

August meeting

Marrion Saunders

We were honoured to have Fiona Dorman President of National Council of Women SA and Chair of the Premier's Council for Women, as our speaker, online on Monday August 9th. COVID restrictions necessitated the postponement of our much enjoyed annual Soup and Dessert Night, which we hope to hold at another time.

NCW is an advocacy-only organisation, which meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month and has done so, since the 1920s.

Fiona spoke about the history of the organisation, making special mention of our SI Adelaide founding members, who had also played a big part in NCW in the 1940s.

Goals of NCWSA:

- Finding commonality with other women's organisations
- Finding strength in our collective voices
- Standing together on common issues
- Focussing on the status of women in our community and women's wellbeing

Issues they have advocated on:

- Affordable housing has been an ongoing issue(This was also number 1 in 1920!)
- She described how NCW lobbied for what became "War Service Housing, "also housing for large families.
- In the 1950simplementation of standards for the care of the aged
- Common standards in kindergarten services
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Fiona outlined some of their recent and current work.

- Resulting from the recent NCWSA survey entitled "What matters to you?", she told us that the number 1 response was about homelessness in older women – so affordable and available housing
- Other initiatives: the recent abortion bill and voluntary euthanasia, DV, sex work decriminalisation, coercive control.
- Given the wide diversity of women in NCW, leading to a full range of ideas and beliefs, we congratulate Fiona on her negotiating skills.
- In her role as Chair of The Premier's Department Women's Council, Fiona exhorted us to write with our ideas and wish list.
- She assures us that everything is discussed by the panel.

The council has recently reviewed women's participation on government boards and it's currently 50%.

SI Adelaide has a close connection to NCWSA, we are long term members of NCWSA, we are a tenant on South Tce and have several meetings a year there..