



News from the MC – Issue 1, April 2024

Greetings everyone,

It was decided at our last Management Committee meeting to send a short newsletter to all OWNQ Members – it will go via email to members with an email address and printed copies can be provided to those without email.

One of the projects that is ongoing is our **Knickers with Notes Project**, which we originally started in 2022 when many people in northern New South Wales and Queensland suffered terrible floods. Many members donated Knickers, and we sent packs out with little notes of encouragement that were distributed by community groups in those areas.

Recently several branches have sent packs of our Knickers with Notes to northern Queensland flood victims, and earlier some were sent out to the Chinchilla area after fires. I congratulate everyone and thank them for participating in this project. We welcome donations of brand new ladies' underwear – sizes 10 to 22, which are packed away with information about OWNQ and a letter of encouragement. Congratulations and thanks to Bribie Island, Morayfield and Wynnum Manly branches for supporting this great program. Let Deb Brown of Morayfield branch know if you have donations – she is looking after the Knickers project - debhowardbrown@gmail.com

Another project that has just been approved by the OWNQ Management Committee in February is to support a **Bursary for the National Council of Women Queensland Project**. Bursaries are offered to women studying in various fields that will ultimately benefit women. You can read about this on the NCWQ website, as that organisation has been doing this for many years. Past President of OWNQ Lee Hodgson and I attended the Bursary Awards Presentation at UQ last year.

We wish to request that each of our branches raise funds/donate \$100 - \$150 to this project. The donations will need to be submitted by mid-April. Convenors will be given details of where to send the funds. We need all branches to assist in making this successful. More information here - <https://ncwq.org.au/what-we-do/bursary-program/>

Women and Girls Health Strategy

Late last year some of our members attended forums conducted by the Queensland Government Department of Health. Work has been continuing on this strategy for some months. Two forums attended by members seemed to focus on younger women and we were upset to see that “older women” were not included in the “Priority Communities” section. This was raised at one of the forums and a letter has been sent to the Minister for Health Queensland, Shannon Fentiman, expressing our concerns about the apparent lack of concern for older women. Sadly the Strategy has been completed and has little reference to older women.

The Aged Care Act

Members may be aware that there is a proposed update to the Aged Care Act, and National OWN President Beverly Baker has made a submission. June Donnelly and I attended a forum in Brisbane on March 1st, and we were active in the project. Both of us have had experience in the Aged Care sector and were able to add our thoughts and concerns at the forum.

Housing for Older Women Movement

Three OWNQ members are part of the Core group of the Housing for Older Women Movement, which lobbied the Qld State Government for a “one-stop-shop” service to help women in need of support due to housing issues. As a result, we have the Footprints HOWSS – Housing Older Women Service Centre, with its head office in West End. Brochures will be available for all branches, but if anyone needs support, you can recommend that they phone the service. HOWSS – 1800 366 877 (Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm), or email HOWSS@footprintscommunity.org.au. This service is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works. www.HOWSS.org.au

Management Committee.

At each Annual General Meeting, (usually held in October) members nominate for positions on the MC which meets every month (mostly via Zoom). The current members are Di Hill (President), Lisa Signorini (Secretary), Rosemerry Paidley (Treasurer), Lee Hodgson, Ruth McLean, Deb Brown, June Donnelly, and Marianne Wright.

You will notice in the quarterly Newsletter that nominations are being called for positions to be voted on later this year. We are seeking nominations from members who are keen to work with the team for the best interests of OWNQ. We'd love to have a full MC going forward.

FunDates – these may inspire branches to do something different!

April 28th – International Dance Day, 30th International Jazz Day

May 5th – International Laughter Day,

12th – Mother's Day and International Nurses Day,

21st - National Tea Day, 26th – National Sorry Day,

30th – International Day of Potato

(Source - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks>)

Quote from Audrey Hepburn “As you grow older you will discover you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”