

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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# Chairperson's report

I start by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land where we gather each month and pay my respects to Elders past and present and to emerging community leaders. I also acknowledge the important role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within South East Queensland and the communities our member refuges live and work within.

Thank you to Liz for her many years of work and expertise as Secretariat, your legacy will long be remembered. It was with great pleasure we welcomed Nancy as new and ongoing Secretariat. You bring to the role a fresh perspective and innovation and have made my transition into this role so much easier. Thank you both. This year marks our second year of partnership with Australia's CEO Challenge, and we thank them again for funding our Secretariat position. Thank you also to the previous Chairperson, Mikki O'Hello.

In addition to providing a forum for refuges and sector services to meet, the CWRG has been busy with many guest speakers including Sophie and Tracey from DV Connect, Carolyn from Beyond DV, Marie from Tenants Queensland, Janet from Mission Australia, Karla from DV Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Services Brisbane as well as Dean and Terry from Habitat for Humanity, Carolyn from Beyond DV, Elizabeth and Selena from Hillsong Housing as well as Carol from NDIS LAC Partner, Carers Queensland.

Last year, the Combined Women's Refuge Group celebrated our 40th anniversary with two days of training, networking and celebration. Thank you to Australia's CEO Challenge who sponsored the event in partnership with Minter Ellison.

In May, we conducted our 2019-2022 Strategic Planning workshop. Thank you to Marnie for facilitating. We look forward to working together to deliver our strategic goals:

- Strengthen our sense of shared purpose and CWRG member connection
- Strengthen our CWRG voice
- Strengthen benefits for CWRG members

This year for the Australia's CEO Challenge 'Darkness to Daylight' our member organisation, Murri Sisters and the CWRG Secretariat joined the DV Connect Team for this awareness and fundraiser event. A record of 2,730 participants and over \$140,000 was raised. Congratulations to Australia's CEO Challenge.

In July, CWRG hosted a Refuges Networking Event. Thank you to Murri Sisters for their assistance (venue suggestion and decoration) The event was very well attended, and the evaluations enthusiastically called for this to occur on a regular basis.

The members and executive are continuing to find ways to engage a broader attendance at both refuge specific and DV

sector meetings. Our meetings are focused on improved service provision, robust discussion on best practice, implementation of the Human Services Quality Framework and trends in referrals and special needs groups.

There is just so much happening in domestic violence at both the state and national levels that has bought about a flurry of consultations and community awareness. We are privileged to be part of state consultations and continue working with the Department of Housing and Public Works through the Domestic and Family Violence Interagency Working Group and the CALD women with no income working group.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, our member refuges, for your ongoing support and encouragement of the Executive. So many of you have freely given numerous hours of your time in support of CWRG. You have done so with dignity and strength. Lastly, a great big thanks and hugs to you all and a very big welcome to our new members, we look forward to the new year.

**Rosemary Larkin**  
**Chairperson**

# Combined Women's Refuge Group (SE Qld) Annual Report 2019

## 2018-2019 Executive Committee

Chairperson	<b>Mikki O'Hello</b> Murri Sisters
Succeeded by	<b>Rosemary Larkin</b> Macleod
Vice Chair	<b>Sue Clark</b> Koongoora
Secretary	<b>Cathy Johns</b> Women's Crisis Support Service Inc.
Treasurer	<b>Bernadette O'Byrne</b> Windana Support Centre
General members	<b>Valda Carrington</b> Maybanke Accommodation & Crisis Support Service
	<b>Karyn Rosenthal</b> Mary & Martha's
Succeeded by	<b>Sue Weatherill</b> Mary & Martha's
	<b>Heath Truda</b> Women's House Shelta

Thank you to all our members for another wonderful year of working together to advocate for women and children's right to live a life free from violence.

Some of the highlights of 2018-2019 include developing our three-year strategic plan in May and hosting a Member Refuge Networking event in July. We have a clear direction of how we will build on the strengths of our organisation and in doing so deliver for members and the women and children they support.

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Special thanks to Save the Children for our regular meeting space and to all our guest speakers for 2018-2019.

# Treasurer's report

## Year ended 30th June 2019

As the Combined Women's Refuge Group of southeast Queensland enters its 41st year of operation, members report that they are busier than ever. In my last Treasurer's report, I spoke about the horror month that we had had in October 2018 with 10 women killed in Australia by their intimate partner or family member. Not much has changed with these homicide statistics with September 2019 very closely mirroring the death toll in October 2018, with nine women being killed in this month alone.<sup>1</sup> The community always appears to be shocked at these homicide statistics but as Our Watch suggests, until actions are taken to 'reduce the gendered drivers of violence against women', these statistics will not change.<sup>2</sup> CWRG can have a real role in advocating for women affected by domestic and family violence and in working together with other stakeholders, work towards addressing the necessary actions that need to be implemented to invoke real change.

### Income and expenditure

Australia's CEO Challenge has ensured that the CWRG has been able to remain financially viable. In the last financial year, they paid out \$8272.62 towards wages for our Secretariat.

Memberships yielded a total of \$4700. We would like to say a massive thank you to Australia CEO's Challenge for their financial support. The CWRG spent many years operating on the smell of an oily rag, using market stalls, sausage sizzles and raffles to stay afloat. It is wonderful that we have now have the capacity to use our funds for other projects.

### In appreciation

In February this year we farewelled our long term Secretariat, Liz MacDonald. Liz's contribution to the CWRG over many years has been outstanding. Her organisational skills, competency and hard work has largely contributed to the successes that the CWRG has enjoyed over the years including the position paper,

*More than just a Bed* and our 40th birthday celebration.

In March we welcomed Nancy as the new Secretariat and she has already implemented her own working style in the position. She recently organised a networking day for refuge staff which was very successful. We look forward to continuing working with her.

We would like to say thank you to Koongoora who auspiced the Secretariat wages until March this year. Koongoora organised the payment through their own payroll system for many years and we appreciate their support.

I would like to express my appreciation to all those services and individuals who raised money and collected donations to assist our women and children. Without these, refuges would have found it difficult to meet the needs of our clients.

Last but not least, I would like to say thank you to the members of the Executive Committee for the 2018/19 year which included Mikki, Rosemary, Sue, Cathy, Valda, Karyn, Sue, and Heath. They have worked hard to ensure that the CWRG remains a viable and strong organisation that can continue to support women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

*Treasurer's Statement:*  
The association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

**Bernadette O'Byrne**  
Treasurer

## Statement of Income

For the year ended 30th June 2019

### Income

Donations	\$0.00
Memberships	\$4,700.00
Corporate Partnerships	\$12,606.63
Bank Interest	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$17,306.63</b>

### Expenses

Bank Fees	\$2.50
Wages and salaries	\$8,272.62
Event Expenses	\$5,540.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,815.32</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$3,491.31</b>

<sup>1</sup>Counting Dead Women: Destroy the Joint [www.facebook.com/DestroyTheJoint](http://www.facebook.com/DestroyTheJoint)

<sup>2</sup>Our Watch; VicHealth; Anrows. 2015. Change the Story. [www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/change-the-story-framework-prevent-violence-children-aa-new.pdf.aspx](http://www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/change-the-story-framework-prevent-violence-children-aa-new.pdf.aspx)



CWRG July  
Refuge  
Networking  
Event

# CWRG Strategic Plan Summary 2019 - 2022



Goals	Objectives	Progress to date
Strengthen our sense of shared purpose and member connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase membership to new refugees</li> <li>Increase member engagement and participation</li> </ul>	<i>Refuge Networking Event held in July 2019</i>
Strengthen our advocacy capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote an understanding of refugees, including the benefits. Promote the specialist skills of workers</li> <li>Dispel myths around refugees</li> </ul>	<p><i>CWRG brochure feedback survey complete and new brochure now under development</i></p> <p><i>Working with EVAWQ and QDVSN stakeholders to strengthen state-wide communications</i></p>
Strengthen benefits for members	Provide benefits and lead initiatives that members value	<i>Working with the Qld Department of Justice and Attorney-General to source birth and marriage certificates for woman and children living in refuge</i>

# Domestic violence in Australia

## Key statistics

1 woman every  
9 days



killed by a current or  
previous partner

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2019. *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019*. Canberra: AIHW.

12 women  
a day



hospitalised for assault  
injuries due to domestic  
and family violence

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2019. *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019*. Canberra: AIHW.

Estimated cost of domestic and family violence in Australia each year:

\$22,000,

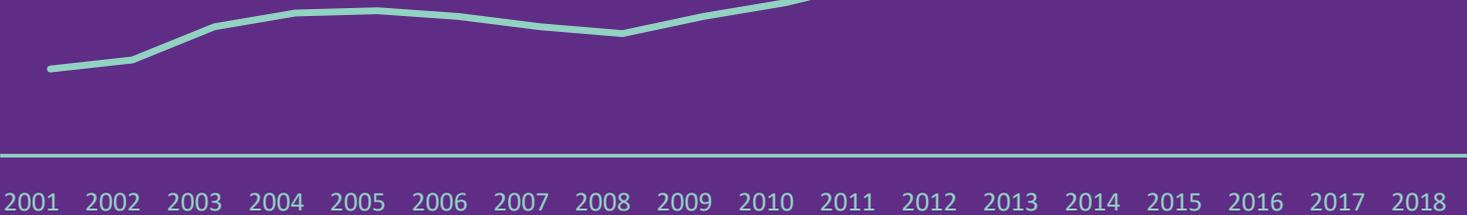
## Breaches of domestic violence orders in QLD

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↑ 322%

Breaches of DVO's have increased over 322% from 2001 to 2018 (from 6,500 in 2001 to 27,473 in 2018).

<http://mypolice.qld.gov.au/queensland-crime-statistics/>



16%

of Queenslanders surveyed in 2018 were aware of domestic and family violence involving a family member or close friend taking place in the last 12 months.

<https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/issues/2746/domestic-family-violence-qld-social-survey-2018.pdf>

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<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2018/contents/summary>



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