland

Quota Anna Smith OBE Award – to a final year student in photography at the Queensland College of Art (GU)

Quota Billie Hall Award – to a first year student at Griffith University

Achiever Awards – to students in state special schools and special education units in recognition of achievement in any area of development, not specifically academic

Our biggest fundraiser each year is the parking for the Caravan and Camping Show at the Exhibition Grounds in car peaking space loaned to us by TUH. We also have several sausage sizzles at Bunning Newstead each year. Our annual Christmas Breakfast will in 2024 be a morning tea – on 2 December. We had a craft and candles table with items for sale. Unsold items have been donated to various charities. A new source of revenue has been Containers for Change. Our ID is C11100667 and is also on our website and anyone can donate to us.

We also had a few social events for members. Viewing Riverfire last October from a member's unit member's bringing a plate to share. In February we had a trip to North Stradbroke Island on the Flyer to have lunch at the Little Ship Club, with delicious and fresh food. We also had an end of year get-together at the Southport Yacht Club.

Donations have been made to:

Care Kits for Kids (members visited their centre to learn about it)

Zephyr Education

Sound amplification systems to Stafford State School and Kruger State School and Richlands East State School

Chatter Vox for Richlands East State School,

Maybanke Women's Crisis Centre – toiletries, household items etc

For a small club we have achieved a lot through the dedication of members.

Shirley Leuthner

Email: quotabrisbane@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Quota-Club-of-Brisbane-Inc-284870484884826/>

<https://quotabrisbane.org.au>

Quota is a not for profit organisation dedicated to service, care and friendship.



Shirley Leuthner, Dr Shiney Seo and Sandy Smith



SCOPE CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA INC

Service

Community Involvement

Opportunity for Leadership and Friendship

Purpose

Education

On behalf of our National President, Shirley Scott, and as an Affiliate Member for the NCWQ , I would like to present my report for our Clubs in Allora, Ballina, Cairns, Ballina, Mackay and Wynnum. We continue to assist in the promotion of cultural and recreational activities by supporting reputable organisations such as yours.

2024 has been an exciting and busy year for SCOPE as we celebrated 47 years in serving our communities. Our history goes back to 1977. Much has happened over the past 12 months and we have seen lots of monies raised by the great efforts of each Club. We are moving with the times and are adapting and embracing new ideas and ways of raising money, while retaining the ideas that work for each club. We are working hard to gain new members and have managed to do so during the year.

Each Club has supported Women in Crisis during the year.

ALLORA CLUB donates to Protea Place in Warwick and they continue to support Youngcare. The bulk of monies raised from their Op Shop go to The Uniting Church as well as a sizeable donation to the Toowoomba Hospice.

BALLINA CLUB funds The Love Bites Programme which is a Respectful Relationships Education Programme for young people aged 15-17 years. It consists of two interactive workshops; one on Relationship Violence and one on Sex in Relationships. Christmas gift wrapping, Bunnings BBQs and a bursary programme for three (3) year 11-12 students and Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support group all receive support from the Club.

CAIRNS CLUB have soldiered along through the continuing rain and flooding over the past 6 months. Fundraising with a market sale at Gordonvale and a Cent Sale at a local state school as well as a sausage sizzle have assisted in giving to the Cairns Women's Centre, vouchers to the domestic violence home "Warringu", an indigenous shelter, YAPS (an animal shelter), Orange Sky Laundry and the Cairns Hospital "Butterfly Suite" Appeal.

MACKAY CLUB'S two major fundraisers are assisting with the Canegrowers monthly newsletters and the Christmas giftwrapping at The Home Co. Monies raised assist Samaritan House's upgrade of the children's play area and the purchase of 10 sleeping swags for the homeless were presented to Australian Street Aid.

WYNNUM CLUB have raised monies for two Bunnings BBQ's, a Christmas Cent Auction and a Mother's Day raffle. Scholarships have been awarded to two local high school students, MICAH (domestic violence) and also a monthly donation to Pete's Pantry (under the umbrella of the Uniting Church) to assist in supplying food for the underprivileged and homeless.

It has been a busy time for all Clubs, who work tirelessly in organizing functions throughout the year. We look forward to once again achieving our goals of service to the community for the 2024-2025 year.

Annabelle Silvester (Affiliate member of SCOPE)

Search Light Inc.

President's Report, 2024.

It gives me immense pleasure to present the president of Search Light Inc.'s annual report on behalf of all members of Search Light Inc.

Search Light Inc. is dedicated to improving educational and social outcomes for young people and children, and empowering them to participate fully in the social, cultural, and economic life of the community. Throughout 2024 our major focus has been managing the Search Light Early Learning Centre (<https://www.searchlightinc.org.au/what-we-do/search-light-early-learning-centre>) which provides early childhood education to the children of young mothers who are continuing their education or going to work, and providing specialized family support for the young parents. Search Light Inc. continued to work with Carinity Education Southside (<https://carinity.qld.edu.au/southside/>) and Hymba Yumba Independent School (<https://hymbayumba.qld.edu.au/>), at Springfield, the families associated with these schools, and with Community groups.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our energetic Director and our caring and compassionate staff, we continue to offer a rich child development and early education programme. Our Director is a recognised leader in the field of trauma management, in the Search Light Early Learning Centre, in academic circles and in the broader community. This year she was awarded an Apiary Fellowship which brings together people involved with Early Learning and who are committed to creating thriving futures for children in Australia. Together, Fellows build their capacity for systems leadership, collaboration, and develop their capabilities to bring about lasting positive change. Thanks to the persistence and great flexibility of our Director and staff, we have maintained a compliant and working transport service for young mothers and their babies coming to the Search Light Early Learning Centre.

Our relationship with Carinity Education Southside continues to strengthen. We value that relationship and the contributions of the Principal and Deputy Principal to our Management Committee meetings, as well as their day-to-day relationship with the Director.

We have been less involved with Hymba Yumba Independent School (HYIS) this year. However, our Treasurer is on the Search Light Education board as a company member.

Last year members of the Search Light Inc. Management Committee attended Graduation ceremonies at both the Hymba Yumba Independent School and Carinity Education Southside to present the winners of the 2023 Jenny Medland Search Light Inc. Bursary. Both ceremonies were impressive, joyous, loving, inclusive events - a pleasure to attend. We intend to do the same later this year when we present 2024 Jenny Medland Search Light Inc. Bursary to the successful applicants from each school.

We have devoted considerable time and energy to updating our policies and procedures and to developing our strategic plan. Maintaining inspired, professionally qualified staff to deliver our programmes, providing transport for our young families, extending, and deepening our community relationships, attracting new members, and developing a succession plan are high priorities. I would like to thank our generous donors for their ongoing support, especially Ms Helen Ashdown, as well as our funding bodies, the Australian Government Department of Education, and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

I would like to pay tribute to the professionalism and dedication of our director who creates a caring environment for babies, children, young mothers and their families, and staff. We have retained most of our key staff members and this is testament to the inclusive and rewarding working environment of the Search Light Early Learning Centre and to the staff's commitment to Search Light Inc.'s vision and the wonderful families we support.

Thank you to our Secretary, Carla Loodewijk and to Victoria Lomax, who has stepped into the Secretary's role as required. Both Carla and Vicki make significant contributions to meetings and planning sessions and are valuable members of the Search Light Inc. Management Committee. Thank you for your contributions, Vicki and Carla.

I am incredibly grateful for the dedication and skill of our Treasurer, Nicola Free. Nicola is so much more than a Treasurer. She is the glue that binds the organization. Not only has she successfully managed the financial challenges to maintain a high-quality service she often helps at the Search Light Early Learning Centre when the unexpected happens and initiates important events such as our Strategic Planning days.

Overall, 2024 has been a successful year for Search Light Inc. We have fulfilled our mission, and we acknowledge and accept what has worked in the past and move into the future seeking new ways to maintain our viability and service to babies, their young mothers, and their families.

Elizabeth Mackenzie

President
Search Light Inc.



President Fiona Cullen

0400 346 622

Secretary Dr Jane Chimungeni-

Brassington

0412 059 064

Membership Convenor

Marney Perna

0407 029 943

Treasurer Chris Knight

0403 177 012

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Club Email:

simoretonnorth@siswp.org

SIMNI Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SIMoretonNorthInc>

SIMNI YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHPsWnPyJsg35y_im2fhFnw/videos?shelf_id=0&sort=dd&view=0

SI Blog Posts

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/?s=Soroptimist+International+Moreton+North+>

Websites:

www.siswp.org/Moreton-North-Inc

www.siswp.org

www.soroptimistinternational.org



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



NCWQ - SIMNI AFFILIATE REPORT 2023-2024

SIMNI Sponsored NCWQ Bursaries

This is the 9th Year that we have partnered with NCWQ to sponsor a Bursary. For five years, it was for a tertiary student completing their final year in the Creative Arts Industry and in the past four years it has been for a student in her final year of study in Vet Science. We have been delighted to offer tertiary membership to our Bursary recipients and continue to support them as they embark on their careers. Several members also participate as judges. In 2024 SIMNI supported Graduate Indigenous Midwives with our 12th annual bursary sponsorship with Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwives Trust Fund.

SIMNI Membership

Our membership continues to grow with a broad range of ages, professions and cultural diversity including members now living in China, the UK and Papua New Guinea. A new club is about to be birthed in November 2024, with 42 of our SIMNI members, all passionate local women in the Maprik District, East Sepik Province Papua New Guinea. These women have already hosted and celebrated an inaugural IWD event, organised a rally for women’s rights around the UN 16 Days of Activism and provided birthing kits for local hospitals. In May 2024, SIMNI was the recipient of 3 prestigious Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP) Federation 2024 Best Practice Awards for membership and advocacy.

SIMNI Gender Equality

Educate to Lead continues to be one of our major areas of focus including activities relating to early learning and literacy for children under five, monthly Tribal Lunches and resources for the Kairos Community College at Deception Bay, working in partnership with Women’s Network Australia (WNA) to provide access to online digital training for women throughout Queensland and our IWD Be Inspired Awards.

The SIMNI Lead-Her-Ship Mentoring Programme was delivered again in 2024 with 13 participants and featured monthly online modules on goal setting, networking and empowered boundaries. We continue to work in collaboration with other organisations to support women and in particular teen parents and women survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Our advocacy activities continue to ensure that Women’s Voices are included in deliberations and decision-making processes that impact on our lives.

Following the successful delivery of the pilot above ground garden project for households in Darapap Village on the Murik Lakes, East Sepik Province in Papua New Guinea, SIMNI secured funding via the SISEAP Brighter Futures Fund to build a larger community garden capable of growing crops to feed the village and establish trade with neighbouring villages. This is progressing and includes working with the men from the village who provide the physical labour.

Fiona Cullen

SIMNI President 2023-2024

SIMNI is a vibrant and dynamic club for women who have an interest in sharing their skills and expertise to support education and leadership projects that improve the lives of women and girls locally and internationally



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Zontians

I am delighted to share with you the *2023-2024 Zonta Club of Brisbane Annual Report for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024*. While this is an important financial record, it is also a reflection of the past year in our Club when we have worked together to build a better world for women and girls.

It has been a wonderful year for the Zonta Club of Brisbane and reading the reports from our Committee Chairs it is hard to believe that we actually did everything that is documented - but we did! I can't fully describe the spirit, energy and nature of this Club that for the past 53 years has been a force for equality through advocacy, action and service. It is an extraordinary Club that is part of a truly unique global organisation.

This year we raised over \$26 000, provided \$19 500 in education and achievement awards to 13 women and girls including the 2024 Advancement of Women Award winner. The Club also committed more than \$33 950 to Community Fund projects to support six organisations and raised our voice through advocacy on key issues such as homelessness in older women, safer cities for women and girls and ending child marriage. We also provided \$8500 to Zonta International to support its International Service Program and the Jane M. Klausman Award.

There were also the many hours of service through volunteering time across all activities from fundraising to advocacy to the care that is taken with new members. I have been glad to see the club continue its passion and commitment to key issues that continue to impact on women and girls such as domestic and family violence while stepping up on other critical issues such as homelessness. We are the embodiment of the six themes in our Zonta logo - inspiration, loyalty, carry together, shelter, honesty and group.

As the outgoing Club President, I have thoroughly enjoyed the shared Zonta journey with my fellow club members and look forward to seeing our new board in action working with the Club and Committee Chairs to build on our legacy while looking over the horizon to the future.

Yours in Zonta

President Zonta Club of Brisbane

NCWQ NATIONAL
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OF WOMEN OF
QUEENSLAND

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