



Australian Graduate Women Inc.

The Catalyst

Newsletter 2 – 2022

Invitation to Renew your Membership or Join Australian Graduate Women

Dear Members

We hope you are keeping well during these challenging times of an ongoing pandemic, changes in weather patterns and rising inflation. The impacts on women are greater than ever with significant challenges and the importance of higher education for women remains paramount.

We extend our thanks to those of you who have already committed to your membership for the 2022-23 year, and for those who are currently members and will renew in the near future. Your ongoing support and commitment to the endeavours of AGW is both appreciated and necessary for our Association to continue leading the conversation and initiatives in Education, especially higher education, for advancement and wellbeing of women and girls in Australia and across the world.

For those of you who are currently not members of AGW, this year is a great time to sign up as you may be able to benefit from all the exciting news and events that will occur in the next three months in our Centenary year. Please reach out if you have anything to share that we can include in our next newsletter.

We take the opportunity below to outline some of the many benefits available to you when you become a member:

AGW Membership Benefits

International Affiliation

Your membership allows you affiliation to **Graduate Women International**, (GWI: <https://graduatewomen.org/>). GWI, with headquarters in Geneva advocates for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education and training up to the highest levels. AGW is one of the 60 national affiliates of GWI and has representatives in UN deliberations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.



Stay Informed as part of Australian National Women's Alliances

AGW is a member of Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) which is one of the six Australian Women's Alliances of the Australian Federal Government Office of Women. AGW is also working towards becoming a supporter of the Harmony Alliance. The National Women's Alliances play a key role in understanding the experiences and issues affecting women in Australia and ensuring their voices are central in the policy development process. Further information is available via ([click here](#)). Your membership allows AGW to be part of the Alliance and other national women's organisations, such as the Economic Security for Women National Organisation (eS4W).

Fellowships

AGW offers three substantial and competitive Annual Fellowships to Women PhD candidates who are completing their PhD and are able to extend their projects. For more information please view our website ([click here](#))

Make a Difference

AGW monitors the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals in Australia, especially as related to education, health and gender (goals 3, 4 & 5) and the interconnections with the other goals ([click here](#)).

Special Announcement



AGW was successful in our application for Special Consultative Status with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC) – Social Inclusion.

Consultative status provides AGW with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, and attend special events organized by the President of the General Assembly.

This means AGW members and representatives can attend global events such as the Commission on the Status of Women, held annually in New York, and other events in Geneva & Vienna. More on this exciting news in a future newsletter.



Current News

Our Executive have been busy on global travels:

Georgia Griffin - AGW Secretary:

Georgia who is a nurse and midwife, and a Master's by Research student, travelled to the North American Refugee Health Conference. She reflects:

"I was fortunate to attend the North American Refugee Health Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, USA in June to present our research on the health information experiences of refugee background women from Myanmar, resettled in Australia."



Georgia second from left with fellow conference delegates

It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about working in partnership with CALD communities to research health problems and co-design solutions. I was also able to connect with other researchers and clinicians who viewed their work as an expression of their activism and advocacy.

This was clear when, on the second day of the conference, the sessions were paused to announce the Supreme Court decision on Roe v Wade. A spontaneous and emotive discussion followed about the impact this would have for refugee and asylum seeker background women who are particularly vulnerable to health inequity in the United States. While the Supreme Court decision was and continues to be jarring and surreal, I am grateful that I was able to witness the passion and commitment to women's rights that day."

Professor Shirley Randell, AO – AGW Convenor of International Relations

Shirley attended the 2022 CHOGM: Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the Third Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) Intergenerational Celebration, Kigali, Rwanda. Shirley writes:

"The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Rwanda in June 2022 was attended by over 2000 delegates from all 56 Commonwealth countries, representing some 2.5 billion people worldwide.



Shirley centre in red, with fellow panellists and delegates



The Commonwealth Conference was an opportunity for the countries to meet, organize and plan for the future. For the first time, CWF considered the **critical issue of intergenerational dialogue**, recognising and celebrating the contributions and diversity of women and girls of all ages, including older women. I was invited by the Minister for Women's Affairs and Family Promotion to participate in the Intergenerational Panel, which emphasised that the Commonwealth must integrate an understanding of the needs and rights of older women and men across its work.

The Panel recognised that women across their life course could experience multiple and intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination on the basis of their gender, age, sexual identity or disability, and that these could accumulate and be exacerbated in later life”.

Professor Jaya Dantas: President of AGW

Jaya was part of the WA Deputy Premier delegation to India. For the first time, the WA Government organised a Trade and Investment mission to four cities in India. This trade and investment delegation travelled to the cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Chennai.

The delegation explored streams of investment including: international education and migration, primary industries and agriculture, tourism and creative industries, mining and rare minerals, health and medical technologies.

Jaya represented Curtin University and the field of international education where she discussed international student recruitment, student and staff mobility and collaborative PhDs – all aspects relevant to AGW and SDG4.



Jaya Dantas far right in a traditional Indian Saree with Michelle Hoad, Director of North Metropolitan TAFE, WA in pink jacket, Nashid Chowdhury – the WA trade and investment commissioner for India & the Gulf and Prof Chris Lawrence – Dean Indigenous in Science and Engineering



GWI has opened registration for the 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference

Under the theme, **From Growth to Sustainability**, GWI is proud to be hosting the 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference virtually on 11-13 November 2022 in collaboration with the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations. Early bird registration is CHF 60 so we encourage members to participate if they can. It will be an online event.

As requested by GWI membership, the Early Bird Registration deadline for the GWI 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference has been extended until 31 October. [Click HERE](#) to register today so you will receive important information about the General Assembly and Conference. Details are also attached.

Save the Date – November 2022

Watch this space for imminent news on plans for celebrating our Centenary. we have an exciting line up of events and plans to mark the occasion in November 2022.

Please find attached the membership form to join or renew and a most recent report by UNESCO monitoring global education and SDG4.

We hope this [encourages](#) all current members to renew your membership and we hope to encourage you to ask one or two of your friends to also join us in our centenary year and help us to continue for many years into the future!

[Join AGW today by completing the attached membership form and send it to Alison Hayden: alihay1@bigpond.com](#)

AGW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to **their elders past and present.**