



# 2021-2022 Annual Report



CENTRE FOR  
Women's Safety  
and Wellbeing

# Chair's Report

This is a time for great change and advancement of women and children's safety, as there is much local, national and international commitment to end domestic and family violence, and promote the equality and dignity of women and girls. The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing is at the forefront of this work locally with a growing body of activity led ably by Rebecca Smith as Chief Executive Officer, and Dr Alison Evans, Director - Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. It is a privilege to take over the role as Chair of CWSW at this time following all the hard work and achievements of my predecessor Kathy Blitz-Cokis, inaugural Chair.

As Kathy did previously, I would also like to acknowledge the legacy of Angela Hartwig (CEO of the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services) in her determination to end violence against women and children as her life's work, in which she influenced politicians and other senior decision makers to act on calls for action. We now enter a new era built on that foundation, which has also been strengthened further by the joining of forces with Women's Community Health Network WA.

I would like to thank Kathy and the other Board members for all their effort and wisdom in establishing the new organisation with all the components required in such a change. These foundations are a strong base from which to keep developing the organisation. I am fortunate to take on this role after a period of establishment and expansion. Kathy has been a great support in helping me understand the role and the next set of priorities with which to move ahead. Since the beginning of the new organisation, it has steadily grown and expanded into the broad range of areas necessary to contribute to the social changes required to promote the safety of women and their children. Rebecca and Alison have both worked tirelessly to establish CWSW and make its presence felt with governments and other organisations.

Thank you for all the work you do, which is largely unending given the challenge of ending violence against women.

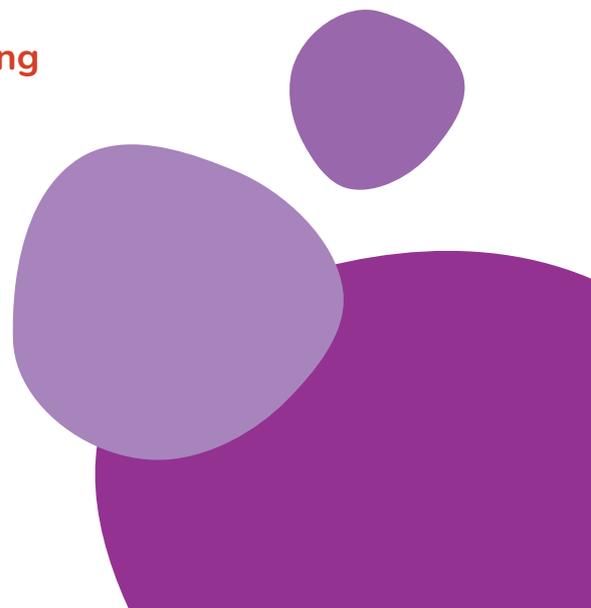
CWSW staff have strong networks and work collaboratively with key stakeholders who are also invested in stopping violence and promoting equality. I think that this is an asset that is often underestimated in its value to bring about change. Importantly, consistent with women's centred approaches developed by our forebears, there is a growing and increasingly active group of women with lived experience informing the work of CWSW by giving their time. I would like to thank them for their generosity and recognise the significance of the knowledge they bring to the process.

The range of work being undertaken by CWSW in primary prevention, awareness raising, workforce development and policy reform are foundational to promoting more effective specialist responses and working towards a more robust and DFV-informed mainstream service system. CWSW also continues to raise awareness of emerging issues in the DFV and women's health sectors so that responses can be developed.

Finally, a member organisation such as this is only as strong as its supporters, and I would like to thank all members and stakeholders for their support of CWSW's work to date. Being new to the role, I would also like to encourage others who share CWSW's vision to join us, and invite members to continue their commitment to stopping violence and ending gender inequality.

**Donna Chung**

Chair



# CEO's Report

The last year has been a busy and productive one for the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing, as the organisation continued to evolve as the peak body for women's specialist domestic and family violence, community-based women's health and sexual assault services in Western Australia.

The first half of 2021/22 saw a focus on stakeholder engagement and communication, with members and the sectors engaged in both strategic planning activities and our first annual stakeholder survey. We were proud to release our Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, which outlines how we will support the development of evidence-based, best practice responses to women and their children, and bring together systems and sectors to support our vision of a safe and equal world where women thrive.

The new CWSW website was launched in November, hosting the WA-first Support and Services Directory for victim-survivors of domestic, family and/or sexual violence. We also proudly commenced work in our women's health portfolio, which focuses on developing a coordinated planning, policy, research and practice environment that has a positive collective impact on women's health and wellbeing.

Building sector competence and capability through professional learning and development remained a key focus for us as a peak body, and our new program saw face-to-face and online events delivered to many professionals across the sectors. We look forward to growing this area moving forwards, and have recruited new positions to support the work.

Our organisational governance, in particular financial governance, was strengthened this year, as was our Lived Experience Advisory Group, ensuring voices of survivors are heard, and inform the development of policy, practice, service design and systems reform.

There were many highlights throughout the year, a true testament to the 'small but mighty' CWSW team! We partnered with Stopping Family Violence to convene the bi-annual conference, hosted National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day and International Women's Day events, launched the Preventing Violence Together and Changing Gears initiatives, and supported sector commissioning work to ensure adequate and sustained investment in sector services. The Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March, in its 31st year, saw a successful change in location to Forrest Chase, where we were joined by hundreds of people in honoring victims and calling for change.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the passionate, committed and skilled staff of CWSW. Thank you also to the Board who have given their time and energy so generously. We are privileged to have people of this calibre working hard to improve outcomes for, and end violence against, women and children. Thank you also to our members for their continued support during our time of change – we are very grateful.

**Rebecca Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Treasurer's Report

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing has grown significantly in 2021/22 with significant increases in revenue and staff as a result of grant and funding agreements to deliver member and project activities. With the changing of the entity within the past two years, CWSW has focused on reconciliation of past accounts and implementing ongoing controls to ensure the organisation remains in a strong position to deliver its purpose into the future.

CWSW have continued to seek and embrace new opportunities to increase support and advocacy for members and women over the past year. We are appreciative and give thanks to the support of Department of Communities, North Metropolitan Health Service, Lotterywest, Water Corporation, the Minderoo Foundation, individual donors and our members who have enabled us to deliver our outcomes.

Whilst establishing the new contracts and reconciling agreements, CWSW has a loss of \$55,030 for this annual period. During 2021/22 CWSW engaged auditor Greg Ledger Pty Ltd who is experienced and well-regarded in the NFP sector. There were no changes of significance to accounting standards during the period. CWSW remains in a strong financial and operational position going into the year ahead to deliver contractual outcomes and its organisational purpose.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of Rebecca Smith, Rod Lillis (Accountant) and Sharon Dean (Bookkeeper) who have worked diligently in resolving balances, implementing new processes and building the foundation for good financial governance into the future. I would also like to thank Kathy, Donna, Mel and all Board members for their time and contributions over the year. My final thanks goes to the entire team at CWSW who have continued to increase the reach of the important work to support members, and the safety and wellbeing of women in Western Australia.

**Kelda Opperman**

Treasurer

## Our Supporters and Partners

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their financial assistance this year:

- Department of Communities
- North Metropolitan Health Service
- Water Corporation
- Minderoo Foundation
- Lotterywest
- Myer Carousel

We are grateful to have partnered with, and been supported by, a number of organisations this year:

- Stopping Family Violence
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies
- Community Legal WA
- WESNET
- Women's Legal Services WA
- Yorgum Healing Services
- Supporters of the Silent March

Thank you also to everyone who donated to CWSW this year.



# Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Following significant consultation with staff, Board, metropolitan and regional stakeholders during June – September 2021, CWSW was proud to launch its strategic plan for 2021 -2025.

This plan focuses on the following strategic areas:



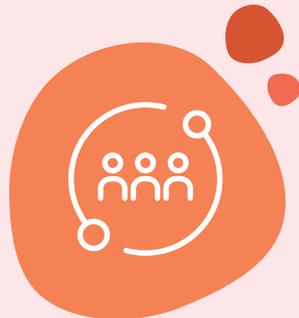
**Sustain and strengthen specialist practice to deliver safety, support and accountability**



**Build, maintain and promote collaborative relationships with and between stakeholders**



**Lead advocacy for change**



**Build an accountable, sustainable organisation that is effective and efficient**



**Develop and deliver purposeful and visible communication**

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the development of the Strategic Plan, which is available on our website.



# Stakeholder Engagement Survey



In November 2021, CWSW undertook its first annual stakeholder engagement survey. Findings will be used to better understand and respond to stakeholder needs, and inform future membership offerings. Thank you to everyone who took part.

## Our Peak Body Representation



### Department of Communities

- Commissioning Working Group
- Data and Outcomes Working Group
- Partnerships Roundtable Group
- Path to Safety Steering Group (Co-chair)
- Family and Domestic Violence Commissioning Expert Reference Group

### North Metropolitan Health Service

- Women's Health Services meetings
- Sexual Assault Support Services meetings

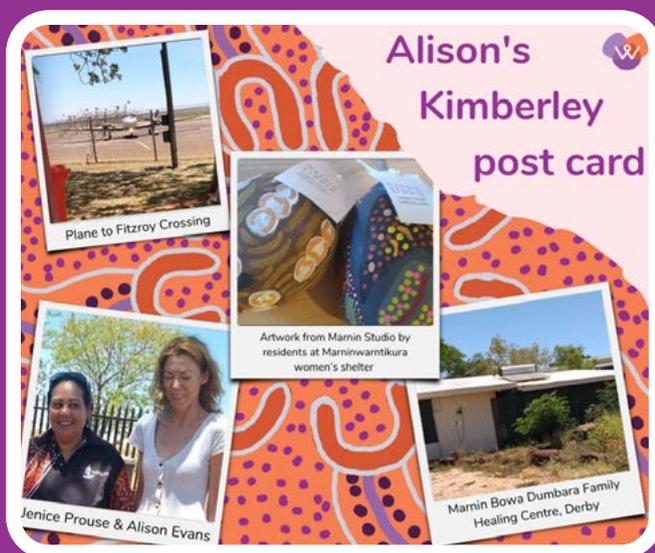
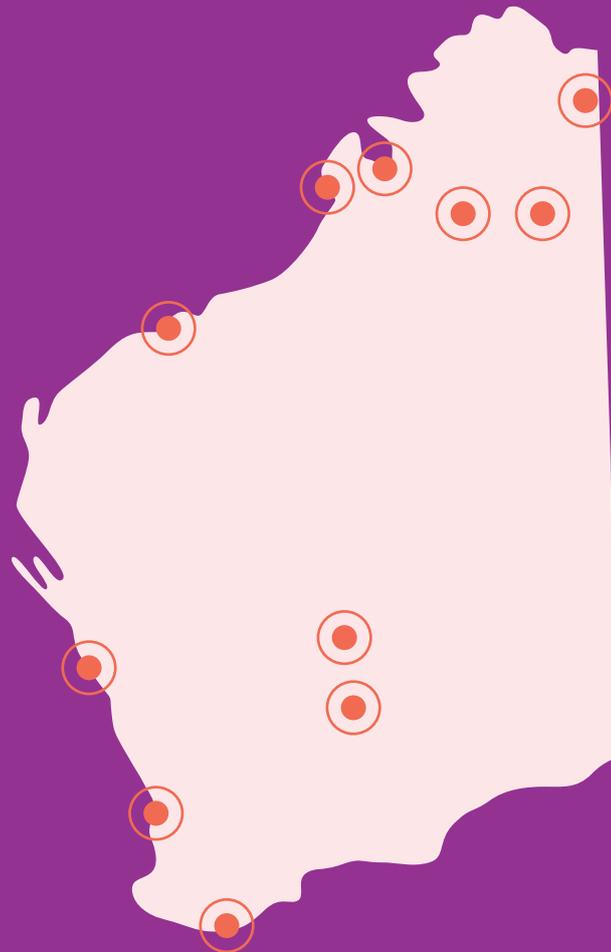
### Other

- Family Court of WA Reference Group
- Sexual Violence Strategy Reference Group
- WA Peaks Forum
- Coordinated Response Services meetings (Chair)
- Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Advisory Group (National Women's Safety Alliance)
- Australian Women's Health Network (Board)
- National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (Board)
- Family and Domestic Violence Expert Advisory Group
- Sustainable Health Review Partnership Group

# Our Reach

CWSW staff went to the following locations during 2021/22 to deliver training and visit services, gathering local knowledge on family and domestic violence and how it is being responded to on the ground from the perspective of local service providers, as well as information around current trends and issues for women's health centres.

- Derby
- Kununurra
- Halls Creek
- Fitzroy Crossing
- Albany
- Broome
- Geraldton
- Kalgoorlie
- Mandurah
- Port Hedland
- Leonora



# Highlights 2021-2022



## Launch of Preventing Violence Together

New **WA-based initiative in partnership** with Stopping Family Violence focusing on ending violence against women through a dedicated focus on primary prevention



Recruitment of **new team** to lead project



Developed **networks and communities of practice** to support practitioners



## Professional learning and development

Over **500 professionals supported** through 22 professional learning and development events (face to face and online)



Convened **specialist practice groups** to share knowledge and experience, inform sectors of issues and trends, and guide professional development planning



**Domestic Violence Literacy training** delivered in regional areas



## Sector commissioning work

Supported Commissioning work to ensure adequate and sustained **investment in sector services**, with service visits around WA completed to compile data



Partnered with Department of Communities to establish a **Family and Domestic Expert Reference Group** to ensure active engagement with the sector and transparent process



## Submissions



Establishment of the **Office for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence**



**Fourth National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children**



Inquiry into the **Esther Foundation** and **unregulated private health facilities**



**Religious Discrimination Bill 2021** and related bills inquiry



**Coercive control legislation** (preliminary submission)



Parliamentary enquiry into **sexual harassment against women in the FIFO mining industry**



Statutory Review of **Part 2 of the Restraining Orders and Related Legislation Amendment** (Family Violence) Act 2016



Review of **sexual offences** and the law relating to consent (preliminary submission)

## Policy and legislative reform



Embedding **effective responses to coercive and controlling behaviours** across the system and in policy and practice



Safe, timely, accessible, **affordable housing/ accommodation solutions** for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence



Family and domestic violence **risk assessment, risk management** and **information sharing**



**Family and Domestic Violence Response Team review**, ensuring the model supports the safety and wellbeing of high-risk victim-survivors



Continuity and continuation of **funding for mobile outreach**



Continuous quality improvement and **workforce development**



Increased focus on **post-separation and recovery of survivors of DFV**

## Events



**Candlelight vigil** on National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day



**International Women's Day event** focusing on changing climates: equality today for a sustainable tomorrow



**Silent Memorial March** in new location



**Bi-Annual DFV conference** in partnership with Stopping Family Violence – Bringing young people and children into view

## New projects



**Online Support and Services Directory** launched providing support for women experiencing violence



**CWSW website launched** (over 8,000 visits)



**LinkedIn page launched**, with social media engagement increase of over 200%



**First responders consultation** to inform training needs



**COVID-19 sector support** (FAQs, website and templates)



**Women's Health Week** social media toolkit and service visits

## Brokerage projects



**Funds for Freedom** supported over 107 women and 216 children escaping violence to obtain essential household items



**Changing Gears: Women Behind the Wheel**, supported 18 women from metropolitan and regional areas who have experienced violence to develop skills needed to obtain a driving licence

## Infrastructure and governance



**New staff positions** created to support sectors



**Financial governance structure** implemented



Broadened and strengthened **Lived Experience Advisory Group**

## Publications



Domestic and Family Violence **Research Companion**



**Budget analysis** conducted - State and Commonwealth



Various **media statements** and **interviews**



**Monthly newsletters** (CWSW and PVT)



**Website news articles**, including reflections on DFV incidents in WA



The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians and first peoples of Australia. We recognise the impacts of colonisation and dispossession and the contemporary disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing is committed to working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men to end violence against their women and children in Western Australia.

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing acknowledges the strength and resilience of adults, children and young people who have experienced family and domestic violence. We pay respects to those who did not survive and acknowledge the families, friends and communities who have lost loved ones to this preventable and widespread issue. We are committed to ensuring responses to family and domestic violence are informed by lived experience.

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing recognises, welcomes and respects people of diverse gender, sex and sexuality. We are committed to greater inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people (LGBTIQ).

## CWSW Staff

as at 30 June 2022

### Rebecca Smith

Chief Executive Officer

### Alison Evans

Director – Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

### Megan Elias

Women's Health Advocacy and Engagement

### Jayde Robinson-Clancy

Communications, Engagement and Special Projects Officer

### Mary-Rose Tomeo

Manager, Preventing Violence Together

### Katie Moynan

Specialist Practice Development and Research, Preventing Violence Together

### Micaela Rafel

Sexual Violence Project Officer

### Sarella Kessel

Administration Officer

### Sharon Dean

Bookkeeper

## CWSW Board

as at 30 June 2022

### Donna Chung

Chair

### Nicole Lambert

Deputy Chair

### Kelda Opperman

Treasurer

### Justine Colyer

Secretary

### Andrea Creado

### Gloria Moyle

### Robyn Antenucci

### Felicite Black

### Tanya Elson

### Kim Gates

Thank you also to **Kathy Blitz-Cokis** (Chair), **Dawn Smith** and **Corina Martin** who held Board positions during the year.



CENTRE FOR  
Women's Safety  
and Wellbeing

2 Delhi Street,  
West Perth, 6005

08 9420 7264  
[csw.org.au](http://csw.org.au)