



WHO WE ARE

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia is an Australian Jewish women's organisation committed to social justice and women's issues. We are a representative voice to key national and international organisations. At national level and through our six Sections around Australia we strive to advance the status of women, counter discrimination, build a harmonious multicultural society and support Israel.

SYDNEY 27-30 May 2018

JEWISH WOMEN CHALLENGING TRADITION

Jewish women from around the world will be meeting in Sydney in May 2018 when the International Council of Jewish Women holds its quadrennial convention, *Evolving Beyond Tradition*. Topics will include women's roles in saving the environment, forestalling the sexualisation of our children and modern Orthodox women's push against constraints. Page 4.

"Come join us and find out how great women bring about change" (Robyn Lenn OAM President ICJW). Register now www.icjw.org

Evolving Beyond Tradition

The Impact of Women's Perspectives and Developing Roles

- Women and human rights
- Entrepreneurial women helping to save the planet
- Too much, too young! Forestalling the sexualisation of our children
- How women's perspectives are changing our world
- Women within modern orthodoxy pushing against the constraints
- Beyond the hype! Listening to women from many cultures
- Women attaining goals and reaching beyond
- From grandmother to rabbi – following Jewish women on film
- Towards equality – women leading change



CELEBRATING ISRAEL - NCJWA CO-HOSTS 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARTITION RESOLUTION AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE IN CANBERRA Page 3.



L-R Dalia Ayalon Sinclair OAM, Israeli Ambassador to Australia H.E. Mark Sofer, Dr Ron Weiser AM, Sally Weiser, Chair of the Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, Senator David Fawcett.

BRISBANE & VICTORIA SECTIONS CELEBRATE THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARIES

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ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS Page 3.

- **Same sex marriage:** We supported same sex marriage as part of our stand against discrimination.
- **Extraditing Malka Leifer:** We supported sex abuse victim Dassi Erlich in her campaign to extradite former Adass Israel principal Malka Leifer from Israel.
- **Robinson's Arch:** We issued a statement supporting provision of an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall.
- **Racial Discrimination Act:** We endorsed the Executive Council of Australian Jewry's submission opposing any changes to 18C and 18D of the Federal Act.
- **Equality Rights Alliance:** We supported and had input to ERA's submissions to the Federal Government on sexual and reproductive health and rights, Australia's position on the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and ERA's pre -federal budget submission.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

A new national Board was voted in at our plenary meeting in June 2017 held at the National Jewish Memorial Centre in Canberra. Rysia Rozen OAM stepped down after a two-year term, her second time serving in the role of National President. We are most appreciative of her dedication and service to NCJWA. Victoria (Viki) Nadel (left) and Sylvia Deutsch OAM (right) took on the presidency in a shared role as Acting National Co-Presidents. The national office has moved from Melbourne to Sydney and is located in Council House in Woollahra NSW.



“Both Sylvia and I are excited about the future of the organisation as a result of the implementation of the strategic review.” (Victoria Nadel)

BIG CHANGES AT NCJWA - FACING THE FUTURE

At our plenary meeting at the National Jewish Memorial Centre in Canberra in June 2017 planning workshops were held in the lead up to the development of a strategic review of our organisation with professional consultants, to ensure that our purpose, processes and structure meet contemporary challenges. We look forward to implementing the recommended changes. An interesting outcome of the review is exploring the setting up of a national advocacy committee to formulate policy and statements. Our affiliation with a number of women’s organisations gives us a unique opportunity to influence national policy formation.



Photo on left:
Helen Lewin (left) with Yael Cass

AT PLENARY



Photo on right: Gail Paratz (left)
with Peta Birnbaum

BRISBANE & VICTORIA SECTIONS CELEBRATE THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARIES

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Carolyn Goldsmith OAM, President NCJWA Brisbane, left, presents Judy Solomon with a Dr Fanny Reading certificate for her contribution to Brisbane Section at the 90th Anniversary function



Jeanne Pratt AC, AO, left, with Miriam Bass, President NCJWA Vic, at the Victoria Section 90th Anniversary cocktail party

BRISBANE AND VICTORIA 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
NCJWA Brisbane and NCJWA Victoria Sections celebrated their 90th anniversaries in 2017. NCJWA Brisbane held a morning tea in October 2017 themed *Past, Present and Future*, with past president Judith Benjamin speaking about the past, current president Carolyn Goldsmith OAM about the present, and Gail Paratz addressing the future. NCJWA Victoria marked the anniversary early in the year at a cocktail party hosted by 90th anniversary patron Jeanne Pratt AC, AO and at its annual general meeting in August, 2017, including the cutting of a special anniversary cake. Both Sections screened an historic jubilee DVD showing the history of the organisation including founder Dr. Fanny Reading MBE in action.

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SAME SEX MARRIAGE PLEBISCITE

NCJWA was the first Australian Jewish women's organisation to release a statement in support of same sex marriage. NCJWA at national level with NCJWA Victoria issued a statement on same sex marriage on 15 September 2017 affirming our support as part of our stand against discrimination. Based on the human right to equality we expressed the view that civil marriage under the Marriage Act should be available to all people irrespective of their agenda, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious affiliations and beliefs and that amending the definition of marriage in civil law would not affect religious freedoms for those who believe in the traditional definition of marriage. NCJWA Victoria moved a motion in support of same sex marriage at a Jewish Community Council of Victoria plenum on 2 October 2017; the motion was passed with strong majority support.



L-R: Victoria Nadel, H.E. Shmuel Ben Shmuel Israeli Ambassador, Rysia Rozen OAM, Sylvia Deutsch OAM at the Embassy June 2017

EXTRADITING MALKA LEIFER TO AUSTRALIA

NCJWA Victoria and NCJWA nationally supported sex abuse victim Dassi Erlich in her campaign to extradite former Adass Israel principal Malka Leifer from Israel to face charges. We approached the Israeli Ambassador formally and informally on her behalf in June 2017, and former NCJWA director Dr Anita Shroot accompanied her to her meeting with H.E. Ambassador Shmuel Ben Shmuel in August 2017 in Canberra. The ABC interviewed Dassi for a program they are preparing on her case.



EGALITARIAN PRAYER SPACE AT WESTERN WALL: ROBINSON'S ARCH

On 26 June 2017 we issued a statement condemning the decision of the Israeli government to resile from its commitment to provide an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall. We are committed to Jewish diversity within Israel and the diaspora and called on the Israeli government to treat all Jews as equals with regard to their expressions of Judaism and their access to Jewish holy sites.



RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT

NCJWA at national level presented a submission to the federal parliamentary inquiry into freedom of speech in December 2016. We strongly opposed any changes to sections 18C and 18D of the Racial Discrimination Act, and backed the ECAJ's separate submission on this issue. Our Victorian Section, NCJWA Victoria, was party with the Jewish Community Council of Victoria to a joint submission by a coalition of faith, multicultural and community organisations opposing watering down of the RDA.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL Cont. from page 1.

The event initiated and coordinated for the past 12 years by Dalia Ayalon Sinclair OAM, past NCJWA NSW President and National Board member, marks the UN Partition vote of 29 November 1947. This year a national event to mark the 70th anniversary sponsored by NCJWA, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Zionist Federation of Australia, the Australian/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council and the Embassy of Israel was held in Parliament House, Canberra, hosted by the Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, chaired by Senator David Fawcett.

DID YOU KNOW?

NCJWA was founded by visionary and activist Dr Fanny Reading MBE in 1923.

NCJWA has a national office representing the organisation at national and international level and six Sections at state/territory level.

NCJWA IS AFFILIATED WITH:

International Council of Jewish Women: represents Jewish women in many international forums, including the United Nations. The current president is Australian Robyn Lenn OAM, the first Australian to hold this position. See www.icjw.org

Executive Council of Australian Jewry: peak representative body of the Australian Jewish community with links to the international Jewish world. See www.ecaj.org.au

Zionist Federation of Australia: federal roof body for Australia's Zionist organisations, fostering connection with the State of Israel. See www.zfa.org.au

Equality Rights Alliance: largest of six National Women's Alliances that advocate for women's equality and rights; NCJWA is the only Jewish women's organisation affiliated with ERA. See www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au
Through affiliation with these women's organisations NCJWA empowers and advocates for women not only in our own right but works with other NGOs and advisory committees to the Government. We represent Jewish women nationally and have input to government submissions on issues relating to improving the lives of women and children.

The six NCJWA Sections – Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia- are affiliated with or liaise with their local communal roof bodies and Zionist organisations.

CURRENT PROGRAMS THAT NCJWA SUPPORTS IN ISRAEL:

Haifa Rape Crisis Centre

ILAN Foundation for Handicapped Children and Adults (Tel Aviv)

Haifa University Ethiopian Women's Fund (in memory of Dr Geulah Solomon OAM)

MICHA School for Deaf Children in Israel, supported by Gold Coast and Brisbane sections

OUR SECTIONS PROVIDE A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

MUM FOR MUM NCJWA (NSW) and Caring Mums (Victoria): volunteer programs that provide emotional support for vulnerable mothers
NCJWA Cancer Support Group (NSW)
The Jam Project: mentoring teenage girls (Victoria)
Birthing Kits: packing kits for women in developing countries (NSW)
DAYS FOR GIRLS: making sanitary pads for girls in developing countries (NSW)
Women's refuge support (Canberra, Western Australia)
Programs in partnership with the Gold Coast Jewish community: families in need, food parcels and financial assistance (Gold Coast)
Gold Coast Project for Homeless Youth: exit packages (Gold Coast)

BOOKS OUT LOUD: reading and engaging with the aged in local nursing homes (NSW, Victoria, Western Australia)
Golden Age, cultural, seniors' clubs and activities (Brisbane, NSW, Victoria, Western Australia)
Computer and iPad instruction (Victoria)
Home/ hospital visits and assistance with the aged care sector (Brisbane and Gold Coast)
Assistance with MY AGED CARE and ACAT assessments, claims conference applications, relocation of members to aged care facilities, Yom Tov gifts (Gold Coast)

ALL SECTIONS:

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS: lectures, lunches, panel discussions, forums including health issues

TRANSCULTURAL/INTERFAITH

Engagement and events to further a harmonious multicultural society

SOCIAL JUSTICE/ADVOCACY

Events relating to social justice issues including LGBTQI, status of women, agunot, domestic violence

FUNDRAISING for Israel, local Jewish and non Jewish causes

ICJW CONVENTION cont. from page 1

Speakers include:

Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, former President, Human Rights Commission; Melinda Tankard-Reist, co-founder Collective Shout

Further information: www.ncjwa.org.au or 02-9328 3945 (National Office)