

Annual Report 2021

We are proud to support women and children from diverse backgrounds. This year, members supported women and children from over sixty countries of origin, including:

Afghanistan; Africa; Australia (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders); Bangladesh; Belgium; Bosnia; Brazil; Burundi; Canada; Cambodia; Central Africa; Chile; China; Columbia; Congo; Cook Islands; Egypt; England; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Fiji; Germany; Ghana; Hong Kong; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Ivory Coast; Iran; Iraq; Jamaica; Japan; Kenya; Korea; Liberia; Malaysia; Mauritius; Morocco; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Russia; Samoa; Scotland; Sierra Leone; Slovakia; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Syria; Taiwan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Venezuela; Vietnam; and Zimbabwe.



*- One of many virtual meetings -
Thank you to all CWRG members.
Wishing you all the best for 2022!*



Combined Women's Refuge Group

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The CWRG unites domestic and family violence refuges to advocate for women and children's right to live a life free from violence.

Chairperson's report

I start by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the lands where we gather each month, to pay my respects to Elders past and present and to emerging community leaders. I also acknowledge the many communities in which our member refuges operate. A list of women and children's countries of origin form part of this report.

Thank you again to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Social Work Services team for raising money for End of School Year / Christmas gifts for children living in refuge. The team at the Office of the Deputy Director General Environmental Policy and Programs also contributed to this program. In addition, we received puddings from The Pudding Lady for women and children in refuge.

This year has been one of advocacy, including: The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce; The Regulatory Framework; Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Data Project; Housing and Domestic and Family Violence Roundtables; and National Summit on Women's Safety.

COVID-19 and an increase in domestic and family violence has sadly continued for women and children. Our work with QDVSN achieved continued COVID-19 funding for members. Unfortunately, refuge core funding has not yet increased.

We have continued to advocate for women without income and are pleased to see headlease opportunities coming to fruition.

In addition to providing a key forum for members, the CWRG welcomed guest speakers from the

Dept of Justice and Attorney-General, The Services Union, NDIS, Challenge DV (formerly Australia's CEO Challenge), BeyondDV, WorkUP, QUT, Broken to Brilliant and PWC.

Thank you to our partner, ChallengeDV, who has continued their support, including funding the translation of our brochure into 15 languages. Thank you to Karen for coordinating 'Advocating Accurately', training. We are forming a new partnership with WorkUP to develop training and a donation from Zonta Brisbane Sunrise will assist in its delivery.

I also thank all CWRG members for your contributions and strength. Thank you to the Executive Committee and the Secretariat for your skills and tenacity.

Rosemary Larkin, Chairperson

CWRG Executive Committee 2020-2021

Chairperson
Rosemary Larkin
Macleod

Vice Chair
Sue Clark
Koongoora

Secretary
Catherine Johns
Women's Crisis Support Service Inc.

Treasurer
Bernadette O'Byrne
Windana Support Centre

General Members

Valda Carrington
Maybanke
Accommodation & Crisis Support Service

Liz Giles
Save the Children

Succeeded by
Carrie Colonna
Chisholm

Treasurer's report

Year ended 30th June 2021

As the Combined Women's Refuge Group of Southeast Queensland enters its 43rd year, lockdowns and social restrictions have seen continued high rates domestic and family violence.

Members have again worked tirelessly to support women and children this year.

Members have also supported each other with new support meetings for refuge workers starting this year thanks to Lauren's leadership.

I would like to thank Nancy, our Secretariat, for the hours of work she has put into the CWRG, assisting us achieve our member connection and advocacy goals.

I would also like to acknowledge ChallengeDV for their valuable contributions to the CWRG. Without their support, it would be very difficult to afford our Secretariat and other valuable CWRG projects.

In the last financial year, Australia's CEO Challenge paid \$4530.02 towards Secretariat wages. Memberships yielded a total of \$4600.

Thank you to all members who have ensured that the CWRG remains a strong organisation that can continue to support women and children escaping domestic violence. Special thanks to Executive Committee members, especially Rosemary, our Chairperson, for your collaborative leadership.

Bernadette O'Byrne, Treasurer