



The National Council of Women
Of
New South Wales Inc
ABN 25 039 225 591

Established in 1896

124TH ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
24th September 2020

Motto: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you



ABOUT NCWNSW Inc

The National Council of Women of NSW Inc. is one of the oldest women's organisations in Australia and is the co-ordinating body for almost 60 affiliated organisations as well as a large number of individual members.

NCW NSW co-ordinate the concerns of member organisations and a similar number of individual members as they work to improve the status of women and their families in NSW. The organisation is non-sectarian and non-party political.

Councils in each State are linked through the National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) and to the International Council of Women (ICW), which has a Category 1 consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



Our Patron
Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC QC
39th Governor of New South Wales





Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales**

As Patron, I am delighted to convey a message to all members of the National Council of Women of NSW (NCW NSW) as we approach its 125th year.

As one of the oldest women's organisations in Australia, NCW's founding women, 'respectable radicals' as they became known, were no stranger to hardship, nor, indeed to pandemics. They endured the devastating impact of the Spanish flu pandemic which followed the First World War. From those earliest days, the legacy of their tenacity has continued as NCW NSW fought for many of the gains women have today: the right to vote; to be elected to all levels of government; access to employment; and divorce laws which recognise the equal status and contributions of women in and to the family. And, of course, there is always work to be done, including for equal pay and in the areas of child protection, domestic violence, and elder abuse.

Earlier this year, I was honoured to present 16 NCW NSW Australia Day Awards to outstanding women scholars in the late undergraduate and postgraduate years to encourage their further research. Since then, as COVID-19 struck, presentations, events and luncheons have been suspended and Council meetings have been conducted online via Zoom. Here, too, NCW NSW has shown resilience and agility, which has always been its continuing strength.

On 21 July, I was pleased to speak with President, Annie Kiefer and Vice Presidents, Julie Morris and Margaret Wood, and to hear about NCW NSW's involvement earlier this year in bushfire recovery support, and more recently, the work in support of Indigenous recognition, with refugees, in nursing homes, and in lending out digital devices. At the same time NCW NSW has recognised the need for generational change to ensure its legacy remains ongoing, lively and relevant.

As Patron, I extend warm best wishes to all members. Stay well. In supporting the women and children of New South Wales, you support the whole of New South Wales.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales**

OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020
EXECUTIVE TEAM

President:	Annie Kiefer
Vice Presidents:	Julie Morris Margaret Wood
Hon. Secretary:	Marlene Arditto
Acting Hon Secretary:	Margaret Wood (from March 2020)
Hon. Treasurer:	Nola Barkl AM
Public Officer:	Nola Barkl AM
Minute Secretary Executive	Margaret Wood
Hon. News Editor:	Tonya Valentino (from Oct 2020)
Individual Members Rep:	Janet Coombs AM Tonya Valentino (from May 2020)
Minute Secretary for Council: Executive:	Sally Fennell Margaret Wood

DELEGATES FROM ORGANISATIONS:

Australian Church Women NSW State Unit:

Tricia Graham

Catholic Women's League Aust.-NSW Inc:
Sally Fennell

Girl Guides NSW-ACT-NT:
Margaret Wood

Graduate Women – NSW:
Dr Jane Baker

National Child Alliance:
Nicolette Norris, AM

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW
Maxine Bachmeyer

Soroptimist International – Region NSW
Dr Anne Sheehan

Sydney High School Old Girls Union Inc:
Nola Barkl, AM

Women Lawyers Assoc. of NSW Inc:
Janet Coombs, AM

HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Vacant

STATE CO-ORDINATOR OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Chair - Vacant

All Advisor positions vacant including:

Status of Women, Communication,
Social Issues, General Well-being,

NATIONAL (NCWA) POSITIONS:

Vacant

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO
Clare Cusick
Joan Elliston, AM
Marjorie James, OAM, JP
Margaret (Peg) McEntee, OAM
Marion Smith, AM

NCWA HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Joan Elliston, AM

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:

Chair: Doreen Todd, OAM
Members: Dr Jane Baker,
Julie Morris, and
Dr Anne Sheehan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annie Kiefer

This is my third and final year as your President and I do sincerely thank you all for your continued support, your worthy advice, your friendship, and your lovely smiling faces.

The Chinese have a proverb – “may we live in interesting times” – well this year has certainly been remarkably interesting. First came the fires, then the floods, then the Coronavirus. Some of our members were hit by the aggressiveness of the bushfires however the resilience of our members and the Australian bush is amazing.



Within the month the eucalypts were already sporting new leaves. Flooding rains resulted in a lot of burnt out trees falling over roads and wreaking havoc. And then came the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all learned at stay at home for weeks at a time, to ‘social distance’ (a new 2-word phrase now in the Macquarie Dictionary) and some found it challenging to work and teach school from home.

The NCWNSW has been and continues to be involved in a range of activities – from the plight of refugee women, keeping an eye on legislation

in relation to abused children and the legal system, to representation on various Boards and Councils, including the Roundtable on Aged Care, Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, Communications, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and the Plight of Refugees to name but a few. We continue to beaver away in all respects to forward the well-being of families, women, and children.

I continue to represent the Council on a range of groups, including –

- NSWN&MA Roundtable on Aged Care
- Elder Abuse Action Network
- Commonwealth Bank Advocacy Council
- NBN Broadband Advocacy Forum
- Australian Communications Action Network
- Commonwealth Day Council

2020 has been a year of non-events. Non-social events, that is. February 2020 saw the last of our face to face sessions.

In this Annual Report we are honoured to have Reports from our various members on activities they have undertaken in the past year.

In January we held our “Celebrate Being an Australian” Australia Day Awards. The eminent Professor Gabrielle Caspar was our Guest Speaker who challenged us by asking “Are We Leaders or Just Difficult Women!?” Her response to this question held many surprising and amusing responses. The students were fortunate to be presented with their Awards by our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, AO, QC, Governor of New South Wales. In March, one of the Australia Day Awardees, Dr Phillipa Higgins was also the recipient of the Pat Keill Commonwealth Day Award for her work on the impact of climate change on communities in the Pacific region and in Australia.



President Annie, Her Excellency the Governor and Trish Doyle MP with the awardees.



Philippa Higgins receiving her Commonwealth Day Award from President Janet, board member Annie and Pat Keill's sister Prue

The Australia Day Awards function was our last public event before the Coronavirus closed down New South Wales. We have had to adjust our lives accordingly and I wish to thank all our members for embracing the new technology of meetings via ZOOM. Our Executive has successfully chartered these unknown waters and each month we have held our General Council meetings on the ZOOM link and have even had several successful 'well worth listening to' guest speakers. Thank you to our various Executive members for sourcing these speakers. I must admit that I have been dragged screaming into the 21st Century, but having now participated in the various technological intricacies of the modern age, I find I am learning to climb these mountains and not tumble down them in a heap!

It is worthy of note that our NCWA Mid-Term Conference, which was scheduled to be held in Adelaide in August 2020, then postponed to October, will now be held on Friday, 16th October via ZOOM. Time to be advised.

I wish to thank all Executive members for their support and assistance with our functions during the past year and beyond - especially to Dr Jane Baker for her excellence in facilitating our Australia Day Awards. 2020 has been Jane's last year in this role – a vacancy that will be ably filled by 'Trish Blomberry in the future – in fact thanks to you all who have supported, assisted, attended and enjoyed all our gatherings.



Thank you all once again for your support during my term as President. It has been very much appreciated. I wish you all well in the future and look forward to catching up in person one day soon.

Annie

YOUR EXECUTIVE FROM JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020



President Annie Kiefer



Vice President Julie Morris



Vice President Margaret Wood



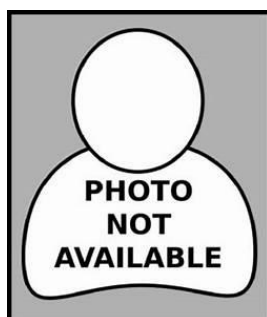
Hon. Secretary Marlene Arditto



Acting Hon. Secretary
Margaret Wood



Hon. Treasurer and Public
Officer Nola Barkl AM



Individual Members Representative
Janet Coombs AM, absent



Individual Members Rep & Newsletter Editor
Tonya Valentino

YOUR EXECUTIVE FROM JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020
Delegates Representing Affiliated Organisations



Australia Church Women NSW
Tricia Graham



Catholic Women's League Australia NSW
Sally Fennell



Girl Guides NSW ACT NT
Margaret Wood



Graduate Women NSW
Dr Jane Baker



National Child Protection Alliance
Niki Norris AM



National Council of Jewish Women
of Australia NSW
Maxine Bachmayer



Soroptimist International
Region NSW
Dr Anne Sheehan



Sydney High School
Old Girls Union
Nola Barkl AM

Women Lawyers Association of NSW Inc Janet Coombs AM, absent

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Marlene Arditto

I thank members for electing me to the position of Honorary Secretary at the AGM in September 2019. I enjoyed performing the various Secretarial duties, but unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, stood down from the position in July 2020.

Under normal circumstances Executive Meetings take place monthly (excluding December and January) on the third Wednesday of the month in the office of NCWNSW at 12noon. However, due to the need to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, Executive Meetings since April have been conducted via ZOOM. I record special thanks to Julie Morris for implementing NCWNSW's transition to ZOOM and for tutoring members new to the technology. Eleven members were elected for the 2019-2020 Executive at the AGM. In October 2019, Tonya Valentino became the Hon Editor of the Newsletter. Margaret Wood filled the vacancy for Vice-President and Niki Norris became Co-Ordinator of a Standing Committee on Child Protection. There was an average of 3 apologies at each meeting and average meeting attendance was 9.

Pre COVID-19 restrictions, monthly General Council meetings (excluding December and January) were held on the 1st floor, SMSA Building, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 4:30pm. The format for these meetings is under review and will be implemented when face-to-face meetings are resumed. From April, General Council Meetings and Executive Meetings have successfully been held via ZOOM.

NCWNSW is honoured and delighted that the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, AO QC, has become our Patron. Her Excellency has shown special interest in our organisation and we look forward to her participation in our activities when time permits.

ACTING HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT Margaret Wood

Our monthly guest speakers and their topics for 2019-2020 have included:

July 2019	Dr Deborah Bachmayer – Medical and Forensic Management of Adult Sexual Assault – an essential service.
August 2019	Julie Depczynski – NCWNSW Australia Day Awardee 2019 – stories about her rural health journey.
September 2019	Robin Nolan, President, NCWA – current issues for NCWA.
October 2019	Carolyn Fletcher – “My School in Sian Reap” tales of the special school Carolyn and her family have set up in Cambodia.
November 2019	Speaker replaced by ‘Christmas Cheer’.
February 2020	Dr Yvonne McMaster OAM – Palliative care advocacy.
March 2020 April 2020	<i>[These two meetings cancelled due to] [Covid 19 restrictions.]</i>

Meetings via ZOOM

May 2020	Dr Justin Koonin facilitated a panel discussing “Global Health and Covid-19. Panel included Angela Ngutu from Kenya and Solange Ngooko from Cameroon who related stories about how women and girls were adversely affected by COVID-19.
June 2020	Dr Karen Zwi, Conjoint Professor with the School of Women’s and Children’s Health, Randwick, speaking about experiences working with vulnerable indigenous children.

VALE:

It is with regret we note the passing of two of our members:

JANICE LEE

May 2020 – for many years, the Honorary Editor of the NCW NSW Newsletter

PAM COULL

Mid-June 2020, - Honorary Treasurer of NCW NSW from 2009 – 2010.

HONOURS:

Congratulations to **Dr Wendy Michaels OAM**
for service to women & the dramatic arts

EVENTS

FOUNDATION DAY LUNCHEON:

Nola Barkl AO

This event was held on 22nd August 2019 at The Women's Club, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Every attendee enjoyed the program which had been planned by Vice-President, Julie Morris, and Quota Representative, Karen Binstead.

We were appreciative that Barbara Baikie, Past President of the National Council of Women, Australia, had travelled from Canberra to be our Guest Speaker. She shared with us some of her difficult past experiences in losing loved ones and facing health setbacks which had required determination and persistence to overcome. She also spoke on the hardships faced when climbing Mt Kilimanjaro.

Barbara has written books about some of her experiences which have been published. Also published are her poems which give expression to her thoughts and emotions.

Members seemed very contented after a delicious lunch and they lingered on past the usual ending of the function to continue to talk to each other. That's always a good sign that they enjoyed the event.



Doreen Todd OAM, Sally Fennell, Dr Jane Baker – Foundation Day Lunch

DAME MARIE BASHIR PEACE AWARDS

**Nola Barkl AO
Cassandra Allan**

The 10th Annual Presentation of these awards was held in the Strangers' Function area at Parliament House, Sydney, on the 30th September 2019 commencing at 2:30pm and followed by Afternoon Tea. Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO presented 6 Awards (\$250 each) and 3 High Commended Certificates to an impressive group of young women each of whom showed a passion for harmony and social justice. Before receiving Certificates, each recipient was drawn into a conversation about her achievements by Carolyn Blanden, Awards Committee member.

A feature of the year's Presentation Ceremony was hearing from two earlier awardees – Inge Neilsen from 2013 and Lescinska Fernandez from 2015 – who were able to join us. Another eight earlier awardees sent apologies and messages of their current activities which were of great interest to everyone attending.

Felicity Wilson was our Parliamentary host and had pleasure in speaking with the student from her electorate of North Shore, Tamarangi Keerthipala. Other Members of Parliament attending were the Hon Jonathan O'Dea, Member for Davidson and Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, supporting Kate Aston; Dr Marjorie O'Neill, Member for Coogee, supporting Tara Hercz; Mr Lee van den Broeke representing the Hon David Elliott, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Member for Baulkham Hills, supporting Aneesa Abdu. MPs unable to attend sent their best wishes to the recipients in their constituencies.

Over the entire 10 years of the Awards two sponsors have supported this project and we express our deep appreciation to them:

- Zonta Club of Sydney East
- Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association.



President Annie with Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO and Sally Fennell

AWARDEES FOR 2019

ANEESA ABDU – Year 11 James Ruse Agricultural High School

Even though she is only in Year 11 this year, Aneesa has distinguished herself as an energetic and enthusiastic leader. Her involvement in advocating for Social Justice goes back to primary school when she received a Matt Kean (MP for Hornsby) award in Year 6. Aneesa has led several groups at her high school and has participated in a number of conferences including speaking at an Agricultural High School and has participated in a number of conferences including speaking at an International Women's Day event about the empowerment of young women through leadership and community involvement. Most notably, Aneesa was instrumental in starting a new student's mentor programme in 2017, enabling peers to liaise and help students assimilate harmoniously into the school environment. This is now in its third successful year, promoting acceptance, anxiety relief and positive mental health.

KATE ASTON – Year 12 Killara High School

Kate shows a level of maturity and social conscience far beyond her years. In particular it is through her academic pursuit of the Accelerated Aboriginal Studies Course that Kate has been inspired. She achieved 2nd place in the State and then went on to do further research. She is a passionate advocate for indigenous issues and provides inspirational leadership for the school community through her work with NAIDOC Week and Menindee Central School. Her book of short stories highlights the insidious nature of racism and has resulted in an ongoing relationship with Aboriginal community members. Kate proudly delivers authentic and specific *Acknowledgements of Country* and urges others to follow her example.

ZARA BLACKMORE – Year 12 New England Girls School, Armidale

Zara is motivated by the sole purpose of doing something for others. She was Chair of the Armidale Regional Youth Advisory Committee member of the Headspace Tamworth Youth Reference Group, youth volunteer of St Vincent de Pau Homework Centre and a mentor to Yazidi refugees. Most notably it was in 2017 that Zara, with a friend founded the not-for-profit 'Female and Fierce'. This is an organization that aims to support women locally, nationally and internationally through facilitating service, activism and fundraising projects. Zara initiated a series of guest lectures on the role of women in the healthcare industry and the arts, has received Armidale Regional Council's Youth Award in 2018 for Commitment and Perseverance and continues to be heavily involved in youth and women's issues in her community,

TARA HERCZ – Year 12 St Catherine's School, Sydney

Tara has driven a number of exciting service opportunities at her school, being heavily involved in the Student Representative Council and activities such as the Red Shield Appeal, World Vision 40 Hour Famine, Legacy Day and volunteering at Beehive Industries working with isolated elderly people. Her ongoing involvement with Project Didi Australia showed how far-reaching Tara demonstrated her passion for social justice. This not-for-profit organization is committed to working with partners in Nepal to restore hope, dignity and independence to women and girls exposed to sex trafficking and abuse. With her school, she saw what was happening in Nepal and determined to be more involved – resulting in her applying and being offered the role of PDA's first ever Youth Ambassador. Tara has made effective use of social media, writing blogs, contributing to PDA's website and taking over the PDA Facebook page. Her aim has been to educate people about how women's issues globally (such as the gender pay gap and sexism within the government) are so important and relevant to women's lives right now,

KESHNA JEYANDRABALAN – Year 12 Penrith Selective High School

Keshna's positive impact and proactive role within the school and wider community earned her a prestigious Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program Award. She consistently donates her time and energies to promote harmony and improve the circumstances of disadvantaged groups within local and international communities. The continued success of her school's Adopt-a-School project has been due to Keshna liaising with school and community members to financially support a school in Kenya. She initiated the Move-a-Thon (physical activity) program with Kurrambee Special Needs School based on individual needs of mobile/immobile students. Her dedication to the WAfrica Residential Intercultural Project that involved travelling to Wagga Wagga to volunteer her time to working with marginalized primary and secondary students of African descent demonstrated Keshna's commitment to harmony and social justice,

RABIA RASUL – Year 12 Mount St Benedict College, Pennant Hills

It is a rare student who shifts the spotlight from herself to others on her birthday but this is what Rabia has done for the past three years. Her birthday has coincided with Harmony Day and she has taken the initiative to spend it raising funds for a charity, in the first instance the Careflight Service in Westmead. Rabia is active in encouraging dialogue between the Islamic and Christian faiths, has been recognised in her community for her work and was invited to speak at the Hills International Women's Day luncheon. She has also been involved in campaigns against domestic violence and violence in the community. She is passionately interested in building harmony within communities, embracing diversity and promoting dignity and respect for all,

HIGHLY COMMENDED –

- ❖ **TAMARANGI KEERTHIPALA – Year 12 North Sydney Girls High School**
- ❖ **JESSICA McLEAN – Year - 12 Holsworthy High School**
- ❖ **AMOUR MALOU – Year 10 – Chifley College, Shalvey Campus**



Awardees together with Nola Barkl AO, Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, President Annie and Margaret Groenewegen

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

Dr Jane Baker Awards Convenor

This event is made possible by the generosity of the following sponsors:

Barry and Jane Baker
CWA Sydney
CWL NSW
Gilbert+Tobin
Graduate Women-NSW
Wendy Michaels
Carol O'Brien

Quota Sydney
SMSA who sponsored 3 awards
Soroptimists
The Women's Club
Women's Pioneer Society
Women's Plans Foundation
Zonta

The 16 outstanding young women in 2020 were Awardees:

- ❖ Eden Barrett Health Sciences (Nutrition) University of Wollongong
- ❖ Naomi Carrard Institute for Sustainable Futures University of Technology Sydney
- ❖ Natalie Cheesmond Rural Health University of Newcastle
- ❖ Isabella Dabaja Women and Work University of Sydney Business School
- ❖ Laura Greaves History University of Newcastle
- ❖ Amar Hamed Midwifery University of Technology Sydney
- ❖ Phillippa Higgins Water Engineering University of New South Wales
- ❖ Tasneem Kanpurwala Environmental Science Macquarie University
- ❖ Jacqueline Krynda Law University of Sydney
- ❖ Eleanor Macmillan Audiology Macquarie University
- ❖ Claire Parfitt Arts and Social Science University of Sydney
- ❖ Sara Shisheghar Nursing University of Sydney
- ❖ Katherine Smith History University of Newcastle
- ❖ Kirbie Storrier Medicine University of Notre Dame Sydney
- ❖ Natalie Thompson Education Charles Sturt University
- ❖ Jessica Wright Conservatorium of Music University of Sydney

Jessica gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the awardees and accompanied herself on guitar singing one of her own compositions.

Professor Gabrielle Casper from the University of Notre Dame Sydney was an outstanding and inspirational guest speaker. Not only that but she had been a recipient of one of the Centennial awards in 1996 which were the precedent for these Australia Day Awards to 'Celebrate being Australian'. At that time, she was sponsored by The Medical Women's

Society of NSW and was a research fellow at the Royal Hospital for Women in Paddington.



Robyn Nolan NCWA President, President Annie and Professor Casper

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC Governor of New South Wales our new patron, graced us with their presence.

Trish Doyle MP, Shadow Minister for Women was our Parliamentary Host and Robyn Nolan, President of NCWA, an invited guest.

Notably the event made a profit of \$2,818.57, largely because our guest speaker drummed up 3 tables of guests from the University of Notre Dame

Now after months of Covid 19 restrictions it is all a particularly happy memory and feels like the 'Best Ever' edition of an established annual event and a suitable moment to bow out from organising it!

Sadly, it has been decided to cancel the event for 2021 but I hope to see a great turn out in 2022, a return of all the regular sponsors, an outstanding group of awardees and wish Tricia Blombery well in the joy of convening these awards.

My warmest thanks to all who were involved in organising the day, to the faculty members who nominated awardees and all of you who came to the lunch to ensure it was the success that it was.

Dr Jane Baker
Convener Australia Day Awards
NCW NSW





OUTREACH

MIGRATION REPORT

MICHELLE PEDERSEN

It gives me great pleasure to present my report as Migration Adviser for the National Council of Women NSW Inc,

My report will be presented in two parts – what the state of play was prior to COVID-19 and what the position is now with COVID-19 and post COVID-19.

PRIOR COVID-19

The Productivity Commission (PC) has found that migration provides a net benefit to Australia and is a contributor to Australia's continuing economic growth (PC 2016). The costs involved in the settlement and integration of newcomers is an investment in the future of our nation.

There are similar potential economic benefits of migration in regional communities. The Australian Government's recently released population policy recognises this and seeks to further expand migration in regional areas (Australian Government 2019).

Achieving and sustaining greater regional migration involves aligning host community needs, settlement capacity and capability and newcomer aspirations at the local level. This will ensure communities and newcomers are able to settle for the long term. In SSI's view, the practical implementation of the Australian Government's population policy will not be realised without sustained and detailed policy effort,

A Federal Parliamentary inquiry into Migration I Regional Australia is currently on hold due to COVID-19.

Australia has introduced a streamlined priority visa pathway for highly skilled and talented individuals to work and live permanently in Australia. The Government and industry has recognised there is growing competition for talent around the globe and to compete we must have a pathway that leads to certainty for people wishing to come to Australia.

Candidates should have the ability to attract a salary at or above the Fair Work high income threshold (FWHIT) which is currently AUD\$148,700. This figure is adjusted annually.

To apply, candidates have to lodge an expression of interest and be endorsed by a nominator who has a national reputation in the same field and is either an eligible Australian Citizen, a Resident, and eligible New Zealand Citizen or is an Australian Organisation.

WITH COVID-19 AND POST COVID-19

The Australian Government has announced that Temporary Skill Shortage visa holders who have been stood down, but not laid off, will maintain their visa validity and businesses will have the opportunity to extend their visas.

Business employers will also be able to reduce the hours of the visa holder without the person being in breach of their visa conditions or the business being in breach of their employer obligations.

For the visa holders who have been laid off, meaning they are unemployed, must find another employer within 60 days or they will have to make arrangements to depart Australia whenever possible.

If visa holders cannot return to their home country, they will need to maintain a valid visa and engage with the health system when necessary.

WHAT WILL MIGRATION LOOK LIKE IN AUSTRALIA POST COVID-19

Nearly a million people have been left out of work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia. The Government is facing increasing pressure to reduce Australia's migration intake to allow Australian citizens and permanent residents regain their pace in the workforce.

The Labor Party has called for a rethink of Australia's migration system.

In January prior to the outbreak of the pandemic Australia had the second largest number of temporary workers in the OECD sitting at around two and a half million.

The majority of the nearly two and a half million are New Zealand citizens, tourists, and international students.

As the economy starts to open up again senior figures in the Labor party are calling for a *"rethink of Australia's migration system"*.

Who comes to Australia has long been a political hot potato, In fact we saw it before last year's federal election when Prime Minister Scott Morrison capped the number of permanent migrants at 160,000 per year, but left temporary migration uncapped. The argument being that temporary grants help to fill skill shortages in the economy and trying to plug gaps I major projects.

Migration is so important to Australia's economy that if you took migrants out of the picture, Australia would have been in recession last year.

After coal, iron ore and natural gas, education is our fourth largest export. International students play a huge part in our economy. The taxes they pay help offset such things as healthcare, education, and welfare.

Temporary migrants have a net benefit to Australia. Whilst we might think there is no room for migrants in Australia we need to acknowledge that for every retiree there are only about 5 working Australians and by the middle of the century it is predicted there will only be about 25 for each retiree.

Will COVID-19 put the brakes on Australia as one of the fastest growing countries in the OECD? Whilst predictions indicate migration will fall by around 80 percent next year, we still do not know when borders will open and what Australia's migration programme will look like.

Prime Minister Morrison has said Australia is "prepared to step up and provide support" to Hong Kong residents who wish to come to Australia.

Whilst details of the program have yet to be finalised, it is seen as a lifeline for many Hong Kong residents after China has decided to push ahead with new security laws.

It is hoped that this new visa program will enable residents in Hong Kong to either apply immediately for or have a pathway to permanent residency.



REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION ALLIANCE

Niki Norris AM, Chair



National Child Protection Alliance
National Child Protection Alliance

in association with the National Council for Children Post Separation

Since July 19, our workload has increased despite my sincere promise to myself that I would slow down.

I had several meetings between July and November prior to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. During that period, I met with –

- NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, the Hon, Gareth Ward, where I was successful in my request for urgent housing for a mother and child.
- The NSW Premier and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Mark Speakman, whose very decisive action on Domestic Violence since our meeting reassured me that the evidence and facts I presented were not brushed aside.
- Keiran Clancy, Advisor for Federal Attorney General, Christian Porter. Keiran and I had an excellent meeting and I was able to alert that office yet again of the extraordinary failures surrounding child protection.

During the COVID-19 restrictions I have attended Zoom meetings where our NSW Premier and Minister for Families were guest speakers and I also attended international zoom meetings where world renowned experts on our issues were guest speakers,

I am happy to be able to report that my involvement in a child sexual abuse case mid-year 2019 led to a 'no contact' order being made between child and her sexual perpetrator (father). On looking back I realise that, had I not made the effort that day to attend court, and had I not recognised that the perpetrator had introduced as his good friend and support person a seriously dangerous man from another of my cases, and had I not been able to explain this to the mother's barrister, it is highly likely we would have seen a very different outcome that day.

New cases have come to the Alliance this year many of them caused by the COVID-19 restrictions helping abusers to keep control over mothers and children.

Some examples are:

- Monday 17 August, 2019 – a mother travelled from Guyra NSW to Parramatta Court after receiving advice from the father's lawyer that she must 'attend' court as she had not returned the child as per orders, She drove down and booked accommodation for two nights, COVID-19 restrictions permitted the father to leave Queensland to pick up his child and return but strict restrictions meant the mother could not cross the border into Queensland to return the child. The father refused to drive to accept her offer to hand the child back on the NSW side of the border and is now not fit for a 'no contact' between the child and mother. The mother has been ordered to drive, and pay costs, from Guyra NSW to Toowoomba Qld, fortnightly to pick up her daughter for a two day stay, the drive back again. The child's father does not have to travel at all,
- A father of a 6-year-old boy has custody of his child, despite having attempted suicide and being hospitalised. He wrote a suicide note to the mother who immediately drove to his home as he had the child with him. She learned her son was safe with a friend and found the father near death, it was she who saved the father's life, yet he now has been awarded care of the boy.

Now for some good news. The NCPA now has State representation in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. This means that after firstly speaking to the victims, I am now able to connect them to someone close by, whilst still assisting the case,

This journey will never end, and the National Child Protection Alliance will continue to do whatever is needed for as long as it takes,



VISIT BY THE GYEONGSANGBUK-DO COUNCIL OF WOMEN AND THE KYUNGBUK WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Annie Kiefer



In November 2019 we were very fortunate to receive a visit from a delegation of women from the Gyeongsangbuk-Do Council of Women and the Kyungbuk Women's Association in the Republic of Korea (South).

Our members met with 30 women delegates and 1 male interpreter. The ladies were extremely interested in how Australian women deal with such issues as gender equality, aged care, youth suicide, women's roles in Government and volunteer roles. It was interesting to be advised that most youth suicide in Korea is not caused by drug overdose or depression, it is more likely to be caused by the 'losing of face',

These lovely ladies were eager to discuss ways to exchange and interact with other women-run organisations. Since 2013 these women have introduced international exchanges with at least eleven countries worldwide including –

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ❖ Turkey | ❖ Japan |
| ❖ Czech Republic | ❖ Russia |
| ❖ China | ❖ Spain |
| ❖ Vietnam | ❖ Uzbekistan |
| ❖ France | ❖ And now Australia |
| ❖ Indonesia | |

The ladies presented each NCWNSW member in attendance with a lovely pure silk scarf. This was an extremely worthwhile exercise in PR for the NCWNSW and the time spent was mutually beneficial.

**KERRIE GREER ACCOUNTING
B.COM, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**

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Balgowlah 2093

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10 August 2020

Independent Auditors Report to the Members

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Scope

I have audited the financial report of the National Council of Women of N.S.W. Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2020. The elected committee of the Association is responsible for the financial report and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Association.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether in all material respects, the financial report presents a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Associations financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the financial position of the National Council of Women of N.S.W. Inc as at 30 June 2020 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.



Kerrie Greer
Chartered Accountant

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF N.S.W. INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2020

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020 32

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF N.S.W. INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2020

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of financial report

The financial report has been prepared from historical cost records, except where otherwise stated. The accounting policies are consistent with those in the previous financial year.

b. Depreciation

Office furniture and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight line method.

	2020	2019
2. CASH		
Cash at bank	<u>23,336</u>	<u>4,801</u>
3. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS		
Venue Deposit due back	290	-
Expense paid twice	<u>-</u>	<u>69</u>
	<u>290</u>	<u>69</u>
4. INVESTMENTS		
Commonwealth Bank - term deposits	-	10,650
St. George Bank - term deposit	<u>20,069</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	<u>20,069</u>	<u>40,650</u>
5. PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Office equipment - at cost	8,757	8,757
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>2,678</u>	<u>1,802</u>
	<u>6,079</u>	<u>6,955</u>
Furniture & fittings - at cost	4,013	4,013
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>979</u>	<u>578</u>
	<u>3,034</u>	<u>3,435</u>
	<u>9,113</u>	<u>10,390</u>
6. CREDITORS & BORROWINGS		
Subscriptions received in advance	830	2,130
Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards Fund	8,856	8,856
Grant	4,500	-
Deferred Rent Payment	<u>2,092</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>16,278</u>	<u>10,986</u>
7. ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
<u>General funds</u>		
Balance at 1 July, 2019	44,924	48,994
Net income for the period	<u>(8,394)</u>	<u>(4,070)</u>
	<u>36,530</u>	<u>44,924</u>



AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS, 2019 – 2020

Association of Heads of Independent Girls Schools NSW - Accounts
Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc
Australian Local Government Women's Association
Baptist Women NSW-ACT
Catholic Women's League Australia – NSW Inc
Catholic Women's League Australia – Diocese of Parramatta Inc
Catholic Women's League Australia Archdiocese of Sydney
Catholic Women's League Australia – Diocese of Wollongong
Girl Guides NSW ACT and NT
Graduate Women – NSW Inc
Loreto Kirribilli Ex Students Union
National Child Protection Alliance
Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (NSW)
Quota International of Sydney Inc
Soroptimist International Region of NSW Inc
St Catherine's Old Girls' Union
Sydney High School Old Girls Union Inc
The Sydney Lithuanian Women's Social Services Assoc'n Inc
The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary
The Mother's Union in Australia Diocese of Sydney Inc
The Women's Club
The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc
Ukrainian Women's Assoc'n in Australia – Lidcombe Branch
Ukrainian Women's Association in Australia (NSW)
United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW Inc
Uniting Church Adult Fellowship NSW/ACT Synod
Women Lawyers Association of NSW Inc
Women's Plans Foundation
Zonta Club of Sydney Inc