

AUSTRALIAN GRADUATE WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



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2022
Australian Graduate Women
100 years



OUR VISION

Advocate for women's rights, equality and empowerment and for access to quality secondary and tertiary

OUR MISSION

Empower women

Reduce poverty

Improve health

Support human rights

Maintain human security

Build peace

AGW Website:
<https://www.australiangradwomen.org.au/>

GWI Website:
<https://graduatewomen.org/>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Professor Jaya Dantas
President

Dear Members

I hope you all have had a wonderful start to 2024 and I wish you all a productive year. It gives me pleasure to present my report at the 2023 AGM, on activities from July 2022 to June 2023.

Our AGM this year was delayed and we were provided an extension by Fair Trading NSW until the end of February 2023.

The impacts on women are greater than ever with significant challenges due to global conflicts, rise in cost of living, changes in the nature of employment, and climate changes, all of which impact women. Thus, the importance of higher education for women remains paramount and uncontested.

We extend our thanks to those of you who have already committed your membership for the 2023-24 year, and to those who will renew in the near future.

Your ongoing support and commitment to AGW is both appreciated and necessary for our Association to continue leading the conversation and initiatives in higher education.

I thank Dr Iryna Khodos (AGW Secretary), Dr Zeny Edwards OAM (AGW CIR) and Alison Hayden (AGW treasurer) for their work and support during the year.

I also thank the AGW council.

I share some highlights of the year, and I encourage you to take a look at our website. <https://www.australiangradwomen.org.au/>

Receiving ECOSOC status of the United Nations:

On 21 July 2022, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant special consultative status to our organisation, Australian Graduate Women Inc. This was a wonderful testament to the work undertaken by AGW members over the years. It was especially significant obtaining this accolade in our Centenary year.

ECOSOC status allows us to attend and access meetings at the United Nations, take part in consultations, make written submissions, and present at the UN. As part of the status we will be providing Quadrennial reports to the ECOSOC.



AGW Centenary 2022 Distinguished Panel Webinar

As part of the Centenary we had a Distinguished Panel Webinar who spoke about: **Women making a difference on Saturday 26 November 2022**

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

- Professor Deborah Terry
- Professor Sandra Eades
- Professor Raina MacIntyre
- Dr Sandy Chong
- Dr Morley Muse

Part 2: Reflections of the War in Ukraine and Impacts for Women and Education (shared by two Ukrainian academics)

- Dr Tetiana Bogachenko,
- Dr Iryna Khodos

Details are further in the report.

Centenary Scholarships 2022

AGW offered three scholarships worth up to \$ 6000 each for eligible postgraduate female students currently undertaking a post-graduate coursework or research Masters or PhD degree. These scholarships are designed to support exceptional women whose projects align with the AGW's priority areas and make a meaningful contribution to the education and empowerment of women. The winners are further in the report.

AGW Fellowships 2023

In 2023 we awarded the following Fellowships:

- **Two Barbara Hale Fellowships: Value \$8,000 each.** These Fellowships are open to students who, being Australian citizens or permanent residents, are enrolled in a research doctorate in any discipline at any Australian university.
- **One Georgina Sweet Fellowship in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine: Value \$7,000.** This Fellowship is open to students who, being Australian citizens or permanent residents, are enrolled in a research doctorate in a STEMM discipline at any Australian university.

The winners are showcased further in the report.

Attending the Commission on the Status of Women 67 at the United Nations in New York

Professor Shirley Randell AO and myself attend the Commission on the Status of Women 67 at the United Nations. The **Themes** were - **priority theme:** Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **Review theme:** Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

A brief power point report will be shared to members in a forthcoming newsletter and please find attached a link to the agreed conclusions - [N2308171.pdf \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2023/2303/N2308171.pdf)



Jaya and Shirley at the Australian Consulate in New York



Jaya at the UN General Assembly



*With members of the GWI family in
New York*

AGW Membership has several 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)** and **Harmony Alliance** which are two of the six Australian Women's Alliances of the Australian Federal Government Office of Women. 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 Alliances and other national women's organisations, such as the **economic Security4Women (eS4W)**.

Make a Difference

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

In conclusion, I would like to share that I continue my other national roles as the International Health SIG convenor of the Public Health Association of Australia, Committee Member of Women in Global Health, Australia and am involved with the Indian Society of Western Australia. I was elected last year as the inaugural Chair of the Curtin University – Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee for a period of two years and continue to provide media comments on a number of issues.

I look forward to our AGW numbers growing and members taking on different roles.

With warm wishes

Jaya

Prof Jaya Dantas
Deputy Chair – Curtin Academic Board
Chair – Curtin Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee
Dean International – Faculty of Health Sciences
<https://staffportal.curtin.edu.au/staff/profile/view/jaya-a-r-dantas-b525bfae/>

CENTENARY SCHOLARSHIPS 2022

AGW offered three scholarships worth up to \$6000 each during our Centenary year for eligible Australian postgraduate female students currently undertaking a postgraduate coursework, a research Master's or a PhD degree.

These scholarships are designed to support exceptional postgraduate women whose projects align with the AGW's priority areas and make a meaningful contribution to the education and empowerment of women.

Congratulations to our 2022 AGW Centenary scholarship recipients:



Emily Bowden is an experienced midwife and has extensive experience working with women from culturally and linguistically diverse populations, including several years in Cambodia, and more recently with Australian First Nations women from remote communities



Tanya Kwee is a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales, Australia, with over 15 years of experience working in various educational settings. Her research interests span across teacher education and professional development, language and literature, education for sustainability and mentoring.



Alison Quigley was a former gymnast who later worked as a journalist, sailor, and teacher of English as foreign language. In her late twenties she undertook a Bachelor of Arts/Law, followed by a Masters of Philosophy at the University of Queensland. In 2020 Athlete A triggered survivors to speak out about abuse, and she went public with her story about the child sexual abuse she'd suffered in gymnastics and the conviction against her coach-perpetrator.

AGW CENTENARY PANEL WEBINAR

Saturday 26 November 2022

1.30 to 3.30 pm AEST,

10.30 am to 12.30 pm WST,

12.30 to 2.30 pm Brisbane time

In 2022, the AGW held a centenary webinar in celebration of AGW's formal establishment in 1922. Professor Jaya Dantas chaired this webinar and started with a brief overview of AGW's history.

A panel of distinguished academics and researchers who have all contributed to higher education in Australia and globally were also present including Professor Debbie Terry, Professor Sandra Eades, Professor Raina Macintyre, Dr Sandy Chong, and Dr Morley Muse.

Two Ukrainian academics Dr Tetiana Bogachenko and Dr Iryna Khodos also shared some insightful information regarding the impact that the conflict in Ukraine is having on the higher education of women.

Part 1

Journeys of Strength and Resilience - The Uncontested Power of Education

Professor Deborah Terry, Professor Sandra Eades, Professor Raina MacIntyre, Dr Sandy Chong, Dr Morley Muse

Part 2

Sharing Reflections of the War in Ukraine and Impacts for Women and Education

Dr Tetiana Bogachenko, Dr Iryna Khodos

OUR DISTINGUISHED PANELLISTS

PART 1 – JOURNEYS OF STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE: THE UNCONTESTED POWER OF EDUCATION



Professor Deborah Terry AO Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of Queensland
BA(Hons), PhD ANU, Hon LLD Aberd., FASSA

Professor Deborah Terry AO is a highly experienced leader in the Australian university sector – and an internationally recognised scholar in psychology. Since August 2020, Professor Terry has served as Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Queensland (UQ).



Professor Sandra Eades AO
Associate Dean, Indigenous | Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics | School of Population and Global Health | Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences | The University of Melbourne

Professor Sandra Eades is a Noongar woman with family from the Minang and Goreng mobs in south-west Western Australia who has made pioneering contributions to the epidemiology of Aboriginal child health throughout her career.



Professor Raina MacIntyre (MBBS Hons 1, M App Epid, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM)

Professor Raina MacIntyre is Professor of Global Biosecurity, NHMRC Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Biosecurity Program at the Kirby Institute, UNSW, Australia. She leads a research program in control and prevention of epidemics, pandemics, bioterrorism and emerging infections.



Dr Sandy Chong

A Harvard alumna and Founder of Verity Consulting, Dr Sandy Chong is the winner of 2020 Stevie® International Business Awards for Executive of the Year, 2019 Asia’s Top Sustainability Women of the Year, and 2016 Singapore Management Consultant of the Year.

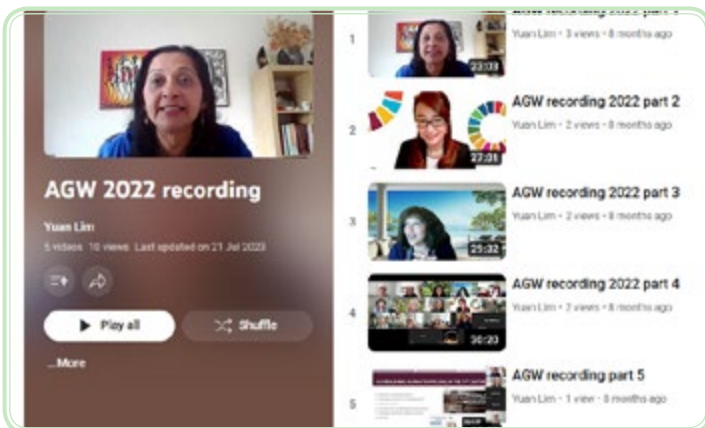


Dr Morley Muse

Dr Morley Muse is a Chemical, Environmental and Renewable Energy Engineer with expertise in biofuels generation and wastewater treatment. She is also an established speaker, an environmental activist with experience in government and private engineering consulting and research, and a passionate advocate who actively works to encourage young girls’ participation in STEM disciplines.

You can view the recording of the AGW centenary webinar at the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoLA59_PkFqvZY3ixfn6oSqbPaabEpbde



OUR DISTINGUISHED PANELLISTS

PART 2 – SHARED REFLECTIONS OF THE ONGOING WAR IN UKRAINE AND IMPACTS FOR WOMEN AND EDUCATION



Dr Tetiana Bogachenko

Dr Tetiana Bogachenko is a Senior Researcher in the School of Education, Curtin University. She received her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Kyiv National Linguistic University in Ukraine and came to Australia on a research scholarship to undertake a PhD in Applied Linguistics.



Dr Iryna Khodos

Dr Iryna Khodos is a Ukrainian-Australian academic, with specialisation in language education, bilingualism, and language practices in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities. She earned her PhD in Linguistics at the University of Newcastle (Australia), and her MA in English Language at Oles Honchar National University of Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine).

Tetiana and Iryna are both from Ukraine and shared their thoughts on the ongoing war and its impacts.

AGW FELLOWSHIPS

The AGW Fellowship funds are intended to facilitate a research project that will extend the nature and/ or scope of the currently approved PhD program and the specialised knowledge and skills of the applicant.

The Fellowships are open to women who are Australian citizens (or permanent residents of Australia).

The scholarships granted included:

- Two Barbara Hale Fellowships (valued \$8,000 each and open to women enrolled in any PhD degree by research)
- One Georgina Sweet Fellowship (valued \$8,000 and open to women enrolled in a PhD degree by research in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine)

Congratulations to our 2023 AGW Fellowships awardees:



Natalie Downs - Barbara Hale Fellowship

Natalie's research at the University of Canberra is developing a framework for education that will contribute towards improving educational outcomes for rural students.



Erin Humphries - Barbara Hale Fellowship

Erin's research at the University of Sydney hopes to use phosphoproteomics to develop data-driven approaches toward cancer diagnoses and improving treatment decision-making.



Amy Bleakley - Georgina Sweet Fellowship

Amy's research at Menzies looks at a randomised control trial (D-Kids) evaluating perinatal vitamin D supplementation as a key preventative strategy against respiratory infections among First Nations children.

AGW thanks **Professor Jane Scott** our fellowships facilitator for her work.

Please see our current fellowships on the link below

Link: <https://www.australiangradwomen.org.au/fellowships/>

REFLECTIONS FROM CSW67 (2023)

Professor Jaya Dantas and Professor Shirley Randell AO shared some reflections from their attendance at the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2023. The priority theme of **'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'** was explored.

A number of Australian government delegates such as the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy and the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins were also present.



From left to right President Joyhurst of CFUW, Shirley, Ukrainian delegates and Jaya



Opening session of CSW 67

Secretary General Antonio Guterres opened the event by outlining that, if we take account of women from all over the world, gender equality is still 300 years away. This opening set the scene for the rest of the conference by emphasising the work still required to achieve gender equality globally. A number of global presidents also made some key speeches, and the discussions continued to focus on gender equality in the digital age.

A brief power point report will be shared to members in a forthcoming newsletter.

CONVENOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REPORT



Dr Zeny Edwards OAM
Convenor of International Relations

On 6 February 2023 AGW submitted a successful application for Organisational Membership to Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change (approved on 21 June 2023). This membership enables AGW to take part in Harmony Alliance's activities and upcoming opportunities via a monthly e-newsletter; to attend the Annual Membership Forum and ad-hoc consultations via email.

Members of the Harmony Alliance have the opportunity to contribute to the development of policy advice, system reform input, research, and pilot initiatives on key systemic issues impacting on experiences and outcomes of migrant and refugee women in Australia.



Membership in Harmony Alliance will enable us to promote AGW work through participation in events with other National Women's Alliances.



POSTS AND PUBLICITY

Circulated Media Releases and posts to AGW members to mark World Refugee Day, on World Day against Child Labour, International Women's Day, Human Rights Day, World Book Copyright Day and other UN Observances. Also posted to AGW members CSW67 Reports and Mother's Day Message from AGW Committee.

Announcements of AGW Fellowships, AGW Centenary Scholars and announcements of awardees.

Linked in – our feedback and interest always spike after every post. Most reaction comes from the announcements of Fellowship and Centenary awardees – most coming from the professors and other academic colleagues who worked with the recipients. I will need to further investigate how to increase the Linked in network.

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

 protection  advocacy  learning

Posts on Academic Freedom Reviews worldwide and updates on human rights issues concerning students from Asia, The Middle East, Europe and the Americas



AGW actively supported UNICEF's program to return to school, to stay in school particularly needing urgent help for Afghanistan, Ukraine, Turkey and countries affected by the pandemic and natural disasters.

<https://www.unicefusa.org/keepgirlsinschool>



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

National Anti-Racism Framework Scoping Report 2022

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/race-discrimination/publications/national-anti-racism-framework-scoping-report>

The Scoping Report covered the need for a holistic approach to public education which was asserted to be a crucial element to reform by participants, including reforms to educational institutions and their curricula to foster racial literacy and anti-racism from a young age.

Australian Human Rights Position Paper Launch that set out our proposed model for a Human Rights Act for Australia.

AGW accepted UNESCO's invitation to the UNESCO higher education roadmap.

<https://www.iesalc.unesco.org/en/2022/12/12/contribute-to-the-higher-education-roadmap/#:~:text=12%20December%2C%202022,RELATED%20ITEMS>

AGW circulated UNESCO's Report on Gender equality: How global universities are performing



https://www.iesalc.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SDG5_Gender_Report-2.pdf

The Report revealed the extent to which higher education institutions across the globe are contributing to gender equality; and included worldwide and country-level analysis across 18 different indicators, as well as case studies from five universities that are leading this work in their regions.

PUBLICITY/ENGAGEMENT

AGW established stronger connections with organisations committed to promoting human rights in education including Rotary International, Institute for Economics and Peace, The Stimson Centre, The Climate Council and the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance.



AGW's participation in DFAT's Dialogue's is important and will continue. As AGW's representative I participated in the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, held in April 2023.



As keynote speaker at Adhika, a Philippine-sponsored organisation celebrating International Women's Day, 8 March 2023. Adhika's mission is to aid Filipino communities suffering from hunger, natural disasters, and more. It leads efforts to guide youth through cultural awareness and education camps, and to allow women to access comprehensive healthcare.



Attended Israel's 75 Independence Day Celebration, at Four Seasons Hotel, 3 May 2023.



Participated in the Climate Council Webinar – "One Year On: from the 'climate election', to climate action - and why now is so critical", 6 June 2023.

FINANCE REPORT



Alison Hayden
Treasurer

Report on financial statement for 2022/2023 financial year

AGW has sufficient cash in its account to deliver its activities.

Australian Graduate Women has funding in an education trust to fund future fellowships. We also hope to increase our membership this year.

AGW paid membership dues to GWI (Graduate Women International) annually based on the number of members.

ERA REPORT

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is the peak network in Australia advocating for women's equality as well as greater women's leadership and better recognition of women's diversity. The ERA is made up of over 65 organisations with interests in women's equality and it is funded by the Commonwealth Office for Women. AGW is just one of these organisations contributing to the ERA's advocacy efforts.

The ERA was involved in a range of activities during the 2022-2023 period:

- Contributed to 7 written submissions
- Participated in 11 consultative roundtables with Federal Departments
- Had 14 meetings with Parliamentarians and Departmental contacts about our priority areas
- Ran 5 member roundtables
- Produced a consultation report on the National Strategy for Gender Equality
- Published 5 media releases
- Organised 4 online events in preparation for CSW67 (2023)
- Attended the Jobs and Skills Summit

Through these activities the ERA continued to highlight its priorities around increased and long-term government investment in education in order to advance women's equality. The ERA believes that supporting women's access to education and employment will help women achieve their full economic potential in Australia.

Sincere thanks to all the members who provided their expertise and support in these activities, we simply cannot do this work without you, especially to Dr Jane Baker and Dr Jenny Strauss, who have been the AGW representatives on the ERA committee.



<https://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/>

economic Security4Women (eS4W) REPORT

economic Security4Women (eS4W) is an Australian women's organisation that believes economic wellbeing and financial security for women is essential and that it enables women's equality in Australia. AGW is just one of the 33 organisations contributing to eS4W's work.

Dalma Jacobs and Professor Shirley Randell AO are the council members representing AGW.

During the 2022-2023 period eS4W conducted a range of activities including:

- Organisation of the Women & Work Parliamentary Friendship Group event at Parliament House – discussing gender equality in Australia and the new federal budget's implications
- Attendance at the 54th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission – focusing on tracking global progress on the production and reporting of data relating to the 17 SDG Indicators
- Targeted advocacy towards ABS operatives and Federal Government politicians regarding the proposed amendments to the Time Use Surveys
- Monitoring of ABS data surrounding homelessness, Socio-Economic Indexes and census microdata as it relates to and impacts on women
- Monitoring of the amended ABS sex and gender indicators

AGW continues to support eS4W in its advocacy towards achieving financial security and equality for women in Australia. Thank you to Dalma and Shirley for your time and efforts that are invaluable in the fight for women's equality and economic security.



<https://www.security4women.org.au/>

AUSTRALIAN GRADUATE WOMEN



www.australiangradwomen.org.au

Australian Graduate Women
NSW 2790
ABN 93 656 106 863