



Australian Federation
of **Medical Women**
the voice of australian medical women

afmw.org.au

Annual Report 2012

17 November 2012

AFMW PATRON:
Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia



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The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW)

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Statement of Purpose

We offer our members, colleagues and the community access to the collective knowledge and experiences of medical women and seek to ensure equity and equality for women doctors to achieve their potential throughout all stages of their professional lives.

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) was formed in 1927 to promote and develop the formal practice of medicine among women.

It is the only national body that exclusively represents the views of female medical practitioners, and is a non-profit, non-government organisation with affiliated state member bodies.

Our Vision The voice of Australian medical women advocating for, and supporting the health and welfare of our local, national and international communities.

Patron's Message



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Message from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
for the Australian Federation of Medical Women

As the Patron of the Australian Federation of Medical Women, I am delighted to know of your successes in supporting medical women and contributing to our community. During the last year AFMW has embraced new and continuing challenges that face women who are dedicated to supporting, championing and delivering services to improve health and wellbeing. The AFMW's response to various government and industry reports is also a valuable contribution.

The AFMW provides a reassuring presence, a role defined by the equality it fosters for our medical women. I commend the AFMW on the success of diligently obtaining an equal opportunity exemption. I also admire the important contribution the AFMW makes to the personal and professional development of practitioners within a compassionate and supportive network.

I commend the affirmative actions the AFMW takes, and its continued leadership that not only supports women doctors, but importantly, addresses community issues as well.

11 September 2012.

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President's Report



AFMW PRESIDENT
Dr Desiree Yap

As you can see overleaf, it has been another busy year for the AFMW. The AFMW is an organisation of volunteers who often can't help being advocates, and we all are busy medical women also juggling our various responsibilities to families, friends and patients. When I look at the list of things we have done, I wonder how we all fit it in? Perhaps though, it would be more interesting to consider why we all fit it in.

A lot of people, when asked about the various medical women's organisations, seem to think that we are some kind of (grouped together and indistinguishable) 'radical feminist' organisation who are implicitly 'anti-men'. Personally, with managing a six and eight year old, the rest of the family and my medical practice, I feel too tired to be a radical feminist! I am also very grateful to the man who facilitated my transition to motherhood, despite the exhaustion that brought with it, and appreciate the many other men in my life.

I know I am not the only one who struggles with the meaning of 'a feminist organisation', or the thought "what's so bad about being a feminist?", or reflect on "Is there a need for a medical women's organisation to exist?"

At the AFMW, we spend a lot of time thinking about equality and equity, particularly for women. It doesn't take much research to demonstrate why organisations like ours benefit both individuals and society as a whole. Whilst a lot of our focus is on women, including promoting equality and equity in medical women's lives, particularly professionally, focusing on achieving equality and equity affects everyone positively: men, women and children. In my experience we don't think a lot about feminism, feminist theory and philosophy. Like most medical doctors, we like actions and outcomes.

Whilst I am not of a generation that finds this natural, I have fallen in love with 'Wiki'. I implore you to spend a few minutes checking the Wiki definitions of 'feminism' 'feminists', 'feminist theory' "radical feminism" and 'patriarchy'. I certainly found the simple exercise illuminating. As an example, I didn't find the following definition very radical or subversive:

'Feminism is a collection of movements and ideologies aimed at defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic and social rights for women...' <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism>

Our founding forebears fought for women to be able to go to university, to study medicine, to be allowed to work, to be allowed to be married and work, to be paid equally for equal work and to vote. It would seem they were indeed 'Radical Feminists' in their time. However, we now consider being able to do all those things as normal. Where would we be without those women who in their time were so 'radical' and courageous?

So where does that leave us today? There is nothing radical in opposing exploitation of women and children, nor in abhorring violence. Most of us take the idea of wanting an equal and equitable society for granted, and appreciate that for many globally this is not the case. As a specific example, most of us think there should be equal pay for equal work.

So why do I do it? Because I think these things are important and worth striving for. The AFMW is a great vehicle for meeting like-minded people and for producing action. We have a history to prove it. Therefore, I am off to channel the courage of my forbears to continue to speak up about the difficult issues. Please enjoy this report.

Dr Desiree Yap, President, AFMW

President's Report Continued

It has been another busy and successful year for the AFMW.

AFMW achievements this year:

Ongoing:

- Progress with the Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors project, which advocates for a long-term model of care for survivors of sexual violence
- Continuation of Her Excellency, the Governor General Quentin Bryce as Patron
- Increasing content and traffic on the AFMW website, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter
- The AFMW's quarterly newsletter with additional e-news fliers to remind us of key events
- Expansion of the Leadership Skills Database
- 'Thank You Initiative' where we thank and recognise our mentors
- AFMW representation and consultation to various government and industry bodies
- Involvement in gender-related issues with the medical training colleges, industrial issues for doctors in training, particularly (but not exclusively) female doctors in training and the Australian Medical Student's Association.

New Initiatives:

- Endorsement of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's anti-racism campaign.
- Development of a Draft Position Statement on Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery.
- Signatory to the National Compact. The National Compact is an agreement between the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector to find new and better ways of working together based on mutual trust, respect and collaboration.
- Contribution to an online discussion with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57) that sought to bring together civil society organisations and worldwide experts in the field of violence against women. Findings will be used by the UN Women to inform two UN Secretary-General's reports for the 57th Commission on the Status of Women and guide the discussion of CSW members. They will also be published online in a report on the key themes of the discussion.
- Endorsement of the Innovation and Development Program: PACTS - an innovative primary care program advancing competency to support family violence survivors. The AFMW is a member of the reference group of this project.
- Submission of a nomination to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.
- Endorsement of the Stella Prize which promotes and raises the profile of writing by women across genres. It is a significant achievement that the prize is Australia's first major literary prize for women's writing.
- Equal Opportunity Exemption. This enables the AFMW and the Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS) to have the option to restrict attendance at meetings, functions, seminars, conferences and events to women only (the exempt conduct) when deemed appropriate.
- Submission of feedback to the Western Australian Labor's discussion paper - Violence in Our Homes: Protecting the Vulnerable.
- Response to the Consultation Draft: Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.
- Submission to the Senate Committee Enquiry into adoption practices.

Dr Desiree Yap, President, AFMW

National Co-ordinator's Report



AFMW NATIONAL CO-
ORDINATOR
Assoc Prof Deb Colville

Ongoing collaboration with our national and international colleagues.

- International collaboration.** The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) international meeting is held every three years. The 29th MWIA International Congress will be held in Seoul, Korea during 31 July - 3 August, 2013. With plans well underway for Seoul, the Scientific Program call for abstracts in 2013 is imminent.
- MWIA Ethics and Resolutions Committee process.** All published resolutions, with a cross index will be published on the MWIA website before the Seoul meeting. These will include resolutions contributed from Sydney 2001, Japan 2004, Ghana 2007, and Munster, Germany 2010.
- Policy Activities.** The MWIA issued a press release entitled the 'Launch of European Campaign to End Prostitution'. A draft report has been produced in relation to female genital surgery. The aim is to produce a press release coinciding with publicity for these procedures in mainstream obstetrics and gynaecology. The press release will be framed as an MWIA resolution, promoting individual rights to choose, and human rights for women in the context of systemic sexism in medical practice. AFMW members can raise issues via the MWIA resolutions process in Seoul by contacting Deb Colville or Susie Close.
- Succession planning in MWIA.** A regional teleconference has been held with contributions from the countries in the Western Pacific region (WP), including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan and Phillipines. There is a set order for rotation of the location of regional meetings, and for Vice President (VP) for the Western Pacific. At present our WP VP is Dr Rosa Maria Nancho from the Phillipines. Australia held the WP meeting in Melbourne in 2008, the year after the Ghana meeting. The next meeting was to have been held in Japan in 2011, but as its timing unfortunately coincided with the early aftermath of the tragic earthquake there, it was cancelled. Our next WP regional meeting will be in 2014.
- Regional Meetings.** These are advertised on the MWIA website. There are 8 MWIA regions, which match the World Health Organisation's (WHO) world regions. All AFMW members are eligible to attend all MWIA regional meetings. Contact our AFMW secretariat (via afmw@afmw.org.au) if you'd like to participate in WHO and United Nations (UN) meetings. The recent Central Asia regional conference, an example of an MWIA regional meeting, was held in October 2012, at the Imperial Mae Ping, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- Young MWIA.** Topics include inspirational women leaders internationally. Its 2011 magazine highlighted a formal Australian Medical Women's mentoring program in NSW authored by Dr Emily Gregory-Roberts.
- MWIA journal.** A pilot program is underway to 'test the waters' on an MWIA peer-reviewed journal.

Associate Professor, Deb Colville, National Co-ordinator, AFMW

Secretary's Report



AFMW Secretary,
Webmaster & Newsletter
Editor
Dr Jillian Tomlinson

The AFMW has been an early adopter of internet technologies, offering its members many avenues to communicate and connect online. Since 2008 we've been teaching medical women how to edit websites and communicate online and you can now find us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We love that these sites allow Australian medical women to meet, communicate, collaborate and recognise the achievements of others.

Due to the ongoing efforts of hardworking volunteer medical students and doctors the AFMW enjoyed significant successes and growth in 2011-12. Membership has grown nationally in 2011-12 with impressive growth in states where there are no current official medical women's societies. In 2011 we welcomed representatives from the Northern Territory (Dr Namiko Kobayashi), Western Australia (Sophie McCarthy) and South Australia (Lisa Raven) to our Committee. In March 2012

Western Australian medical student representative Sophie McCarthy organised a High Tea to celebrate International Women's Day. This event created significant Western Australian interest and gained over 60 new WA members. I am very proud to see the great results of our mentoring relationships and look forward to seeing further growth and successes in coming years.

Our focus on improving governance has included updates to our Constitution; member names from individual state societies have been requested and updated. Efforts to tighten our reporting processes and committee meeting processes have increased our organisational efficiency. Work continues on our application for affiliation with the United Nations Department of Public Information, Non-Government Organisations (UN DPI/NGO) and our application for tax deductible status. Our Secretariat (Melissa Morey) has received and responded to increasing numbers of enquiries from members and stakeholders, providing invaluable support to our volunteer committee.

One of the major AFMW highlights occurred at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal where the AFMW and the Victorian Medical Women's Society were granted an anti-discrimination exemption under the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. This exemption allows the AFMW the option to have women's only attendance at meetings, functions, seminars, conferences and events.

We have been delighted to recognise the achievements of medical women through the launch of our Thank You Initiative, and to use our Leadership Database to offer interested doctors opportunities to provide their expertise and opinions to health policy makers and other organisations that approach the AFMW for advice.

Dr Jillian Tomlinson, Secretary, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, AFMW

Secretary's Report Continued

Communications & Media

Website



Our website (<http://afmw.org.au>) continues to feature regular new content that is relevant to Australian female medical students and doctors. Website traffic is predominantly driven through search engines, with notable spikes in traffic associated with our quarterly eNewsletters.

Ongoing website training has been provided to state members and Assistant Webmaster position descriptions have been developed with positions advertised nationally. These positions will increase our capacity to bring new content to members; the selected individuals will be provided with website and social media management training and opportunities to develop and enhance their online communication skills.

AFMW eNewsletter



Our quarterly electronic newsletter continues to be a major method of contact with members and stakeholders, with subscription rates climbing to record levels. Direct communications with Australian rural students' societies increased our reach to rural students.

Reciprocal advertising arrangements have been negotiated for a variety of conferences that are directly relevant to our members, such as the 11th National Rural Health Conference, the 3rd Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium, the National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference and the Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference. The eNewsletter has received eNewsletter sponsorship from Investec, vConsult, The Lifestylers Group, and the Australasian Vehicle Buying Service.

Facebook



This year the AFMW Facebook Group has migrated to the AFMW Facebook Page. This new Facebook platform offers our members networking opportunities. The AFMW uses Facebook to communicate messages about events, opportunities and news. The AFMW also cross-posts on state medical women's societies Facebook pages, predominantly regarding new eNewsletter releases.

Twitter



We have embraced Twitter, establishing a Twitter account (@AFMWorgau) and connecting with hundreds of Twitter users including large numbers of Australian not-for-profit organisations and women's organisations. A daily newsletter has been created of moderated tweets on gendered issues and from accounts that the AFMW follows.

LinkedIn



In April 2011 we launched a LinkedIn group that affords Australian medical women online professional networking opportunities. The group is 'closed', with entry limited to female Australian doctors and medical students. Women can participate in the discussion forums with their comments visible only to other Australian doctors and medical students. Discussion topics underway include mentoring, pregnancy, social media policy and career advice.



Australian Federation of Medical Women

the voice of Australian medical women

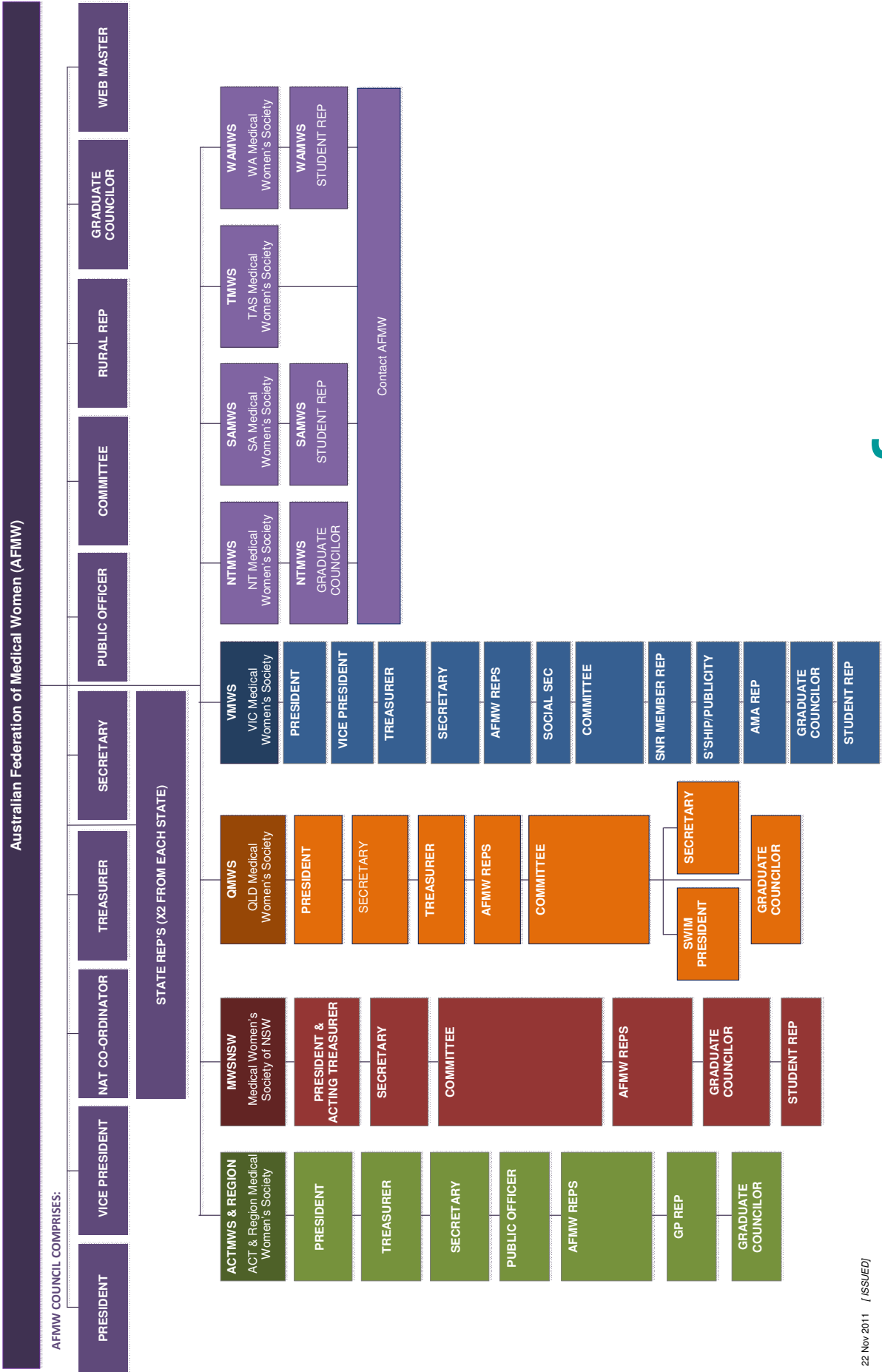
Philosophy

The AFMW's philosophy is enshrined in these key principles:

Caring	For all persons in the Australian community, particularly women and children.
Respect	Promote respect for diversity and difference.
Service	Motivated by free will and the absence of any financial or nonfinancial gain.
Equity	Achieving fairness while recognising different experiences, needs, levels of power, access and expectations and ways of expressing illness.
Equality	The absence of bias, for all people, in opportunities and the allocation of resources with the purpose of achieving equitable outcomes.
Human Rights	Uphold the principles of human rights as defined by the United Nations.
Gender Competence	Promote gender competence in knowledge, education, research and health service provision, reflecting the capacity to identify where difference, on the basis of gender, is significant and act in ways that produce more equitable outcomes for women and men.
Development	Further the development of medical women through education and research, particularly in relation to the health of women and children.

History

- 1896 Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS)
- 1919 Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)
- 1921 Medical Women's Society of New South Wales (MWSNSW)
- 1927 Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW)
- 1937 Queensland Medical Women's Society (QMWS)
- 1950+ SA, WA, ACT, Tasmania Medical Women's Societies
- 1995 Supporting Women In Medicine (SWIM), student organisation, University of Queensland



Profile

Organisation Profile

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) aims to further the professional development of medical women through education and research, and to improve the health and welfare of all Australians — especially women and children.

The AFMW participates in health-policy development and service delivery, increasing women's voices in existing national academic and health areas so that the contributions of medical women can be fully realised and their skills fittingly applied to meet the medical education and healthcare needs of all Australians.

The AFMW's advocacy involves many and varied activities on behalf of its constituents and in the general health field, including:

- addressing sexual violence, discrimination, bullying, harassment, domestic violence and occupational violence
- informing governments about medical women's perspectives (latterly this has included meetings with policy advisors and participating in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), round-table discussions); promoting and facilitating professional mentoring, providing leadership skills training to medical women
- examining provisions for flexible training and retraining to promote workplace retention and re-entry of female doctors

Memberships and Affiliations

The AFMW is affiliated with the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA), the international umbrella for all the national medical women's societies. The MWIA is actively involved with the United Nations (UN) as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and UNICEF. It is represented on the Board of the General Council of International Organisation of the Medical Sciences, and has NGO-observer status to the World Medical Association (WMA). The MWIA's aims are to:

- promote co-operation between medical women from different countries and to develop friendship and understanding between medical women worldwide
- actively work against gender-related inequalities in the medical profession between female and male doctors, including career opportunities and economic aspects
- offer medical women the opportunity to meet, to confer questions concerning the health and well-being of humanity, and
- overcome gender-related differences in health and healthcare between women and men, girl-children and boy-children throughout the world

AFMW membership confers automatic membership of the MWIA. The MWIA provides its members with the opportunity to exchange ideas, medically and personally, with colleagues from other nations.

Profile Continued



AFMW Objectives as an MWIA Affiliate

1. To stimulate, encourage and promote the entry of women into the medical sciences and help them to optimally use their medical training.
2. To foster friendship, respect and understanding among medical women throughout the world, without regard to race, religion or political views.
3. To afford medical women the opportunity to meet at stated times to consider problems together and foster the co-operation of medical women in matters of health.
4. To promote the interest of medical women in all matters relating to their professional work through continuing education and other means.
5. To act for and represent medical women in all matters of mutual interest at national and international levels, and, in particular, in relation to the further education of Australian medical women.

The AFMW has contributed a segment dedicated to violence against women and children on the new MWIA website. The website also includes relevant articles and links. The AFMW has been actively working in this area since 2010, when we ran the “Happy Healthy Women: Not Just Survivors” project in partnership with the Australian Women’s Coalition, with the aim of improving the longterm healthcare of survivors of sexual violence.

The AFMW is also a member of the Australian Women’s Coalition (AWC) (a group of women’s organisations that works collaboratively to advance the status of women, by presenting the views of Australian women to Government) and the Equality Rights Alliance (formerly WomenSpeak) Network, a non-government secretariat that provides representative advice on policy issues affecting women, including childcare, women’s health, women’s leadership, young women, the role of men and boys in gender equity and violence against women).

AFMW: Acting for and representing medical women in all matters of mutual interest at national and international levels and, in particular, in relation to the further education of Australian medical women

Executive and Council Members



AFMW PRESIDENT
Dr Desiree Yap
Committee, Victorian Medical
Women's Society

Desiree Yap is an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with a Masters Degree in Public Health and Tropical Medicine who has appointments at Monash Medical Centre and The Royal Women's Hospital. She is also currently working part-time in her East Melbourne Private Practice and has two young children. Before motherhood, Desiree traveled widely, working both in rural and remote Australia as well as overseas including with the WHO. Desiree believes the Medical Women's Societies spring from fine traditions, and that as one who has reaped the benefits of those who went before, in addition to having strong feelings about social justice, feels a responsibility towards maintaining the organisation and fulfilling the organisation's aims.



AFMW TREASURER
Dr Sharon Tivey
President & Acting Treasurer
Medical Women's Society of
NSW

Sharon Tivey is an Anaesthetist, working mainly in the public hospital system. Her undergraduate training was at The University of Sydney followed by postgraduate training in Sydney and Virginia, USA. She enjoys teaching and is a Conjoint Senior Lecturer at the UNSW. She is an examiner for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Final Examination, a Supervisor of Training and has editorial duties with "Anaesthesia and Intensive Care". She has been involved with the Medical Women's Society of NSW since internship and has been the AFMW Treasurer for several years.



**AFMW SECRETARY &
WEBMASTER**
Dr Jillian Tomlinson
Committee, Victorian Medical
Women's Society

Jill Tomlinson is a Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgeon. As the AFMW Secretary, Webmaster and eNewsletter Editor Jill mentors medical women in multiple Australian states, provides education and training in website content management, and manages the AFMW Twitter account, LinkedIn Group and the quarterly eNewsletter. Jill's current appointments include Victorian Medical Women's Society Committee Member, Assistant Editor for the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery, Faculty Member of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Academy of Surgical Educators and Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee of the RACS Women in Surgery Section.

Executive and Council Members



AFMW Immed. Past President
MWIA REP

Dr Susane (Susie) Close
Committee Medical Women's
Society ACT & Region

Susie Close is an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Australia, who has been in practice for 30 years. As the Immediate Past President of the Australian Federation of Medical Women, she has consulted with Australian Government agencies on policy work for future legislation.

Susie is the co-vice-chair of the Ethics and Resolutions Committee of the Medical Women's International Association. In this role she has worked to bring solutions to health problems, particularly of women and children, by co-ordinating dialogue between women doctors in different countries.



AFMW REG. CO-ORDINATOR
Assoc Prof Deborah (Deb) Colville
Committee Member, Victorian
Medical Women's Society

Deb Colville is the current MWIA National Co-ordinator for Australia. A Melbourne ophthalmologist (Monash 1975), Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Ophthalmologists and Surgeons (1983), past Director of Ophthalmology at Austin Repatriation Medical Centre, and College of Surgeons Councillor, Deb served as inaugural Chair of the RACS Women in Surgery Committee for nine years. Deb's Master of Public Health degree focused on medical education program evaluation, and her PhD (Monash 2011) was on chronic disease and gender in ophthalmic surgical training. Deb has taught medical students in Sweden, developed curriculum for the MWIA Executive with gender experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations (UN), and contributed to the MWIA Ethics and Resolutions Committee work in international meetings in Tokyo, Ghana and Germany.



AFMW RURAL CO-ORDINATOR
Dr Marjorie Cross
Committee Member Medical
Women's Society ACT & Region

Marjorie Cross has had a rural general practice in NSW for 30 years. Her general practice interests are in mental health and palliative care, in particular, but in all the domains of general practice. It is a teaching practice for general practice registrars and medical students. Marjorie is a clinical teacher at the Australian National University (ANU). She has been recurrently on the Board of her Division. She is a member of the Female Doctors Group of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia. Currently Marjorie is on the Advisory Board of BreastScreen in Southern NSW and is also on the Executive of the Local Chamber of Commerce, underlining her belief in general practice as a business. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RAGCP).

Executive and Council Members



Dr Elizabeth Gallagher
President, Medical Women's
Society ACT & Region

Elizabeth Gallagher is an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Canberra. She graduated from the University of Newcastle and trained at the John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth UK and The Canberra Hospital. She now runs a menopause and pelvic floor clinic at TCH and is involved in the supervision and teaching of medical students, residents and registrars. She has been involved in GP education through Family Planning and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) training and general education sessions. She also has a busy private obstetric and gynaecology practice at the John James Medical Centre, ACT, again with a strong interest in menopause and prolapse.



AFMW REP, MWS ACT &
REGION
Dr Suzanne (Sue) Packer
Publicity Officer, MWS ACT &
Region

Sue Packer has been a member of the MWS ACT and Region since its inception and has been on the Committee for almost as long, including time as the ACT president. Sue's chief benefit from her association with the AFMW has been her continuing learning about the many persisting "gendered" issues in medicine, both as patients and practitioners and the ongoing need for affirmative action to change things.



AFMW REP MWS ACT &
REGION
Dr Jane Twin
Publications Secretary, Medical
Women's Society ACT & Region

Jane Twin received the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia in 1983. She then worked as a researcher and lecturer at the University of Tasmania with an appointment to the Royal Hobart Hospital as a provider of Cytology Services. In 1989 Jane set up a Fine Needle Aspiration Service. This service grew rapidly and was augmented by provision of FNA and Histopathology to BreastScreen Tasmania. Other involvement in BreastScreen Tasmania included her appointment as Tasmania's representative on the National Pathology Q-group and a long term role as Pathology adviser and auditor. Jane was also involved in the setting up of the Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register and continued on the Technical Working Party until December 2001. In the past 10 years Jane has worked at Capital Pathology in Canberra specialising in cytology, gynaecological and breast pathology.

Executive and Council Members



AFMW Committee
 Professor Gabrielle Casper
 Past President, AFMW
 + MWIA
 Committee Member MWS NSW

Gabrielle Casper is a Sydney Gynaecologist with a special interest in women's health and human rights. She is Past President of the AFMW and Past President of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA). She has represented MWIA at the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations (UN) meetings. She is Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, School of Medicine, Sydney, The University of Notre Dame Australia and President of the NSW State Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). She is Past President of the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) composed of 18 member organisations collectively representing as many as 3 million women in Australia. She received the 2004 Australian Medical Association (AMA) Women's Health Award and the 2004 AMA Women in Medicine Award. Prof Casper enjoys working as a gynaecologist and cares for her patients with compassion and understanding while lobbying to improve women's health in Australia and overseas.



AFMW REP MWS NSW
 Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Rickman
 Committee Member, Medical
 Women's Society of NSW

Liz Rickman is a General Practitioner in inner city Sydney. After studying at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), she entered the physician's training scheme, and then moved into general practice in a variety of locations, including working in remote Aboriginal communities as well as in urban centres. She has been active in the peace, women's and the environmental movements. This has led to her working as a medic at sea with Greenpeace. She believes in the capacity of people to create a better world when they come together with shared aims.



AFMW REP QLD MWS
 Dr Janet Huang
 President, QLD Medical
 Women's Society & QMWS
 AFMW Rep

Janet Huang is a consultant Plastic Surgeon in Brisbane. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of The Queensland Medical Women's Society (QMWS) as well as the council of the AFMW for nearly a decade. She enjoys the interaction with medical women both locally and interstate as well as internationally.

Executive and Council Members



AFMW REP QLD MWS
Dr Lidia Koval
Committee, QLD Medical
Women's Society
QLD Rep to AFMW

Lidia Koval is a graduate of the University of Queensland (2009). She has been interested in the issues of women in medicine since medical school, where she was a member, and, at one point, an Academic Vice-President of Supporting Women in Medicine (SWIM) society. This is her first year with the QMWS and she is delighted to be a state representative for the AFMW. Currently, Lidia is pursuing a Master's degree through Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in the area of trauma. She is intent on a career in orthopaedic surgery.



SA MWS AFMW Junior Doctor
Rep
Dr Namiko Kobayashi
Rep, South Australian Medical
Women's Society

Namiko Kobayashi is currently an O&G RMO at the Women's and Children's Hospital. She graduated from Melbourne University and has done most of her junior doctor work in the Northern Territory. Namiko only recently moved to Adelaide and is hoping to pursue O&G training. One big passion is indigenous health and she plans to eventually head back up to the NT to live, where it is always warm and life is always challenging.



SA MWS AFMW Student Rep
Ms Lisa Raven
Student Representative, South
Australian Medical Women's
Society

Lisa Raven is currently studying in her 4th year of the MBBS program at the University of Adelaide. She has a passion for student representation, holding positions on the Adelaide Medical Students' Society and Adelaide Medical Students' Foundation. Having not yet decided on a specialty of interest, she is enthusiastic about learning in all fields of medicine and will be undertaking a year of study at a rural South Australian site.

Executive and Council Members



VMWS AFMW Rep
Dr Raie Goodwach
President, Victorian Medical
Women's Society
Joint Project Manager – Happy
Healthy Women, Not Just
Survivors Project

Raie Goodwach is a medically-trained psychotherapist with a Masters Degree in Psychoanalytic Studies. She has published in the areas of sex therapy, sexual trauma to women, and adoption and has been involved in the development of educational resources for general practitioners in the area of sexual difficulties. She was a Consultant to the Sexual & Relationship Counselling Clinic at MMC for 18 years and an Honorary Lecturer in the Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. She sees individuals and couples for therapy in her private practice. Her main area of interest is psychosexual medicine.

In 2010 Raie shared the VMWS Constance Stone Award with Assoc. Professor Jan Coles in recognition of their advocacy work with the "Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors" project, an initiative of the VMWS, AFMW and AWC. Her focus in advocacy work is to improve the longterm health and wellbeing of women with a history of sexual violence and improve medical education in this area.



Assoc. Professor Jan Coles
Past President, Victorian
Medical Women's Society
Joint Project Manager – Happy
Healthy Women, Not Just
Survivors Project

Jan Coles is an academic General Practitioner. She is the Chair of the DGP Research Committee at Monash University Department of General Practice. Her special interests are the teaching and learning of clinical skills, the impact of childhood sexual abuse on the lives of women, particularly early mothering, breastfeeding and touch, and vicarious trauma for sexual violence researchers.

In 2011 she gave the closing address at the Sexual Violence Research Forum in Cape Town, South Africa. This meeting is the leading international meeting for sexual violence researchers and aims to build the worldwide capacity to do sexual violence research and build a robust evidence base. In 2010, she and Dr Raie Goodwach shared the VMWS Constance Stone Award. In 2009 she received the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Rex Walpole Travelling Scholarship to present her work at the first Sexual Violence Research Forum. In 2007 she was awarded a PhD for her thesis "Breastfeeding and Maternal Touch after Childhood Sexual Assault". In 2006 Jan was awarded the Vera Scantlebury Brown Research Fellowship in Maternal and Infant Health to further her research with young mothers who are survivors of childhood sexual assault.

2012: AFMW MEMBERS participated in an online United Nations (UN) Women discussion on ending violence against women

Executive and Council Members



AFMW REP
Dr Catherine (Kate) Duncan
Committee Member, Victorian
Medical Women's Society

Kate Duncan is an Obstetrician in private practice in Malvern, VIC. Her interest in the VMWS goes back to early days as an intern, RMO and Registrar at the Queen Vic ("where we had such wonderful mentors and role models"). Kate has been a Committee member of both the VMWS and the AFMW for several years. As an Australian Medical Association (AMA) Board member, Kate has served on the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria and is working at state level on several issues including efforts to resolve the medical indemnity crisis and the provider number issue.



WA MWS AFMW Rep
Ms Sophie McCarthy
Student Representative,
Western Australian Medical
Women's Society

Sophie McCarthy is a second year student at the University of Notre Dame Fremantle. She holds the position of the Western Australian Student Representative for the AFMW.

Sophie had always wanted to study medicine but decided to study at a postgraduate level. Having completed a Bachelor of Science at Murdoch University in 2008, she worked as a senior receptionist in general practice for 2 years until she applied to study at Notre Dame. She has a keen interest in women's health, as well as rural medicine. Sophie plans to enter general practice and work in regional and rural areas as a GP proceduralist.

AFMW: MEMBERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND the United Nations (UN) Dept of Public Information and Non-Governmental Organisations (DPINGO) Conferences; the World Health Assembly; regional World Health Organisation (WHO) meetings; and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York

Projects + Advocacy

The AFMW progresses many projects of importance to medical women, both alone and in conjunction with other groups such as the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC), the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and community groups.

The projects that the AFMW is involved in can be classed into three main areas:

Advocacy

Humanitarian

Socialising and networking

1. Advocacy

The AFMW progresses a variety of advocacy projects from providing leadership skills to medical women to looking at the provisions for flexible training and retraining to young women.

2. Humanitarian

Humanitarian projects include relocating medical goods or services to areas of need both locally and internationally. It includes raising funds for projects such as the Medical Student Aid Project and other causes.

3. Socialising and Networking

One of the AFMW's important goals is to provide support for women in medicine. This is mostly achieved by socialising and networking events at the local level. These often combine education in a social situation and afford medical women the opportunity to socialise with their peers within this environment. The AFMW is particularly interested in supporting medical women in regional, rural and remote areas.

AFMW Thank You Initiative

The AFMW recognises the many physicians who help our members through outstanding teaching, mentoring or instruction. We established the AFMW Thank You Initiative to give our members a way to formally recognise and express their gratitude for the invaluable contributions of their mentors and teachers. The following individuals have been nominated to date as part of the AFMW Thank You Initiative:

Dr Annette Carless (VIC)

Dr Sally Cockburn (VIC)

Dr Kate Duncan (VIC)

Dr Elizabeth Farrell AM (VIC)

Dr Alice Killen (NSW)

Dr Elsie Koadlow OAM (VIC) (dec')

Dr David Leonard (VIC)

Associate Prof Stephen Lew

Dr Merrilyn Murnane AM (VIC)

John Vallance Owen (deceased)

Dr Suchitra Paramaesvaran (NSW)

Dr Gillian Rothwell (NSW)

Dr Emily Teo (NSW)

Dr Desiree Yap (VIC)

Projects + Advocacy cont'd

Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors (HHWNJS), 2010 - ongoing

The Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors (HHWNJS) Project (2010) identified gaps in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and in the National Women's Health Agenda in the area of sexual violence. This was the first step in an ongoing project. Achievements to date include:

2012:

The Australian Family Physician published "Sexual Trauma in Women. The Importance of Identifying a History of Sexual Violence" S.Caroline Taylor, J Pugh, R Goodwach, J Coles. AFP vol 41,7, 2012 pp538-541 based on the research and findings from the HHWNJS project.

Endorsement of the Innovation and Development Program: PACTS - an innovative primary care program advancing competency to support family violence survivors. The AFMW is a member of the reference group of this project.

This Monash University project was formulated in response to the HHWNJS report which identified the need to improve undergraduate teaching to health professionals. The project is to develop a six hour basic e-learning module accessible anywhere in Australia and a face-to-face seminar to improve primary care students' recognition and responses to family violence (including sexual violence). The project is also endorsed by the AWC, the Sexual Violence Research Forum and Wesnet (a national domestic violence organisation).

At the national level, the AFMW responded to the Western Australia Labour's Discussion Paper "Violence in our homes: Protecting the vulnerable". At international level, the AFMW participated in the United Nations (UN) Women discussion on ending Violence against Women which will inform preparations for the 57th session of the Commission for Status of Women (CSW57) in March 2013. Our contribution detailed gaps & challenges (medical response & funding in Women's Health budgets)

2011:

The "Ending Gender-based Violence in the Asia-Pacific Region" Roundtable at Government house, Canberra endorsed the following AFMW recommendation:

To ensure that health professionals are trained and supported to recognise and respond sensitively to gender-based violence and the serious physical and psychological sequelae over a lifetime. They should know pathways to care for survivors and support services and be equipped to provide longterm care.



Projects + Advocacy cont'd

2010:

The MWIA International Congress unanimously adopted the following resolutions put forward by the AFMW based on the 2010 HHWNJS project:

In recognition that sexual violence to adults and children has far-reaching medical, psychological and community consequences for survivors and their communities, the MWIA:

- Supports the elimination of all forms of sexual violence
- Supports the education of communities to raise awareness and change attitudes towards sexual violence
- Supports the education of health professionals to recognise, respond to and effectively support survivors of sexual violence and;
- Calls for the provision of long-term integrated counselling and health services to better support the survivors of sexual violence across a lifetime.

Additional AFMW projects include:

- Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors National Report Launch, Sept 2010
(This project was funded by the Australian Women's Coalition Inc, from funding received from the Australian Government, Office for Women)
- Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors National Summit, May 2010
(funded by the Australian Women's Coalition Inc, from funding received from the Australian Government, Office for Women)
- National AFMW E-Newsletter Communication, 2009-ongoing
- Leadership Skills Database, 2008-ongoing
- Bridging Leadership Barriers (BLB) Project, 2008-09
(\$89,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's 2007-08 Leadership and Development Programme Grants)

AFMW Author, Dr Jillian Tomlinson received the Australian Virtual Centre for Leadership for Women (CL W)'s 2009 "National Leadership Achievement for Women Award" for her work on the BLB project.

- The AFMW Website, 2008-09 (The AFMW gratefully acknowledges the Commonwealth Government Office for Women Leadership and Development Programme as a source of website funding in 2008-09)
- The Nigeria Widows Project (MWIA)
- Support for Rural and Remote Female Doctors in Australia and Developing CPD & Mentoring For Rural & Remote Women Doctors, 2004-2005
(\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)
- Achieving Gender & Cultural Competence by Australia's Medical Workforce, 2004-05
(\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)
- Women Talk Cancer, 2003-04 (\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)
- Gender Based Medical Education, 2003-2004
(\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)

AFMW State Member Groups

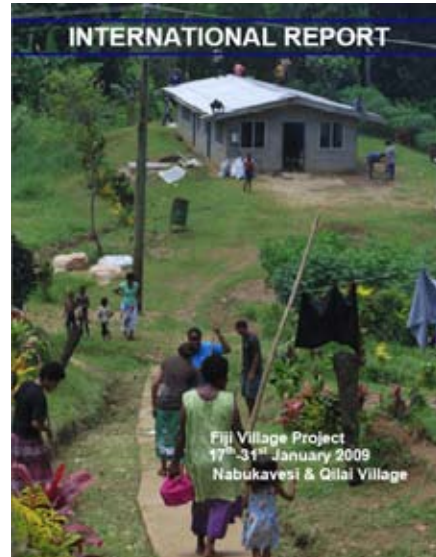
ACT & Region Medical Women's Society (MWS ACT & Region)

In 2012 the MWS ACT & Region reviewed the charities they supported and sought out suitable local charities in order to ensure an even mix of local and international charities. They support the following:

Women and Environment of the Congo Project (PFE)

PFE is a French programme which was established in 1999 in Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by an association of women committed to developing socio-economic and environmental initiatives for rural and urban women in Kivu.

The organisation aims to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable women, and assist in their recovery by empowering them through a variety of environmental, social and educational support programs.



The Fiji Village Project

NEWPIN

Newpin (New Parent and Infant Network) is an intensive child protection and parent education program that works therapeutically with families under stress to break the cycle of destructive family behaviour and enhance parent-child relationships.

MUMMY'S WISH

This local Brisbane Charity provides moral and financial help for mothers with cancer, started by a cancer sufferer herself who was cognizant of the aid she received. Although local at present, the groups aims to expand to other states.

The Fiji Village Project

The Fiji Village Project aims to work with communities in Fiji to improve health outcomes through community empowerment by means of education, training and necessary resource provisions. The MWS ACT & Region has been supporting the Fiji Village Project by conducting fundraising events for the project.

The project is a student-based initiative developed by medical students from the Australian National University (ANU), Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) and University of Auckland. The project involves the provision of water tank systems for selected villages to promote environmental sustainability through rainwater harvesting in the region. Health interventions conducted included baseline screening for the village, a village clean-up campaign, and education about cancer, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

AFMW State Member Groups

NSW Medical Women's Society (MWS NSW)

The MWS of NSW hosted several wonderful dinners in 2011 - 2012, with inspiring speakers such as Dr Linda Harris, Dr Suzanne Whereat and Dr Yishay Orr.



In 2011 we engaged Jo Watts from Leapfrog Research to conduct an online survey of our members, and after reviewing the results it was clear that the real value of the MWS of NSW was it being the cornerstone for membership of both the AFMW and MWIA, each a powerful lobby group at the national and international levels respectively.

Dr Rickman and Dr Tivey recently met with Fiona Davies, CEO of AMA (NSW), to review the ongoing support by the AMA of MWS of NSW. It was a fabulous meet up, and from that emerged great support from the AMA, but with a change in direction.

In the meeting, suggestion was made of hosting two AMA-supported dinners a year - one at the beginning of the year to establish the goals and vision for our advocacy projects for the coming year, and an end of year dinner where accomplishments could be reviewed and a progress report made, with a guest speaker if desired. Additional non-sponsored meetings could also be held during the year, however, Ms Davies suggested we consider the role of electronic communications in advocacy, offering practical assistance in implementing such a change. There are a number of ways to use new technology to our advantage and we will explore this with our members in the coming months. It is hoped this will reinvigorate the membership, empowering medical women to be more involved in a variety of issues and to know their membership fee is well worth it!



May, 2012

Providing expertise to improve medicine and health in Australia

AFMW State Member Groups

QLD Medical Women's Society (QMWS)

For the Queensland Medical Women's Society (QMWS), the 2012 year started with an AGM in February, which resulted in a lot of new faces on the QMWS committee. Dr Janet Huang was elected president. Supporting Women in Medicine (SWIM), a student organisation, has been instrumental in promoting the QMWS membership among medical students.



At the QMWS May dinner, Dr Daman Langguth, a Director of Immunology at Sullivan Nicolaides Laboratory and an expert in his field, delivered an interesting talk titled "What is Immune Deficiency?" The meeting was well-attended, and presented a good opportunity to brush up on nuts and bolts of immunology for all attendees. Also in May, a few members of the QMWS participated in the Mother's Day Classic – a fun run, aiming to raise funds for breast cancer research. At the August dinner, the topics of the evening were Fertility and Future Challenges of Medical Practice. Dr David Kanowski, a Pathologist, specialising in Clinical Chemistry and Endocrinology, demystified the Anti Mullerian Hormone. He gave us an overview of its action and explained its significance in fertility assessment. This was followed by another excellent presentation by Dr Clare Boothroyd on fertility issues among professional women and medical women in particular. The second part of Dr Boothroyd's talk focused on the important emerging corporatisation of medicine and its implication on morale of medical practitioners and junior doctors in particular. Should we allow financially motivated management interventions to limit physicians' autonomy? Should we allow mixing medicine and business if it is at the expense of a trusting doctor-patient relationship? The evening forced us to contemplate these increasingly relevant questions.

South Australian Medical Women's Society (SAMWS)

Traditionally, the membership base in South Australia has been quite small. There is a saturation of medical student groups in Adelaide, with a strong focus on women in medicine, such as the AdELadies Society and other student groups running special workshops for women in medicine. There is scope for collaborating with such groups and events in the future.



The AFMW representatives are in the process of a recruitment drive to attract new active members. There are currently plans to hold an inaugural event in Adelaide either this year or early next year. At this stage, progress is slow, although informally there is much interest.

2012: Celebrating 125 years of women in medicine
in Australia

AFMW State Member Groups

Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS)



The VMWS has been active on several fronts:

- This year, together with the AFMW, the VMWS successfully obtained an Exemption under Section 89 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). This allows the VMWS and the AFMW the option to restrict attendance at meetings, functions, seminars, conferences and events to women only when appropriate.
- Functions: VMWS functions aim to reflect our members' interests which include positive action for medical women, networking, advocacy and broader interests like the arts. We have begun to systematically collect, collate and learn from feedback sheets distributed at each meeting. Feedback has pleasingly been overwhelmingly positive and is being used to inform future topics for meetings. This year's meetings included:
- "Postcards from Abroad - the overseas medical experience" (March). Speakers detailed opportunities and challenges of working in global health and in particular in developing world contexts including Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and remote Australia. They shared their travellers' stories, motivations for working abroad, and practical tips on getting involved in global health initiatives.
- "Talk the Talk, The Junior Doctor Interview" (May). This was our first members-only meeting after obtaining the VCAT exemption and attracted almost 80 attendees, including several new members preparing for their upcoming medical job interviews.
- "How I Became A Writer and Other Stories" (July) was the topic for medical oncologist and award-winning author Dr Ranjana Srivastava at our Annual Lyceum Luncheon (July). Basing her talk on stories from her book "Tell Me the Truth" - conversations with my patients about life and death, this was an inspiring example of the marriage of first-class medicine and the healing touch.
- Canapés for a Cause (Sept). Human Rights & Health Issues for Refugees was our advocacy and networking meeting to which we invited human rights and women lawyer groups. With Professor Louise Newman AM, Convenor of the Alliance of Health Professional for Asylum Seekers and Chairman of the Detention Expert Health Advisory Group and Dr Deborah Zion as our speakers, we heard a sobering account of the real plight of asylum seekers which took us beyond the political posturing presented in the media.
- E-Health Seminar: With the coming era of e-health dawning, our President-Elect Magdalena Simonis convened a workshop that brought us up-to-date on everything we need to know about e-health prior to the 2012 AGM.
- Advocacy: A major ongoing project that the VMWS is involved with is the Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors project.
- A three year Strategic Plan was formulated with focus on good governance, positive action for medical women, branding, membership and women's health advocacy.
- Committee position descriptions are now on the website.
- The Constitution was reviewed with changes to be voted on at the AGM. We are also seeking Incorporation of VMWS.
- Full, student and rural memberships have all increased. We hope to attract more medical mothers with provision for childcare at meetings a priority.

AFMW State Member Groups

Annual Constance Stone Oration

The Constance Stone Oration is awarded by the VMWS annually. The Oration is named in honour of the first woman to be registered with the Medical Board of Victoria and therefore the first woman registered as a medical practitioner in Australia. Recipients of this award are recognised for their significant contribution to the health of women and children. We thank Dr Merrilyn Murnane AM for endowing this prestigious award.

The 2012 award has been presented to Dr Kathleen Hayes, a Medical Virologist whose research contributed to the epidemiology, recognition and elucidation of the complex nature of prenatal cytomegalovirus (CMV) infections.

Western Australian Medical Women's Society (WAMWS)

Sophie McCarthy was appointed as the Western Australian Student Representative for the AFMW in 2012. Having noticed that there was a lack of social events for medical women in Western Australia, her first initiative was to organise a High Tea for female doctors and medical students.



The High Tea was held on 4th March to coincide with International Women's Day, at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle. Seventy guests attended, including 64 female medical students and six female doctors.

The feedback from the event was very positive, with attendees indicating that they would like more events in the future, particularly ones where female doctors discuss managing family/kids/ life along with their career. The event also showed that students, in particular, were interested in the AFMW and wanted to know more about the organisation. Following the High Tea, the number of WA members increased by an astronomical 1300%.

The WA AFMW Facebook group has been successful in increasing interest in the AFMW and women's health, with news and events being posted in the forum regularly. Feedback from the High Tea function showed that most guests heard about the event through Facebook, so it is a great way to access members. There are currently 76 Facebook members on the AFMW's WA page. The WA AFMW group is looking forward to continued growth.



March 2012 High Tea Event



Financial Statements

AFMW Inc.
ABN 55 066 552 485
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Income		
Distribution from trusts	1,221	1,749
Interest received	632	427
Affiliation Fees Received	9,973	6,464
Advertising	2,000	1,500
Overprovision of Grant Exp. (Prev Years)	2,637	-
Change in net market value of BT invest.	(134)	-
Total income	16,329	10,140
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	-	494
Administration Fees	9,164	860
Amortisation Expense	639	639
Audit fees	2,000	-
Conference/seminar costs	1,824	1,204
Grants Repaid	275	-
Insurance	691	1,236
Postage & Stationary	418	555
Project Costs	-	16,476
Subscriptions	-	232
Travelling Expenses	-	987
Total expenses	15,011	22,683
Profit from Ordinary Activities	1,317	(12,543)

Financial Statements

AFMW Inc.
ABN 55 066 552 485
Detailed Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash At Bank - ANZ		4,062	4,058
Cash At Bank - WBC		20,432	23,222
		24,494	27,280
Current Tax Assets			
GST Collected		(997)	-
GST Paid		1,390	-
BAS Refundable (Previous Years)		1,460	1,460
		1,853	1,460
Total Current Assets		26,347	28,740
Non-Current Assets			
Other Financial Assets			
Westpac Moderated Gth Fund		25,666	24,617
Westpac Balance Fund		4,509	4,470
ANZ Term Deposit		11,045	10,420
		41,220	39,508
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Plant & equipment - at cost		1,395	1,395
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(1,395)	(1,395)
		-	-
Intangible Assets			
Other intangibles		3,197	3,197
Less: Other intangibles amortisation		(2,557)	(1,918)
		640	1,279
Total Non-Current Assets		41,859	40,786

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements

AFMW Inc.
ABN 55 066 552 485
Detailed Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
Total Assets		<u>68,206</u>	<u>69,526</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Financial Liabilities			
Unsecured:			
AFMW - Gender and Culture		1,200	3,651
AFMW - Leadership		-	187
		<u>1,200</u>	<u>3,837</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>1,200</u>	<u>3,837</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>1,200</u>	<u>3,837</u>
Net Assets		<u>67,006</u>	<u>65,689</u>
Equity			
Issued Capital			
Investment Fluctuation Reserve		(7,896)	(7,896)
Retained profits / (accumulated losses)		<u>74,902</u>	<u>73,585</u>
Total Equity		<u>67,006</u>	<u>65,689</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The officer has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the corporation is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependant on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the officer has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

(a) Income Tax

Australian Federation of Medical Women Inc. (AFMW Inc.) is an income tax exempt body under the Income Tax Assessment Act (ITAA) 1936.

(b) Revenue and Expenses

All revenue and expenses is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) where applicable.

(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Note 2: Incorporation

The Australian Federation of Medical Women became incorporated on 27 September 1994 to become the Australian Federation of Medical Women Inc.

STATEMENT OF OFFICERS

In the opinion of the Board

- (a) The accompanying Income & Expenditure Statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the corporation for the period ended 30 June 2012.
- (b) The accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the corporation as at the end of the period.
- (c) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the corporation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- (d) No officer has received or become entitled to receive during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the corporation or a related body corporate with the officer, a firm of which the officer is a member or a corporation in which the officer has a substantial financial interest. This statement excludes a fixed salary of a full time employee of the corporation or related body corporate.

Signed in accordance with the resolution of the Board/Committee.



.....
PRESIDENT



.....
TREASURER

Financial Statements

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of AFMW Inc. (the company), which comprises the Statement of Officers, Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Officer's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The officer of the corporation is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the corporation's constitution and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The officer's responsibilities also includes such internal control as the officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the director, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Australian Federation of Medical Women Inc. (AFMW Inc.) as at 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Financial Statements

AFMW Inc.

ABN 55 066 552 485

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the officer's financial reporting responsibilities under the corporation's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Signed on : 10 September 2012


Garry J Widdup, FCA

Widdup Barilla

Suite 5 Park Plaza, Cross Street, Hurstville NSW 2220

