

# APPENDIX 1

## REPORTS FROM AWC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS MAY/JUNE 2009

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## **ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (ALRM)**

### What is ALRM?

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) is an independent incorporated Aboriginal community organisation controlled by Board of Aboriginal members from Aboriginal communities in South Australia, representing both metropolitan and country areas. Appointments are made by the Board Appointment Committee as provided for in ALRM's Constitution.

ALRM fulfils a special social role in the delivery of legal services to Aboriginal people in South Australia, and as such, is a vital part of the legal system in this State. Its major aim is to advance the legal interests of Aboriginal people in South Australia, and to ensure that those rights are protected by the law and not adversely affected by abuse or misuse of any powers under the law.

ALRM was incorporated in 1973, and received its first Government funding from the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The Legal Aid Tendering system occurred in 2005 and ALRM won the legal aid tender in early 2006. This funding comes from the Commonwealth Government, while the State has repeatedly advised ALRM it has no responsibility for Aboriginal people.

### Services

The service provision comes through its various sections: namely, Civil , Criminal, Aboriginal Visitors Scheme (AVS), Low Income Service Programme (LISP) and other programs. Assistance is given only to people of Aboriginal descent and their dependents. There is now a means test, but no waiting list. Clients make contact by telephoning or attending one of ALRM's offices, where a field officer takes instructions and if necessary refers the matter to an ALRM solicitor.

The newly introduced services in Child Protection, Early Intervention and Prevention Programmes and for Aboriginal Youth Restorative Justice & Advocacy in APY Lands will further enhance the rights of the Aboriginal people in the State.

### Field Officers

They are first point of contact with ALRM. If immediate information on a person's rights or legal position is required, a Field Officer or Solicitor will usually give the information over the phone or from one of our offices.

ALRM Head Office is located at: 321-325 King William St., Adelaide SA 5000,  
The country offices are in: Murray Bridge, Ceduna, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Coober Pedy.

Please contact on: Phone: (08) 8113 3777, Free call number 1800 643 222,  
or visit [www.alrm.org.au](http://www.alrm.org.au)

Phone: (08) 8113 3777, Email: [info@alrm.org.au](mailto:info@alrm.org.au)

## AUSTRALIAN BOSNIAN WOMEN'S CULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC.

Member representative: Behka Custovic, President

Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association Inc. (ABWCA) is committed to develop a holistic response to the needs of women from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other cultural backgrounds, to improve their quality of life, empowering them through education, information, social contacts and support services, in the aim to promote, preserve and protect women's dignity and rights to have a healthy, happy and meaningful life, to better respond to their parenting roles and to find their own place in the community and multicultural Australia. Programs developed by MC of ABWCA seek to:

- Increase access and participation of Bosnian women in mainstream organisations and services
- Encourage women to integrate and access community information sessions and to utilise information
- To train and educate potential community leaders to assist other Bosnian women to continue to access appropriate services and information in the future to improve their quality of life.

and carry out community development work using many different strategies including planning services, building community networks, and organising information sessions, participating in inter-agency meetings and running support and social action groups, such as:

Women's Support groups	Home & Hospital Visiting
Elderly Support Group	Social Outings
Art & Craft for Health	Referral, Advocacy
Women's Folklore Group	Community Forums...

Based on social research undertaken prior to ABWCA being established, it was found that women from the Bosnian community suffered from a number of issues, associated with, as well as result of, torture and trauma that was suffered during the recent war in their homeland Bosnia: social isolation, depression, poor English skills, unemployment, and relationship difficulties which could lead to domestic violence and relationship breakdowns, to name a few. The majority of these women are still suffering from Posttraumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS). Therefore, this in itself has made it even harder for them to learn any new skills let alone to learn the English language.

The above mentioned difficulties and also a lack of tradition of leadership and volunteer work for the community among Bosnian women appeared to be a great challenge for the Members of Management Committee of ABWCA and the Project worker in realising the Project. Additionally the fact that the project was designed to employ the Project worker for only 2 days per week, made that position much harder. Working on the Project, we have experienced that the main issues was to get the women together. To attract them even to come to any community gatherings, MC of ABWCA was aware that some program had to be organised which they were interested in. The community art and craft program, funded by the AMES, supported ABWCA Women's Leadership Project, in such a way that generated the initial Bosnian women's community participation. Such programs were developed in Liverpool, Auburn and Bankstown. It appeared to be a good idea—once women became community engaged and have experienced the benefits—they will be more likely to continue.

Art and craft programs helped us to establish women's groups in Liverpool, Auburn and Bankstown LGA; with their own programs, suitable to affiliate the majority of the members. As a result of, we have the groups: **Auburn:** ABWCA Women's Dancing Group "Silk and Velvet"; **Liverpool:** ABWCA Outings and Home Visiting Women's Group; **Bankstown:** ABWCA Art Women's Group.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**  
National President: Jean Thomson

*PO Box 487, Curtin ACT 2605*  
*ABN 26 398 276 067*  
[www.acwnational.org.au](http://www.acwnational.org.au)

Australian Church Women (ACW) seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries to promote peace, understanding, and unity through faith and love in the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ACW is an umbrella organization, with branches in each State and Territory. Delegates attend meetings from all the mainstream church women's organizations, with individual associate members as well.

During the year two Special Days services are held with the orders of service being written by a committee of one of the State branches. Fellowship Day is held at the end of July each year, and World Community Day at the end of October. In addition, some state branches take responsibility for organising the World Day of Prayer services in their state at the beginning of March. These services are always well attended by Christian women from all denominations and are held in a church of a different denomination each time.

In July the offerings go towards supporting the Winifred Keik Scholarship. In October the offerings go towards the Asian Church Women's Conference, with which ACW is affiliated; and a special project from one of the States.

In 1927 Rev Winifred Keik was the first women to be ordained in Australia and a scholarship in her name has been awarded every year since 1965. This is awarded to a woman from 1) the pacific, 2) member countries of ACWC and 3) multicultural Australia and is given to provide opportunity for further theological training either in the scholar's own country or Australia. The 2009 Scholars are Ms Christine Ferguson who is studying in Melbourne and Mrs Inise.

Through affiliation with ACWC, ACW is also closely connected to the World Council of Churches and the Asian Council of Churches.

A continuing project is the support of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. All groups affiliated with ACW are encouraged to be part of this world wide fellowship which continually prays for peace in the world and also raises astonishing amounts to empower women in disadvantaged situations. In the past support has been provided for refugee women's groups in Australia.

ACW has taken part in the surveys on both Social Inclusion and Healthy Aging as part of AWC. Some of the branches have held workshops on these subjects.

As National President I have been able to attend functions in both ACT and NSW and members of Victoria, NSW and WA branches have been able to go to other events on my behalf. I have attended the Annual Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast also. Recently I have made official visits to both South Australia and Western Australia

Jean Thomson  
National President  
June 2009

## **AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN**

Member representative: Dr. Gabrielle Casper

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) seeks to promote the interests of Australian women doctors in matters relating to their professional lives and to act for and represent medical women in all matters of mutual interest at national and international levels. The first state branch of the Australian Federation of Medical Women was formed in Victoria in 1896. AFMW is affiliated with the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA). Formed in 1919, MWIA now has a membership from 86 countries across five continents. MWIA is represented on The World Health Organisation, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and UNICEF. These reports underpin the current inquiry that AWC has been commissioned to complete for Dept of Health and Ageing.

Our aims and goals are: To promote the cooperation of Medical Women in different countries and to develop friendship and understanding between Medical Women throughout the world. To actively work against gender related inequalities in the medical profession between female and male doctors including career opportunities and economical aspects. To offer medical women the opportunity to meet so as to confer upon questions concerning the health and well-being of humanity; and to overcome gender-related differences in health and healthcare between women and men, between girlchild and boychild throughout the world.

AFMW's agenda often reflects that done at the international level though it is the work undertaken at the grassroots in medicine that often shows the greatest rewards. We have tackled several issues in the last 12 months. 1) Gender and Culture in Medicine  
With the increasing diversity in the Australian population there is increasing cultural and gender differences in patient's perceptions of their health, the health care system, doctors and their gender-cultural competence. Women from culturally diverse backgrounds in Australia are at particular risk of poor medical care, with doctors often poorly equipped to respond. This is a crisis situation for women, especially those from a culturally diverse background, of which almost one-third of women in Australia are. Peak ethnic community organisations have become alarmed by the inequities in the quality of care available for women because of ethnic, cultural, language, race and other barriers. There is evidence to suggest that in many instances women in particular prefer to see a same gender doctor and in some instances prefer to see a doctor from the same cultural and linguistic background. Australian medical educators have been calling to include 'gender competence' and 'cultural competence' as core components of medical education

In response, to this need AFMW worked with the Centre for Culture and Health at UNSW and the Australian Women's Coalition on a project sponsored by the Office for Women which aimed to enable the medical workforce to be equipped with clinical skills to care for all women in Australia appropriate to any cultural background – that is, with 'gender/cultural competence'. The project involving AWC members aimed to document the opinions of women drawn from a spectrum of culturally diverse community groups, about the skills needed by a medical practitioner providing culturally acceptable care. The member organisations willingly extended their support and contributed extensively to the project by carrying out discussion groups and interviews with community women and helping in the data collection process.

The community women identified the following issues as being most important for doctors to be concerned about when treating culturally and linguistically diverse women. Such issues that the women alluded to were:

- Being aware of family history and cultural background
- Being aware of cultural differences
  - body and facial expressions

- cultural and religious beliefs
- cultural taboos
- dietary requirements and preferences
- Not stereotyping and making assumptions
  - show cultural humility and respect for others from different cultures
  - ask questions about cultural background, willing to learn
  - be sensitive, open and accepting of all cultures
  - be aware of own values and beliefs and not impose them on others
- Being aware of the use of complimentary and alternative medicines
- Having good listening skills and good communication; awareness of interpreters and their role
  - seek clarification and check for understanding
  - encourage patient participation in negotiating treatment
  - respected the patients own knowledge about their health
  - display notices/handouts in different languages
- Being aware of gender and women's health issues
  - right attitudes to women and respect
  - role of women in the family
- Creating trust and safe environment for doctor patient interaction
- Adopting a holistic approach

The women also cited proposed actions that could take place during their training to enable future doctors to become gender-culture competent. These include:

- Training in cross-cultural communication and working with interpreters

## **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC.**

Member Representative: Karyn Kamman

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc. (CWLA Inc) aims to educate, promote and provide encouragement to all, and to be aware of issues relevant to all women and family life and to seek ways to commit to the support of the disadvantaged, marginalized and those with special needs. It is involved in many areas of health, social justice and spiritual development. CWLA Inc is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO).

### Some examples of activities aimed at supporting and encouraging women and families

At the local branches, much work is done to support campaigns such as Pink Ribbon Day, White Ribbon Day, Wrap with Love, hostels for the elderly, child care centres, assistance to families of prisoners and many other genuinely worthy causes.

Members of CWLA Inc have participated in the activities of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council that promotes and celebrates the cultural identity of indigenous peoples across the nation especially women. South Australian members of CWLA support *The Otherway Centre*, in Adelaide. This Centre exists as part of a network of Inner City Services for homeless people, and a small community of Aboriginal people, including those who may be involved with the Department of Correctional Services.

### Building Bridges of Friendship and Understanding

At National State and branch level CWLA members participate in activities designed to encourage dialogue and support among women from other cultures and faiths.

### Families

CWLA members have participated in the 5th World Meeting of Families in Spain and the 6<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families held in Mexico

An innovative forum entitled *Women – The Heart of the Family in Crisis* took place in Sydney recently, jointly organised by CWLA Sydney, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Women's Organization and Catholic Communications Sydney.

### Submissions and letters

Some letters have been lodged by CWLA Inc. to Federal and State bodies in reference to:-

- The Australian Human Rights Commission's Discussion Paper "Freedom of religious belief in the 21st Century in Australia".
- The Australian National Human Rights Consultation - The Dignity of the Human Person and the Common Good.
- The Senate Affairs Committee – Rights of terminally ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal)
- National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research
- The Productivity Commission inquiry into Paid Maternity, Paternity and Paternal leave
- Office of Women concerning National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women
- The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade: Inquiry into Australia's Aid Program in the Pacific.
- The Inquiry into the Impact of Illicit Drugs Use in Families
- The Senate Inquiry in The Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005
- Older Australians and the Law
- People's Inquiry into Detention

## International Activities

CWLA Inc. took a motion to the 2006 General Assembly of the WUCWO in Arlington, USA, themed “*Against Violence and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children*” regarding the needs of children who have been sexually abused.

In a Sub-Group meeting at the Asia Pacific Conference of World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO), Australian Representatives met with representatives from Fiji, New Zealand and Tonga and agreed to work on a common issue ‘Child Abuse’ and to network more.

## At United Nations

CWLA Inc, National International Secretary attended, participated and represented CWLA at the *50th UN Commission on Status of Women* in New York and in March 2009, United Nations Commission On The Status Of Women at United Nations Headquarters, New York. with the Theme: “*Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS*” (Catholic Women’s League Australia is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) in consultative (roster) status with ECOSOC and WUCWO has general consultative status with ECOSOC).

The CWLA Inc participated in the Parallel Side Event organised by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and co-sponsored by UNANIMA International was “Men’s Responsibility: Ending the Demand for Sex Trafficking”.

Two workshops “True Shared Fertility Management” and “The Health of Mothers” were organised and presented with CWLA Inc. the Organising NGO.

The Secretary-General, addressed “Eliminating Violence against Women” stating that violence against women is an attack against all and men and women must be united in their work to end all forms of violence. (Adapted from a report by Thora Regan, AM. See [www.cwla.org.au](http://www.cwla.org.au))

## Women’s Health

Members of CWLA Inc have supported and /or lobbied for issues such as:-

- The wider availability and subsidised cost of the drug, Herceptin (trastuzumab) for use in localised breast cancer.
- The Rights of the Terminally Ill and better Palliative care options
- Single sex wards in hospitals
- Dr Catherine Hamlin and her work at the Hamlin Fistula Hospitals throughout Ethiopia.
- A National Project to assist mothers and unborn children in the Developing World through financial support of the work of MaterCare International.



## **CONFLICT RESOLVING WOMEN'S NETWORK INC**

Member Representative: Robyn Gaspari

Conflict Resolving Women's Network Australia Incorporated (CRWNA) is an entity comprising a number of individual members, community organisations and/or non-government organisations. Together we form a national non-government organisation with a primary focus on improving the Status of Women and thereby improving the Status and well being of Australian Families and the Wider Community. Members share a common ethos that is non-party political, non-sectarian, and non-racist.

It was formed to further develop networking between non-government organisations, to develop policies of benefit to women and children to enable a stronger voice for families in the community.

It is our aim to provide information, support, deliver negotiation, coaching and communication skills training to people who would like to improve their problem solving strategies. We achieve this goal by providing guest speakers free of charge except for travelling costs and by making training materials and/or courses affordable and accessible to all who need them.

### The Mission Statement

"Members of Conflict Resolving Women's Network Australia Incorporated will work collaboratively to advance the status of families in Australia by promoting the use of conflict resolving attitudes, language and systems in all areas of need and difference."

CRWNA has continued to accept invitations to speak at conferences, women's groups and for member organisations.

Contact: [robyn@gaspari.com.au](mailto:robyn@gaspari.com.au) phone 02 9889 1511 Mobile: 0419 286 171

**COUNCIL ON THE AGEING (COTA) INC**  
Member representative: Sheila Rimmer AM

COTA – Connecting Over 50s throughout Australia

COTA is Australia's leading seniors' organisation, with individual members and seniors organisation members in all states and territories.

COTA protects and promotes the well-being of all seniors.

COTA is an independent consumer organisation run by and for senior Australians.

COTA - Council on the Ageing - has been serving the interests of Australian seniors since 1951.

There is a COTA in every state and territory.

Sheila Rimmer is a valued member of AWC. She was one of the original members and her passion to make things better for the Women of Australia has been instrumental in a number of projects each year. Sheila is a natural advocate and still serves on many Government Boards as well as being a Consumer Representative on many areas of Health

## **GUIDES AUSTRALIA**

Member representative: Margie Berlemon

The Vision of Guides Australia is “To be a growing organization which influences the wider community”. This complements the 2011 Vision of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts that “We are a growing world wide movement – the voice of girls and young women who influence issues they care about and build a better world”. Guides Australia is a member of the largest non-profit organisation for girls and young women in the world, involving over 10 million members in 144 countries, and as such has a responsibility to give our Guides a voice on issues that they care about and which are important to them.

A Partnership Visit was conducted by two members of the Asia Pacific Regional Committee in May 2007, the purpose of this Visit being to establish a partnership between the AP Region and Guides Australia by “working and growing together, to share progress, raise issues, explore challenges, expand knowledge, and develop a deeper understanding of each other”. In preparing for this Visit, the Board and the Managers had the opportunity to reflect on the WAGGGS goals and areas of work and to report on the achievements of Guides Australia in line with the current key directions to achieve our vision and mission. This reflection has guided progress in 2008-2009.

**HINDU WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA**  
(Subsidiary of the Hindu Council of Australia Ltd)

Head Office: 17 The Crescent, Homebush NSW 2140  
Phone: (02) 9746 7789, (02) 9544 4943  
Fax: (02) 9746 8944, (02) 9544 4957

The inaugural meeting of the Hindu Women's Council of Australia (HWCA), a subsidiary of the Hindu Council of Australia was held on 9th April 2006 as per the suggestion of Rev. Pravarajika Ajayaprana Mataji.

The group has elected the following members as office bearers:

President	Mrs Devi Bala
Vice President	Mrs Saroj Arora
Secretary	Mrs Anita Bachan Sharma
Treasurer	Mrs Kanta Lamba
Executive Member	Mrs Pushpa Anand
Executive Member	Mrs Madhu Singhal

Our Objectives

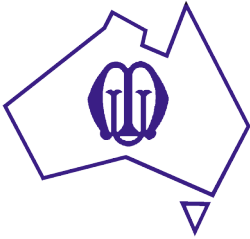
The Hindu Women's Council of Australia Ltd. is an umbrella organisation representing the interest of all Hindu women living in Australia, irrespective of their caste or country of origin.

The following are the objectives of the Hindu Women's Council of Australia:

1. To articulate issues that concern Hindu women at the local, state and national levels in Australia;
2. To negotiate with the government at all levels or other organisations/associations in matters concerning Hindu women in relation to their culture and religion;
3. To organise functions, festivals etc promoting Hindu culture and religion to foster cooperation among participating organisations;
4. To act as a non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit organisation to promote legitimate social, cultural, educational and religious needs of Hindu women in Australia;
5. To support the establishment of any charitable institution for the benefit of Hindus and the overall community;
6. To function as an information source for schools, general community concerning Hindu
7. To print and publish books, leaflets etc to promote the activities of the Hindu Women's Council of Australia;
8. To arrange seminars, conventions, conferences etc to promote better understanding of Hindu culture and religion in the multicultural Australian community;
9. To represent the Hindu community at official functions such as the opening of Parliament and Australia Day celebrations;
10. To present a unified Hindu viewpoint on various current social issues relevant to the Australian multicultural society at conferences and in submissions to government institutions;
11. To organise conferences, symposia etc nationally and overseas and to represent such meetings on behalf of local associations;
12. To publicise the existence of the council by advising the media, local councils and state and federal governments.

## MOTHERS' UNION AUSTRALIA

Member representative: Deane Bray



I have pleasure in presenting the report from MU Australia, part of the World Wide Mothers' Union. Membership of MU in Australia is approximately 9,000 with branches in all Dioceses of the Anglican Church. This total includes lone members who live on properties or in small towns where there are no branches.

Our Vision is "To share Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life."

Members seek to reach our Vision through participation in Marriage and Baptismal Programs, Education and follow up visits. Pastoral Care work covers a huge range of activities at Parish level. The Parent Education Program (P.E.P.) has been introduced to all States with many Dioceses now having trained facilitators. This program has been well accepted where courses have been run and groups continue to meet in some parishes.

The ethnic diversity of MU has continued to grow, with Sudanese branches forming in Metropolitan Dioceses. Melbourne has a Karen branch and has now enrolled members from Afghanistan. North Queensland has a large Indigenous membership with branches on Cape York Peninsula and on the Torres Strait Islands.

Support has been given to those Dioceses which have suffered from Fire, Flood and Cyclone damage during the past twelve months. Financial support has been given to the Dioceses of North West Australia and the Northern Territory for clergy family conferences and workshops; to North Queensland for travel and training for Indigenous members; to Papua New Guinea and Melanesia for Special Projects or travel to Australia for MU Conferences.

This year our Indigenous Women's' Training Fund has supported Wontulp-Bi-Buyu students in North Queensland by supplying books for theological training. In the Northern Territory we have helped set up the "Pandanus Project" which works in the area of anti and post natal care and early childhood.

In Australia, MU is not often thought of as a missionary organisation. Much of our work is directed towards outreach at the local level and supporting grass roots programs overseas that enrich the lives of others by showing Christ's love through action.

## MUSLIM WOMEN'S NATIONAL NETWORK AUSTRALIA INC

Member Representative: Zubeda Raihman

### About Us

The MWNNA is a peak body representing a network of Muslim women's organizations and individuals throughout Australia.

We are a multicultural Muslim women's organization. We welcome women of all ages, occupations and ethnicities to join with us in sisterhood.

Our individual members include lawyers, corporate managers, journalists, teachers, university students and home managers. Our membership is also drawn from a broad mix of ethnic backgrounds from the Middle East, South East Asia, the Pacific Islands, Africa, Europe and America, as well as members who were born in this country.

We are located in Auburn New South Wales. We meet on the first Saturday of every month for discussion, talk or video and a social get together.

Our interests are:

1. The education of Muslim women and girls to know and appreciate their Islamic rights and duties. In this regard, refer to our publication, Did You Know? Refuting rigid interpretations concerning the position of women in Islam and Muslims' interactions with non-Muslims.
2. Advocacy with government and non-government institutions on behalf of Muslims, especially women and children
3. Maintaining good relations and building bridges with Australians of other faiths and joining with them in interfaith meetings and events
4. Assisting refugees and others in need of help in our society

The MWNNA works closely with leading progressive Muslim figures in Australia and overseas. Many of our initiatives include men and women. In Australia, our members are active in interfaith activities with members of Jewish, Christian (Catholic & Protestant), Hindu, Bahai and Buddhist faiths.

Contact Us: Muslim Women's National Network Australia

PO Box 213 Granville NSW 2142

Website: [www.mwnna.org.au](http://www.mwnna.org.au)

Aziza Abdel-Halim AM, President

Mob: +61 402 778 366; Phone/Fax: +61 2 9639 6394

Zubeda Raihman, Treasurer, Mob: 0433 989 483

Jamila Hussain, Secretary Mob: 0414 390 060

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA**

Member Representative: Rysia Rozen OAM

NCJWA Mission Statement reads:

The National Council of Jewish Women in Australia, in the spirit of Judaism, promotes social justice, human welfare, education and the advancement of women, in Jewish and general communities locally, nationally and internationally. NCJWA is a non-party political, charitable and voluntary national Jewish women's NGO with a threefold platform of action for the needs of the land and people of Israel and for Jewish and general communities locally and nationally.

Our email address is: [President@ncjwa.org.au](mailto:President@ncjwa.org.au)

Website: [www.ncjwa.org.au](http://www.ncjwa.org.au)

P.O. Box 2220 Caulfield Junction, Vic. 3161  
tel. 03 9523 0537; Mobile: 0412 769 492

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AUSTRALIA INC**

Member Representative: President Hean Bee Wee

For more than 110 years National Council members have been making a difference in Australia. NCW New South Wales was set up in 1896. Australia was one of the earliest countries to join the \*International Council of Women <<http://www.icw-cif.org/>>\*, the world's oldest international women's organisation.

NCWA is a national non-government umbrella organization with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, which seeks to raise the awareness of women to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage the participation of women in all aspects of community life.

NCWA links NCW groups across Australia, each with diverse affiliates, in a federal structure and provides a forum for considered debate on policy matters brought forward by the constituent Councils.

NCWA has been a partner since 2001 with other national women's organizations in the Australian Women's Coalition <<http://www.awcaus.org.au/>>.

Individually and in partnership, NCWA works for improved conditions for women and children, especially the most vulnerable. In the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia members maintain an active program of seminars, conferences, consultations, submissions and publications.



**PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC**

Member representative: Luisa Latukefu  
President: Coral Fleming

PPSEAWA Australia continues to pursue its aims of:

- (1) Strengthening the bonds of peace by fostering friendship and better understanding among women in all areas of the Pacific and Southeast Asia and
- (2) Promoting co-operation among women of these regions for the study and improvement of social, economic and cultural conditions.

PPSEAWA Australia has three active groups, one in NSW and two in the ACT, and members in other states, who are active supporters but geographically unable to attend meetings. Groups work independently towards our aims providing interesting speakers at monthly meetings and engaging in regular cultural exchange events, especially in the ACT where members have close connections with embassies of PPSEAWA countries.

Our groups have continued to give support in various ways to our international PPSEAWA sisters e.g. sending donations for disaster relief, and providing other aid such as children's books to the Pacific.

We note with sadness the recent death of Mrs Beverley Pavey from Sydney. Bev was a much loved and wonderful worker in everything she was involved with-she is sadly missed.

In March, PPSEAWA again supported UNIFEM with a very successful lunch to celebrate International Women's Day in Sydney. Funds raised also assisted the hosting of Australia Night at the International Conference.

In Canberra, PPSEAWA groups again helped organise the annual Canberra IWD Breakfast. Many college students were inspired by our wonderful speaker.

PPSEAWA members again supported the UNIFEM White Ribbon campaign in 2008 by distributing and wearing ribbons.

Coral Fleming was elected National President and Luisa Latukefu IST Vice President. The new executive will endeavour to continue the good work of the previous executive while implementing our plan of action, but the biggest challenge will be to expand our membership with younger members. However we are reminded of the words of a former International President, Betty Lou Girardi, who was honoured with a Woman of Distinction Award at the recent International Conference:

“Do what you can, where you are, with what you have.”

PPSEAWA's membership of the Australian Women's Coalition has brought us in touch with an increasing number of women's organisations. We value the opportunity to work collaboratively with other like-minded women's organisations to improve the social and economic well being of women in this country.

## **SALVATION ARMY**

Member Representative: Major Jenny Begent

One of the more distinctive denominations of the Christian Church, The Salvation Army operates as both a church and a network of social services, stemming from its worship of God and its Christian values. There are currently 1,650,000 Salvationists (members) in over 113 countries.

The Salvation Army is one of the largest and most diverse social welfare providers in the world. Our philosophy is that we can best express our love for God by compassionately reaching out to help people.

In a typical week, The Salvation Army will provide people in need with an estimated 100,000 meals. It provides beds to 5,000 homeless people, rehabilitation to 500 addicted and refuge to 400 victims of domestic abuse. It also provides counselling to several thousand people.

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

Mission Values of the Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory

### Our Vision

The Salvation Army - a growing, loving community of people dynamically living God's mission in a broken world

### Our Mission

The Salvation Army raised up by God for the work of:

- Transforming Lives
- Caring for People
- Making Disciples
- Reforming Society

### Our Values

Recognising that God is always at work in the world we value:

- Human Dignity
- Justice
- Hope
- Compassion
- Community

## **SOROPTIMIST AUSTRALIA INC**

National Representative: Margaret Findlater Smith

### A global network of service

Soroptimist International <<http://www.siswp.org/Links/Key-Soroptimist-Links/Soroptimist-International-SI.html>> (SI) is a world wide organisation for women in management and the professions working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. Soroptimists work at all levels of civil society, local, national and international, and are involved with a wide spectrum of women's concerns.

SI South West Pacific (SISWP) is one of four Soroptimist Federations globally, and currently includes 12 countries in the Asia Pacific Region. These countries are: Australia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Thailand.

### A global network of friendship

Soroptimists work together in a spirit of friendship and fun to make the world a better place for all. Members are encouraged to be aware of and involved in local and global issues. A Friendship Link system encourages joint projects between clubs in developing countries by clubs in developed countries. Soroptimist membership opens the doors to opportunities for international experiences and friendships.

### Working in partnership with others

SI works closely with other Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and authorities for positive social and economic changes that improve the lives of women children and families. The organisation has General Consultative Status with the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council <<http://www.siswp.org/Links/United-Nations-Entities/United-Nations-Economic-and-Social-Council-ECOSOC.html>> (ECOSOC) and has representatives at many meetings of its agencies and organs in UN Centres throughout the world.

**UNIFEM AUSTRALIA**  
President Sue Conde AM

UNIFEM is the United Nations Development Fund for Women – the women’s fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Today the organisation's work touches the lives of women and girls in more than 100 countries.

UNIFEM also helps the voices of women to be heard at the United Nations – to highlight critical issues and advocate for the implementation of existing commitments made to women.

In a nutshell, UNIFEM plays an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the UN overall system of development cooperation.

UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas:

- Strengthening women's economic security and rights;
- Ending violence against women;
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls; and
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

UNIFEM Australia is one of 17 National Committees world-wide which support UNIFEM through

- raising public awareness of gender and development issues,
- engaging the support of governments, and
- raising funds for specific UNIFEM projects.

UNIFEM Australia has a specific focus on our region including East & South-East Asia and the Pacific and has an energetic and diverse membership base to support its work.

UNIFEM Australia is an Australian NGO with Special Consultative accreditation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

In 1996, the UN General Assembly established the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and as Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman has made this her special project. On 25 November, over 5 million signatures were handed over by Nicole to the Secretary-General in the General Assembly – representing not only individuals but many countries – including Australia. Since 1997 the Trust Fund has awarded more than \$19 million dollars to 263 initiatives to address violence against women in 115 countries.

In Australia the White Ribbon Foundation, which has close links with UNIFEM, aims to eliminate violence against women through promoting culture-change, specifically focusing on men. For the past four years, nation wide media campaigns around 25th November, the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women have challenged the stereotypes held by men about women and violence.

24 May 2009

## **VIEW CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA**

Member Representative: Marie Moore

VIEW Clubs of Australia (Voice, Interests and Education of Women) is a nationwide self-governed women's organisation formed in 1960 by The Smith Family as a service to women and the community. VIEW is unique when compared with other women's organisations and it has a national footprint. Through strong VIEW networks, women are empowered to achieve new skills and confidence and give voice to issues of national concern. Communities benefit through the commitment of more than 21,000 women of VIEW in 400 communities, representing a significant cross-section of Australian women who provide educational outcomes for Australia's disadvantaged children and families.

Over the past 40 years members of VIEW Clubs of Australia have drawn attention to and advocated for improvements in women's health outcomes and equality for women and the disadvantaged. The potential to use our Voice for the benefit of our communities, the disadvantaged and children is considerable. Traditionally the Resolution process at our annual Convention has been the platform for using our Voice to raise issues which concern our members

VIEW women have a strong commitment to social inclusion and to supporting those less fortunate.

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL**  
**Districts 23 and 24**

Member Representative: Sharyl Scott

Zonta International Mission Statement

Zonta International is a global organisation of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. We focus on the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women.

2008-2010 Priorities for Zonta International

- Promote, fund and support international service projects focussed on Zonta International's mission and objectives, combined with and include legislative awareness and advocacy.
- Honour our commitment to the UN and it's service providing agencies.
- Promote, fund and support ZISVAW projects, international education and leadership development programs.

International Service Projects

- Rwanda – UNICEF – US\$600,000 – HIV/AIDS
- El Salvador – Unifem – US\$600,000 – Health
- Liberia – UNFPA – US\$450,000 – Fistula

ZISVAW

- Cambodia – Unifem – US\$300,000 – Violence against women
- Egypt – Unifem – US\$200,000 - Violence against women
- Syria – Unifem – US\$100,000 - Violence against women

Education and Leadership Development

- Amelia Earhart Fellowships (AE) - 70 awards worth US\$700,000
- Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship (JMK) - 24 awards worth US\$120,000
- Young Women in Public Affairs Awards (YWPA) - 74 awards worth US\$94,000

Full details of international service projects and programs can be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

Zonta International in Australia

Zonta International has clubs in each state and territory of Australia. Members work together to achieve the Zonta International mission at the local and global levels.

2008-2010 Priorities for Zonta in Australia

- District Endorsed Service projects combined with and include legislative awareness and advocacy
- Work in collaboration with other organisations focussed on advancing the status of women
- District Endorsed Service Projects
- Zonta Breast Care Cushions – handmade satin cushions given to women recovery from mastectomy or lumpectomy surgery. Over 40,000 cushions have been made and distributed since project inception.
- Zonta Birthing Kits – kits compiled by hand to provide the basics for a 'clean birth' and distributed with assistance from AUSAID. Over 500,000 kits have been made and distributed since project inception. Full details of Zonta club and district endorsed service projects can be located via the website [www.zonta.org.au](http://www.zonta.org.au)