

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

Afghanistan, Australia; including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Britain, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, including Fijian-Indians, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian, Rwanda, Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, USA, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Annual Report 2020



*Thank you to all CWRG members.
Wishing you all the best for 2021!*



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 countries of origin form part of this report.

At the end of 2019, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Social Work Services team contacted the CWRG to form a Christmas Appeal partnership. Thank you to the Social Workers who raised over \$1000 for women and children living in refuge.



RBWH Social Work Services Team & CWRG Secretariat

The 2020 calendar year started with business-as-usual with advocacy working parties and events, such as a 'Strangulation Prevention' workshop, partnering with yourtown and the Red Rose Foundation. Thank you to Karen from yourtown for initiating this workshop.

The world changed overnight, with the pandemic and predicted increase in domestic and family violence. Unfortunately, this increase was experienced by women and children. In May, Queensland convened a COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Summit. An increase in funding was gratefully received.

We have continued to advocate for women without income. Thank you to Cecilia from IWSS for your leadership on this important issue.

In addition to providing a forum for refuges and sector services to meet, the CWRG has welcomed many guest speakers including representatives from the Qld Dept of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Qld Dept of Housing and Public Works, Tenancy Skills Institute, WorkUP Queensland, the Services Union and Women's Health Qld.

Thank you to Australia's CEO Challenge for their continued strong support, including funding for a brochure.

I also thank all CWRG members for your contributions, dignity and strength.

Thank you also to the Executive Committee members and the Secretariat who continue to improve refuge connection and advocacy.

Rosemary Larkin, Chairperson

CWRG Executive Committee 2019-2020

Chairperson
Rosemary Larkin
Macleod

Vice Chair
Sue Weatherill
Mary & Martha's

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

Sue Clark
Koongoora

Special thanks to Save the Children for our regular meeting space.

Treasurer's report

Year ended 30th June 2020

As the Combined Women's Refuge Group of Southeast Queensland enters its 42nd year, coronavirus lockdowns and social restrictions have produced a surge in domestic and family violence and the number of women and children seeking refuge.

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

I would like to thank Nancy, our wonderful Secretariat, for all the hours of work she has put into the CWRG. The many extra hours responding to emails, answering telephone calls, coordinating and attending extra meetings, has not gone unnoticed.

I would also like to acknowledge Australia's CEO Challenge for their valuable contributions to the CWRG. Without them we would struggle, as we have done in the past, to afford our secretariat and other projects we have commenced.

In the last financial year, Australia's CEO Challenge paid \$6391.32 towards Secretariat wages. Memberships yielded a total of \$5800.

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