



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC.

Member Organisation of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)

NGO in consultative (Roster) status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Photo by Fiona Basile | CWLA

We are certainly facing challenging times as Catholics with the release of the findings of the Royal Commission into Sexual abuse. While most of us were aware of the abuse I think we are very shocked to hear of the extent of this violation of predominately young people by those who we are supposed to respect.

Now that these findings have been released it is of paramount importance that we as members of the Church do all we can to ensure that this never happens again. We need to support and encourage our leaders that the recommendations of the Royal Commission are carried out. For the majority of us this will be through prayer. Our support is very much needed by our religious who are feeling the pain of these past indiscretions of their predecessors.

We look forward to reading reports from Jane Munro and Fiona Basile as they represent CWLA Inc. in New York at the Commission on the Status of Women 61. The main theme this year is Women's "Economic Empowerment In The Changing World Of Work". You can access updates from them on the following links:

Facebook

facebook.com/fionabasilephotography

Instagram:

instagram.co/fifilepiu/

Twitter:

twitter.com/fiona_basile

In my Diocese of Port Pirie we hold a Diocesan ►

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Assembly during the fifth week of Lent and this year I have been asked to make a short presentation on the work of Catholic Women's League Australia Inc. Sr. Kerry Keenan has been encouraging the organisers for a while that the members of our Diocese needed to be more aware of the work of CWLA Inc. and I was very happy to accept this opportunity. The two day conference concludes with the Chrism Mass which gives everyone the chance to be present at this beautiful ceremony.

We are coming into the most important time in our Liturgical year as we are halfway through Lent in the lead up to Easter. I know our members will be involved with many of the preparations in their Churches and I wish you all Special Blessings for Easter.



Anne Marie

National President:
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Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.

- Pope Francis

[Click here](#) to read Pope Francis's Speech: Raise awareness about "scourge" of human trafficking.

Source: Vatican Radio



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Priority Theme for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) this year is: Women's Economic Empowerment in a Changing World of Work.

Human Trafficking as an issue is raised every year at CSW. It is discussed from every angle but solutions are elusive and even defining it, without compromise, causes rifts and detention. Most (80%) Human Trafficking revolves around the trade of women's and girl's bodies for sexual purposes, although it can occur for other reasons and can involve the trading of men too.

Two years ago the CSW booklet available to all participants ran an article explaining the difference between 'sex work' and 'prostitution'. In the eyes of UNWomen, who produced the booklet, 'prostitution' is bad, but 'sex work' is alright. It caused strongly worded discussion and anger among women trafficked into prostitution. This definition has not been forgotten, in fact it has elicited more organised responses, ready this time to refute any implication that degrading uses of the human body are acceptable. Sex trafficking is not economic empowerment. It is not a means of giving a woman work that will feed her children and therefore better than nothing. It is not part of the 'changing world of work'.



The Governments of the African countries of Zimbabwe, Uganda and Ethiopia gave a presentation, called "Ending the Myth of Greener Pastures" on Human Trafficking as experienced by young women in their countries. In a multi-sectional approach, they acknowledged the need for education, strict legal control and rehabilitation.

Their National Plans of Action aim to control the job market, particularly of girls travelling to other countries as domestic workers - a source of much of the sexual abuse. Uganda licences Companies which provide workers to other countries and supervise work conditions. Infringements are severely punished with Interpol's assistance. ►

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*We must teach
more by example
than by word.*

- Mary Mackillop

Girls are educated about acceptable behaviour prior to departure, have cultural expectations explained and given help to set up bank accounts. Shelters have been set up for girls who have been sexually abused. They are isolated from their own communities and seen as having a disease.



Another session on the 'Practical Impact of Pimps and Johns' emphasised the role money plays in the spread of Human Trafficking. It is a very lucrative enterprise, with strong connections to pornography, prostitution, surrogacy and sex slavery. The sex industry campaigns strongly to de-criminalise prostitution, but

women's groups state that abolition is the only acceptable stance.

Meeting the human face of Human Trafficking had a greater effect on all of us than all the arguments and considerations. One young woman from South Africa told a harrowing tale of being a victim of trafficking. From a difficult home background, she became a street kid, was exchanged from one pimp to another. She became pregnant and was forced to abort at six months.

She refused to service another client two hours after the abortion and was beaten insensible. She broke down as she told her story. Her pain was palpable and moved us to tears. Unable to continue she was taken outside where she struggled to gain control. Reliving the torture she endured is taking its toll. Will it ever cease?

This terrible scourge has got to stop and all of us have a role to play.



Jane Munro

National International Secretary



When we have reached the lowest point of our misery and our weakness, the Risen Christ gives us the strength to rise again.

21 April 2017

Pope Francis @Pontifex

1ST DAY CSW61

The first event Jane and I attended was on the topic 'Trading the female body' and the call to: #StopSurrogacyNow. Surrogacy is an international problem, which demands an international solution. Three panellists gave their perspectives on the damaging consequences of being involved in surrogacy. The first was Kelly Martinez, a young woman who has been a gestational surrogate three times. The second was Jessica Kern, a woman born of surrogacy. The third was Kylee Gliman, an egg donor.

An expert panel of women who work at the policy level to campaign against surrogacy followed the three young women. The panelists included Pierrette Pape, Policy and Campaigns Director at the European Women's Lobby who discussed the current status of surrogacy in the European context, what has been done and what still needs to be done to abolish surrogacy; Janice Raymond, Professor and author, who discussed the historical context that has brought us the modern commercial industry of surrogacy; and Julie Bindel, journalist, author and feminist activist who has done undercover reporting on surrogacy, and reported on what is happening in the global South and what needs to be done strategically to stop surrogacy.

Jennifer Lahl, Founder and President of the Centre for Bioethics and Culture moderated the event. In calling for the abolition of surrogacy, both commercial and altruistic, Jennifer stated 'We believe that the practice of commercial surrogacy is indistinguishable from the buying and selling of children'. The campaign #StopSurrogacyNow is banding together with like-minded organisations and individuals asking national governments of the world and leaders of the international community to work together to end this practice.

2ND DAY CSW61

Rachel Moran and Julie Bindel (journalist, author and feminist activist from previous session) moderated. Rachel Moran speaks internationally on prostitution and sex trafficking and works in conjunction with Equality Now, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the European Women's Lobby, and the Women's Front of Norway to end the violent

exploitation of women and girls. She is the author of Paid For: My Journey through Prostitution.

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Executive Director and Founding Member of Embrace Dignity, which is a women's human rights organisation in South Africa that seeks dignity for all people and opposes prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Dr Esohe Aghatise founded the organisation IROKO to combat violence against women, and to assist women who had been trafficked, specifically from Nigeria to Italy, for prostitution. Also part of Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

Two extremely brave young South African women, Grizelda Grootboom and Mickey Meji shared horrific first hand stories of their experience in being trafficked and prostituted. Many in the room were brought to tears as Grizelda shared stories of horrific violence inflicted upon her while being prostituted. They received a standing ovation at the end of their presentations.

3RD DAY CSW61

The third event was hosted by Family Watch International with president Sharon Slater providing an analysis of the draft language of the CSW61 Agreed Conclusions and the positive and negative effects of the recommendations provided within. At this early stage of negotiations over the language, Sharon stated there was a lot of good information in there, in terms of protecting the family, motherhood and children, and national sovereignty. However, there was also some disturbing language that Family Watch International, along with members of the UN Family Rights Caucus would be lobbying during CSW61 to have removed, in particular any reference to 'comprehensive sexuality education'. On this, part of a documentary was shown, which clearly exposes how dangerous and inappropriate this 'comprehensive sexuality education' is to children. This is a must-see online video (11 mins), which clearly exposes the scandalous nature of the information that is being proposed for children. As many people as possible need to see this, particularly policy makers, educators, parents: <http://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/english10/>

Fiona Basile

[Click Here](#) to watch International Planned Parenthood's It's All One education program

[Click Here](#) to access World Health Organisation's comprehensive sexuality education policy

[Click Here](#) to access IPPF brochure Health, Happy and Hot - a Young Person's Guide to their Rights, Sexuality and Living with HIV

THE CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 61



Photo by Fiona Basile | CWLA



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FROM THE CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 61



INTRODUCTION

Some members may remember me by my maiden name of Anne-Marie Farrelly or my previous married name of Anne-Marie Rolfe but years after my marriage was annulled I got a second chance at happiness and married Maurie Ferry. Maurie was a widower with 5 adult children and I have 4, and together we have 17 grandchildren.

Some members may remember YCS, a youth movement which used the slogan “See Judge Act”. That made a big impression on me, though it is often hard to discern the right course of action when each side claims the high moral ground.

My Ursuline school motto was “Serviam”, which probably explains why I join organisations which aim to improve our families, church, communities and country.

I joined Catholic Women’s League in Canberra in 1984, and thanks to the mentoring of Joyce Balnaves, was soon active in social responsibilities in the arch-diocese.

After moving to Port Macquarie, I was involved in the formation of a new CWL branch here and subsequently an evening group. My passion for social justice continued, and led to diocesan and state positions and the award of Life Membership of CWLA in 2000 – and now here we are.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council publishes informative booklets on various issues. I have found the principles set out in “Social Justice in Everyday Life” (1990) very useful in that process of discernment.

Beginning with the assertion that “a commitment to social justice is an essential characteristic of a life lived according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ”, we are called to help

people suffering because of injustice AND to try to change the structures that cause their pain.

First submission

Earlier this year I was asked to prepare response to the Senate Select Committee looking at the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill. I looked for some systemic CAUSE and some resultant EFFECT of suffering, but could not see how the system was causing same-sex couples in civil unions to experiencing suffering like the poor. So I restated the Church’s position that marriage is the exclusive union of a man and a woman, and asked for the committee to be tolerant of our views. I then briefly addressed problems in the terms of reference, which tried to offer certain protections to those who believe in traditional marriage and other measures to get any such legislation passed. Social justice principles do not seem to require this change to the Marriage Act. (There is no legislation before the Parliament at this stage.)

COMMUNICATION

Two way communication would be great. Please advise me of any National issues of concern to our members and I will try to assist. amjferry@gmail.com

May God bless you all in your work for social justice.

Anne-Marie Ferry

Acting National Social Issues Convenor

FROM THE BIOETHICS CONVENOR

The weekly cartoon space in the Australian newspaper on March 11th was a blank, silent, white square. The cartoonist had died. Among his strident beliefs was the conviction that freedom of speech is a vital principle serving the interests of all. Among his controversial depictions and comments was his stance that the teaching of the 'Safe Schools Programme' was already too much of a parody to be parodied, too ridiculous to ridicule. Indeed, its undermining of the self-confidence of young girls and young boys, its age inappropriate resources and its assault on the purity and innocence of youth warrant the protective intervention of parents and the critique of society. While only death could silence the cartoonist, we must all ensure that what he called the 'poison of political correctness' doesn't silence us, doesn't reduce us Catholic women to a blank white page.

The vitality of the Catholic Church leaves little room for timid silence among her mothers. There are truths to be spoken as we feed the spiritually hungry. The food we give is our prayerful presence in the secular world, nourishing conversations, responses, attitudes and beliefs. We also nourish Senate Inquiries, and yes, we're not above nourishing our parishes physically, emotionally and spiritually. That is our presence in the world, our calling, and our charism.

Since September last year a series of senate submissions have been forwarded by CWLA and member states tackling legislative proposals which diminish and extinguish life. In the words of the Ayr CWL president, we 'threw everything we had' at each of the Queensland Pine's Bills which would have legalized abortion as horrifically as Tasmanian and Victorian legislation. His two separate consecutive abortion bills were pre-emptively overturned. CWLA also challenged the Northern Territory Discussion Paper which is trying to pave the way for abortion "2-step" pills (RU486 and

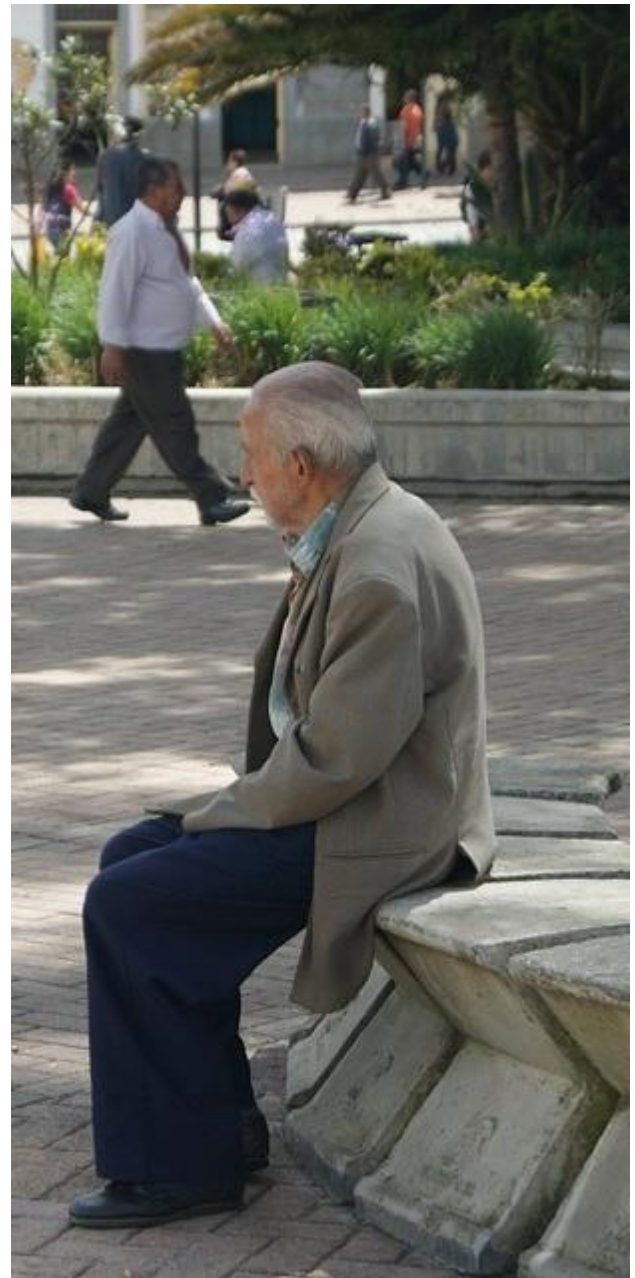
misoprostol) to be accessible in that state with its remote communities, isolation, and shortfall of ready ultrasounds, counsellors, and obstetricians. Mothers who find themselves considering the death of their children as a solution to any problem deserve so much more than two poison pills. Saint Pope John Paul II taught us 'it is not right that she should be alone' and these mothers need to be surrounded with unconditional support. The NT discussion paper wasn't big on support, but was very big on the poison pill solution.

Two other issues loom large for CWLA and member states. The attempt to cheapen nursing home care by removing registered nurses, and the relentless push for euthanasia. These two simultaneous pressures are not unrelated. Those who require nursing home care are the most frail, the most chronically unwell and the most elderly members of society. To be denied the supervisory care of skilled nursing would be unashamedly detrimental to their health. It cannot be framed as an improvement. It is a purely economic measure with no beneficence. It will hasten deaths. The perceived irrelevance of the health and lives of the elderly and of the terminally ill is also in the bedrock of euthanasia ideologies. Promoting death rather than excellence in palliative care reveals the fundamental disrespect of the euthanasia ethos. In this we can learn much from other countries.



As Canada ends its first year of legalized euthanasia there are already strident calls for expansion of the law. The law is said to be 'cruel' because it is too restrictive. In the Netherlands there is a bill which would allow euthanasia for those older persons who feel their life is 'complete'. Medical suicide is accepted as the next logical step in a full but ageing life. Where such an ethic can thrive, it is no surprise that a woman with dementia in the Netherlands was euthanized against her will. She said she didn't want to die any more but was condemned by the wording in her advanced care directive. As the woman struggled against the injection she was forcibly held down by family members.

These are the days to be praying for Australia's legislative proposals. Without prayer our best efforts will be dry and brittle. With prayer and love we can infuse our letter-writing, our submissions, our presentations and our conversations with the vitality of the Church, the love of Christ and the protective motherhood of Mary herself.



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CWLA E-NEWSLETTER

If you would like a free subscription to the CWLA e-Newsletter please contact us at publicrelations@cwla.org.au

The CWLA e-newsletter is published quarterly.

WOMEN'S VOICE

Women's Voice is the Official Magazine of World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO). An annual subscription is \$22.00

League Members should contact their State International Secretaries if they would like to subscribe to Women's Voice.

FROM FR. JOHN HERD



One Mass I attended in Timor Leste this year went for four hours! It wasn't that the priest gave a long homily, rather there were 35 couples to be married. Father Natalino had asked them to make two groups, but those to be married thought that each should make their vows separately. Although somewhat lengthy, it was a ceremony of much dignity and meaning.

My main purpose of going to Timor Leste was to teach a course at the major seminary in Dili. There are 129 students for the three dioceses of East Timor, and the numbers are set to increase. While saying that, it is not uncommon for students to discontinue formation because of sickness. Malaria and other diseases continue to take their toll on the whole population, and seminarians are not exempt.

My visit this year was for two months, and this time I wanted to do some listening to women. Women in Timor Leste often seem to carry a heavy burden. Many women have a number of children, and they invariably work hard. So, I met with two groups of women, one was a group of widows I met through Caritas Dili. The five of them lost their husbands who died fairly young. Sharing their stories was not only informative for me, but seems to give each other more confidence. The main problem was finding money for their family; one lady relating how she might work a whole day selling second-hand clothes and

earning \$1. The other group of women was in a parish. There was a mixture of ages, and the younger ones were clearly wanting a change from the patterns of the previous generation. Again the sharing seemed to give confidence to all of them, and there was animated discussion about how to manage difficult home situations. My hope is that these groups might continue so that Catholic women might draw on their faith as a source of change and strength.

There is much talk about the coming election of the new president of the nation. That is due on 20 March and then in July elections are to be held for the national parliament. There is considerable confidence that violence which has marked previous elections is a thing of the past. It will be a significant sign of maturity as a developing nation that transition of political power can occur without violent recrimination.

Timor Leste is developing in many ways, and there are various businesses operating in Dili. But there is still much poverty in the small nation only one hour by air from Darwin. Of particular concern are the number of young people who come to the city looking for study and work. Often many young ones graduate from university and cannot find work. Many look to go overseas, to England, Ireland and even Korea in order to find work and send money back to family.



I stayed with a community of Christian Brothers, Comunidade Edmund Rice, who have been operating in Timor for 20 years. They are involved in community development programmes in the rural area of Railaco, while Brother Barry teaches English at the seminary.



Mary MacKillop International has developed an educational programme providing local schools with Tetum language resources. Palms Australia has volunteers and I was pleased to meet Peter and Margaret who are working in the Dili parish of Bedois. Peter is a retired teacher, and has taken up teaching English in the parish school while Margaret is using her expertise in early childhood learning.



I enjoyed my time in Timor Leste, as I always do. While contending with heat, humidity and mosquitos, the welcome of the people compensates many times over. We are neighbors and we can help each other.



Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love.

- Saint Teresa of Avila

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Our theme for 2017 is "Bringing His light to our World". As CWL women we take our work in this world very seriously knowing that we all do everything possible to "Bringing His light to our World".

CWLWA commenced its 2017 meetings on 23 January when State Executive members met in Australind in preparation for the State Council meeting held on 4 February at our Headquarters in Perth. We are grateful for the opportunity to utilise the meeting room at the Leschenault (Australind) Parish Church on occasions as it is conveniently situated about midway (150kms) between Manjimup and Perth and minimises the travel time for many! We know Skype is an option, but the old fashioned face to face meetings are still preferred at the moment!

At this early-ish stage of the year, there has already been involvement by councillors and branch members with ecumenical and outside organisations. As affiliate members of NCW and ACW, state councillors have attended the relative meetings and the celebration of International Women's Day and many branches reported their active participation at the World Day of Prayer services at various venues throughout the state. I was present at the Knights of the Southern Cross Founder's Day breakfast recently and another of our members represented CWL at the Anglican Mother's Union Lady Day service. We were also represented at the Notre Dame University Awards ceremony.

Our branches are well into the year's activities with a wide scope of ideas and interests being pursued. In Geraldton a member has launched her autobiography entitled "Unprepared for life", the Attadale branch members visited the Sisters Place in Fremantle where women living on the street can have a warm shower and a bed for the night, the Nedlands branch held its first meeting for 2017 with a picnic by the Swan

River, Applecross proudly welcomed a new member and are organising a guest speaker for a forthcoming meeting, Margaret River branch is arranging a Reflection and Faith development day, Busselton held its annual Sundowner welcoming all women of the parish, Albany has invited the State President and delegate to visit and assist with their membership drive, Mt Barker held a social gathering at a local eatery, Morley branch saddened by the recent deaths of a couple of members of longstanding is finding it difficult to recruit new members, Bunbury has taken on a new lease of life with a good turnout of members at its first meeting for the year and looks forward to celebrating 50 years in 2018, Leschenault branch handed out petition slips which will be taken to Fatima by a member and the Manjimup branch held a very successful cake and produce sale with funds raised to support the Seminary fund.

Membership building seems to loom large on the horizon particularly at the beginning of each year and we are hopeful of spreading the word in some of the Perth Archdiocesan parishes. So often the cry is that 'there are already a lot of other things happening in the parish and that CWL could be one too many groups to host'. But, if they only knew how CWL can benefit the parish priest and the parish as a whole, would they not welcome the organisation with open arms? We've heard the excuses, but we must find a way to encourage the building of our amazing league, we must enthuse the women of the parishes to want to join! Still a work in progress!

We are pleased to announce the 2017 CWLWA Notre Dame Scholarship recipient is Amelia Gal. Amelia lives in Pinjarra and is studying a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting/Human Resource Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and International Relations. We look forward to meeting her very soon to hear of her life's journey so far and her aspirations for the future.

Nominations have been called for all positions on State Council for 2018 and in particular the call for all members to consider that next step by becoming involved at a State level. The National Executive team for 2018 and 2019 has been announced and will be presented at the National Conference in Adelaide later this year. We are confident that these ladies will be ably supported by a flourishing State Council.

Our members are being encouraged to consider a plan to attend the CWLA National Conference in Adelaide in September. (A couple of Bunbury members have already booked their flights and accommodation!) We are investigating economical flight and accommodation options to make it possible for many more to come along as the National Executive 2018-19 from WA would love to be surrounded and supported by a great contingent of WA members.

On the social issues front in WA and with the election of a new government in Western Australia we are anticipating the introduction of a private member's Bill on assisted dying sometime this year. We know that this topic has been of great concern within other states in recent years. Our own particular focus is likely to involve taking into consideration a broader range of end of life issues including advance health care directives, which were introduced in WA in 2008. Wider use of these might well address many community concerns.

As we enter more deeply into the Easter season, I pray that as women of Christ in Catholic Women's League we may always see Jesus in those less fortunate around us and have hearts to serve. May we bring His Light to our World in ever increasing ways; to be an example of the Risen Lord to all!

In Charity, Work and Loyalty



Maria Parkinson
State President CWLWA (Inc.)

QUEENSLAND

On Saturday 11th of February, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the State Executive gathered with the delegates from Brisbane Archdiocese, Rockhampton Diocese and Townsville Diocese for our Annual General Meeting and a State Council Meeting. We celebrated Mass together with our Chaplain Father Peter Luton. As there were no

nominees for State President, I will continue in the position for 2017 -18. Many thanks to my team who have consented to continue this journey with me. I welcome Joanne Warburton as State Treasurer. Despite falling numbers and closure of branches, the delegates were very positive about the future of CWL in our state.

Although it had been decided at the State Conference in 2014 that the State Conference would always be held in the diocese where the President resides, the Council agreed that the next biennial conference would be held in Ayr, in the Townsville Diocese. This was for two reasons: we do not want CWL to be a South-East Queensland dominated organisation, and that there is renewed energy in the Townsville Diocese, with a new generation of younger working women from the Ayr branch ready to take office in August. When the last branch in the city of Townsville closed, they, mentored by Ellen Lund, showed great initiative in organising three events to publicise CWL in their area. Incoming Diocesan President Lee-Anne Holmes spoke at many Sunday Masses in the city of Townsville. The result of all this endeavour is that there is a new branch now operating in that city.

We are pleased that the proposed Abortion Reform Bills will not go ahead. I am sure that the many submissions, including ours, had an influence on the Enquiry Committee. Thank you again, Sonia! However, we cannot rest on this issue, as it will come up again in the next Parliament. These mothers and unborn babies must remain in our prayers.

All branches have begun their year with plans for activities to fund many charities and to help their parishes. Our State Project for 2017-18 will be to support a local shelter for homeless women and children. Prayer is the base of all our activities. Our prayers for vocations to the priesthood are bearing fruit, as the number of seminarians at our Holy Spirit Seminary at Banyo in Brisbane is growing. Many branches pray for a specific seminarian through to his ordination.

May all CWL members throughout our land have a wonderful year, as we live the Joy of the Gospel.

Veronica Box
President CWL State of Queensland.

New South Wales



WAUCHOPE local Ann Pereira was recently appointed President of the Catholic Women's League Australia - New South Wales Inc.

While the organisation holds a strong following of 1,200 members, Ann has goals to keep the organisation relevant and sustainable in to the future.

Last month, the State Council meeting was held in the Timbertown Motel with more than 30 delegates. A packed Agenda discussed items such as Membership growth, particularly within the younger generations.

"Today's society imposes increasing challenges on people as the dynamics and acceptance of change in our communities move with the times.

"The Catholic Women's League movement offer an inclusive place to meet new people and share our journey together.

"Our key principle is to advocate for the dignity of the human person and support women and their contribution to the community." said Miss Pereira. The League runs under the auspices of the Catholic church and has the approval of the NSW bishops.

"We focus on issues like social justice and bioethics.

"Social justice includes issues that affect people's lives like government legislation, homelessness

and poverty," she said.

"Bioethics include issues such as the abortion reform bills and the marriage equality bill because we believe they impact on families." says Miss Pereira.

"These issues are often difficult for people to discuss which is why it is so important to have the conversation."

"Members undertake charitable works through the local dioceses, nationally and overseas. One example is the support offered to women who have crisis pregnancies, to provide options beyond abortion.

"Further up the coast, we have assisted two women – one who gave up her baby for adoption and another who kept her baby. Both needed clothing, furniture and financial help," she says.

"The Catholic Women's League is a great organisation for women to develop strong friendships and share the ups and downs of life together." says its NSW president.

Reprinted from Wauchope Gazette March 16, 2017

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Our two resolutions, (Domestic Violence) and (Suicide) are moving along slowly but successfully. Barbara Mott and I were photographed in our SA paper The Advertiser in February with an article explaining a little of our actions towards supporting families experiencing these difficult events. I have distributed Lifeline wallet cards to members as I have attended local branch meetings. Clearview branch has had a very inspiring speaker on Domestic Violence (DV). Glenelg CWL branch are planning an evening meeting for the wider community with a guest speaker to talk on both topics. We are not trying to invent new programmes, only providing more members with support information. ►

Leonie Holmes, our WUWCO and Social Issues representative on The State CWL Executive, prepared a submission to go to the Joint Committee on matters relating to Elder Abuse. This was sent in March and as yet no reply has been received.

Many members attended World Day of Prayer in their suburbs. I participated in the City Day of Prayer at Scot's Church. We were delighted that one of the Filipino choirs was able to be with us. They wore beautiful bright coloured clothes and sang three songs in their first language. It was a great celebration for their country.

Carol Ganley, the new Archdiocesan President has implemented new ideas and activities for the Adelaide branch. At last month's meeting a member profile was introduced! We listened to Betty Back recount her journey in life with particular interest in her involvement with CWL. Most interesting! Even though we may have known some of our members for a long time, there always seem to be an aspect of someone's life we haven't heard before. Perhaps this could be a new item at your next meeting!

In the Adelaide Archdiocese an Office for Renewing Parishes has been active since 2016. They have a weekly e – newsletter which I have been fortunate to subscribe to. The articles cover many aspects of parish life in the archdiocese and one of the Directors is coming to speak with us in May. This I hope will generate much discussion for our members as part of their own parish. We need to invite younger members of our Catholic parishes to learn about and contribute to the ongoing work of many women who have supported women and families in the past.

As we travel towards the death and resurrection of Jesus, may His continued unconditional love for us shine in your heart and face for all to see.

Blessings,



Cecilia Quigley
State President



God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

- Saint Augustine

FROM THE WUCWO BOARD MEMBER AUSTRALIA

WUCWO day, 13 May, is fast approaching. This year the day is Saturday. The service is being prepared by the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. I know it is a vast region and I do not know which specific part of the region is preparing the service but as yet we have not received the Order of Service for the day.

2018 will be the year for the Asia Pacific Region to prepare the Order of Service for WUCWO Day. I ask you now to begin thinking about the prayers we will be able to use for that Special day. If we begin the preparations now, we will be advanced when the Secretariat request the prayers for the service. I am not sure if everyone realises this fact; but everything that comes from WUCWO has to be translated into the three official languages of WUCWO: English, Spanish and French.

2018 is also the year of the General Assembly. The General Assembly will be held in Dakar, Senegal on the continent of Africa from 15 – 22 October, 2018. The Theme for this General Assembly is: ‘WUCWO women, carriers of “Living Water” to a world which thirsts for Peace’. Hopefully, some of you will be able to attend this General Assembly.

The President General’s Monthly Message is available, to all with internet, on the WUCWO website which is: www.wucwo.org

Since this WUCWO Board mandate began in 2014 an e-newsletter has been presented each month with up-to-date information. WUCWO is always pleased when members submit relevant information for the newsletter. If forwarding photos please send them of high resolution for best results. This is also sourced on: www.wucwo.org

“Women’s Voice” WUCWO Magazine is produced three times per year and you may subscribe through your local Branch. This Magazine has articles from President General, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri; Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr Gerard Whelan SJ; Secretary General, Maria Lia Zervino and the Editor, Virginia Rivero Lozada plus there are articles from Board Members and members from all parts of the world. It is a very informative Magazine.

May Our Lord Queen of Peace be with us in these tumultuous days



Catherine V McGrath

WUCWO V/P Asia Pacific Region

WUCWO Board Member Australia



**“Act as if everything depended on you;
trust as if everything depended on God.”**

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

