



National Council of Women of NSW

NEWSLETTER

2018-19 Issue No 4

PATRON

Her Excellency The Honourable
Margaret Beazley AO, QC
Governor of New South Wales

NCW NSW Inc. is affiliated with the
National Council of Women
Australia Inc., and the International
Council of Women

CONTACT DETAILS

LG Letterbox 3
280 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

T +61 2 9269 0433
F +61 2 9269 0466
E info@ncwnsw.org.au
www.ncwnsw.org.au

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Annie Kiefer

Here we are in July with another year half gone and I sit here and write to you with thoughts of our past, present and future. The ladies that have gone before were creative, thoughtful, hardworking, filled with the pride of our country and willing to go the extra mile to achieve advancement for women and families in all sorts of imaginative ways.

The NCWNSW is possibly the oldest women's organisation in NSW and we have plenty to be proud of. Our achievements have been many and have made a huge difference in the lives of women and their families in our State.

Our forebears have fought for the equality of women, child protection, the Child Welfare Bill and anti-slavery among many other things. Some of these issues have been successful and some are still a 'work in progress'. We have held seminars on 'Men and Women against Violence', 'Women Taking on Technology' and recently held a forum on 'Child Protection Policies'.

We have taken up the baton in relation to many ethical issues including human reproduction as well as gender equity in schools. In many respects we have been, and still are, way ahead of our time.

We need to remain a trusted and respected Council; we need to collaborate with and learn from our multicultural society and forge more links to enable us to understand our new citizens; we need to keep relevant to women and families with what we do.

We need to honour the past and acknowledge our heritage but be open to new ideas as we become a more contemporary NCW of NSW.

We need to celebrate and showcase our impact and partnerships with our communities.

We need your help to raise the profile of the National Council of Women of NSW. It would be great if you could let us know any ideas you might have to assist us in this way, and lastly, I ask that you assist us to maintain and increase our membership. Some of you have already bought gift memberships for friends, relatives and even relative strangers – and for this we thank you.

I thank each and every one of you for your contributions over the years, months and weeks. You are very important to us.

Take care of yourself and each other.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION ALLIANCE (NCPA)

One of our Individual Members is **NIKI NORRIS AM, CHAIRPERSON OF NCPA**. Over the past 15 years, Niki has been working to ensure the protection of children and young people from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Her endeavours have been to support the rights of children whose voices are not always allowed to be heard. Current laws result in children being with an alleged perpetrator of abuse due to the Federal Family Court decisions that parental times are to be shared. Niki has spent years meeting with politicians in an endeavour to have laws reviewed. However, she has done much more than simply bringing this abuse of children's rights to the attention of the lawmakers. She has taken mothers and their children into her protective care, often in her own home.

NCW NSW was able to have a Resolution passed at the recent Triennial Conference of NCWA relative to urging action about shared parenting which exists under current provisions of the Family Law Act. We also attended a Forum Niki arranged when we met and heard from some of the women seriously affected by decisions of the Federal Family Court.

NIKI REPORTS...

Action looked hopeful in July 2018, when I and our Vice-Chair met on Skype with the Commissioner for Victims of Crime. It was an extremely productive meeting. The Commissioner's anger and her look of horror at reading the clause we presented remains indelible on our minds. Approximately five weeks after our meeting, it was announced that a new offence of failing to report child abuse to Police would begin on August 31st, 2018. We had mentioned how Court Orders prevented mothers from reporting child abuse to hospitals, doctors, counsellors and, in many cases, police. The Commissioner was deeply concerned about this and asked for evidence which we emailed that afternoon. A few days later, I met with the Commissioner for a Round Table debate on other related issues. The fact that police turned away victims when the case was in the Family Court was met with disbelief by Police Superintendents, including a Senior Police Superintendent.

In October, after attending a Family Law Forum which discussed the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) Inquiry into possible reforms, I met with a lawyer who works and supports mothers in domestic violence and child abuse cases in the Family Court. By the end of the year, I had attended other forums on Family Law as well as a meeting of Victims of Crime, each time attempting to gain more information on how to assist mothers and children affected by the Federal Family Court system.

Early in 2019, we had a **success story – the protective mother in a case was successful with her autistic child being fully protected by a 'no contact' order with the child's perpetrator.**

Over the following months, I met a number of influential people from interstate, commencing with Robyn Nolan, President of NCW Australia, when she was visiting Sydney from Perth. I was able to connect her with one of our mothers now living in Perth who has been a victim of the Family Court system for 24 years. In Adelaide, I met the South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, who has been speaking loudly about the failures of Child Protection Services in that state. In Melbourne, I caught up with our Vice-Chairman, Charles Pragnell for further consultations about the new cases needing our attention.

One case in particular had a clause preventing her from reporting to police and child protection services. Surprisingly, this has led to a meeting with the Hon. John Dowd AO QC, President of the International Commission of Jurists Australia (ICJA). He invited me to meetings and invited me to join this highly influential group of former judges, lawyers, magistrates and barristers, which has set up a Task Force to take on our concerns. This has led to a meeting with Elizabeth Evatt AC, the first Chief Justice of the Family Court and a fighter for women's rights.

In mid-June, I met with Labor MP Janelle Saffin, who is well aware of our concerns and who was also appalled when she read the clause restraining the mother from reporting to police and child protection. I arranged that the mother meet with Janelle in her Lismore office.

On 25 July, I have a meeting with Family & Community Services Minister, Gareth Ward, to urge that children in our cases must be kept under the watch of the State, as are all other children who report sexual abuse, to ensure they are shown equal care and protection. I will urge him to support Recommendation 1 of the Australian Law Reform Commission's Report, that State Family Courts be set up, and that Equal Shared Parenting be repealed.

On 31st July, I will hold a teleconference with the First Assistant Secretary to Attorney-General Christian Porter, and further advice is that a meeting with the Attorney-General's Chief Adviser in Canberra has been considered. In mid-August, a meeting is to take place with the NSW Attorney-General, Mark Speakman.

Although the ALRC's recommendations show that the resolutions put forth by NCW NSW, and the submissions of the NCPA, were highly regarded, we accept that it will still be an uphill battle getting the changes through, considering that there will be a great many who do not want any changes at all.



MARK THIS IN YOUR DIARY

THERE IS A DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO MEET AND TALK TO NCW FRIENDS

AT THE *MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF NCW MORNING TEA*

**10.15 - 11.30 am in the Piccadilly Food Court on Level 1
Piccadilly Arcade, Pitt Street, Sydney.**

**NEXT DATES: Wednesday 21 August; Wednesday 18 September;
Wednesday 16 October; Wednesday 20 November.**

Come along for warm friendship and to hear the latest news of NCW NSW.

2019 HONOURS LIST

Congratulations

Queen's Birthday Honours 2019

DOREEN TODD OAM — for service to women.

(NCW NSW members will recall Doreen's years as our President and recently as the initiator of the e-News.)

MARLENE REID OAM — for service to women, and to the community.

(Marlene has held executive positions over many years in The Women's Pioneer Society of A'Asia Inc., one of NCW NSW's affiliated organisations.)



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President Annie Kiefer and Executive Committee members of
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN of NSW Inc

invite Presidents and Delegates of Affiliated Organisations and Individual Members
to attend the

123rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Commencing at 4.30 pm

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Level 1, SMSA, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

GUEST SPEAKER — ROBYN NOLAN, President NCWA

(Refreshments served following the meeting and prior to the Guest Speaker)

BUSINESS

- 1 To confirm Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 27 September 2018.
- 2 To receive and consider the Annual Report which contains annual reports from the Executive Committee on the activities of the Council during the preceding financial year, including the Hon. Treasurer's Report and Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019.
- 3 To receive and consider the financial statement which is required under Section 26(6) of the Associations Incorporation Act.
- 4 To elect Office Bearers of the Council for the ensuing year in accordance with Rules and By-Laws of the Constitution as adopted 24 September 1998 and amended 29 September 2004 and 21 June 2010: President; Vice-Presidents (2); Honorary Secretary; Honorary Treasurer; Delegates representing Affiliated Organisations (12); Individual Members' Representative; State Coordinator of Standing Committees.
- 5 To appoint (i) Public Officer (if required) and (ii) Honorary Auditor.
- 6 To receive names to fill positions of Recording Secretary and Honorary Editor, for appointment by the Executive Committee.
- 7 To receive names for positions of Advisers, for appointment by the Executive Committee.
- 8 Any other business that may be transacted at an Annual General Meeting.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NSW INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 26 September 2019

PROXIES

Financial Individual Members, Honorary Life Members, Life Members and Delegates of financial Affiliated Organisations may appoint proxies to attend and vote in their stead at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 26 September 2019.

Kindly use the Proxy Form below.

PROXY FORM

I, _____, being an

***Individual Member and/or *Delegate (*underline as appropriate) of**

(Name of Organisation – if applicable) _____

hereby appoint _____ as my proxy

at the Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women of NSW Inc. to be held on Thursday, 26 September 2019.

(Signature of Individual Member/Delegate)

(Signature of proxy)

ALL PROXIES MUST BE RETURNED BY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

**TO: Returning Officer
 National Council of Women of NSW Inc.
 LG Letterbox 3
 280 Pitt Street
 SYDNEY NSW 2000**



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NSW INC.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS
2019 - 2020

At the 123rd Annual General Meeting of NCW NSW Inc. to be held on Thursday, 26 September 2019, all Executive positions become vacant in accordance with the Rules and Bylaws as amended.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS CLOSING DATE IS 15 AUGUST 2019 to allow the dissemination of this information to members before the AGM.

To nominate for any of the following positions, kindly complete and forward the form below.

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENTS (2)

HON. SECRETARY

HON. TREASURER

**DELEGATES (12) – each representing a different organisation and
nominated and seconded by that organisation**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVE

STATE CO-ORDINATOR OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominees, their Nominators and Seconders must be financial members

Forward Nomination Form by 15 August 2019 to --

The Returning Officer, National Council of Women of NSW Inc.
LG Letterbox 3, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Cut Here

NOMINATION FORM FOR NCW NSW INC. EXECUTIVE POSITIONS IN 2019-2020

We hereby nominate _____

for the position of _____

NOMINATOR _____ SECONDER _____

(Individual Members or authorised persons of Affiliated Organisation — Underline as appropriate)

If an Organisation, state Executive positions of signatories and name of organisation

I HEREBY CONSENT TO THIS NOMINATION and attach a brief bio-data for dissemination to members of NCW NSW.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

THANK YOU from the Treasurer

Nola Barkd AM

I am very appreciative that Delegates and Individual Members responded so quickly and generously to my request that Membership Renewals are attended to promptly after the due date of 1 July. The loyalty and support of our members makes it a pleasure to give our time to NCW NSW. For those who are still to organise renewals for 2019-2020, here is a form for you to complete.

PAYMENT BY DIRECT TRANSFER

Reference: Mship + your name

Account name: NCW NSW

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB 062001 Account No. 0090 1811

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

Payee: NCW NSW

Postal address:

NCW NSW, LG Letterbox 3,

280 Pitt St., SYDNEY 2000

Please enclose a stamp-addressed envelope if a receipt is required.

MEMBERSHIP FOR ORGANISATIONS

UNDER 50 MEMBERS \$65

OVER 50 MEMBERS \$105

NAME OF ORGANISATION

PRESIDENT

POSTAL ADDRESS

TEL.....MOBILEEMAIL.....

DELEGATE 1

POSTAL ADDRESS

TEL.....MOBILEEMAIL.....

DELEGATE 2

POSTAL ADDRESS

TEL.....MOBILEEMAIL.....

MEMBERSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS

Your personal renewal \$55

**Gift Membership * \$55

Supporting Contribution \$

TOTAL \$

YOUR NAME

POSTAL ADDRESS

TEL.....MOBILEEMAIL.....

**NAME OF RECIPIENT OF GIFT MEMBERSHIP*

POSTAL ADDRESS

TEL.....MOBILEEMAIL.....

ATTENDANCE FORM

**NCW NSW's DAME MARIE BASHIR PEACE AWARDS 2019
PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

*to be held in the Strangers' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney
Monday 30 September 2019
Commencing at 2.30 pm*

Awards will be presented by Professor The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

***Please reserveplaces for the Presentation Ceremony @ \$30.00 pp
(Note: Bookings are limited and will close Monday 9 September 2019)***

I enclose payment in the amount of

***Payee for cheque* National Council of Women NSW**

***Postal Address* NCW NSW, LG Letterbox 3, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000**

OR

***EFT to* CBA**

BSB 062001 Account No. 0090 1811 Name of A/c NCW NSW

Reference: DMBPA and your name *(so that we can identify your booking)*

Contact Person*Phone*****

***Email***

Names of attendees covered by this cheque: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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NCW NSW

LG Level Letterbox 3
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SYDNEY 2000

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DATES FOR YOUR 2019 DIARY

- Wednesday 21 August** **Members & Friends of NCW Morning Tea, 10.15-11.30 am**
Venue: Piccadilly Food Court, Level 1 Piccadilly Arcade, Pitt Street
- Wednesday 21 August** **Executive Meeting, LG Level, SMSA, 280 Pitt Street 12-2 pm**
- Thursday 22 August** **Foundation Day Luncheon, 12 noon for 12.30 pm—2.00 pm**
The Apprentice Restaurant, Building E, Level 7, 695 Harris St., Ultimo
Guest Speaker: Barbara Baikie, Immediate Past President NCW Australia
Cost: \$50.00 per person Bookings close Wednesday 7 August
Enquiries for possible spaces available — eventsncwnsw@gmail.com
- Thursday 29 August** **Council Meeting, Level 1, SMSA 280 Pitt Street 4.30 pm Refreshments and Meeting**
Guest Speaker at 6 pm — Julie Depczynski, NCW NSW Australia Day Awardee 2019
- Wednesday 18 September** **Members & Friends of NCW Morning Tea, 10.15-11.30 am**
Venue: Piccadilly Food Court, Level 1 Piccadilly Arcade, Pitt Street
- Wednesday 18 September** **Executive Meeting, LG Level, SMSA, 280 Pitt Street 12-2 pm**
- Thursday 26 September** **123rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—NCW NSW**
Level 1, SMSA, 280 Pitt Street 4.30 pm—Meeting followed by refreshments prior to
Guest Speaker at 6 pm: Robyn Nolan, President NCW Australia
- Monday 30 September** **Presentation of NCW NSW's The Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards**
Strangers' Lounge, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney
- Wednesday 16 October** **Members & Friends of NCW Morning Tea, 10.15-11.30 am**
Venue: Piccadilly Food Court, Level 1 Piccadilly Arcade, Pitt Street
- Wednesday 16 October** **Executive Meeting, LG Level, SMSA, 280 Pitt Street 12-2 pm**
- Thursday 31 October** **Council Meeting, Level 1, SMSA 280 Pitt Street 4.30 pm Refreshments and Meeting**
Guest Speaker at 6 pm — Carolyn Fletcher