



National Council of Women of

New South Wales Inc.

ABN 25 039 225 591

Established in 1896

125th ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17th November 2021

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

The National Council of Women of New South Wales Inc. (NCW NSW) 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/Territory are linked through the National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) and to the International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), which has a Category 1 consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with Permanent Representatives based in New York, Geneva, Vienna and at UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, ESCAP, UNIDO (Vienna), UN Habitat and ECE.

EXECUTIVE:

President:	Julie Morris
Vice-Presidents:	Margaret (Peg) McEntee OAM Dr Anne Sheehan
Hon. Secretary:	Tonya Valentino
Hon. Treasurer:	Margaret Wood
Recording Secretary:	Sally Fennell (Council) Lesley Lawson (Executive) Margaret Wood (Executive)
Hon. Editor: (Appt. Oct 2020)	Tonya Valentino
Individual Members Representative	Karen Binstead
Immediate Past President	Annie Kiefer

DELEGATES FROM ORGANISATIONS:

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC:	Tricia Graham
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA NSW INC:	Sally Fennell
GIRL GUIDES NSW ACT NT:	Margaret Wood
GRADUATE WOMEN NSW:	Dr Jane Baker Maria Girdler
NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION ALLIANCE:	Nicolette Norris AM
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA NSW	Maxine Bachmayer
WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCN NSW	Rebecca Haynes

STATE CO-ORDINATOR OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Karen Binstead

ADVISERS:

STATUS OF WOMEN - **Anna Kerr**
HUMAN RIGHTS - **Anna Kerr**
CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY – **Nicolette Norris AM**
HEALTH, NUTRITION & WELLBEING – **Maxine Bachmayer**
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AGEING, RR&R – **Annie Kiefer**
EDUCATION – **Hilary Cairns**
MEDIA – **Tonya Valentino**
MUSIC – **Helene Galettis**

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

SUB COMMITTEE:

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

NATIONAL POSITIONS:

NCW NSW President, **Julie Morris** is a Board Member of NCWA. Immediate Past President, **Annie Kiefer** was elected to the Board of NCWA following expiry of her term as NCW NSW President.

NCWA HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT:

Joan M Elliston AM

NCW NSW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO
Joan M Elliston AM
Margaret (Peg) McEntee OAM
Marion Smith AM
Elizabeth Whittle

Vale: Clare Cusick and Marjorie James OAM JP during this past year. Our condolences were extended to their families, friends and colleagues.



Our Patron

*Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beasley AC QC
39th Governor of New South Wales*



On 15th April 2021 I visited Government House in Sydney and signed the Condolences Book for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of NCW NSW. I was accompanied by Margaret Wood (NCW NSW Treasurer), Karen Binstead (State Coordinator of Standing Committees) and I invited Elizabeth Wang, Asian Australian Women's Association to accompany us. Elizabeth and Karen had not been to Government House before and the staff were very accommodating with a bit of a tour, interior design discussion and showing us our first female governor's portrait, namely Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JULIE MORRIS



In my first year as your President I must say it has been a 'learning curve' all round. In the middle of the COVID19 pandemic and with lockdowns making it difficult we have all had to learn 'new ways' of working.

I have been so pleased to share and learn with all those who have served on the Executive during the year and value each and every contribution. We might have been physically distanced for much of the time, but with the advantages of technology we have been able to continue our work. Our large events were limited but we did stay engaged and keep in contact with those who would normally attend such gatherings.

Following unsuccessful negotiations with our previous landlord and a few months of 'no home' we relocated the office to Zetland, into a space leased by 107 Projects which is guided by City of Sydney policies and practices. It is proposed to use both the numerous venue options within the building and also the close by Green Square Library for our activities and meetings. Zetland is located in the City of Sydney LGA.



A continuing work from the previous year was completed on May 2021 when the members voted unanimously for the adoption of a new Constitution. The subcommittee had been ably led by Doreen Todd OAM and had worked online, remotely and via face-to-face means to finalise this work. The Department of Fair Trading accepted the adopted Constitution and ByLaws in June 2021 and it is under that Constitution that this year's Annual General Meeting will take place. The introduction of electronic voting has been the key item which has enabled us to function when the majority of the state of NSW was in 'lockdown' at the time of calling for nominations and lead up to the Annual General Meeting.

NCW NSW has been involved in a range of activities such as:

- recognising young women as future leaders through the Dame Marie Peace Awards (full report later in this Annual Report)
- community organisation member of Keeping Women Out Of Prison (KWOOP) and distribution of information and activities with the goal of reducing the incarceration rate of women, particularly indigenous women, in the NSW justice system
- a range of interesting and informative speakers to our monthly Council meetings and distribution of information about various local, intrastate, interstate and international items of interest;
- recognising many 90+ year old women who have contributed to the advancement of women and their communities over many years;
- matriarchs monitoring inquiries and legislation to do with children and women's interactions with the legal system
- representation on Councils and Roundtables for Aged Care, Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Communications, Finance sectors and also energy consumer reform.

I am extremely grateful to Annie Kiefer for her continuing involvement in the external forums and her feedback reports to the NCW NSW Executive and Council. Keep up that stirring Annie!

Members of the Executive Committee for 2020-2021 were:

- Maxine Bachmayer (Delegate - National Council of Jewish Women, NSW)
- Karen Binstead (Assistant Secretary, Coordinator of Standing Committees, Individual Member Rep.)
- Sally Fennell (Delegate - Catholic Women's League Australia-NSW Inc)
- Maria Girdler (Delegate - Graduate Women-NSW)
- Tricia Graham (Delegate - Australian Church Women, NSW State Unit Inc)
- Annie Kiefer (Immediate Past President)
- Lesley Lawson (Delegate - Soroptimist International – Region NSW)
- Margaret (Peg) McEntee OAM (Vice President)
- Julie Morris (President)
- Niki Norris AM (Delegate - National Child Protection Alliance)
- Dr Anne Sheehan (Vice President)
- Margaret Wood (Honorary Treasurer, Assistant Secretary & Delegate Girl Guides NSW/ACT/NT)

Our Honorary Newsletter Editor, Tonya Valentino and Minute Recorders Sally Fennell (Council) and Margaret Wood and Lesley Lawson (Executive) dealt with those duties during the year.

Guest Speakers at our Council meetings during the year have been informative and I thank all those who involved in coordinating the speakers and to those who listened so intently and engaged with them on their topic. Most of the sessions were online (Zoom) and the full list is as follows:

- July 2020 - **Nicole Hobson** speaking about NDIS - working with special needs children and about **3Bridges** and the coordination and support services organised for her NDIS clients.

- August 2020 - **Anna Kerr** who is founder and Principal Solicitor of **Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated** providing free legal services to its members and based in Glebe. Anna is also recognised in the international human rights field. Anna spoke on **Coercive Control and its effects on women and children**.
- September 2020 – **NCWA President Robyn Nolan** addressed the meeting advising of work of NCWA and that a Forum will be held via ZOOM on the 16 October 2020 1pm-3pm. Speakers - Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services; Ms Kate Jenkins, Sex Discrimination Commissioner; Dr James Muecke, Australian of the Year 2020; the Hon Julie Collins, Shadow Minister for Ageing and Seniors and Shadow Minister for Women. (Footnote: A number of NCW NSW members attended the NCWA Forum on 16 October 2020.)
- October 2020 - **Elizabeth Wang**, Founding President of **Asian Australian Women Association (AAWA)** spoke on the **challenges in 2020 for local women from the Asian diaspora**. Elizabeth is a lawyer and academic and encounters harassment and discrimination on an almost daily basis. Elizabeth gave examples of the difficulties faced by Asian women in obtaining Government assistance due to communication and cultural issues. Elizabeth gave a personal account of how she was a victim of “road rage” due to her appearance and how these issues have been exacerbated by the current pandemic.
- November 2020 - **Rebecca Haynes, delegate from Women Lawyers Association of NSW Inc.** spoke on **Coercive Control**, particularly in relation to Domestic Violence. Rebecca advised that in 11 out of 12 homicides relating to Domestic Violence Coercive Control was a contributing factor.
- February 2021 - **Tasha Armour** from **Rare Ovarian Cancer Inc.** Tasha spoke passionately on how she set up Rare Ovarian Cancer Incorporated (ROC Inc) following the diagnosis of her 16 year old daughter with Juvenile Granulosa Cell Tumour (JGCT) a rare and incurable ovarian cancer. ROC Inc is raising awareness for ovarian cancer and its symptoms and raising money for vital research. Tasha reminded us that it is a common misconception that ovarian cancer is an older person’s disease. Tasha also spoke on the research ROC Inc is undertaking.
- March 2021 – **Dr Brian Sullivan**, Senior Lecturer/HOC - **Domestic Violence** at CQ University and is currently working as a practice manager of a men's domestic violence intervention program in Queensland. Brian’s PowerPoint presentation “*Who are these Guys*” was very informative.
- April 2021 – **Emily Milton Smith, Girl Guides NSW ACT NT (State Commissioner Elect.)** - Emily spoke about her different roles within Guiding – she is a globally renowned youth advocate; she is an Advisor at the Queen’s Commonwealth Trust and a Youth Board member of Dove Self Esteem’s Project, and spoke about the social impact agenda of the multinational brand Dove. In 2014 Emily was awarded NSW Young Volunteer of the Year. Emily now the State Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Directors for Girl Guides NSW ACT NT. Emily spoke about the **future goals and how the stability of Guiding can bring to all girls and young women**.
- May 2021 - **Sonia Casanova**, President, **Soroptimist Int NSW**. Sonia explained that Soroptimist Int has a global voice and its aim is for women and girls to achieve their potential. Sonia spoke on some of SI projects in her local area Griffith being “*Walk a Mile in my Shoes*”, Griffith Community Forum the theme being End Modern Slavery and “*100 acts of kindness*” (celebrating their centenary) - sending 100 refurbished bicycles to Samoa.
- June 2021 - **Karen Levin**, CEO and Founder of **The Equanimity Project**. Karen spoke on the work of her organisation dealing with DV survivors and subsequent homelessness, including support for their pets to accompany them to a home, offered by a woman who has spare room. Those offering accommodation are ‘vetted’ and undergo training to ensure they understand the trauma of the survivors. There is a financial recompense to those offering accommodation.

Due to the significant interruption to the workings of our universities during COVID19 it was decided not to hold the “Celebrate Being an Australian” Australia Day Awards in January 2020.

At the end of January 2021, we submitted a response to the NSW Parliament ***Inquiry on Coercive Control in Domestic Relationships***. This was a result of some considerable sub-committee work conducted over the December-January ‘break’. The sub-committee was chaired by Dr Anne Sheehan with valuable input from Maria Girdler, Anna Kerr, Michelle Pedersen and Niki Norris. Maria withdrew from the sub-committee before the final submission date. The NCW NSW submission was acknowledged by NSW Parliament.

During the year we have circulated numerous online and face-to-face activities to members. This has enabled members to remain active and connected whilst ‘staying safe’ at home.



Michael Mannington OAM, Community Photography.

In May 2021 a NCW NSW was represented by a number of members who attended the celebration of **Graduate Women – NSW for the centenary of their international federation**. The **Centenary Awardee** was **Alana Kristel Munro** currently enrolled in a Ph.D in Applied Science at the University of Sydney. The title of Alana’s thesis is: ***Menstrual hygiene management among adolescent females: a comparison between Australian and South East Asia***.

L-R – Tricia Graham, Sally Fennell, ‘Tricia Blombery, Annie Kiefer, Julie Morris, Michelle Pedersen, Maria Girdler, Doreen Todd OAM, Dr Anne Sheehan. Photographer –

NCW Australia has adopted a Code of Conduct and your NCW NSW Executive believes that it should be adopted as part of our range of operating documents. Reproduced here for your endorsement.



During the year I attended all the bimonthly NCW Australia Board Meetings via Zoom and as the NCWA Mid-Term Conference was postponed a successful online forum was held in its place. A number of NCW NSW members also viewed the forum.



In 2021 the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship Prize was not awarded by the State Library of New South Wales. Due to COVID-19 pandemic we did not think it appropriate to ask our 90+ year olds to attend an event but we did call for Jean Arnot Memorial nominations and these closed in late June. Nominees for 2021 will be invited to attend the 2022 celebrations.

One of the things I have been doing during *lockdown* periods (when not on Zoom calls!) is doing some research about the group of women who came together to form National Council of Women of New South Wales 125 years ago. Some have little or no history written, others have been written about in a derogatory manner (e.g. '*ladies bountiful*') when in reality it was their 'lived experience' that started their journey with NCW NSW. This history project was commenced by others as a project for the 120 years anniversary and now with a bit more information these wonderful ladies will have some time in the limelight.

I would like to thank all those who contributed in the many ways that it takes to have a vibrant and dynamic group of dedicated and active volunteers. It has been an honour to be your President during this past year.

Hon. Secretary's report

Tonya Valentino

Since joining the Executive of NCW NSW I have been undergoing significant health challenges, although these are now on the improve and I look forward to a better second half of 2021 and into 2022.

Thankfully both Karen Binstead and Margaret Wood performed many of my delegated duties and I am so grateful to both of them. The Minutes Recorders have also done a great job with dedication and consistency. The introduction of online meetings using Zoom has been successful and most members have increased their skills in the use of the technology.

We changed the timing to 3.30pm-5.30pm, of the Executive Meetings to allow members a fuller day doing other things and this has been successful in achieving nearly full attendance at most of the Executive meetings.

Membership as at 30 June is now recorded as:

30 Affiliated Organisations | 37 Individual Members | 7 Life Members | 5 Honorary Life Members

Our new logo has reinvigorated the branding of NCW NSW and it is easy to work with in updating all our marketing collateral.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Margaret Wood

In September 2020 we received a grant through the BeConnected program, administered by the Good Things Foundation, for an activity during Get Online Week. The grant was acquitted and formal notification of completion was received.

In June 2021 a very generous donation of \$5,000 was received from an individual to assist with office rental expenses. We are very grateful for the other smaller donations which supplement our operating expenses during the year.

With office relocation to 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland and a reassessment of our furniture and small equipment items all items of office furniture and equipment were deemed to be of little or no value and were written off during FY20/21. Apart from the two desks and tall bookcases left at SMSA, all goods remain in our possession.

Our budget is of constant concern but the Executive continues to work on it to ensure there are no adverse ramifications for our organisation. I commend the audited accounts for your reading at the end of this report.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Karen Binstead

I would like to submit my Annual Report as your representative for Individual Members.

Unfortunately, with COVID restrictions we have not been able to have any events face-to-face this year but hopefully things will change in the near future.

You will have all been receiving any correspondence that has been sent out via the office. There was some very interesting reading.

We recently held a Zoom Individual Members Get-together with a number of members participating.

Members who joined during July 2020 - June 2021:

Sylvia Bulovic | Karen Fenemore | Susan Robson | Yvette Kinkade | Maya Skidmore | Elie Robertson

With having an Individual Member Representative Duty Statement now it will give a clearer definition as to what is required in the role.

It has been an honour to service as your representative and I wish the incoming Individual Member Representative all the best and my full support.

Yours in Friendship,

Karen Binstead

NSW STATE COORDINATOR OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Karen Binstead

Well what a year we have had.

I would like to thank the Advisers for their report input for our council meetings and to those that have submitted Annual Reports. I know it has been hard with COVID lockdown for areas of their portfolios to operate.

With the assistance of President Julie, we have developed THE **GOLDEN** HANDBOOK for NCW NSW State Coordinator of Standing Committees and Advisers 2021—2024, passed by the Executive on 17th March 2021.

We hope this helps Incoming Coordinators to be able to do the role. Finding Advisers has been a challenge this year, but hopefully in 2021-2022 we will have some ladies willing to put up their hands.

I wish the Incoming Coordinator of Standing Committees and the Executive all the best for 2021—2022 and you have my full support.

Yours in friendship,

Karen Binstead



National Child Protection Alliance

in association with the National Council for Children Post Separation

September 6th 2021

Annual Report 2021

Firstly, thank you for your support over the past twelve months.

After some personal and many Zoom meetings during 2021, with various parliamentarians, Ministers, MPs and Chief Justice and Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, we held hopes for some noticeable change in the systems to protect children.

We can say that our efforts, along with others, have brought the injustices, dealt toward mothers and children, to the forefront and new projects and changes have been introduced, however we are not convinced that mothers and children calling the NCPA, will benefit.

We saw the Lighthouse Project introduced in Adelaide in December 2020 and in Brisbane and Parramatta registries on 11 January 2021 – quote:

“The Lighthouse Project introduces risk screening, triage and if applicable, a parenting matter can now be placed in a specialised Court list known as the Evatt List. This is to ensure that families who are the most vulnerable are provided with appropriate resources and support.”

The Primary focus of the Lighthouse Project Pilot is to improve outcomes for families involved in the family law system.”

However, when I enquired whether they deal with cases of child sexual abuse cases I was informed that they would not be handling this kind of case, and so, cases coming to the NCPA receive no help from the Lighthouse Project.

Prior to the court merger, described in the next paragraph, we saw new Judges being appointed and I’m happy to say that reports from mothers whose cases were being heard in the Family Court were that they had felt respected and were spoken to kindly.

We saw the Court merger on September 1st 2021 and we now have one Court called the Federal Circuit and Family Law Court of Australia (FCFCA). Quote:

“The Court’s media release stresses “identifying risk and safety at the very beginning of every case is a priority, where parties will be given ongoing opportunities for dispute resolution where it is safe to do so, and if cases cannot be resolved, it will be listed for a trial before a judge much earlier than previously experienced.”

“For those cases that do need to proceed to litigation, the new Court will provide a modern, transparent and more efficient system of justice which is aimed at getting these parties through the process as safely, quickly and fairly as possible without undue delay,” advises The Chief Justice.’

The article went on to stipulate that the rights of children will ‘continue’ to be prioritised. For decades now, the rights of children to be heard in every court in the land has been violated. (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

To absorb all that there is to learn about the FCFCA will take quite a while so it's 'head down, tail up' for all of us trying to understand it, and that includes lawyers I would think!

The 'soldier' of all children and former Commissioner for Children and Young People, Megan Mitchell, wrote: *"The right to be heard, which is enshrined in Article 12, is one of the four core principles of the Convention, the others being the right to non-discrimination, the right to life and development, and the primary consideration of the child's best interests. As core principles these rights must be considered in the interpretation and implementation of all other rights in the Convention."*(11)

Article 12 requires that: A child who is capable of forming his or her own views has the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child and that they be given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity.(12) Further, Article 12 specifically states that opportunities to be heard must be provided "in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child."(13)"

Thus far, it's been up to the discretion of a Judge to decide whether or not they will allow children, and certain witnesses, to be heard, and, as a result, many young victims were denied justice when evidence was not accepted and witnesses denied any opportunity to speak. Whether or not this will change is yet to be seen.

The information we have on the Courts merger tells us that it will help the backlog of cases and ensure cases are expedited through the court system, with a more 'efficient' system.

The question is - will children now be more fully protected and will children now be given the right to be heard in matters pertaining to their welfare? We now must wait and see.

On a positive note - more recently my work has led to new connections, people who have skills and knowledge of the problems, both Federal and State, and who are therefore capable of assisting our NCPA team as we continue to address the failures of the systems failing to protect children. This is proving to be of some relief to me as I'm sure you will appreciate.

The work, for the team on the NCPA, must continue – for the sake of all Australian children.

Niki Norris – Chairperson
Email: ndene@optusnet.com.au

P.O. Box 854 Sutherland, New South Wales 1499

Mob: 0414 768 255
Website: www.ncpa.org.au

Anna Kerr, Principal Solicitor, Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.(FLC)

Family Court Reform

[Recent research](#) has revealed that women are not being believed when they report child sexual abuse in the context of family law proceedings. Indeed, the Family Court often increases contact and even places children into the primary care of fathers in disregard of such allegations. FLC has collaborated with the National Child Protection Alliance (NCPA) to conduct a survey of women about their experiences in the family court system and used the distressing results to obtain a meeting with the Chief Justice and other key personnel to establish an ongoing dialogue on these [urgent matters](#).

Domestic Violence

COVID restrictions have resulted in women receiving even less support when they attend both in the Local Courts and in the Family Courts. More needs to be done to ensure services are adequately organised to support women remotely, with many women currently falling through the gaps. [Abusive males are increasingly using the legal system](#) to seek protection orders against their victims. The rising incarceration rate for women, particularly indigenous women, is at least partly an outcome of this trend. Unfortunately, despite the enthusiasm for much needed “coercive control” reforms, there is concern that these provisions could also end up being [weaponised against women by their perpetrators](#).

Sexual Violence

After a process of consultation, the [NSW Attorney General announced that he will strengthen sexual assault laws by introducing an affirmative consent model](#). While this is a step in the right direction, it fails to take account of the extent to which women are increasingly pressured and coerced to “consent” to violent sexual behaviour. The [normalisation of violent pornography](#) and the promotion of prostitution “as just another job” has seen an increase in rough sex defences to violent sexual crime. Some women are fighting back internationally with a campaign against Pornhub and [40 victims are suing them for \\$52 million in damages](#). However, our political leaders continue to demonstrate a high tolerance for delays, or no action at all, in bringing [perpetrators to account in parliamentary workplaces](#).

Harmful trans ideology

In several Australian jurisdictions [recent legislation](#) now effectively [compels health practitioners to fast track children](#) with gender dysphoria onto puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. However, various international developments herald a welcome reversal in this affirmation model of treatment. These include the [Bell v Tavistock High Court case](#) and the [Cass Review in the UK](#), changed treatment guidelines issued by [COHERE in Finland](#) and the [Karolinska Institute in Sweden](#) and [words of caution from the clinical pioneers of the original Dutch protocol](#) upon which the affirmation model was originally based. We are seeing a slow trickle-down impact in Australia. [Recent research](#) released by clinicians from the Gender Clinic at Westmead Children’s Hospital records high rates of adverse childhood experiences and comorbidities in those presenting with gender dysphoria which suggest a need for ongoing therapeutic work rather than the hasty hormonal interventions which characterise the current affirmation approach. [Other research](#) has documented the exponential increase of gender dysphoria in children, particularly girls, which would appear to spread as a social contagion with concentration in areas with gender clinics.

Meanwhile the Olympics have highlighted how the inclusion of males who identify as women impacts on [both fairness and safety in women’s sport](#). However, the silencing of women who speak out against gender ideology is significant with many women being sacked, [disciplined by professional bodies, censored](#) or [otherwise silenced](#) for questioning the conflation of biological sex with social constructs of gender.

Impact of Covid on Mental Health of Women

Plenty of research has shown that women are bearing the brunt of the social and economic consequences of the Covid -19 pandemic. Social isolation, uncertainty, job losses and school closures particularly impact on women. Many working women are home-schooling and supporting children as well.

A UN policy brief stated the “pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic”.

Across the globe there have been reports of increased domestic violence against women and children. Many women who are experiencing coercive control or domestic violence now have partners at home full time and are unable to have the private conversations they need to access support.

Mental Health

Restrictions put in place to protect the community’s physical health have put pressure on an already struggling mental health care system. In response the Federal Government has doubled the number of mental health sessions available to all patients - increasing available sessions from 10 to 20.

Recent Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) research shows that NSW is spending less on specialised mental health than every other state and territory except Queensland. A 2020 parliamentary inquiry into hospitals in south-west Sydney heard concerning evidence about mental health patients spending long periods of time in emergency departments. The inquiry handed down its report in November and recommended mental health staffing and the number of specialist beds across south-west Sydney be reviewed.

The NSW Government has put aside \$80 million to strengthen mental health services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This money will go towards additional specialist community mental health clinicians and peer support workers to support vulnerable populations, expansion of virtual mental health services, and towards connecting mental health consumers to clinical information and resources. Funding has been increased for Lifeline and the Mental Health Line.

There is also concern that people hospitalised with mental health illness are being sent home with reports of mental health wards being morphed into Covid wards.

The NSW State budget included more support for new mothers suffering from mental health illness, an area which has been underfunded for decades. At present the [St John of God Mother and Baby Unit \(MBU\)](#) is the only specialist inpatient program in New South Wales for Mothers requiring care in a hospital for perinatal mental illness with babies up to 12 months old. The NSW Government has recently announced 2 public MBU’s with 8 beds – one at RPA which is planned to open by early 2022 and another at Westmead was announced in earlier this month.

The NSW budget has put aside \$109.5 million over four years to develop 25 ‘Safeguards’ – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Response Teams across NSW to provide services to children and teenagers with moderate to severe mental health issues and their families and carers.

Nutrition

Overweight and obesity doubled in NSW children since 1985 but has been relatively stable since 2007. Childhood obesity was one of Premier’s priorities is an aim to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 Years by 2025. Initiatives have included educational and healthy canteen initiatives amongst others.

Another emerging area of concern in terms of nutrition is the documented increase in eating disorders especially amongst teenage girls.

Relevant Inquiries NSW Parliament

The 8-month inquiry *Coercive Control in Domestic Relationships* was initiated by Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, Mark Speakman and commenced in October 2020. The inquiry heard evidence from over 100 witnesses, much of it harrowing, and received more than 150 submissions.

The report was handed down in June with 23 recommendations, including that coercive control should become a criminal offence. It stated this should be introduced after police, frontline workers and others undergo a "considerable" program of education, training and consultation.

Committee Chair Natalie Ward MP said "evidence before us demonstrated these patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour are red flags for murder". Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Mark Speakman is currently reviewing the report and finalising the Government's response.

ENDEAVOUR ENERGY CUSTOMER COUNCIL

Annie Kiefer

Endeavour Energy covers over two and a half million customers. Its territory includes Sydney's Greater Western Suburbs, the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, Illawarra, and the South Coast of New South Wales.

Over the past year I have attended meetings of the Endeavour Energy Customer Council which culminated in September with a workshop to which I had been invited to participate. Invited attendees included the Australian Energy Regulator, Energy Users Australia, Western Sydney Organisation of Councils, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, and the CWA of NSW.

Endeavour Energy is trying to better identify and manage the sustainability topics that are relevant and important to their operations and to their stakeholders.

Some items discussed were –

- Plans for environmental and social governance (collectively referred to as sustainability).
- Future grid services.
- Customer priorities had been sought and top of the list is keeping the cost of electricity affordable as well as safe as well as how to keep on achieving this.
- Another priority centres around life support and support for vulnerable customers.
- One item that was discussed – the anticipated NSW policy of banning gas connections – which will be a real crunch issue in 5 years' time.

Participants at the Workshop identified **trust** as an overriding imperative to achieve outcomes of a future grid.

The future of motor vehicles was discussed. Endeavour Energy staff mentioned that by 2030 you will not be able to purchase a petrol driven car, bus, taxi, truck, SUV, Ferrari, or Lamborghini! It was noted that at present the car manufacturer, Volvo, is producing 50% electric vehicles and by 2030 it will be 100%.

NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION ROUNDTABLE ON AGED CARE

Annie Kiefer

I attend monthly meetings of this Roundtable. Included in the membership are CWA of NSW, RACGP, PICAC, NSW Cancer Council, Carers NSW, Older Women's Network, NSW Rural Doctors' Network and the Senior's Rights Service.

During July the Aged Care and Safety Independent Commissioner, Janet Anderson, joined our meeting to answer questions in relation to the Royal Commission into Aged Care findings. The Commissioner confirmed that site-based visits were being undertaken during lockdown on a risk basis where there is immediate or severe risk of harm. The Commissioner also re-affirmed the Government money that has been provided to reform the sector post Royal Commission. There will be a Bill introduced to Parliament in relation to the composition, skills mix and obligations of aged care board members. The Commission has been given funding to undertake the training of board members and leadership across the aged care sector to ensure they understand their responsibilities.

Commissioner Anderson confirmed that from October 21, 2021 all incidents of a sexual nature will be reportable, meaning providers won't be able to assess whether or not the impact requires them to be reported. She advised that inappropriate touching is not considered necessarily as high impact sexual assault.

Questions from the Roundtable included –

- Calls for better regulation of home care packages
- Sexual assaults in residential aged care
- Home care workers vaccination against Covid not being mandated
- What the Commission might be doing to advocate for enhanced wages in the sector
- How consumers will be engaged in the new consultation structures including the aged care advisory committee
- Issues relating to access in rural and remote areas (especially MyGov)
- Why it is taking so long for aged care residents to be vaccinated.

The Aged Care Roundtable have published leaflets in the 10 Questions to Ask before going into aged care including:

10 Questions to Ask About –

- Staffing in Residential Aged Care
- GP Services in Residential Aged Care
- Palliative Care in Residential Aged Care
- Your Cultural Needs in Residential Aged Care
- Contracts and Fees in Residential Aged Care
- Facilities and Lifestyle in Residential Aged Care
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexual Needs in Residential Aged Care
- Dental and Oral Health in Residential Aged Care
- When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are Seeking Residential Aged Care
- Your Mental Health Needs in Residential Aged Care
- Rural and Remote Residential Aged Care
- Dementia Care in Residential Aged Care
- Allied Health in Residential Aged Care
- Additional Service Charges in Residential Aged Care
- Covid-19 in Residential Aged Care.

If you require further information, go to www.10questions.org.au/leaflets.html So far, these leaflets have been translated into six languages and will soon be available in large print.

Members of the Roundtable have advised that there are difficulties in funding for telehealth consultations. Telehealth are being increasingly used by older people during lockdown. It was noted that further advocacy is needed in this area. It was asked if the NCW NSW would co-sign a letter to Minister Hunt.

The Roundtable will advocate to examine the implications of new legislation regarding the prescribing of antipsychotic medications in public health services.

It was noted that there is a problem concerning the management of aged care services during the current Covid-19 outbreak, due to workforce shortages.

This Council meets every three months. Recently we had serious in-depth discussions on how the banking sector can support customers who may be experiencing financial and/or technology-facilitated abuse. The CBA have developed the following resources in conjunction with the Women's Services Network (WESNET) –

- Digital financial security
- How to secure your digital finances
- Beyond basics: increasing the security of your digital finances
- Digital financial security and relationships.

The Council were advised that Domestic Violence NSW recently released a report outlining the impact of the 2021 Covid-19 Greater Sydney lockdown. The report listed clear recommendations on how the NSW could respond, including recommending the creation of a whole-of-government plan to meet the increased demand for domestic and family violence services after lockdown has lifted.

Key findings included –

- 73% of services faced a significant increase in demand
- 84% of services also said there was an increase in the complexity of the situations for the clients referred
- Of the 33 services operating waitlists, there has been an increase in the length of the waitlist of almost half of the services at 48.55%

The CBA has released details of a new customer guide to assist customers in managing their finances through a serious illness. The Bank's aim is to assist in having the right support in place so customers will be able to reduce the financial impact a diagnosis could have on them or their loved ones.

The Bank are streamlining their Indigenous Customer Assistance Line (ICAL) to make it more effective in assisting the Indigenous customers. Identification will now be a lot easier as ICAL will be able to verify non-remote (as well as rural and remote) customers who come into the bank's branches without ID. This service was previously only available to remote customers.

This Council is investigating various ways the Bank can respond to customers in vulnerable circumstances especially in cases of domestic and financial abuse. The CBA is working to ensure its staff are equipped to respond skilfully and sensitively to the needs of their customers.

The Bank, and this Council are committed to integrating with the community's needs and expectations.

These awards, in their 11th year, were conducted under unexpected conditions due to the global pandemic of COVID-19 declared in late January 2020 which imposed restrictions on mass assemblies of people. As a result, events were being cancelled or put on hold. When our flyers about The Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards (DMBPA) were sent to principals of NSW schools in April, we were encouraged by expressions of pleasure from principals, who quickly sent in their nominations, grateful that the coronavirus pandemic had not added the Peace Awards to the many other cancellations that had to take place for their students. The process of receiving, acknowledging and ultimately judging the 72 nominations continued according to the advised schedule and the winners were notified to all schools by mid-August.

By the end of August, as there was still no easing of restrictions for people to gather together, all parties involved who awaited confirmation of the planned Presentation in September at Parliament House were notified of the cancellation. Alternative arrangements were required to make presentations to the winning students, six receiving Awards and four being Highly Commended. Consideration of using Zoom was put aside when some of the winning students' schools preferred not to use it or were in poor areas for reception. It was still early days for general use of virtual technology. Additionally, we were advised that Professor Dame Marie's attendance via Zoom was improbable.

As a result, Australia Post was used to deliver certificates and official letters of congratulations to our 10 winning students, six of whom also received a cheque for \$250.00. Separately, the winning students' principals also received certificates and official letters. Professor Dame Marie wrote a personal letter to each of the 10 winning students to be included with her certificate. This was an unexpected surprise in the sealed document wallet mailed to each winner. The mail was sent by Express Post on Tuesday 22 September, a date usually chosen so that the presentation is as near as possible to The International Day of Peace on 21 September.

We hope eventually to meet this year's recipients at a future time when pandemic issues had been overcome.

I would like to record gratitude and thanks to the Judging Panel and Independent Arbiter who diligently followed the established criteria to put forward their selected recipients. Thanks are also recorded to Sponsors for their financial assistance – Zonta Club of Sydney East and Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association.

Following are their names and a brief account of their activities. *(Compiled by Awards Committee Member, Cassandra Allan.)*

AWARDS

Sophia HADJIMICHAEL - Year 12 - Penrith Selective High School

Sophia is school captain and received the Rotary Club of Nepean Youth Award for her contribution to the community. According to the Principal, Mr Mark Long, she 'began the school's "Social Justice Club", 2018, after concerns over the exploitation of workers and helpless/disadvantaged communities, forced into human trafficking in the hope of a better future.' This club is one of the largest in the school, leading to the introduction of a "Social Justice and Equality Prefect Portfolio." In her passion to improve the plight of refugees, Sophia has forged links between the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group and the Social Justice Group at her school, evidenced by the preparation of 50 Stationery Packages for refugee children in time for Christmas 2019.

Caitlin McMANUS BARRETT - Year 12 - Sydney Girls High School

Caitlin is described by the Principal, Ms Andrea Connell, as an impressive and influential young adult who was voted Vice-Captain by her peers. As one of the few students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage at her school, Caitlin has shared her family's story at NAIDOC assemblies over the past 3 years. This has given two other students the confidence to speak out as fellow first Australians. Her passion is to work towards reconciliation. As she states, "It is only in making a deliberate decision to work towards harmony and equality that we will ever be able to achieve it." She has worked to destigmatise young people suffering poor mental health by fundraising for Headspace, taking part in Australia's Push-up Challenge. (3046 push-ups representing those who were lost to suicide in 2018). Caitlin is committed to use 'the privilege of a good public education in the endeavour to achieve peace within our society.'

Ranya NAEEM - Year 12 - Fairfield High School

Ranya is an Iraqi refugee who has been living in Australia for 3 years on a Humanitarian Visa. She is a strong advocate for women's rights and is taking every advantage offered to her in Australia to be a role model for other girls and women in her school and local community. She is the School Captain and plans to study Pharmacy – in her words "to defy cultural and social expectations of women by getting educated." She has led by example,

leading fundraisers for the Bushfire Appeal, Droughts, Floods and Christmas Grocery Appeal in 2019. In 2020 she planned and organised a whole school event that focused on Women in Leadership that unfortunately had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions. However, she persisted with fundraising and kit building for the Birthing Kit Foundation.

Sancia RIDGEWAY - Year 12 - The Armidale School

Sancia is a proud Gumbaynggirr woman, a prefect and the student elected Aboriginal Leader. According to the Principal, Mr Alan Jones, she has been the driving force behind school and community wide initiatives, raising awareness for human rights and social justice issues. In 2018, writing about What Matters in the Whitlam Institute competition, she wrote about what Aboriginal culture looks like now, offering the wider community a glimpse of traditional culture which she feels “is not shown or taught enough in the media and in schools.” She was the national overall winner, despite being in the year 9/10 division at that time. In 2019 Sancia attended the Round Square International Conference in India focussed on ‘the change we wish to see.’ She led the traditional Aboriginal women’s dance before 2000 assembled students. Sancia continues to discuss “world issues and how to achieve peace, harmony and social justice” with her contacts via social media.

Paige SCANLAN - Year 10 - Chifley College Shalvey Campus

Paige is described by the Principal, Ms Jenny Linklater, as being “always kind and generous towards others and supported (sic) younger students who were having difficulty in transitioning to high school. Paige has consistently demonstrated strength, tenacity and resilience at school while she was experiencing adversity and extreme personal hardship.” Paige describes herself as a proud Polynesian woman. She is intensely aware of the socioeconomic inequities in her local Mount Druitt region and the low self-esteem and lack of ambition of its young people. She is President of the Shalvey Latter-Day Saints Young Women’s Organisation and in 2019, she coordinated the Mentoring Buddy Program for young women aged 13-14 to empower them to re-engage with school life. Paige is the Shalvey Campus School Captain and Peer Support Leader where she started a school-based informal Buddy System based on the LDS Mentoring Buddy Program to help students realise their academic potential to pass high school and beyond. It involves pairing an academic with a sporting student. Her goal is to help Shalvey’s youth set high life expectations.

Geena THOMAS - Year 12 - Narooma High School

Geena has been an active member of the Student Representative Council from Year 9 onwards and is the president of the SRC in Year 12. She has the bone condition, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which has led to her being known as a ‘cheerleader’ by her peers, rather than an active participant at sports. She has a strong sense of social justice and claims “a knack for diffusing uncomfortable or heated situations.” She has influenced others in a variety of ways, encouraging people to try new things and do their best, especially quiet students, one of whom discovered a love of public speaking. Geena founded a group within her school called the TUC (time’s up collective). Its purpose was to counter misogyny in the football-mad town of Narooma. Prominent women from the community were invited to talk to groups of students. Geena writes: “The aim was to empower the female student body while simultaneously educating make students about struggles that women face. Having these ladies tell their stories on campus gave them a greater appreciation of our student body and helped increase our connection with the wider community.” Within her role as SRC President she has organised fundraisers, with a preference for organisations that have helped students within her school. She is a professed delegator: “I am conscious to delegate jobs to every member of the SRC to make sure that everyone feels needed and included.”

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Jade CONNORS - Year 12 - West Wyalong High School

Jade, the school captain, is described by the Principal, Mr Gregory Sheens as being “passionate about the wellbeing of her peers and the wider community. She has a great deal of social conscience.” Jade acknowledges that she is inspired by the qualities exhibited by her mother, who died of cancer 4 years ago. She instigated the West Wyalong High School’s bushfire appeal in early 2020 which saw funds donated to a northern NSW school that had been devastated by fires. She worked hard to organise a gratitude event for the local fire fighters from her small rural community. Jade has been part of a leadership team, focussing on mental health of students and the wider community during the Covid-19 crisis. In 2019 she participated in the 2019 Lyons Youth of the Year competition, attended the 2019 National Young Leaders conference and other school fundraising activities.

Lauren GRIFFITHS - Year 12 - Northern Beaches Secondary College Manly Campus

Lauren is described by the Principal, Ms Kathryn O’Sullivan, as “an energetic, versatile, empathetic and diligent young person who can readily encourage and mobilise others to relate sympathetically with the concerns of the wider community and actively work towards making a difference in the lives of others.” She is school vice-captain, member of the SRC in 2020 and a participant in all three of the Sydney school Strikes for Climate Change, the

2020 Invasion Day protest and the Sydney Black Lives Matter peaceful protest. In recognition of her consistent commitment to giving back, she was awarded the highest level of achievement, the Black Opal Volunteering Award, for over 150 hours of volunteering in 2018 alone. But it is as a co-creator and facilitator of the whole of school Wellbeing Pastoral Care Program that Lauren has developed presentations to a class of Year 7-12 students to develop lifelong wellbeing skills in areas such as environmental sustainability, resilience and anti-racism to ultimately broaden social awareness and deepen an understanding of the importance of discussion, diversity, harmonious relationships and broader world issues.

Rebecca HODGSON – Year 12 – Bellinghen High School

Rebecca is described by the Principal, Ms Kim Dixon, as a “natural leader whose strength lies in her ability to cut across age and relationship barriers to integrate school to community.” She is part of the leadership team and has been involved in promoting social justice campaigns in school, the wider community and also on overseas projects. She has been an active representative of the SMILE mentor program at Bellinghen High School, fundraising for Youth Hub to prevent youth community suicide and also to assist those affected by fire and floods in the community. Rebecca’s most noteworthy achievement has been to have the local RSL club gift an annual scholarship, The Spirit of ANZAC, to Bellinghen High School. This was a result of Rebecca, with a Girl Guide background, taking the initiative with her fellow school leader, to help organise the 2019 Remembrance Day ceremony, mentoring and organising the primary school leaders, and providing hospitality to elderly attendees.

Holly MILLER – Year 12 – Henry Kendall High School

Holly, a Mununjali woman, is school captain in 2020. “Holly is an Aboriginal woman who has taken great pride in connecting with her cultural history, including teaching herself the language of her nation. She is a role model to her Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peers and she undertakes mentoring roles with younger students to assist them in connecting to their own cultures. She also supports both the students and staff to engage in learning Aboriginal history and appreciating the varied cultures within the school” according to the Principal, Mr Andrew Backhouse. “Holly also plays an active role in her wider community, which is epitomised by her project for MAX Potential. She sourced donations from local organisations to create packages for hospital patients with essential items and wellbeing resources, which were delivered to Gosford Hospital.” Holly intends to continue this project as her career goal is to enter the nursing profession and give back to the community.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS 2020-21

Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc.
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 Wollongong Diocese
Feminist Legal Clinic
Girl Guides NSW / ACT / NT
Graduate Women - NSW Inc.
Illawarra Quota Inc.
Loreto Kirribilli Ex-Students' Union
National Child Protection Alliance
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division
NSW Women in Agriculture
Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Assn. (NSW PPSEAWA)
Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia in NSW
Soroptimist International Region of NSW Inc.
St Catherine's Old Girls' Union
Sydney High School Old Girls' Union Inc.
Sydney Lithuanian Women's Social Services Association Inc.
The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary
The Mothers Union in Australia Diocese of Sydney Inc.
The Women's Club
The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc.
Ukrainian Women's Association in Australia (NSW)
Ukrainian Women's Association in Australia - Anna Yaroslavna Branch
Ukrainian Women's Association in Australia—Lidcombe Branch
Uniting Church Adult Fellowship NSW/ACT Synod
Women Lawyers Association of NSW Inc.
Women's Plans Foundation
Zonta Club of Sydney Inc.

Jane Fisher
Bookkeeper
ABN: 37 420 965 890
98 Smith Lane
NUMBAA NSW 2540

I have examined the books of the National Council of Women of New South Wales and find them to be in good order with the financial reports showing fairly the results of its operations for the year ended 30th June 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JF', written in a cursive style.

Jane Fisher
Bookkeeper

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

Note		2021	2020
	CURRENT ASSETS		
2	Cash	17,202	23,336
3	Other	0	290
	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	17,202	23,626
	NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
4	Investments	20,176	20,069
5	Property, plant & equipment (net of depreciation)	0	9,113
	Rent Bond return	500	0
		20,676	29,182
	TOTAL ASSETS	37,878	52,808
	Jean Arnot Account (Shared PBW) not shown in previous audits	8,394	\$9,391
	Interest on St George T/Deposit July 2020 to June 2021 in St George Bank	107	
	Less:		
	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
6	Creditors and borrowings	10,000	16,278
	2021-2022 Subscriptions	1790	0
	2021-2022 Foundation Day Luncheon	1105	0
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,895	16,278
	NET ASSETS	24,983	36,530
	Represented by:		
	MEMBERS FUND		
7	Accumulated funds	24,983	36,530

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
INCOME		
Subscriptions received	6,170	5,105
Interest income	0	1,726
Donations and Grants	7,070	1,090
Net Function income	0	4,191
Awards	1,000	0
Bequest received	0	0
Sundry income	0	62
	<u>14,240</u>	<u>12,174</u>
LESS: Expenses		
Administration costs ***	4,563	1,047
Affiliation costs	1,061	1,534
Annual report & Newsletter costs	200	40
Depreciation	0	1,277
Electricity	267	374
Insurance	0	2,417
Meeting expenses	0	620
Photocopier expenses	930	896
Printing, stationery & postage	173	251
Rent	12,056	10,618
Subscriptions & donations **	500	25
Telephone & internet costs	1,068	941
Website expenses	660	528
	<u>21,478</u>	<u>20,568</u>
NET INCOME	<u>(7,238)</u>	<u>(8,394)</u>

*** reimb. Grant equip., President Honorarium

**2021 is for donation only

* NCOSS - Affiliation costs

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

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.

2 CASH

Cash at bank

2021

17,202

2020

23,336

3 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Venue Deposit due back rent/bond

500

290

Expense paid twice

-

0

500

290

4 INVESTMENTS

St George Bank - Term deposit

20,176

20,069

20,176

20,069

Jean Arnot Account (Shared with BPW)
not shown in previous audited a/cs

8,394

\$9,391

5 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Office equipment - at cost

-

8,757

Less: Accumulated depreciation

-2,678

0

6,079

Furniture & Fittings - at cost

-

4,013

Less: Accumulated depreciation

-979

-

3,034

-

9,113

6 CREDITORS & BORROWINGS

Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards Fund

10,000

830

Subscriptions received in advance (April-June 2021)

1,790

8,856

2021-2022 Foundation Day Luncheon

1,105

-

Grant

-

4,500

Deferred Rent Payment

-

2,092

12,895

16,278

7 ACCUMULATED FUNDS

General Funds

Balance at 1 July 2020

36,530

44,924

Net income for the period

(7,238)

(8,394)

29,292

36,530