



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA LTD.

Co-Acting Presidents: Sylvia Deutsch OAM and Victoria Nadel OAM

Founder NCJWA 1923 Dr Fanny Reading MBE

An Affiliate of International Council of Jewish Women

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28 JUNE 2018

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2017-JUNE 2018

Women Working Together Can Achieve Anything™

ABN: 60 117 655 839

ACN 117 655 839

PO Box 57 Woollahra NSW 1350

T: 612 9328 3945 E: president@ncjwa.org.au W: www.ncjwa.org.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
OVERVIEW	2
Established	2
Who we are	2
Affiliations at national level	3
Programs in Israel	4
Section community services and events	4
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA HONOURS AWARDS	5
ACTING CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE	5
STRATEGIC REVIEW AND PLAN: PROGRESS TO DATE	7
Strategic goals 2017-2021	7
1. Advocacy	7
2. Section relationships	8
3. Profile	9
4. Finance and infrastructure	10
5. Staffing and leadership	10
6. Partnerships	11
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL	11
CURRENT BOARD OF NCJWA LTD. 2017-2018	12
INCOMING BOARD 2018-2019	19
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS	19
SECTION REPORTS JULY 2017-JUNE 2018	20
BRISBANE	20
CANBERRA	21
GOLD COAST	23
NEW SOUTH WALES	25
VICTORIA	28
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	31
APPENDIX: NCJWA NATIONAL ADVOCACY JULY 2017-JUNE 2018	33

OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

The organisation was founded in 1923 by visionary activist for women's issues Dr. Fanny Reading MBE. Historical details: <http://www.ncjwa.org.au>

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. We are a federated organisation. At national (roof) level we are run by an elected Board of Directors who are all volunteers. We

have six state/territory NCJWA Sections: Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, each with its own governing board or committee.

AFFILIATIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

NCJWA at national level is affiliated with:

- **International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW):** represents Jewish women in many international fora, including the United Nations. The Immediate Past President is Robyn Lenn OAM, the first Australian to hold this position, who stepped down after a four-year term at the Quadrennial Convention held in Sydney from 27-31 May 2018, the third time ICJW has held its convention in Australia. See www.icjw.org
- **Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ):** peak representative body of the Australian Jewish Community, with links to the international Jewish world. See www.ecaj.org.au.
- **Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA):** federal roof body for Australia's Zionist organisations, fostering connections with the State of Israel. 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. See www.zfa.org.au
- **National Council of Women of Australia:** a longstanding national non-government umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, which seeks to raise the awareness of women and girls to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage the participation of women in all aspects of community life. The NCJWA Ltd. National Board agreed in 2018 to affiliate at national level with NCWA. NCJWA Sections are already affiliated at State/Territory level. See <http://www.ncwa.org.au>
- **Equality Rights Alliance (ERA):** largest of the six Australian national women's alliances that advocate for women's equality and rights. NCJWA is the only Jewish women's organisation affiliated with ERA. ERA is the largest of six National Women's Alliances that advocate for women's equality and rights, funded through the federal Office for Women. Through ERA we work with other NGOs and advisory committees to advocate to the federal Government on issues relating to improving the lives of women and children. See www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au

NCJWA Sections affiliate or link in their own right at State/Territory level with state/territory Jewish roof bodies, State Zionist Councils and the National Council of Women of Australia.

PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL

Through our fundraising we support the following projects in Israel, the first three as national projects across all Sections. We have transferred funds to these projects during the year:

- **Haifa Rape Crisis Centre:** The HRCC is a non-profit organisation dedicated to opposing sexual violence. Established in 1979, it provides services to the regions of northern Israel from Hadera to the Upper Galilee - an area that includes over one million people. The HRCC supports survivors of sexual violence and their families, raises the awareness of

the community and professionals to the implications of sexual violence, and works to protect and promote survivors' rights. See <http://www.ncjwa.org.au/projects/hrcc/>

- **Haifa University Ethiopian Women's Scholarship Fund (in memory of Dr Geulah Solomon OAM):** The fund assists women of Ethiopian descent with academic counselling, private tutoring, special courses, transportation costs, books, as well as equipment and ancillary expenses incurred outside their tuition fees. See <http://www.ncjwa.org.au/projects/haifa-university-ethiopian-womens-fund/>
- **Ilan Foundation for Handicapped Children and Adults (Tel Aviv):** NCJWA has contributed to ILAN, the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children, for over 42 years. ILAN is a voluntary organisation dedicated to the rehabilitation of disabled children and adults afflicted with cerebral palsy, polio, progressive muscle dystrophy or neuro-muscular injuries and diseases. ILAN has several branches throughout Israel and NCJWA supports the Tel Aviv branch. See <http://www.ncjwa.org.au/projects/ilan/>
- **MICHA Tel Aviv Multidisciplinary Centre for Children with Hearing Loss:** This project is supported by NCJWA Gold Coast and NCJWA Brisbane Sections. The centre is a not-for-profit organisation that provides multidisciplinary services for children with hearing impairment and their families. It cares annually for approximately 460 children from varied ethnic, socio-economic and religious backgrounds, from the critical period of infancy through first grade. MICHA serves as a regional therapeutic center for Children coming from Hadera in the North to Ashkelon in the South, and from Modi'in in the east (includes a large concentration of Arab Israeli communities) to coastal cities in the West. See <http://www.ncjwa.org.au/projects/micha/>

SECTION COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EVENTS

Our Sections provide a variety of community services. These include MUM FOR MUM NCJWA (NCJWA NSW) and Caring Mums (NCJWA Victoria), which are non-denominational free programs providing valuable care and emotional support by trained volunteers who visit new mothers weekly during the last trimester of pregnancy and through the first year of the baby's life. Both programs receive referrals from hospitals and medical professionals and have been acknowledged by local and state levels of government.

All Sections provide a variety of community services including programs with the aged in nursing homes, a cancer support program, mentoring teenage girls, birthing kit packing days, sanitary items for girls in developing countries, Golden Age clubs, hospital visits and family support.

Our Sections also provide educational, transcultural/interfaith, social justice and advocacy events such as support for the LGBTIQI community and victims of domestic violence.

See separate Section reports below (from p.20) for details of each Section's work throughout the past year.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA HONOURS AWARDS JUNE 2018

SHIRLEY GLANCE OAM and VICTORIA (VIKI) NADEL OAM

Congratulations to current NCJWA Acting Co-National President Viki Nadel and current director Shirley Glance on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2018.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AWARDS JUNE 2017

SUSIE IVANY OAM

Congratulations to former NCJWA Vice-President (2011-2015) and ICJW Co-Vice-President (since 2014) Susie Ivany on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2017, for service to women and to aged care in Victoria.

ACTING CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

It has been a year of transition as a result of the move of the national office from Melbourne to Sydney, but also a year of change. In 2017 NCJWA undertook a major strategic review of its goals, direction and operations, with the help of external consultants Russell Jaffe of Jaffe Consulting and his colleague Liz Dimitriadis. We thank them for their hard work and guidance, which included wide-ranging consultation across our organisation. In December 2017 the NCJWA National Board adopted the Strategic Plan that emerged from the review, and are in the process of starting to implement its recommendations.

The plan provides a blueprint to meet current and emerging challenges, both in terms of our work and in terms of our internal structures and operations. As we head towards our centenary in 2023 it ensures that we position NCJWA as a leading representative voice and advocate on key social issues affecting Jewish and non-Jewish women and girls, both here in Australia in the Jewish and general community, and in Israel.

To achieve the goals identified in the plan there needs to be an understanding from the whole organisation that we all work in a collaborative, cooperative and respectful manner. This includes an understanding and acceptance by the Sections of the specific roles of the national body so that we present a strong and united voice to our members, community, potential sponsors and donors.

There are challenges ahead in particular in relation to funds required to operate a modern national organisation. There is the task also of Sections not just maintaining but working to increase membership so we are truly a national Jewish women's representative organisation. It will take time and commitment in the early stages, a prioritisation of our goals in accordance with the resources available.

At the NCJWA Ltd. Annual General Meeting on 26 May 2017, during the NCJWA Plenary meeting in Canberra, Rysia Rozen OAM stepped down as National President after serving a two-year term from 2015-2017, her second time in this role. We commend her for her

loyalty and dedication to our organisation. As the two national Vice-Presidents we stepped into the role of acting Co-National Presidents in the absence of any nomination for the position of National President. As we are based in Sydney this necessitated a move of the national office from Melbourne. We regret that ill health has now made it necessary for us to step down after one year in this role, in what should have been a two-year term.

We welcome incoming National President Negba Weiss-Dolev, who will be supported by Shirley Glance OAM and Di Hirsh OAM as the two national Vice-Presidents. All three women are currently directors on the National NCJWA Board. They will step into these roles at this Annual General Meeting, as per the casual vacancy provisions of the national Constitution. We welcome new directors Melinda Jones, Robyn Lenn OAM and Ester Steingiesser, who have been appointed by the Board under the casual vacancy provisions and will commence for a 12 month term from 28 June to the 2019 AGM. We wish the incoming Board every success in steering our organisation through a period of change.

We extend our thanks to all those who supported us through our tenure, including the current Board of Directors, Immediate Past President Rysia Rozen OAM, Section leaders and our members, and our hard-working administrative assistant Jenny Alter. Thanks also to former administrative assistant Cynthia Pollak in Melbourne for her guidance during the transition to Sydney. We extend particular thanks to the NCJWA NSW Division for hosting the national office for the past year, in a spirit of collaboration and support. We particularly thank NSW office manager Wendy Bookatz for her able assistance. We would also like to acknowledge and extend our thanks to NSW who worked so hard to provide billets for delegates, arranged sponsorship and catered magnificently for the ICJW Convention. We also thank the small but feisty Canberra Section for their hospitality and hard work hosting the NCJWA Plenary session in June 2017 in the national capital, and also the ACT Jewish Community Inc. for allowing us to use the National Jewish Memorial Centre.

Our sincere thanks for their continued assistance go to our Honorary Solicitor Anton Block of KCL Law Level 4, 555 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000, and our Honorary Auditor David Jaffe CA of Jaffe Lee & Associates, Suite 9ABC, Level 9, 443 Toorak Road, Toorak, Vic 3142. We also thank our webmaster Melissa Listokin for helping us to update the national website.

It has been a busy year for us both, but it has been an honour to lead this outstanding organisation, and we thank you for trusting us with this role. It has shown us just how powerful we can be when we all work together. Truly, in the words of our late founder Dr. Fanny Reading, or Dr. Fanny, as she was affectionately known: "Women working together can achieve anything".

*Sylvia Deutsch OAM and Victoria Nadel OAM
Acting Co-National Presidents
June 2018*

STRATEGIC REVIEW AND PLAN: PROGRESS TO DATE

A major strategic review was held in 2017 with professional consultants Russell Jaffe and Liz Dimitriadis of Jaffe Consulting Pty. Ltd. to position NCJWA as a thought leader and representative voice to key national and international organisations, advocating on strategic issues affecting Jewish and non-Jewish women and girls. Implementation of the resulting strategic plan and recommendations is in progress, as detailed below. The review and the plan were overseen by the NCJWA Strategic Review Steering Committee, reporting to the Board. The Strategic Plan was formally adopted on 5 December 2017. This will be a long-term project that will take several years to bring to fruition.

Strategic Goals 2017-2021 are as follows:

1. **Strategic Goal One - Advocacy:** Advocate on strategic issues affecting Jewish and non-Jewish women and girls, across Australia.
2. **Strategic Goal Two – Section Relationships:** Build strong and effective relationships and communication with Sections.
3. **Strategic Goal Three - Profile:** Develop a profile and image that reflect our future direction, especially for its relevance to the younger generation.
4. **Strategic Goal Four – Finances and Infrastructure:** Ensure financial sustainability and build an effective organisational infrastructure.
5. **Strategic Goal Five – Staffing and Leadership:** Ensure adequate staffing and promote volunteer leadership and development.
6. **Strategic Goal Six – Partnerships:** Strengthen partnerships with key organisations, including in Israel.

PROGRESS TO DATE

1. Advocacy

A number of advocacy statements and press releases have been made. These were a team effort, with input by a number of people including NCJWA Victoria and the Victorian Section's Advocacy Group, including Talya Faigenbaum and Dr. Ann Wollner; Melinda Jones; NCJWA' ERA representatives Di Hirsh OAM and Negba Weiss-Dolev; and the National Board. Thanks are also due to Dr. Anita Shroot for helping Dassi Erlich in Canberra. See **Appendix** for details re submissions, statements and action taken.

- Same sex marriage: supported SSM as part of NCJWA's stand against discrimination.
- Gett refusal: joint submission with Unchain My Heart Inc. to the Australian Law Reform Commission for its inquiry into operation of family law in Australia.

- Gett refusal: lodged a NGO Shadow Report on Gett refusal in relation to Australia's Periodic Report to the United Nations in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Article 16 Marriage and Family Relationships.
- Extraditing Malka Leifer: supported Dassi Erlich in her campaign to extradite former Adass Israel principal Malka Leifer from Israel to face allegations of child sexual abuse.
- Jewish religious diversity in Israel and the Diaspora: issued topical statement in June 2017 calling on the Israeli government not to resile from its commitment to provide an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall.
- Irish abortion referendum: issued statement commending the people of Ireland on their historic vote to amend the Irish constitution, allowing the government to legislate for abortion.
- Inciting violence: issued statement commending the NSW Government for planned legislation to criminalise threats and incitement to violence on basis of race, religion or sexuality.
- Religious freedom and belief: endorsed ECAJ submission in support of religious freedom and belief to parliamentary inquiry.
- Recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel: endorsed ECAJ submission welcoming US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights: had input to the Equality Rights Alliance submission to the Australian 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: endorsed the draft ERA statement.
- Letter to female Federal Parliamentarians: signatory to Harmony Alliance letter Including ERA) opposing proposed changes to welfare support for new migrants, particularly affecting women.
- Housing in federal budget: signatory to ERA statement re lack of provision in budget for social housing.

2. Section Relationships

Presidents' Forum: As recommended in the Strategic Plan, we have set up a new consultative body between the National body and its six Members, which are the six Sections of NCJWA (Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia). Two meetings have been held so far, on 16 November 2017 and 14 March 2018. The next meeting is scheduled to follow the AGM on 28 June 2018. Terms of reference have not yet been finalised, but to date participants have included Section leaders and the two Acting Co-National Presidents.

Newsletter: In January 2018 we produced a NCJWA Newsletter which was sent to Sections and posted on the website to update members on issues and events over the previous six months. In the absence of a current Bulletin this was a means of keeping members informed of our activities.

Website: Major reconfiguration of the website was a major task of the past year, and keeping it updated is an ongoing need. It includes links to the websites of the NSW and Victorian Sections, and serves the other Sections that do not have their own website. It also provides links to organisations to which we are affiliated.

3. Profile

Media and communications:

Website: The content of the national website has changed this year with a focus on national advocacy, reflecting the goals identified in the strategic plan.

Social media: Di Hirsh OAM has maintained NCJWA Facebook posts. Expanded use of social media is one of the goals identified in the strategic plan.

Media forum: A media forum led by NSW Jewish Board of Deputies CEO Vic Alhadeff was held in February 2018 to train Section leaders in dealing with the media.

Historic DVD: see under National events below.

Media coverage: Many of our statements on social justice issues have received coverage in *The Australian Jewish News* and *J-Wire*. We also received coverage of the Celebrating Israel 2017 event. Our recent Gett refusal submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission was reported in the *AJN*, *J-Wire* and *The Times of Israel*. We inserted NCJWA greetings on behalf of all Sections in the Yom Ha'atzmaut supplement of *The Australian Jewish News* in April 2018; we thank the NSW and Victorian Sections for their financial contribution to the cost of this greeting. The Sections of NCJWA have received separate coverage in the Jewish media for their activities and events.

Representation:

- Executive Council of Australian Jewry Committee of Management meetings: attended by Viki Nadel OAM and Sylvia Deutsch OAM
- Zionist Federation of Australia Executive Meetings: attended by Viki Nadel OAM and Sylvia Deutsch OAM
- ZFA meeting with Foreign Minister the Hon. Julie Bishop, Melbourne, August 2017: NCJWA was represented by Rysia Rozen OAM.
- ZFA communal farewell for outgoing Israeli Ambassador H.E. Mr. Shmuel Ben Shmuel 16 October 2017, Melbourne: NCJWA was represented by Rysia Rozen OAM.
- ZFA Plenary Conference in Canberra 10 September 2017: NCJWA was represented by Dr. Anita Shroot.
- Celebrating Israel 2017: Dalia Ayalon Sinclair OAM was coordinator. Viki Nadel OAM and Sylvia Deutsch OAM attended planning meetings. A number of NCJWA members attended the event.
- ECAJ AGM and Melbourne communal welcome for new Israeli ambassador H.E. Mr. Mark Sofer November 2017: Rysia Rozen OAM represented NCJWA.
- Communal welcome for Israel ambassador H.E. Mr. Mark Sofer at Sydney Jewish Museum on 4 December 2017: attended by Viki Nadel OAM and Sylvia Deutsch OAM
- Equality Rights Alliance representatives for NCJWA (two positions): Di Hirsh OAM (voting representative) and Negba Weiss-Dolev. Both are current directors on the National Board. Both participated in the ERA Member Meeting in Canberra on 23-24 May 2018.

- National Council of Women of Australia, Government House Garden Party, Canberra, 28 March 2018, attended by four NCJWA Canberra representatives, on behalf also of NCJWA national.
- Interfaith and communal events were attended on behalf of NCJWA National by several members.

4. Finances and Infrastructure

Proposed NCJWA Sylvia Gelman Foundation: The Board is looking into the possible establishment of a NCJWA educational foundation named in honour of Sylvia Gelman AM MBE, with Sylvia Gelman’s approval. We are currently seeking legal advice about setting this up and exploring fundraising.

Tax deductibility: We need to investigate the implications of tax deductibility in relation to our Israel projects. This will be considered as part of our discussions regarding a new funding model, in accordance with our strategic plan.

New funding model: A critical task in the year ahead for the Sections and the National Board working together is to identify a new funding model to ensure financial sustainability into the future.

Board Committees:

The strategic plan recommends the establishment or continuation of the following committees, reporting to the National Board. They replace the former Portfolio and National Executive structure. Some committees already have terms of reference; others still need these to be developed. Members, particularly with appropriate skills, are needed for most of these committees.

- **Advocacy/Policy/Platform Committee:** Committee has been formed and preliminary discussions have taken place. We note that NCJWA Victoria has its own Advocacy Group, which has worked very successfully with the national body this year on joint statements and submissions at national level, on behalf of the whole organisation.
- **Communications/Marketing/IT:** to be commenced; needs skilled members
- **Finance Committee:** existing committee that meets regularly but needs additional skilled members
- **Foundation Working Group:** in progress
- **Governance Committee:** existing committee, needs additional skilled members
- **Israel Projects Review Committee:** in process of being set up
- **Mission Statement/Byline/Vision Statement Working Group:** in progress, meetings held.
- **Young Women’s Advisory Committee:** recruitment has commenced; members needed.

5. Staffing and Leadership

The incoming Board will begin to address these issues. This year we employed a part-time administrative assistant for six hours per week, in an effort to contain costs at national level.

It is clear that a higher level of administrative support with extended hours is needed in the national office to support the leadership.

6. Partnerships

Affiliations are listed above. We worked cooperatively with other communal organisations and the Embassy of Israel for the Celebrating Israel 2017 event. We are currently investigating possible future partnerships in the context of reviewing our current Israel projects.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- **Celebrating Israel:** NCJWA co-sponsored a major communal event *Celebrating Israel* at Parliament House, Canberra, on 29 November 2017 to mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Partition Plan (Resolution 181, 29 November 1947). Celebrating Israel was initiated by former NCJWA NSW President Dalia Ayalon Sinclair OAM 12 years ago as an annual NCJWA event to mark the partition anniversary. Thanks are due to Dalia for her sterling work on this historic milestone. Other sponsors were the Zionist Federation of Australia, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council and the Embassy of Israel. The host of the event was Senator David Fawcett, Senator for South Australia and Chair of the Australia-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- **Historic DVD:** Launch of an historical DVD 'Past, Present and Future' using a national radio broadcast from 1948 of our founder Dr Fanny Reading MBE speaking at the 25 Jubilee Celebration. The DVD has been an invaluable document for use by our sections. Thanks are due to Rysia Rozen OAM for initiating the production of the DVD and to Wendy Bookatz for her invaluable contribution to its production.
- **International Council of Jewish Women Quadrennial Convention 2018:** NCJWA was honoured to host the ICJW Convention in Sydney from 27-30 May 2018 where we had the opportunity to congratulate Robyn Lenn OAM the first Australian ICJW President, who stepped down from the position at the Convention. Congratulations to the ICJW organising committee and thank you for the support of all NCJWA sections particularly NCJWA NSW for their hard work and the use of their venue. It was an inspiring and very successful event that brought Jewish women from around the world together, and included many Australian NCJWA members.
- **Archives:** We thank Rysia Rozen OAM for temporarily storing the national NCJWA archives at her home in Melbourne. Thanks are extended to all those volunteers who worked to cull and sort the records when they were moved from NCJWA Victoria's premises. We must address the issue of proper archival storage to preserve our records.
- **Representation:** see above.

CURRENT BOARD OF NCJWA LTD. 2017-2018

The National Board consists of eight elected Directors plus the Immediate Past President *ipso facto*. Term of office is two years from the Annual General Meeting when elections were held. The following directors were elected unopposed at the Annual General Meeting on 25 June 2017, to hold office until the 2019 AGM when the next Board election is due.

PRESIDENT

Currently vacant, until 28 June 2018.

VICE-PRESIDENT (currently Acting Co-National President) SYLVIA DEUTSCH OAM (NSW)

Sylvia Deutsch has been active in NCJWA since arriving in Canberra at the end of 1983. She was a national Vice-President from 2015-2017. She is currently serving as NCJWA Acting Co- National President from 2017-2018. She has served as Governance Chair, Elections and Nominations Chair and Resolutions Chair and was a member of the Constitution Committee and Governance Committee Chair. She was a member of the Strategic Review Steering Committee in 2017.



She received Honour Badges from two NCJWA National Presidents, the late Dr. Geulah Solomon OAM and Rysia Rozen OAM, for her contribution to NCJWA's work.

She was a member of NCJWA Canberra from 1984 until her move to Sydney in 2015, serving from that time on its committee in various capacities, including as Vice-President (1985), President (1986-1988) and Convenor (1997-1998). Her long involvement in the ACT Jewish Community has included serving on its Board of Management and several committees, contributing to its communal newsletter, working with the ACT branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society from its inception in 1984 (including as its second president from 2008-2015) and serving for more than 10 years as the Canberra representative for the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

She was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia in 2015 for service to women and to the Jewish community. She received Honorary Life Membership of both the ACT Jewish Community Inc. and NCJWA Canberra in 2015, and received Honorary Life Membership of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in 2017. In 2011 she received the inaugural ACT Jewish Community's Anita and Alan Shroot Volunteer of the Year award.

She has a B.A. (Hons) in history and politics from Sydney University and worked for many years in the tertiary sector in research (history, philosophy) and administration (including Secretary to the Australian National University's Human Research Ethics Committee). She was also Canberra communal correspondent for *The Australian Jewish News* for almost 30

years and Secretary of the ACT Regional Selection Committee of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for eight years.

VICE-PRESIDENT (currently Acting Co-National President)

VICTORIA (VIKI) NADEL OAM (NSW)

Victoria (Viki) Nadel joined NCJWA NSW in 2007 taking on the Israel Advocacy portfolio as well as managing NSW Section's Op shop "Bondi's Best Bargains". She was appointed a member of the NCJWA NSW Board and from 2009-11 served as the section's Vice President taking over the Presidency from 2011-15. Viki was particularly involved in events and programs to promote the status of women and transcultural outreach. During that period Viki served on the Jewish Communal Appeal Board of Governors (2011-2014) and as a director on the Board of Wolper Jewish Hospital (2011-2014).



From 2011-2015 she served as a director on the NCJWA Mum for Mum Board. From 2015-2017 Viki served as one of the three-member NCJWA NSW Steering Committee, and has remained on the NSW board as Immediate Past President. At national level she served as one of two Vice-Presidents from 2015-2017. She is currently serving as NCJWA Acting Co-National President from 2017-2018. During that time she has served on the Advocacy Committee, Finance Committee, Mission Statement Working Group and is responsible for the NCJWA website and media relations.

Her awards and recognition include:

- Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), Queen's Birthday Honours list June 2018, for service to the community, particularly to women.
- Woman of the Year, JNF/NCJWA NSW 2017
- National Council of Women NSW Recognition Award for her dedication to advancing the status of women 2015
- JNF award in recognition of commitment to NCJWA- JNF partnership 2015
- Dr. Fanny Reading Scholar 2011
- The Susan Cohen Community Services Award, NCJWA NSW 2010
- Dr. Fanny Reading Certificate of Honour, NCJWA NSW 2009

Viki has a B.A. Dip. Ed. from Sydney University majoring in Modern History and Indonesian and Malay Studies, and taught History and English for three decades in state high schools from 1975-2001. Viki has an interest in social justice and was a co - founder of the Jewish Vegetarian Society (Sydney) during the 1980s and 90s. Viki has an avid interest in history and in 1988 attended the Yad Vashem Holocaust course at the Hebrew University Jerusalem, on her return presenting a paper on the Armenian Genocide and the uniqueness of the Holocaust at the Sydney Jewish Museum. She has been a member of the NSW Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women since 2014.

HONORARY TREASURER
SHARLENE LUSTIG (Victoria)

Sharlene is a chartered accountant and tax agent with experience working in different sized accounting firms at various stages of her career. She is currently operating her own accounting and bookkeeping practice with an emphasis on assisting older people manage their affairs working in conjunction with their tax accountant and also assisting younger people with record keeping in relation to the start up of new businesses. Her community involvement includes:



- Mt Scopus College Parents Association Treasurer of Gandel Besen House Campus from November 2009-November 2012.
- Mt Scopus College Parents Association Executive Treasurer of all three campuses from November 2012-November 2014
- NCJWA Honorary Treasurer from July 2015
- Member of NCJWA Finance Committee.

DIRECTOR and COMPANY SECRETARY
SHIRLEY GLANCE OAM (Victoria)

Shirley has been a member of NCJWA (Victoria) for over 30 years and has held numerous positions on its Board. She has held several positions at national level in NCJWA: current director on the Board (since 2015); Honorary Secretary 2011-2015; current Chair of the Finance Committee; member of the Strategic Review Steering Committee 2017; Chair of the Ilan Foundation portfolio and Israel Projects portfolio 2011-2014; co-Chair of the national Israel Projects Review Committee in 2017. She was Vice-President of NCJWA (Vic) from 2012-2014, and President from 2014-2016, unfortunately having to step down due to illness.



Shirley was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2018, for service to the community. She has received Honorary Life membership in recognition of past services to NCJWA (Vic). In 2015 she received the NCJWA National Presidents Award. In 1994 she was honoured to receive the Dr Fanny Reading Scholarship. She was a founding member of Kulanu, a social group of young women, in 1991. In 2016 she invited Jeanne Pratt AO, AC to be Patron for NCJWA (Vic)'s 90th Anniversary year. Also in 2016 she was responsible for bringing to Australia Dr Elana Sztokman as NCJWA Scholar in Residence. In 2013 she assisted Di Hirsh OAM in planning the

NCJWA tour to Israel. She was instrumental in bringing the Director of ILAN Tel Aviv Silvina Freund to Australia for a visit to NCJWA Sections in 2013.

She has been involved in both the Jewish and secular communities for many years. She completed a volunteer school speakers program. In 2008 she helped to successfully re-establish the Bayside Polio Support Group and continues to serve as its Co-Convenor. She has spoken at many events promoting awareness of polio and its late effects. She is currently also on the Board of Post-Polio Victoria, advocating for people living with the late effects of polio, meeting with local Government and hospitals to promote awareness of the LEOP.

Shirley has always been involved in community work, both secular and Jewish. She has attended Jewish Christian Muslim (JCMA) conferences and has participated in various multicultural events held by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. In 2015 she completed a Fast Track Leadership Program run by Leadership Victoria. Professionally she worked for over fifteen years for the Jewish National Fund as office manager, including all aspects of fundraising and personal member communications (1997-2009).

DIRECTOR

CAROLYN GOLDSMITH OAM (Brisbane)

Carolyn first joined NCJW in 1958 as a teenager when there was a Juniors Group in Brisbane. After marrying and living overseas she was a member of NCJW USA for two years. On returning to Brisbane she again became involved in the Brisbane Section, first as secretary and then as President. She has been President for over 20 years. She has always been very proud that NCJWA supports the local non-Jewish community as well as the local Jewish community and Israel. She has been a director of the National Board since 2007 (2007-2011; 2001-2015; 2015-2017 following constitutional revisions with two-year instead of four-year terms; and currently for the 2017-2019 term).



Brisbane is a small section and being involved with NCJWA means being involved with the whole Community. Many joint functions are held especially with WIZO and JNF and the Section also participates in functions held by SZC and UIA. Over the years Brisbane members have also been involved with Sinai College and Gan Gani Kindergarten. They are also involved in the general community participating in a Pamper Day for women who were affected by the Brisbane floods, and also in some interfaith functions. Brisbane members also sew shrouds for the Chevra Kadisha.

Carolyn enjoys her work with NCJWA and has made many friends both here in Brisbane and throughout Australia by attending Conferences, and of course with Internet connections it is easy to stay in touch. Carolyn was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia in June 2009 for service to the community, particularly through the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia.

DIRECTOR

DI HIRSH OAM (Victoria)

Di joined NCJWA Victoria 20 years ago, becoming President of the Victorian section from 2002 for four years. In this position she convened a conference for women of many different cultural backgrounds and she also introduced the WARM program to welcome immigrant Jewish women and their families to Melbourne. At national level Di was Vice-President NCJWA and Chair of the Interfaith and Intercultural Portfolio from 2007 to 2011 and National President of NCJWA from 2011 to 2015.



Di continues to serve as a Member of the NCJWA Board, as Immediate Past President (2015-2017) and currently as director. She chaired the Strategic Review Steering Committee in 2017 and is currently Chair of the Governance Committee.

In 2014 Di became Chair of the Interfaith and Intercultural portfolio of the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW). In May 2018 Di was co-convenor of the ICJW Convention held in Sydney and is now a Vice-President of ICJW representing NCJWA.

Di has organised a women's interfaith celebration of Passover at NCJWA Victoria for the past 11 years and also interfaith celebrations of Chanukah. In the Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA) Di has been actively involved for over 10 years, organising women's interfaith live-in conferences and other events.

In 2009 Di was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia for service to the community through contributions to interfaith dialogue and to NCJWA. In 2007 Di received the NCJWA Miriam Stein Award in recognition of promotion of interfaith relations. In 2006 Di received a Victorian Government Meritorious Service Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs. She was also a Dr. Fanny Reading Scholar in 2000.

Di has also worked in different professional areas: as a computer programmer, as a Mathematics and Computer Studies teacher, and as a Linguistics tutor and lecturer. Her academic qualifications include B Sc, Dip Ed, B A (Hons) and M A. She is married with three adult children and three gorgeous granddaughters.

DIRECTOR

NEGBA WEISS-DOLEV (Victoria)

Negba's involvement with NCJWA commenced with long-term membership of the Tarbut Group, NCJWA Victoria, and on the special Women Assisting Refugees and Migrants (WARM) project. More recently she was elected to the NCJWA National Board in 2017 and is pleased to be part of its change agenda.



In championing women's rights, Negba has created and progressed a number of major initiatives in the sphere of Women's Leadership. These initiatives helped many organisations to change their approach to encouraging and supporting women's career aspirations and to achieve senior leadership roles in organisations including NAB, ANZ, AXA, TAC, Telstra, Medibank Private, Victorian Government departments, local councils and more.

As President of the Jewish Museum of Australia, Negba led and oversaw the selection of the new CEO and the strategic rethinking / rebranding of this award-winning community museum and adult education leader.

A keen supporter of education; Negba has served as a member of Swinburne University of Technology's Council and various Council sub-committees.

Negba has a proven track record as a Senior Executive and Board Director. She has worked in leading-edge senior executive roles for Telstra, Adacel Technologies and co-founded and led the innovative Leadership and Change Management company; Resurgence P/L. Negba's qualifications include FAICD, BSc Architecture and Town Planning, Dip ICT.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

RYSIA ROZEN OAM

Rysia joined NCJWA Victoria in 1986, first employed as secretary to then National President Malvina Malinek OAM. When the NCJWA national office moved to Sydney Rysia was employed in the NCJWA Victoria office for two days a week. She became involved with the Dimona Group, and was its co-chair for many years. Dimona group held many fundraising functions and attracted many new members. One of the most successful projects was the *'Cooking Without Tears'* cook book in 1992, and 21 annual Duplicate Bridge sessions



Eventually Rysia was invited to join Victoria's Executive, and served as President of NCJWA Victoria from 1996-2002. She initiated the position of Fundraising Chair at national level. Rysia became a Manager of the Albert Park NCJWA Opportunity Shop for five years. She formed a young professional group, 'Women in Decision Making', advocating on women's

issues. She also established an Outreach Program for elderly migrants from the former Soviet Union, who were residents of public housing in St. Kilda, Prahran and South Melbourne, and is still involved after 15 years. Rysia obtained tax deductibility for NCJWA Victoria Community Services in 2003. She raised funds to purchase the NCJWA Opportunity Shop in Caulfield in 2005.

Rysia served as NCJWA National President from 2007-2011 and again from 2015-2017. She is currently Immediate Past President, and serves on the Finance Committee. Rysia obtained sponsorship for the Council *Bulletin* and for the National Conference from NAB. She was involved in organising the visits of NCJWA Scholars in Residence Dr. Sharon Shenhav, from Bar Ilan University in 2010 and Dr. Elana Sztokman, Jewish feminist, researcher and educator, in 2016.

Rysia was President of the National Council of Women of Victoria from 2004-2007. She initiated the Dame Phyllis Frost Award, enhancing the organisation's financial standing. She was the third Jewish woman President in over 100 years. She was vice-president of the Australian Women's Coalition from 2008-2010.

Rysia was one of the founders and a director of the Caulfield Park Community Bank, Bendigo Bank, since 2003. She is still involved as 'Ambassador'. She has been Honours & Awards Committee chair at Temple Beth Israel since 2011. She has been Honorary Secretary of the Council of Christians and Jews since 2017. During Christmas holidays she works as a volunteer at the Sacred Heart Mission in St. Kilda.

Rysia was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2004 for service to the Jewish community of Victoria, particularly through the National Council of Jewish Women. On 1 January 2001 she was awarded a Centenary medal for service to the community as President of the National Council of Jewish Women, Victoria.

INCOMING BOARD 2018-2019

At the national Board meeting on 8 May 2018 three new directors were appointed unanimously under the casual vacancy provisions of the national constitution (clauses 175 and 176). This followed the resignation of Acting Co-National Presidents Sylvia Deutsch OAM and Viki Nadel OAM effective from the AGM on 28 June 2018. Melinda Jones, Robyn Lenn OAM and Ester Steingiesser will join the national Board, effective from the AGM on 28 June 2018. The national office will move to Melbourne after the AGM. From 28 June 2018 until the election at the 2019 AGM the composition of the Board will be as follows:

President: Negba Weiss-Dolev
Vice-Presidents: Shirley Glance
Di Hirsh OAM
Honorary Treasurer: Sharlene Lustig
Immediate Past President: Rysia Rozen OAM
Directors: Carolyn Goldsmith OAM
Melinda Jones
Robyn Lenn OAM
Ester Steingiesser

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

In memoriam:

Kate Feigen, 15 May 2018, Honorary Life Member National Executive and Past National Board Member. Kate was NCJWA NSW Assistant Treasurer as well as National Constitution Chair and had a major role in the incorporation of NCJWA at national level in 2005.

Honorary Life Governors

Sylvia Gelman AM MBE
Malvina Malinek OAM

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents

Carolyn Goldsmith OAM
Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM
Zara Young OAM

Honorary Life Members National Executive

Judith Benjamin
Danielle Charak OAM
Dinah Danon OAM
Ruth Dunn
Phyll Glasser
Carolyn Goldsmith OAM
Susie Ivany OAM

SECTION REPORTS JULY 2017-JUNE 2018

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA – BRISBANE SECTION INC.

Our plan to have day meetings and more casual meetings with our members is working well. Rather than going through minutes etc. at general meetings we are doing this at Executive meetings and then bringing our members up to date with what is going on. Any member who is interested in the financial status of our group is welcome to talk to our treasurer Mavis Rudd to find out more details. Our day meetings have been successful and included visits to an art gallery, mosque as well as some health and fitness talks. We try to have a day meeting one month and night meeting the next. Night meetings are also open to partners and these have been well received with over 20 members and their partners at a recent talk by author and publisher Dr David Reiter. We have also had speakers on stroke prevention and men and women's health, eye care, and author Barbara Kamler, a Jewish American who wrote a book of poems called *Leaving New Jersey*, about her arrival in Australia, QJBD Advocacy Chair.

In November 2016, we held our Four Score and More morning tea to honour our members who are over 80 and have been members for many years. The recipients were given a tree certificate to commemorate the occasion. The recipients were Pam Huppert, Terry Groen, Leah Werner, Ruth Boock, Judith Benjamin, Eva Popper, Bessie Levine, Joan Lister, Pearl Cutter and Hilda Swartzberg.

In November 2017 we held our 90th Anniversary Celebration showing the NCJWA DVD featuring our founder Dr Fanny Reading. Representatives from most Brisbane Jewish organisations were there to acknowledge our Anniversary.

As always, we were also involved with State Zionist Council of Queensland in the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations at the Communal Centre by holding an afternoon tea stall. Our craft stall with South Brisbane Hebrew Congregation was a huge success and will be running again this year.

Organisations benefitting from our fund raising this year have been Alzheimer's, Angel Flight, Hummingbird House, Motor Neurone Disease Qld., Australian Numeracy and Literacy Foundation and we have also met our commitments for our Israeli projects, Ilan, Haifa Rape Crisis Centre and Haifa University Scholarship. We have also done extra fundraising for our special Queensland project MICHA, the centre for Hearing Impaired Children in Israel, thanks to the generosity of Mira Myler who each year donates a beautiful quilt for us to raffle. Our quilt last year was won by Sheila Levine.

Our Jeanette Lesnie Scholarship this year went to help a child attend Maccabi Junior Carnival in Melbourne. Our yearly donation to Gan Gani Kindergarten was also made.

We continue our affiliations with State Zionist Council, Jewish National Fund and the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies and also National Council of Women. I would like to thank our vice-President Gail Paratz for her continued involvement with the National Council of Women,

Through our vice-President Gail Paratz, we are very involved with interfaith inter-cultural events.

Our Community Service includes sewing shrouds for the Chevra Kadisha, which in Brisbane is a totally voluntary organisation, and some of our members are involved in a monthly lunch for seniors held at the South Brisbane Synagogue.

Our connection with JNF continues on a local level, by supporting their functions and combining with them for joint functions.

Our FaceBook page is ably run by Mavis Rudd, who keeps up with all the local NCJWA and National news.

Our membership is currently 50, which has increased slightly since last year, and we look forward to that increase continuing over the next year.

My committee this year has been very supportive, and I thank Gail Paratz, vice-President for all her advice and suggestions. Mavis Rudd has been a very efficient Treasurer. Secretary Judy Solomon moved from Brisbane during the year and her role was taken over by committee member Lorraine Jacobs. Thank you to the rest of my committee who are always there to help out when needed – Sheila Levine, Shirley Sheftz, Mira Myler. Also to their husbands who are our silent Council supporters who are willing helpers when needed. I appreciate all of your commitment to NCJWA Brisbane Section

*Carolyn Goldsmith OAM
President
NCJWA Brisbane Section*

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA – CANBERRA SECTION INC.

STEERING COMMITTEE

We continue to run the Canberra section with a steering committee of nine women. The current committee consists of Dr. Anita Shroot, Sarit Cohen, Barbara Butow, Judith Eisner, Anne Isaac, Deb Sims, Jo Dixon, Yael Cass and Karen Tatz. We hold committee meetings in each other's homes approximately every two months (always with a hearty morning/afternoon tea or supper).

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

At national level Dr. Anita Shroot is responsible for liaison with the NCJWA National Board.

Anita is a former director on the NCJWA Board (2011-2015, 2015-2017) and was also co-chair of the Haifa University Ethiopian Women's Fund in memory of Dr. Geulah Solomon OAM. Anita was also co-chair of the Interfaith, Intercultural and Outreach portfolio, and Chair of the Israel Projects Review Committee (2015-2017).

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 37 financial members. Our membership function was held in March this year.

PROJECTS

NCJWA's national projects, to which we contribute, include the ILAN foundation, a daycare centre in Tel Aviv for young adults with profound disabilities, the Haifa Rape Crisis Centre and assistance for Ethiopian female students at the University of Haifa. Local recipients of our fundraising include Breast Cancer Network Australia, the Toora House women's refuge in Canberra and the ACT Jewish Community.

ACT JEWISH COMMUNITY INC.

Our little Section relies heavily on the ACT Jewish Community for support. This is a mutually beneficial relationship as we often help out with community activities, including Kiddushes. We advertise our functions through the community and use its building for many of our functions. We are an important part of the community's calendar of events.

FUNCTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR

New members brunch

In late July 2017 we enjoyed a casual brunch with some of our new members.

AGM / Short and Sweet Poetry afternoon

In 2017 the AGM was combined with one of our popular perennial events – the poetry afternoon at Yvette Goode's home on 19 August, always a favourite amongst the Canberra members. In September, we spent another relaxed and heart-warming afternoon at Yvette's house sharing poetry that had impacted on us. Of course, we enjoyed the usual resplendent afternoon tea. Donations went to the Breast Cancer Network.

Seudat Shlishit

In early September, Council members met with Rabbi Ephraim Lerner for a seudat shlishit to hear his views on the role of women in the Jewish community.

Supper and movie nights

We now access movies from the National Film and Sound Archive or the Israeli Embassy. A more limited palette of Jewish and Israeli films, but fully compliant with Intellectual property laws! We continue to host two or three movie and supper nights a year, with Jo Dixon being our chief movie buff and projectionist.

Lark Hill winery tour

On Sunday 22 October, a small group of NCJWA and Community members enjoyed a tour of the local Lark Hill winery, which is owned and run by one of our community members, Rebecca Carpenter. A pleasant lunch followed the private tour of the winery.

Founders Day

This year we didn't have the capacity to host a separate Founder's Day event, but NCJWA members prepared a special Kiddush and Anita Shroot welcomed the community, spoke about Dr. Fanny Reading and reminded everyone that they were sitting in the eponymous auditorium honouring Dr. Fanny as Council's founder.

Council Shabbat

Every year we hold our 'Council Shabbat' to coincide with Purim (this year on 24 February). The drosha was given to the Community by Jo Dixon and, as always, was insightful and made relevant to today's society and women's issues. The committee joined Progressive community members in providing a Shabbat Kiddush lunch for both the Orthodox and Progressive communities. A visiting Rabbi from Perth, Adi Cohen, was the guest speaker at the lunch.

Women's Health Event / Annual membership drive

This year we combined our annual membership drive with a women's health event on the afternoon of 4 March 2018. The speakers and home were provided by Veronica Lleydman, a generous and hardworking NCJWA and Community member. Her house was bursting at the seams with a great turnout of at least 30 women. The presentations were informative and engaging, covering macro- and micro-perspectives on health: Naomi Lee, who works for ACT Health, focused on an award-winning public health program she has developed and implemented in high schools; while Miriam Pollack, a nutritionist, highlighted issues relating to specific food items, such as their nutritional value and impact on weight management. Funds raised at this event were donated to Toora House.

National Council of Women of Australia – garden party at Government House with Lady Cosgrove

On 28 March, four members attended the National Council of Women of Australia's garden party at Government house. On a perfect autumn evening, we enjoyed cocktails and canapes on the emerald green lawns overlooking Lake Burley Griffin and Black Mountain. Speeches were short – food and drink were plenty. It was a delightful evening of mostly women and one of those occasions that makes you realise how magical Canberra can be.

Movie night and supper

On Saturday 12 May we held another movie and supper night – "Kaddish" plus soup and fruit. About 30 people braved a cool autumn night to come out to the ACT Jewish Centre.

Karen Tatz

NCJWA Canberra Steering Committee

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA – GOLD COAST SECTION INC.

I present this brief report on behalf of the Executive and members of the Gold Coast Section – 2017 – 2018.

ISRAEL PROJECTS

Gold Coast Section has honored its commitments to - Haifa Rape Crisis Centre and Ethiopian Women's Fund.

Our Section also donates annually to Micha (Deaf Children-Israel) and Magen David Adom.

LOCAL JEWISH CAUSES

Donations are annually presented to the Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation Inc., Temple Shalom, and Gold Coast Jewish Community Services.

Yom Ha Shoah annual event is financially supported by a number of communal organisations including NCJWA Gold Coast.

LOCAL WIDER COMMUNITY

Over the past year we have supported/donated funds to:

Project for Homeless Youth, Autism Qld, Volunteer Marine Rescue, Hear and Say Qld, Asthma Foundation, Arundel Riding School for the Disabled.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the past year we have not held many events, however the functions/forums, movies that were held, were well supported and successful.

We also held our annual Founders / Donation Day where we hosted representatives from the Jewish and wider communities. This was held on 10 December.

Bunnings Charity BBQ (3 per year) is a great fundraiser for the Section: minimal cost, excellent returns.

Upcoming Function in August – Gala Dinner Dance

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past year we are reasonably steady in numbers, however Gold Coast is very much a transient community as well as an ageing community and increasing membership remains our biggest problem.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

We continue our partnership with Gold Coast Jewish Community Services Inc.; the combination of the two organisations' resources is extremely beneficial, not just for the two organisations but for the community.

Our own program consists of the following:

- visiting aged care facilities and hospitals
- home visits to the elderly on request
- referrals to ACAT (Aged Care Assessment Team)
- Government Community Packages
- assisting families in need (food parcels)
- assist in local and Government departments
- Professional – access to counsellors, doctors/solicitors and other services
- Liaison with Jewish Care Sydney – Claim Conference – applications
- Yom Tov gifts for those elderly in aged care facilities or living alone ^{SEP}

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY

Our monthly Newsletter continues to provide information to keep our members abreast of the latest events, locally, nationally and internationally. It is an important communication tool for our elderly members who find difficulty in attending meeting and functions on a regular basis. We endeavour to provide a balance of world events, upcoming events in our

community, humour and some personal news. NCJWA Gold Coast is listed in all local and state community services and charity information handbooks including JNF Shalom Magazine, published in Brisbane. We are on Facebook !!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Council is affiliated with the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies and we are represented on the boards of the Gold Coast Jewish Community Services and Gold Coast Jewish Foundation for the Aged. NCJWA GC has an excellent relationship with our Federal Member of Parliament, Local Councillor and State and Local Departments, especially in the area of Aged Care. In closing, we extend our thanks to the outgoing Board of Management and wish the incoming Board of Management every success for their term in office.

Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM
President
NCJWA Gold Coast

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

MUM FOR MUM NCJWA

Nadene Alhadeff, our MUM FOR MUM NCJWA Executive Director and Eastern Suburbs Co-ordinator, received the Randwick Community Services Award. Waverley Council awarded MUM FOR MUM NCJWA the Waverley Local Hero Award 2018, "*Working Together*".

Now in its tenth year, MUM FOR MUM NCJWA, our signature program, has 90 MUM FOR MUM NCJWA volunteers. There are 60 volunteers supporting mothers in the Eastern Suburbs and 30 volunteers on the North Shore. Professor Marie-Paule Austin, Chair of Perinatal Mental Health at the Royal Hospital for Women and St John of God Mother-Baby Unit, has agreed to be an Ambassador for the program.

In response to a perceived need by the recipient Mums, mothers' groups are held during the year. Speakers are invited to volunteer support sessions to engage, enthuse and coach volunteers. Fifteen delegates and colleagues from the Pittsburgh Jewish Health Foundation attended a morning tea at NCJWA Council House to learn about the MUM FOR MUM program, and to see Australia's programs on perinatal mental health.

A new board has been appointed to MUM FOR MUM NCJWA.

Nadene had connected with and mentored the Jewish Fertility Network with whom NCJWA NSW has formed an alliance.

NCJWA CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK

The NCJWA Cancer Support Network group meets every second month with counsellor Dr. Mandy Goldman Strous, President of Cancer Counselling Professionals Inc. Tanya Stokes, a facilitator in this area, gave short sessions of her *Mind, Movement and Dance* programs. Moriah College has donated through our Jewish Women's Breast Cancer Network, raising funds for BCNA at their Annual Pink Breakfasts. The swimming group known as The Aqua Ladies continue to donate to BCNA through donations to JWBCN.

EVENTS AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Our major event for the year took place on Monday 6 November 2017 with Petrea King as our guest speaker. Petrea spoke on “*Building Resilience and Emotional Intelligence*”. Her central message was that “the greatest gift you can give yourself, your children, your family and your community, is the gift of your own good physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing”. NCJWA NSW ran this event as our annual Pink Sunday event (on Monday) and combined it with a meeting of the Women’s Cancer Support Group.

The **Books Out Loud** program has continued to grow. Miri Orden recently handed over the program to volunteer Natalie Narunsky.

Nadene Alhadeff continued in a volunteer capacity to chair the **Status of Women/Social Justice** portfolio. Under this portfolio on 6 August 2017 an event was held called *Legalising Marriage Equality – What Does It Mean For Our Community?* A panel discussion followed with Tiernan Brady, Professor Kerryn Phelps AM, Justice Stephen Rothman AM and Lauren Reinhardt. Dr. Justin Konini was the moderator. This event took place a few weeks after Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the marriage equality postal plebiscite and our hall was filled to capacity. The community voiced their appreciation of NCJWA NSW for addressing this issue.

Our **Birthing Kit Packing Day**, a **Transcultural** event was held on 31 August and was well attended with many representatives from organisations including the Executive and members from Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women’s Association, National Council of Women, Catholic Women’s Association and Ebenezer Operation Exodus Asia Pacific Ltd. The CEO and founder of the registered charity Gennarosity Abroad (based in Kenya, East Africa) spoke about the charity. We packed 1,000 birthing kits for mothers-to-be in developing countries.

Our newest initiative “**Days For Girls**” was held in March with over seventy-five people in attendance. A number of mothers came with their teenage daughters. They cut material, sewed, folded and packed brightly coloured reusable material sanitary pads that will be sent to girls in remote areas in Africa. The mission of Days for Girls’ is “to create a more free, dignified, and educated world, through providing lasting access to feminine hygiene solutions and health education”.

At the fifth commemoration of **World Kindertransport Day**, held on 3 December 2017, Janet Merkur, Chair of Kindertransport Australia, organised her major event with NCJWA NSW. A violin that belonged to her grandfather who was murdered in Auschwitz was played for the first time in 83 years.

Rebbetzin Jana Gottshall Memorial Library Event: Gael Hammer continues as Chair of the Rebbetzin Jana Gottshall Memorial Library events:

- On 4 September author Francine Lazarus, shared her story from her book *A Hidden Jewish Child From Belgium*. Francine recounted her survival as a Jewish child living in wartime Belgium, and her eventual migration to Australia.
- The final library event for 2017 was held on Founder’s Day. Gael interviewed Moira Blumenthal about her theatre work in South Africa and Australia.

The Progressive Group held a function Monday 14 August 2017 and viewed a film, *Broadway at Twilight*. In February 2018 the group screened *The Sturgeon Queens*. Our **Shifra** and **Northsiders Groups** also held various functions to raise money for NCJWA NSW.

Archives: Liane Froneman, Archives Chair, completed the digitising of all Bulletins, and the photos and papers that belonged to Dr. Fanny Reading.

The **Charity Trust Fund** continues to support worthy causes within the Jewish and wider community in Australia. Trustees are Zara Young OAM, Phyllis Glasser and Dalia Ayalon Sinclair OAM.

NCJWA NSW continues to raise money for our National Israel projects.

NCJWA NSW observed **Council Shabbat** this year at The Great Synagogue.

Mixed Talmud Classes continued with Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Elton from The Great Synagogue on a Wednesday night.

NCJWA NSW hosted the **ICJW Convention** entitled *Evolving Beyond Tradition-the Impact of Women's Perspectives and Developing Ideas*. Mazal Tov to Robyn Lenn OAM, Immediate Past President ICJW for an exceptionally enlightening and engaging conference.

NCJWA NSW continues to be represented at the **National Council of Women NSW** and NCJWA NSW delegates represent the Section at the Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association and at the **NSW Jewish Board of Deputies**.

NCJWA NSW has two representatives on the **Wolper Jewish Hospital** Board and one representative on the Wolper Community Services Committee.

Sadly Kate Feigen, Life Member and Past National Board member, passed away. Other members who have passed away during this time are Marianne Van der Poorten and Trudie Collins.

Maxine Bachmayer, Janet Merkur, Miri Orden, Anne Reid OAM
NCJWA NSW Acting Co-Presidents

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA (VIC) INC.

The past year has seen a variety of celebrations for NCJWA Vic's 90 years of continuous service to the Jewish and broader community in Victoria.

Key achievements:

EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

90th AGM in August 2017 was celebrated with two presentations; the Jubilee video showcasing the first 25 years of NCJWA, while the second, 9 TV News clip showcasing our Caring Mums program for National Volunteers' week.

Shirley Glance was awarded Honorary Life membership.

The evening concluded with the cutting of a celebration cake and taking a historic photo of Life Governors with Current & Past Presidents.

NCJWA Vic Engagement In Community Events

As part of our strategy to engage more actively in community events, NCJWA Vic hosted a film as part of Melbourne's JIFF.

We also supported Emunah's Purim Spiel, with 30 members and guests attending.

Spring Lunch With Susan Alberti AC

The 60 guests were charmed by Susan Alberti AC, businesswoman and philanthropist. Susan was introduced by Chelsea Fisher, one of the young founders of the AJAX Senior Women's football team.

Golf Day

Our golf day saw 70 participants enjoy the Cranbourne Golf Club. The Golf Committee worked very hard to organise sponsorships and raffle prizes.

May - Autumn Brunch With Dassi Erlich; Behind & Beyond The Campaign

Over 140 people heard Dassi Erlich reveal a more personal side to her endeavours.

Nextgen

NextGen, a group of younger women in their 30s and 40s, organises events of interest and concern to this cohort.

Public Lectures

Professor Gillian Triggs was our Fanny Reading Human Rights speaker. Over 90 people were captivated by Professor's Triggs' thoughts on "Equality for Women and Girls? A Decade of Regression in Australia".

The Mina Fink Lecture speakers included Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea Co-founder and CEO of Women in STEM in Australia; Professor Sharon Lewin on "Global Impact Through Science &

Medical Research – the Future for Young Women & Girls”; and Hilary May Black, Technion representative in Australia.

This year’s Mina Fink lecture will be delivered by Professor Daphna Hacker, Faculty of Law and Head, Gender Studies Program, Tel Aviv University.

Bridge Day

This year over 80 participated in our annual Bridge Day.

Brainfood

This monthly series of events continues throughout the year.

PROGRAMS

Multicultural

Almost 100 women and girls enjoyed our Women’s Interfaith Seder in March.

Representatives from the Victorian Government and the Multicultural Commission were also in attendance.

Other Programs

- Books out Loud
- Seniors Club
- Golden Age Club
- Bridge for Seniors
- Bat Mitzvah Program in partnership with UJEB
- Jam mentoring for girls
- Caring Mums

Caring Mums

Caring Mums expanded and now covers six local government areas.

An independent evaluation was conducted to identify program outcomes.

The evaluation noted:

- The program has a high profile in the community and broader service sector
- Is considered an important service to support women in their transition to being a mother
- Results in better mental health and sense of empowerment for the mums
- Greater awareness and use of services.

JAM

The JAM project completed its pilot year and expanded for the second year of operation.

No-One Forgotten Nothing Forgotten Project

A project funded by the Victorian Government and the Victorian Veterans Council was undertaken to record oral histories in video and written formats from former veterans of the Soviet Union. Participants are involved in our Golden Age program.

ADVOCACY

Same Sex Marriage

NCJWA Vic advocated against discrimination by developing a position statement in support of same sex marriage under civil law that was adopted by NCJWA nationally.

NCJWA Vic moved the successful motion in support of same sex marriage under civil law at the September meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV).

#bringleifer back Campaign

NCJWA Vic provided assistance to Dassi Erlich in her campaign to extradite Malka Leifer from Israel including:

- Drafting a letter to the Israeli Ambassador;
- Made a personal representation to the Israeli Ambassador in Canberra with the assistance of our national leaders;
- Obtained a private meeting for Dassi with the Ambassador;
- Reached out to colleagues at the Association of Rape Crisis Centres in Israel for assistance. Legal staff consequently made a representation to the Ministry of Justice about this matter; and
- Sourced an experienced cameraperson to film Dassi and other alleged victims for a TV feature aired in Israel.

Joint Submission – Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Family Law

Representatives from NCJWA (Vic) Ann Wollner and Unchained My Heart Talya Faigenbaum drafted a joint submission on *Gett Refusal, Jewish Divorce & Family Law* that was submitted by NCJWA.

Submission – Inquiry into Perinatal Services – Parliament of Victoria

NCJWA Vic made a submission to the inquiry into perinatal services conducted by the Family & Community Development Committee, Victorian Parliament. The submission was prepared by Michelle Kornberg, Caring Mums Co-ordinator and Lee Ann Bassar, CEO.

We expect the coming year to be equally busy and impactful.

Miriam Bass
President
NCJWA (Vic)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA (WA SECTION) INC.

The State Committee of NCJWA WA is made up of eight members:

Acting Co-Presidents: Jenny Faigenbaum and Shelley London

Treasurer: Sarah Susac

Secretary: Valerie Frank

Four non-office bearing members:

Jillian Green, Noreen Sher, Ester Steingiesser, and Louise Wingers

NCJWA WA has two active women's groups. They are NATANYA and SHALOM.

Natanya group meets on the third Monday of every month at a member's home.

Highlights of the 2017-2018 year in Natanya group:

In June the video *Above and Beyond* produced by Nancy Spielberg was viewed.

In July Dr Robert Toia spoke about climate change.

In August Sue Levy, a Natanya member, spoke about her recent holiday.

In August Eli Rabinowitz spoke about his work on the Partisan Song *Zog Nit Keimol*.

In October Rabbi Dovid Freilich spoke about his experiences as a Rabbi in Perth.

In November Caitlin Parker from Juniper Outreach spoke to us about healthy eating.

In February Cate Pearce spoke on DNA Genealogy.

In March Shular Lazar, Principal of Carmel School, spoke about the importance of our children having a Jewish education.

In April the Fanny Reading DVD was played.

In May Rabbi Sheryl Nosan spoke about *Ancient Wisdom for Modern Women*.

Natanya group held a Murder / Mystery afternoon tea on 26 November 2017. Twenty people came to Jenny Faigenbaum's home and took part in mystery game organised by Sue Levy. Natanya members provided the afternoon tea and \$460 was raised for NCJWA.

Shalom group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at noon.

Highlights of the 2017-2018 year in Shalom group:

In June Brian Clausen spoke to Shalom group about the poet Banjo Paterson.

In July Tony Tate AM spoke to Shalom group about his volunteer work.

In August Jan Standen spoke to Shalom Group about Grandparents raising grandchildren.

In September Shular Lazar, Principal of Carmel School, spoke about her career as a teacher.

In October Debbie Schaffer OAM spoke about her work as a volunteer.

In November Michael Sargent from the Nelson Society spoke to the Shalom Group.

In December the whole group had lunch together at King's Park.

In February the DVD *Above and Beyond* was shown.

In March Shirley Atlas spoke about her involvement with the March of the Living.

In April Judith Arkwright spoke about her father Philip Masel.

In May Brenda Marks spoke about her interesting career as a taxi driver.

MITZVAH DAY: coordinated by Jenny Faigenbaum

On 19 November 2017 seven women met at Jenny Faigenbaum's home in Coolbinia to make up ten house warming baskets for women who leave Orana House to live independently.

Orana House is a refuge for women and their children who are escaping family violence.

This is the second year NCJWA WA has done the housewarming baskets and we aim to keep this up on a yearly basis.

ANZAC DAY 2018

Thelma Gunzburg, a member of NCJWA WA Shalom group, represented NCJWA WA at the Anzac Day Dawn Service in King's Park, and placed a wreath at the Jewish War Memorial in honour of Jewish Soldiers who gave their lives in war. Thelma served in the Second World War.

FACEBOOK

NCJWA WA now has its own Facebook page, run by Sarah Susac.

FUNCTIONS

On Tuesday 30 January NCJWA WA was involved in organising and participating in the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in a joint communal function. At the instigation of Ester Steingiesser, this included a visit to the Holocaust Museum, normally only open to school groups. This function was attended by over 100 people. On Sunday 4 March a special event was held to launch the Dr Fanny Reading MBE DVD. This was introduced by Sue Levy and followed by personal anecdotes from Miriam Harrould, who met Fanny as a young NCJWA when living in Sydney. Twenty eight ladies enjoyed the presentation and then stayed for a light Kosher lunch.

BE HEALTH AWARE SERIES

We continued with our health promotion talks organised by Shelley London, Chair Health Portfolio.

August 2017 'Mindful Eating' presented by Caitlin Parker from Juniper Outreach.

November 2017 'The Heart of the Matter' presented by Dr Mark Nidorf, a distinguished cardiologist.

In a slight departure from health in 2018 we presented a series of talks on Family Violence.

Sunday 25 March - Child Abuse

Sunday 15 April - Domestic Abuse

Sunday 27 May - Elder Abuse

All talks were given by experts in their fields and co-ordinated by Dr Barbara Meddin, a leader in this area.

READING OUT LOUD: co-ordinated by Shelley London

In August 2017 we introduced a program of reading and chatting to residents at the Maurice Zeffert Jewish Aged Care Home. This is modelled on the 'Books Out Loud' program running in NSW and Victoria. We have a group of 10 ladies who go to read regularly and have been welcomed enthusiastically by the Volunteer Co-ordinator and other staff at the Home.

Jenny Faigenbaum and Shelley London

Acting Co-Presidents:

NCJWA (WA Section)

APPENDIX

NCJWA NATIONAL ADVOCACY JULY 2017-JUNE 2018

STATEMENT ON ROBINSON'S ARCH (WESTERN WALL, JERUSALEM)

EGALITARIAN PRAYER SPACE AT WESTERN WALL: ROBINSON'S ARCH^[1]_[SEP]

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.

NCJWA condemns the decision of the Israeli government to resile from its commitment regarding the establishment of an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall. This is a blow to Jewish pluralism within Israel and in the Diaspora. NCJWA is committed to Jewish diversity and the different ways in which Jews express and practice their Judaism. NCJWA calls on the government of Israel to treat all Jews as equals with regard to their expressions of Judaism and their access to Jewish holy sites.

26 JUNE 2017

STATEMENT ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE

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.

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia supports same sex marriage as part of its stand against discrimination. Based on the human right to equality, we believe that civil marriage under the Marriage Act should be available to all people, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious affiliations and beliefs. We agree with the Executive Council of Australian Jewry that amending the definition of marriage in Australian civil law will not affect religious freedoms for those who believe in the traditional definition of marriage.

We encourage our members and community to take part in the plebiscite and promote equality and reduce discrimination. It is our hope that Australia will join the growing list of over 20 countries around the world where same-sex marriage is legally recognised, including Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, in order to create a modern, fair and just society.

15 SEPTEMBER 2017

EXTRADITION OF MALKA LEIFER

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. NCJWA provided Dassi Erlich with contacts to promote her case on her visit to Israel in the second half of 2017. We followed up this case with a letter on 28 March 2018 to new Israeli ambassador H.E. Mr. Mark Sofer, again urging that Ms Leifer should be extradited to Australia to face the charges against her and stating that her alleged victims have the right to have their accusations heard in legal proceedings. Letter was sent 21 June 2017 to Ambassador of Israel His Excellency Mr. Shmuel Ben Shmuel, calling for extradition of Malka Leifer, former Principal of the Adass Israel School in Melbourne, Australia, to face 74 criminal counts of child sex offences of several teenage girls, including Ms Dassi Erlich, whilst she was the Principal of Adass Israel School. The letter also called requested that the Ambassador meet with Dassi Erlich to hear directly her compelling story of strength and courage. [That meeting subsequently took place in August 2017 at the Embassy in Canberra.] We also spoke to the Ambassador on this issue on 25 June 2017 when he hosted delegates during the NCJWA Plenary session in Canberra. We sent a letter on 28 March 2018 to new Israeli ambassador His Excellency Mr. Mark Sofer on the same matter, noting the developments taking place in the Israeli justice system that have seen Ms Leifer continued to be detained for the present, and expressing our hope that she will be returned to Australia to face the charges against her. [H.E. Mr. Sofer acknowledged our letter.] We also issued the following topical statement on 8 March 2018:

STATEMENT ON MALKA LEIFER

We are deeply disappointed at the release of Malka Leifer from detention to house arrest. It has been claimed that her detention was “humiliating” for Ms Leifer. It is the humiliation and hurt of her alleged victims that matters. They have a right to have their accusations heard in legal proceedings. We call for the Israeli justice system to expedite the return of Ms Leifer to Australia to face charges of sexual abuse.

8 MARCH 2018

ECAJ STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

NCJWA endorsed the ECAJ's statement on 7 December 2017 welcoming the announcement by U.S. President Donald J Trump recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and expressing hope that Australia would make a similar move in due course. See statement: <http://www.ecaj.org.au/2017/media-statement-recognition-of-jerusalem-capital-of-israel/>

7 DECEMBER 2017

ECAJ SUBMISSION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OR BELIEF

NCJWA endorsed the ECAJ's submission to the federal parliamentary inquiry on religious freedom and belief at the NCJWA National Board meeting on 5 February 2018. The inquiry was conducted by the parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. NCJWA also advised ERA re the submission. See submission:

<http://www.ecaj.org.au/2018/submission-to-the-review-of-freedom-of-religion-and-other-human-rights-in-australia/>

5 FEBRUARY 2018

JOINT SUBMISSION TO ALRC ON THE *GETT*

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia and Unchain My Heart Incorporated lodged a joint submission on 7 May 2018 on *Gett* refusal with the Australian Law Reform Commission. The ALRC is conducting the first comprehensive review into the family law system since the commencement of the Family Law Act in 1976, with a view to reforming the family law system to ensure that it meets the contemporary needs of families and effectively addresses family violence and child abuse.

The submission *Gett Refusal, Jewish Divorce and Family Law* defines the refusal to agree to a *Gett* (Jewish bill of divorce) as a tool to control, intimidate and extract concessions from women, with grave consequences if they wish to remarry because without a *Gett* children born in a new relationship will suffer compromised social status within Judaism, which will endure for 10 generations.

For NCJWA the issue has been of concern for decades, with the organisation's first national conference in 1929 pledging to advocate for *Agunot* (Jewish wives affected by *Gett* refusal, literally "chained" in Hebrew) and put pressure on rabbis to find a solution. In 1970 then NCJWA NSW President (later National President) Ray Ginsburg AM and Rebbetzin Marion Apple of the Great Synagogue formed the NCJWA Status of Women in Judaism and Jewish Law Committee to inform and educate Australian lawyers on the need to push for a *Gett* along with a secular divorce. Other NCJWA presidents and Section leaders have also been active on this issue for many years.

Unchain My Heart Inc. is a Melbourne based not-for-profit organisation established to promote the resolution of religious divorce abuse and provide assistance to individual

Agunot. Chair of Unchain My Heart is Susie Ivany OAM, a former NCJWA National Vice-President and currently ICJW Vice-President representing Australia.

Submission authors are Talya Faigenbaum principal of Faigenbaum Family Lawyers and Dr Ann Wollner, Special Counsel at International Social Service Australia and a Clinical Psychologist in private practice. Both Faigenbaum and Wollner are executive committee members of Unchain My Heart Inc. Wollner is also Vice President of NCJWA (Victoria).

Media coverage: *The Australian Jewish News* 17 May 2018; *J-Wire* 23 May 2018; *The Times of Israel*. 30 May 2018.

See submission:

<http://www.ncjwa.org.au/jewish-women-tackle-the-gett-again/>

7 MAY 2018

LETTER TO FEMALE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS

NCJWA was a signatory to the Harmony Alliance (with the Equality Rights Alliance) letter to female federal parliamentarians opposing proposed changes to welfare support for new migrants, particularly affecting women. The Harmony Alliance is one of six national women's alliances, and is the national coalition of migrant and women's refugee organisations. NCJWA is the only Jewish woman's organisation to be a member of the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA), another of these six national alliances that represent over 180 women's organisations, bringing forward the views, voices and issues of Australian women and, in particular, women from marginalised and disadvantaged groups. The Alliances are funded by the federal Office for Women.

Harmony Alliance letter:

Open Letter to Female Members of Parliament and Senators

21 May 2018

Dear Members of Parliament and Senators,

A call to oppose proposed waiting periods for migrants to access welfare support

We write to you to express Harmony Alliance Members' deep concern regarding proposed changes to welfare access for migrants. These changes appear in the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018 and the Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants—extension budget measure.

The Harmony Alliance is particularly concerned that many of the allowances subject to new and extended waiting periods are safety nets disproportionately relied upon by women. With female homelessness on the rise, and continued gendered gaps in income, superannuation

and workforce participation, removing these safety nets would set a dangerous precedent at odds with an agenda of empowering women and girls. Reducing women's financial security will leave many more dependent on partners and family, and more vulnerable to controlling and violent relationships as a result.

Access to paid maternity leave is a human right and an international obligation to which Australia has committed. These proposals directly contravene that human right, and the likely ramifications for women's reproductive rights are serious. The stated intent of this change— that new migrants who decide to have children during the waiting periods allow for associated costs—ignores the fact that unexpected pregnancies are extremely common. Under the proposed changes, migrant women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant may feel financial pressure to seek an abortion, or to return to work early, which research has shown to be detrimental to development outcomes for children. Proposals to delay access to Family Tax Benefit and Parenting Payments will also impact on children of migrants— many of whom are Australian citizens.

These benefits are part of a carefully crafted welfare system, designed to invest in people early in times of crisis to prevent them from falling into the welfare trap. This measure instead risks creating longer-term support needs for migrants who find themselves in exceptionally difficult circumstances, in exchange for short-term savings for the budget. Migrants are the people that Australia has chosen to welcome. They have been through rigorous and arduous application processes. These proposed changes will not encourage self-sufficiency, but instead risk disenfranchising a generation of future Australians.

We call upon the female Members of Parliament and Senators to support their migrant sisters by opposing this Bill and Budget Measure.

21 MAY 2018

ERA STATEMENT RE LACK OF PROVISION FOR HOUSING IN FEDERAL BUDGET

NCJWA was a signatory on 29 May 2018 to the ERA statement re the lack of provision for housing in federal budget. This was a resolution at the annual ERA members' meeting, attended by NCJWA's two ERA representatives, Board directors Di Hirsh OAM (NCJWA voting representative at ERA) and Negba Weiss-Dolev in Canberra from 23-24 May 2018.

Resolution of the annual member's meeting of ERA

24 May 2018

We are deeply concerned that the budget maintains the practice of successive Australian Federal governments in neglecting to make sufficient provision and policy for housing. Housing unaffordability has devastating and widespread social and economic effects on the community, in particular on women and their families.

We call on the Australian Government to rectify its neglect by:

- *Increasing capital funding for the NHHA;*
- *Implementing tax reform to reduce investment pressure on the housing market;*
- *Ensuring sufficient coverage of the Remote Housing Partnership Agreement to include WA, SA and Qld.*

To be sent to Treasurer, Minister for Women, Minister for Housing, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, and Shadow Ministers.

STATEMENT ON IRISH ABORTION REFERENDUM

Representatives from the many affiliates of the International Council of Jewish Women met in Sydney from 27-31 May 2018 to attend its Quadrennial Convention *Evolving Beyond Tradition – the Impact of Women’s Perspectives and Developing Roles*. It was most appropriate that during this time one of its affiliates, the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, issued the following statement in support of the Irish referendum vote on abortion. ICJW also issued a similar topical resolution during the Convention. Text of NCJWA statement:

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA) congratulates the people of Ireland on their historic vote on 25 May 2018 to repeal the 8th amendment to the country’s constitution, allowing the government to legislate for abortion.

NCJWA promotes the empowerment of women in the Jewish and wider community, and therefore supports the right of every woman to make decisions about her own healthcare.

NCJWA looks forward to the Irish government fulfilling its pledge to enact legislation permitting abortions by the end of 2018.

29 MAY 2018

NEW NSW LAWS TO TARGET INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE

We commend the New South Wales government and NSW Attorney General Mark Speakman on the announcement on 5 June 2018 that it will replace provisions in the state’s Anti-Discrimination Act that have proven ineffective in punishing individuals who incite or encourage violence against people based on their race, religion or sexuality.

We welcome the new legislation to be introduced into the NSW Parliament, which will create a new offence in the Crimes Act of publicly threatening or inciting violence against people on the grounds of race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex or HIV/AIDS status, including a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a fine of \$11,000. The Bill will abolish offences in the Anti-Discrimination Act that presently carry a maximum sentence of six months in prison. We also commend the work of the Keep NSW Safe Coalition under the chairmanship of Vic Alhadeff, and religious leaders and other groups for their hard work on this issue.

6 JUNE 2018



NGO SHADOW REPORT ON GETT REFUSAL: CEDAW

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979, the culmination of more than 30 years of work by the UN Commission on the Status of Women, a body established in 1946 to monitor the situation of women and to promote women's rights. It entered into force as an international treaty in 1981. By 1989 almost 100 nations had agreed to be bound by its provisions. The Australian Governments' 8th periodic CEDAW report was submitted late in December 2016, with the hearing for that report scheduled in July 2018. The 9th periodic report was due this year, but ERA reported in January 2018 that this report might be scrapped and the 2022 report would cover an 8 year period. NGOs can respond to the issues raised and responses were due by 11 June. Incoming NCJWA director Melinda Jones prepared and lodged a NCJWA Shadow Report on Gett refusal in relation to Australia's Periodic Report to the United Nations in relation to CEDAW, Article 16, Marriage and Family Relationships. The text of the submission will be available in July 2018 and will be posted on the NCJWA website.

11 JUNE 2018

DRAFT ERA SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS POLICY POSITION

In October this year NCJWA was asked to comment on ERA's redraft of its sexual and reproductive rights policy position. ERA provided the following background re the draft:

History of the policy position

As you know, the Equality Rights Alliance is one of six National Women's Alliances. Each of the other Alliances has a specific area of operation, with ERA operating as the generalist Alliance. Consequently, ERA is the Alliance which receives the majority of requests for comment and advocacy relating to women's health and women's sexual and reproductive rights. ERA has previously conducted project work in the area of women's health and has hosted a work group for members working in the area of sexual and reproductive rights, but we have not previously had a clear policy position on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

This has recently become a problem for ERA, as secretariat staff are fielding an increasing number of media and other requests for comment on issues such as decriminalisation of abortion, access to contraception and sex and respectful relationships education. At the same time, our Young Women's Advisory Group members are in demand as conference speakers on the subject of sex and respectful relationships education and are about to embark on the second tranche of their research project. Finally, the Office for Women is increasingly seeking our views in this area, particularly in the international context.

It is this last area which has caused the greatest difficulties for ERA staff and members. At the Commission on the Status of Women, ERA has built a strong reputation for providing the Australian Government Delegation with advice about negotiation priorities, both through submissions and discussion prior to CSW and through on-the-spot advice on language during the negotiations. Given that women's sexual and reproductive rights have become a highly contested area in international negotiations, ERA's lack of a policy position has put our CSW delegates in difficult positions when the Government wants to know our views on the evolving text of the Agreed Conclusions, or when other organisations contact ERA for a quick opinion on a reference to reproductive rights in a human rights treaty process. We need to have a policy statement on this area so that we can make speedy and efficient responses which are nevertheless based on an agreed member position.

The draft policy position is drawn from a range of international human rights instruments and declarations. The first draft was discussed at the member's meeting in May, where it was agreed that the policy position should be submitted to the membership for further discussion. The present draft incorporates some amendments which were suggested at the meeting. Many thanks to Kate Marsh for her excellent assistance in preparing this draft.

NCJWA circulated the draft to our Sections, and received suggested additions from NCJWA Victoria CEO Lee Ann Basser, a former legal academic. The NCJWA Board endorsed these proposed additions and advised ERA accordingly:

We are very happy to support this statement with the following suggested additions -

- *1. Reference to Women should be to Women and girls as this is an area that affects girls.*
- *2. In the second paragraph vulnerable groups should include Women and girls with disabilities.*
- *3. The list of rights in para 3 should include the right to bodily integrity which is the foundational Human right in this area - the right to control what happens to one's body.*
- *4. The dot point list should also include a broad statement about all Australians having control over their bodies in the area of sexual and reproductive health*
- *5. Finally - the issue of assisted reproduction should also be referred to.*

OCTOBER 2017

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ALLIANCES SUBMISSION RE 62ND SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: AUSTRALIA'S POSITION ON THE PRIORITY THEME

Final Draft: 62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women – National Women's Alliances Submission re Australia's Position on the Priority Theme –

“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”

In October 2017 NCJWA endorsed without suggested amendment the draft National Women’s Alliances (including ERA) submission to the Federal Government on its priorities at the 62nd UN Commission on the Status of Women IN 2018. The ERA secretariat worked with the National Rural Women’s Coalition and the other National Women’s Alliances on the submission. Text of the draft:

62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women National Women’s Alliances Submission re Australia’s Position on the Priority Theme Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

General

- 1. We welcome the increasing focus on the SDGs as a site for action on gender equality. However, we note that the Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women constitutes a vital site for addressing those facets of gender equality, women’s and girls’ human rights and women’s and girls’ empowerment which are not captured by the SDGs, particularly those areas that are not explicitly mentioned but which fall broadly under the commitment to leave no one behind, which risk slipping off the agenda through a focus on the SDGs. This includes the rights, needs and contribution of Indigenous women (including the importance of the knowledge and culture of Indigenous women in addressing climate change), women living with disability, LGBTIQ women, young women and girls, older women, the Women Peace and Security Agenda, women in prison, migrant and refugee women and girls and women in the sex industry. We ask that the Australian delegation promote these issues at CSW62.*
- 2. We note that the language concerning gender equality in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is stronger and more detailed than the gender equality language in the SDGs and the BPfA remains the primary global policy document on gender equality. While there are benefits in using the 2030 Agenda to accelerate gender equality, the SDGs should not replace the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) at CSW, but rather strengthen it by providing a new site for the use of the BPfA language. We ask that Australia advocate for the preferential adoption of language used in the BPfA.*
- 3. Women’s organisations, human rights organisations, feminist organisations (collectively ‘CSOs’) and academic institutions play a critical role in driving change and ensuring accountability for gender equality. In recent years, the space for meaningful CSO engagement in UN environments has shrunk significantly. Australia has advocated for the role of CSOs in the CSW in the past and we urge Australia to continue to advocate for an active, meaningful and clearly defined role for CSOs at CSW. We also call on Australia to advocate for States to take measures to protect women human rights defenders and support and fund specialist women’s services and women-led and feminist CSOs and networks.*
- 4. We congratulate the Australian Government on its successful advocacy for the recognition of the role of National Human Rights Institutions in the CSW process in the*

Agreed Conclusions of CSW61. We call on Australia to ensure the same commitment is reflected in the Agreed Conclusions for CSW62.

5. *We applaud the Australian Government for its role in promoting strong language on Indigenous women in the CSW61 Agreed Conclusions. We urge Australia to advocate for the retention of this language in the CSW62 Agreed Conclusions and to strengthen that language to recognise Indigenous stewardship of land and the importance of traditional knowledge and cultural practices in sustainable approaches to climate change.*

Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

6. *Rural women play a vital leadership role in shaping laws, strategies, policies and programmes on all issues that affect their lives, including sustainable development, improved food and nutrition security and better rural livelihoods. The CSW62 priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, raises a wide range of issues, particularly the need for all States to:*
 - 6.1. *ratify the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women without exemptions and fully implement article 14 of CEDAW;*
 - 6.2. *focus on the conditions which enable women's participation in communities and economies, including supporting and promoting rural women's voices, agency and public participation;*
 - 6.3. *support rural women's substantive participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making in public life, commercial and economic activity (including family businesses), peace agreements and post-conflict recovery processes and within the community and household;*
 - 6.4. *support rural women to overcome and challenge male-dominated leadership spaces, including the family, and recognise the leadership work already performed by rural women and girls, which is often undervalued and unrecognised;*
 - 6.5. *ensure women have access to justice and full legal standing before the law, that the human rights of women and girls are protected within customary legal systems, and that rule of law and human rights are enforced regardless of geographic location and gender;*
 - 6.6. *encourage full participation of rural women in all decision-making processes on peace and security, from local communities to global policy processes, prioritising women's active agency in peacebuilding and conflict resolution by all relevant stakeholders, and implementing gender-sensitive security measures developed together with rural women;*

- 6.7. *recognize the important role played by rural women in ensuring food security, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and sustainable development and commit to supporting their empowerment, and ensure rural women's full, equal and effective participation in society (including the family), the economy and political decision-making;*
- 6.8. *ensure that the negative and inequitable impacts of climate change on rural women are mitigated and that the benefits of sustainable development flow to women by developing inclusive social policies which put gender equality considerations and the voice and agency of women at the centre of climate management initiatives and investments;*
- 6.9. *note that women are physically and economically vulnerable to natural disasters and essential to subsequent recovery initiatives and ensure that the voice and agency of rural women are central to all disaster mitigation and recovery plans;*
- 6.10. *eradicate the digital divide through equal access to affordable telecommunications, digital communications and technology and reliable internet access for rural women and girls, along with the necessary supporting infrastructure;*
- 6.11. *significantly increase investment to close resource gaps for building rural infrastructure (including transport, education, health and market infrastructure) in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This will necessitate mobilising a range of financial resources including public, private, domestic and international resources, fully implementing official development assistance commitments and combatting illicit financial flows;*
- 6.12. *ensure rural women have access to reliable and universal health services across the life span, in particular mental health services, allied health services, maternity and maternal health services and sexual and reproductive health services (including abortion and contraception) in a timely, respectful, culturally appropriate and needs driven manner;*
- 6.13. *promote the clear articulation and implementation of the sexual and reproductive rights of women in an environment of severe backlash against women's and girls' right to control their own bodies, including recognising that human rights include women's right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;*
- 6.14. *provide access in rural communities to specialist and culturally responsive women's services, including health, housing, gender-based violence and legal services as well as access to community controlled organisations;*
- 6.15. *promote the participation of women and girls in sport and leisure activities as a tool to address rigid gender stereotypes, achieve women's empowerment and improve their health and wellbeing;*

- 6.16. *recognise that poverty is experienced with additional complexities in rural settings, particularly due to increased cost of living associated with transport of goods and provision of services over large distances or difficult terrain;*
- 6.17. *ensure rural women have equal rights to economic resources including ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, new technologies, financial services (including microfinance) and natural resources;*
- 6.18. *take steps to address the practice of patrilineal farm succession and inheritance in farming families;*
- 6.19. *ensure women have access and equal rights to direct receipt of income security and other social protection entitlements and reform existing income and social protection systems to better address gendered poverty, better reflect women's economic participation over the life cycle and ensure a functional living income;*
- 6.20. *address the barriers to market engagement faced by rural women due to factors such as lack of mobility, capacity, and technical skills and address discriminatory practices, stereotypical attitudes and safety issues which prevent or discourage rural women from accessing opportunities to expand their businesses;*
- 6.21. *note that when women have control over production and resources, poverty and hunger decrease at the household level and ensure that all food security policies and programs are developed with a central focus on gender equality;*
- 6.22. *ensure women's access to clean, affordable and reliable energy sources in order to improve women's health, minimise unpaid work in obtaining fuel and performing household tasks and to support women's home based businesses and other economic activity;*
- 6.23. *provide universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, paying special attention to the specific needs of all women and girls, and to improve water management and wastewater treatment with the active participation of women;*
- 6.24. *acknowledge that addressing the issue of unpaid work is of critical importance for the empowerment of women across the life cycle and advocate for measures which promote the measuring, recognition and valuing of women's unpaid care work and an equal division of unpaid work across the genders;*
- 6.25. *recognise the diversity of women's work in rural communities, including work at sea and on water, and as traders, service providers, managers and leaders;*
- 6.26. *promote visible role models for women in agriculture and acknowledge that rigid gender norms, stereotypes and roles perpetuate and entrench discrimination against rural women, making women agricultural workers invisible, sidelining women farmers from training and career support and excluding women from property ownership and inheritance;*

- 6.27. *implement macroeconomic, labour and social policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work, including the development of social policies which address the fact that employment opportunities tend to be more limited in rural, remote and regional settings;*
- 6.28. *address other, more general measures to ensure women's sustainable participation in the workplace including:*
- 6.28.1. *ensuring women have access to quality, affordable child care and paid maternity leave;*
- 6.28.2. *addressing the tendency for rural women to be employed in insecure, casualised and short term / contract work more often than men;*
- 6.28.3. *taking steps to prevent workplace gender discrimination and discrimination on the basis of pregnancy and parenting responsibilities, along with preventing bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace including through the misuse of technology;*
- 6.28.4. *encouraging the adoption of workplace policies and practices which support women experiencing violence to maintain their employment;*
- 6.28.5. *addressing gendered pay gaps, gendered discrimination through taxation, discriminatory or inequitable practices which result in diminished opportunities for women business owners and other structural disincentives to work;*
- 6.28.6. *working towards the implementation of progressive national taxation systems;*
- 6.28.7. *addressing the gender gap in retirement incomes and savings and discrimination against older women when seeking and maintaining employment; and*
- 6.28.8. *supporting women's organising and women's rights to collective action and social movements;*
- 6.29. *recognise that refugee and migrant women, who are more likely to have lower levels of education and local language proficiency, experience the isolation of rural communities more acutely and are therefore highly vulnerable to economic insecurity and domestic violence;*
- 6.30. *develop and implement legislation addressing economic challenges for refugee and migrant women in rural areas, the protection of their labour rights and their economic empowerment by States, institutions and civil society and prevent the exploitation of women migrant and other women by labour hire companies and other entities, particularly women on short term or precarious visas or women with no permanent residency;*

- 6.31. *note the increased risk of men's violence against women and girls in rural areas due to the interplay of geographic and social isolation, entrenched traditional gender values and roles that reinforce male privilege and a greater tolerance of violence against women and girls;*
- 6.32. *stress the importance of eliminating violence against women and girls in all its forms, including domestic and family violence and sexual assault (including marital rape), financial abuse, elder abuse, harmful cultural practices (including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage), forced sterilisation, trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices;*
- 6.33. *recognise the economic impacts on women of domestic violence, including as a barrier to participation in education, the paid workforce and leadership roles;*
- 6.34. *adopt, review and ensure the implementation of laws that criminalize violence against women and girls, as well as comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures and services to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and girls;*
- 6.35. *recognise that women living with disability experience higher levels of violence and abusive behaviours and greater barriers to reporting and leaving violence than other women in rural areas and ensure that social policies and programs directed to ending violence against women incorporate the voice and agency of women with disability at the most fundamental levels;*
- 6.36. *work to stop violence before it starts through prevention initiatives to transform violence supportive culture, attitudes and beliefs and social and community structures characteristic of smaller communities, particularly in rural settings;*
- 6.37. *ensure that legal systems and processes which deal with marriage, divorce and child custody operate to protect women and their children from violence and other forms of abuse, do not re-traumatise women who have experienced violence and, when deciding where a child will live and with whom the child will spend time, incorporate the principle that the best interests of the child are not served by being (re)exposed to any form of violence against women or children, regardless of customary or cultural considerations;*
- 6.38. *ensure all rural women and girls have access to quality education, and provide educational opportunities starting in early childhood and continuing throughout the life cycle, including lifelong learning and retraining, adult education and distance education and e-learning, as well as to opportunities for informal learning, recreation and self-development;*
- 6.39. *note that education includes vocational (including technical) education and training to enhance opportunities for women and girls to pursue careers in a wider range of occupations and beyond traditional gender roles, including education in*

science and technology, literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, human rights and sexual and reproductive rights;

6.40. *mainstream a gender perspective into education and training programmes and curricula, including in science and technology and in training in agricultural skills and rural industries; and*

6.41. *ensure that data collection and research programs are sufficiently flexible and informed to be able to accurately capture the lived experiences of rural women and girls, and ensure that such data collection and research is undertaken regularly and routinely, producing disaggregated statistics so that progress can be tracked.*

7. *When considering all of the measures in paragraph 6 above, it is important to:*

7.1. *promote the conscious inclusion of the needs and rights of Indigenous women and girls, with a strong focus on the intersectional disadvantage experienced by these women and girls, particularly through gender, ethnicity, disability, age and the ongoing effects of colonialism;*

7.2. *draw on traditional practices, Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, traditions and community based approaches when developing social policies to support rural women;*

7.3. *ensure that funding for gender equality measures is clearly identified and constant;*

7.4. *promote the conscious consideration of the needs and rights of women and girls living with disability, including through additional resourcing for access measures and take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational, employment and other measures to protect and promote the rights of all women and girls with disabilities and to ensure their full and effective participation and inclusion in society, and to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they face;*

7.5. *work with men and boys in rural areas to achieve gender equality and ensure that they understand that the benefits of gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership are also favourable to them;*

7.6. *emphasise the duty of states to implement human rights-based legislation and policies that promote gender equality and women's rights;*

7.7. *recognise families in all their diverse forms and the promotion of rights relating to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (including the rights of lesbian, gay, intersex, transgender and bisexual people); and*

7.8. *advocate for specific language referring to women and girls' human rights and resist all attempts at redefinition of women's and girls' human rights that subsume these within the framework of the family.*

8. *Australia has a strong history of articulating the need to address the intersections of disadvantage and oppression: poverty, racism and xenophobia, heterosexism and homophobia, sexism and limitations on sexual and reproductive rights, as well as the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism on Indigenous peoples. We strongly recommend that Australia continue to advocate for an analysis of the priority and review themes which addresses and explores intersectionality and promotes the voices of women experiencing intersectional discrimination and disadvantage, particularly for:*

- *Indigenous women,*
- *women living with disability,*
- *women from marginalised socio-economic, racial and ethnic groups,*
- *young women and girls,*
- *older women,*
- *displaced, migrant and refugee women,*
- *lesbian, gay, intersex, transgender and bisexual people*
- *women in the sex industry; and*
- *women in prison.*

The National Women's Alliances thank the Australian Government for this opportunity to provide our views and look forward to working with the Australian Delegation to continue its advocacy in these areas.

OCTOBER 2017

SEE SEPARATE AUDITED ANNUAL (FINANCIAL) REPORT

END