



# Australian Graduate Women Inc.

## *The Catalyst*

Newsletter 3 – 2021

### **Final Newsletter of 2022 and Wishes for the Holiday Season**

Dear Members,

As 2022 is coming to its end, we hope that you and your dearest and nearest are safe and sound. This has been a challenging year. We are all navigating life post lockdowns, closely following the news about the war in Ukraine, and dealing with the ongoing effects of global inflation.

Despite these challenges, AGW organised and planned a few events in its Centenary year, which we would like to highlight. We would also like to introduce the new AGW Executive Team and our 2022 successful scholarship recipients.

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

On behalf of AGW Executive, I wish you a best wishes for the festive season, and a wonderful time with your families. We look forward to engaging with you in 2023.

Warm wishes

Professor Jaya Dantas  
President, AGW





## The Australian Graduate Women Executive Team

Please join in welcoming the **AGW Executive Team** for the triennium 2022-2025: **Professor Jaya Dantas** – President; **Alison Hayden** – Treasurer; Dr **Zeny Edwards** – CIR; and Dr **Iryna Khodos** – Secretary. The information on the new executives is provided below.

On behalf of the AGW executive, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the previous executives, including Shirley Randell (former CIR) and Georgia Griffin (former Secretary), and also to AGW members. Your support and commitment to the endeavours of AGW is both appreciated and necessary for AGW to continue leading the conversation and initiatives in Higher Education for advancement and wellbeing of women and girls in Australia and across the world as the impacts of COVID-19, .

### Professor Jaya Dantas – President



**Professor Jaya Dantas** is Deputy Chair of the Curtin University Academic Board, Dean International and Dean, Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Professor of International Health, in the School of Population Health at Curtin University in Western Australia. Her career spans 35 years of leadership, research and teaching in India, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Australia and she has undertaken consultancies in Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Singapore and South Africa. Prof Dantas has been a delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York between 2015-2019. Her national leadership roles include - the

Global Gender Equality in Health Leadership Committee of Women in Global Health, Australia, President of Australian Graduate Women and International Health Convenor of Public Health Association of Australia. She brings a unique lived experience lens on global gender, diversity, education and health.

### Alison Hayden – Treasurer



**Alison Hayden** spent the first 23 years of her working life with the Commonwealth Bank. She completed a bachelor's degree in business and took 12 months long service leave to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education at NDA. She then worked as a Secondary Teacher of Accounting and Finance and other business/information technology related subjects for about 15 years in both rural and city secondary schools. She took a break from teaching from time to time and worked in Broome WA in a finance role for a charitable organisation. It was during her time in Broome that she gained experience in managing finances for charitable/not-for-profit organisations. In 1997, she also had the

opportunity to work for one year as a Teacher of English at a university in Wuhan in China. An interesting experience. Although now retired, she continues to use her knowledge to support four not-for-



profit/charitable organisations in maintaining financial records and also engages in contract work for the Department of Education in WA. A busy but enjoyable life.

### Dr Zeny Edwards – Convenor for International Relations



**Dr Zeny Edwards** is an architectural historian, award-winning biographer, and cultural heritage and human rights advocate. She has published a number of biographies and architectural histories. Zeny served in various lead roles: Immediate past-president of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education; president of the National Trust of Australia (NSW); chair of UN Women Australia (NSW), trustee of Women's Plans Foundation and Director of the UNAA Peace Program. Currently, Zeny serves as President of the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance, Vice-president of the World Citizens Association of Australia in charge of Asia Pacific Relations and has recently accepted to be a member of the Board of Museum of Understanding through Tolerance and Inclusion. Zeny is committed to serving the community and the preservation of heritage, which formed the basis of her citation for the Order of Australia Medal Award.

### Dr Iryna Khodos – Secretary



Dr Iryna Khodos is a Ukrainian-Australian academic, with specialisation in language education, bilingualism, and language practices in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities. Currently, she holds a research position at Curtin University, and a teaching position at the University of New England. She is also an invited member of the Australian Association for Research in Education, the Language Lab, and Cognition and Emotion Group. As a researcher, she engages in providing targeted language support for CaLD communities and improving language use experiences of a wide range of bilinguals. As an educator, she has ample experience fostering culturally inclusive education across Australia.

### The 2022 AGW Fellowships

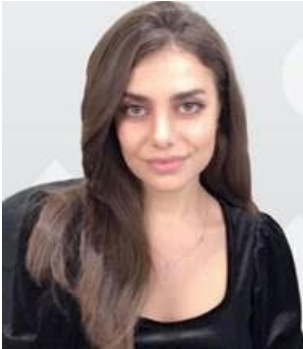
The 2022 AGW Fellowships were awarded to three outstanding PhD students: Emel Rothzerg, Sukanya Jaiswal and Jacinta Walsh. The information on recipients and their projects is given below. We congratulate scholarship recipients, and also extend our thanks to Jennifer Strauss, the Fellowship Officer for overseeing the process, and the assessors for their time in reviewing the applications.



## Our 2022 Successful AGW Fellowships Recipients

### 2022 Barbara Hale Fellowship Recipients

#### Emel Rothzerg



**Emel Rothzerg** is a doctoral candidate at the School of Biomedical Science at the University of Western Australia. Her PhD project title is ***Integrating bioinformatics and molecular biology to identify novel genetic markers and treatment options for osteosarcoma***. It aims to discover novel diagnostic biomarkers for paediatric and adult osteosarcoma (bone cancer) that can identify the disease early, as well as accurately monitor disease progression. The AGW Barbara Hale Fellowship will help Emel to develop a novel therapeutic agent for osteosarcoma using gene therapy techniques.

#### Sukanya Jaiswal



**Sukanya Jaiswal** is a clinical optometrist and PhD candidate at School of Optometry & Vision Science at University of New South Wales. Her PhD project title is ***Smoke in your eyes: Impact of bushfire smoke on eyes***. It is designed to investigate the short- and long-term impacts of bushfire smoke exposure on the eye surface. The AGW Fellowship will enable Sukanya to carry out cutting-edge research at the newly established Pyrotron facility at the Fire Centre, University of Tasmania. This work will strengthen her doctoral thesis and teach her unique research skills necessary for an independent environmental health researcher.

### 2022 Jennifer Strauss Fellowship Recipient

#### Jacinta Walsh



**Jacinta Walsh** is a PhD Candidate and a research officer at the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre in the School of Philosophical, Historical, and International Studies at Monash University. Her PhD research focuses on ***how colonisation has influenced Aboriginal people both historically and to this day***. With care and compassion, Jacinta's PhD thesis will tell her family's story of cultural connection, disconnection, reconnection, and healing, through a cultural lens. The fellowship will enable Jacinta to take her three teenage sons to their ancestral lands in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. The reflections from this transformative journey will inform her thesis.





## Distinguished Panel Webinar as part of the AGW Centenary Celebrations

On 26 November 2022, AGW hosted the Centenary 2022 Distinguished Panel Webinar **Women Making a Difference**. The webinar brought together outstanding women academics to share their stories and discuss the importance of higher education for women. The discussion was organised in two parts:

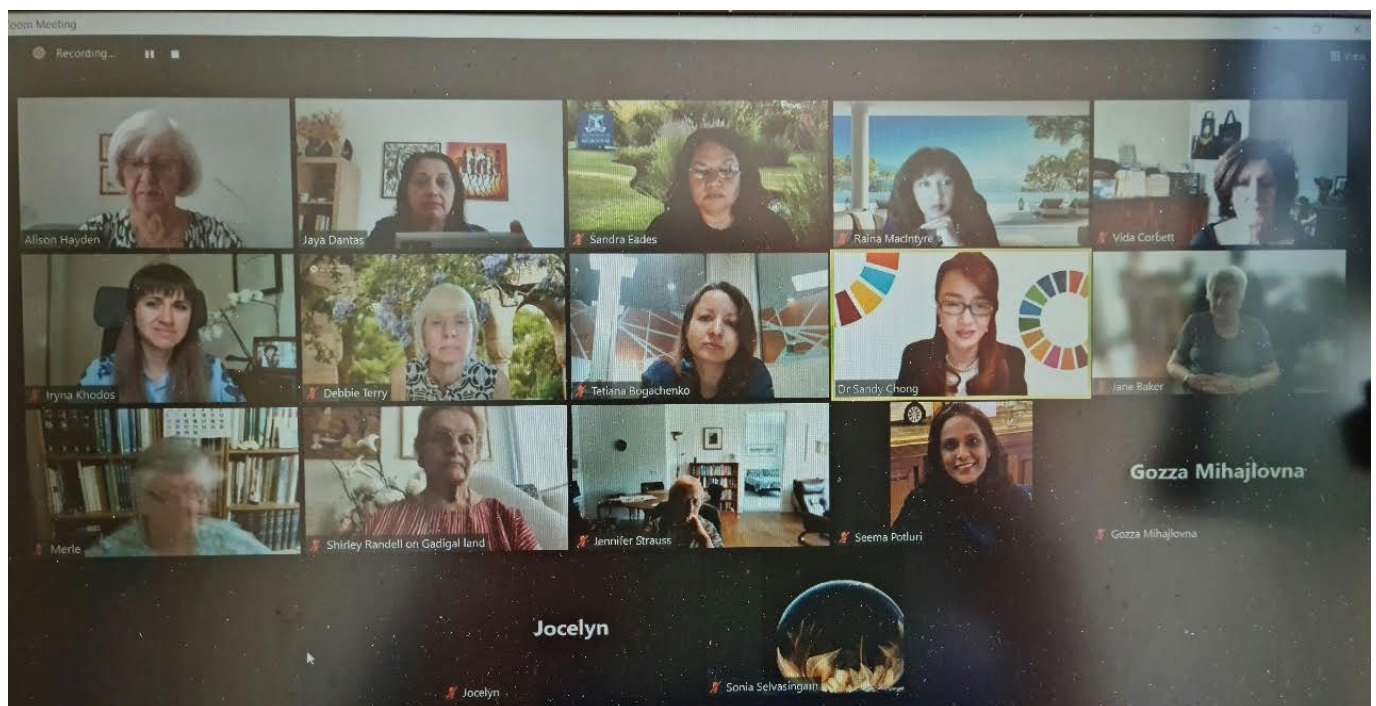
### Part 1: Journeys of Strength and Resilience - The Uncontested Power of Education

Professor Deborah Terry, AO, Vice-Chancellor, University of Queensland

- Professor Sandra Eades, AO, Associate Dean, Indigenous, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
- Professor Raina MacIntyre, MBBS Hons 1, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM, Professor of Global Biosecurity, NHMRC Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Biosecurity Program, Kirby Institute, UNSW, Australia.
- Dr Sandy Chong, A Harvard alumna and Founder of Verity Consulting
- Dr Morley Muse, a Chemical, Environmental and Renewable Energy Engineer

### Part 2: Sharing Reflections of the War in Ukraine and Impacts for Women and Education

Dr Tetiana Bogachenko & Dr Iryna Khodos- - both Ukrainian Australian academics



On behalf of the AGW, we would like to thank all the presenters for participating in the webinar and sharing their lived experiences with AGW members.

***A link to the recording of the webinar will be shared with members in the next few weeks.***



## Special Scholarships for the AGW Centenary

AGW offered one-off three special scholarships as part of our centenary celebrations we received generous donations from a couple of our members. The scholarships closed on 15 November 2022 and will be finalised in January 2023. For those members who wish to donate to the AGW Centenary Scholarships, the account details are:

GW NSW Education Trust – BSB 012013 account no. 318852975

## The Commission on the Status of Women 2023



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

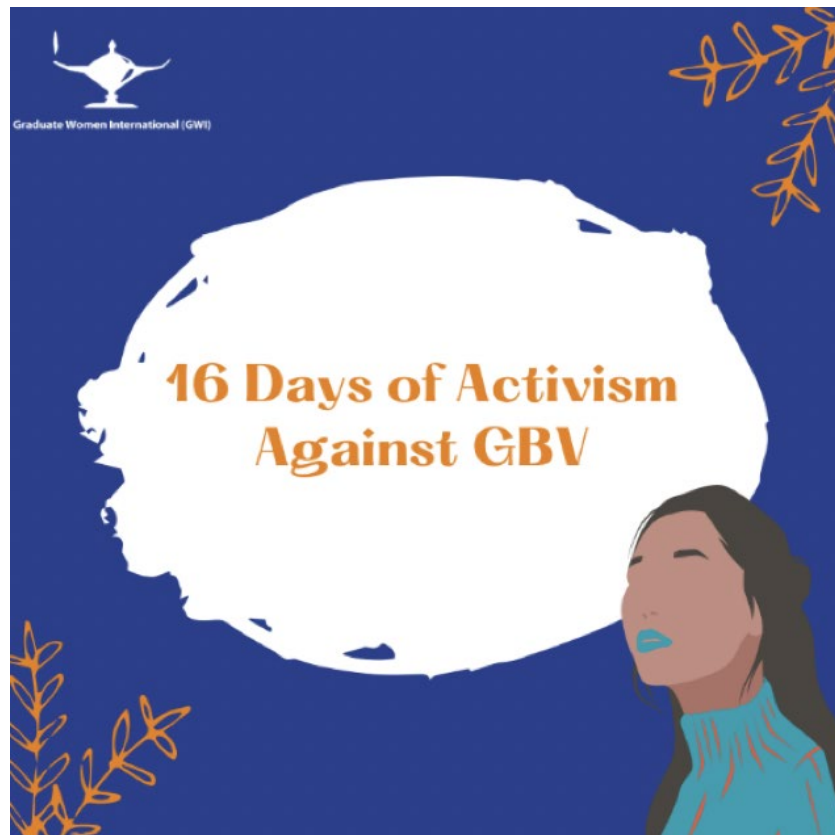
AGW was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC) – Social Inclusion, as a result **20 (twenty) AGW members** can now attend **the Commission on the Status of Women** which will take place in New York from 6 to 17 March 2023.

The registration for this exciting event is currently open and will close on 27 January 2023. For more information, see the official website: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw67-2023>.

The AGW members interested in attending the event, please contact Professor Jaya Dantas at [jaya.dantas@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jaya.dantas@curtin.edu.au) by **15 January 2023**.



## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence 2022



This year, the United Nations marked **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** under the theme ***UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls.***

To show our solidarity, Graduate Women International ran a social media advocacy campaign. The campaign included 16 quotes for inspiration and reflection related to GBV; 16 things that men can do to be allies and prevent GBV as well as 16 posts about GBV in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information on the 16 Days of Activism social media pack, check out this link [https://www.canva.com/design/DAFSTMFaW\\_A/muawlC-YgPuqUg0-xWStRw/view?utm\\_content=DAFSTMFaW\\_A&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton#1](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFSTMFaW_A/muawlC-YgPuqUg0-xWStRw/view?utm_content=DAFSTMFaW_A&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton#1)

## International Migrants Day: December 18, 2022

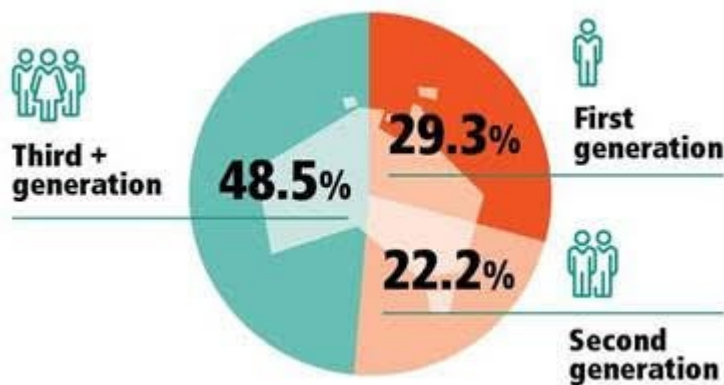
**More than 280 million people have left their countries to pursue “opportunity, dignity, freedom, and a better life”, the UN chief said on [International Migrants Day](#).** Migration is a gendered process and impacts women and men differently: It is entrenched in a globalized sexual division of labour in which there is a demand for women migrant workers in specific service sectors, such as domestic and care work.





We acknowledge the recent [International Migrants Day](#) (on 18 December 2022) in recognition of the important contributions made by migrants, while highlighting the challenges they face. Migrants are a source of prosperity, innovation, and sustainable development and contribute greatly to the richness of the social and cultural landscapes of their countries of origin, transit and destination.

Australia is a thriving multicultural country and each year we welcome new migrants to our growing community. The proportion of Australian residents that are born overseas (first generation) or have a parent born overseas (second generation) has now moved above 50 per cent (51.5 per cent) according to the 2021 Census.



Three of the four members of the AGW Executive are migrant women to Australia and continue to contribute to their communities in Australia and globally.

### 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.



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