

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

3rd floor, 511 Kent Street
Sydney.

61 5224

September 13, 1963

TO: HEADS OF CHURCHES
DENOMINATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUPS

Dear Friends,

You will recall that we wrote you some months ago concerning the establishment of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN by the Australian Council of Churches as an aspect of ecumenical promotion and indicated that the purpose of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN was:

"To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the Australian Church Women to incorporate Christian women into the total life and mission of the Church; and to unite them for the building of a world Christian community."

At the moment the state women's inter-church councils (or the appropriate organization) are considering an invitation by the Interim Committee to become the state unit of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN and N.S.W. and Victoria have accepted the invitation, and are busy publicising and organising the visit of Dr. Madeleine Barot who is Director of the World Council of Churches' Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, to their particular States.

When there is a state unit in each state it is hoped to have a national consultation to prepare for the establishing of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN and the setting up of appropriate structures for national, state and local penetration.

The Interim Committee has drawn up suggestions for a more formal structure and a copy is enclosed for your interest and information together with the original statement concerning the purpose of Australian Church Women.

You will note in the statement concerning Australian Church Women mention is made of promoting study materials for use in women's groups. The Interim Committee has now before it material for the 1964 study which they hope will be used in denominational and interdenominational women's groups. The study is based on the role of the laity in the Church and the world and announcement concerning it will be made through the church press and the Australian Council of Churches' publication, IN UNITY.

We have been encouraged by the interest shown in this new ecumenical venture and forward to you the enclosed so that you may know of the developments taking place. If you have any comments to make we will be glad to hear from you.

Encl.

Yours sincerely,

F. McKay
Mrs. F. McKay on behalf of
Interim Committee.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN was initiated by the Australian Council of Churches as an aspect of ecumenical promotion and as part of the activities of the Department of Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

The purpose of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the Australian Church Women to incorporate Christian women into the total life and mission of the Church; and to unite them for the building of a world Christian community.

The name Australian Church Women has been chosen because it creates an image and suggests fellowship rather than yet another organization.

We realize that Christian unity is an imperative for the effective work and witness of the Church in our time. We believe that there is a desire among many women in the churches to have a deeper bond of fellowship with Christian women of all denominations at the local, national and international level.

The urgent need is for local development. It is important to help the church woman in the local area and in each denomination to realise that she is not only Anglican or Baptist, Congregationalist or Methodist, Orthodox or Presbyterian, but that she has a "oneness" with every other church women in her own locality.

In the local area, women's organizations of the various churches would form a branch of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN. Where there are existing women's inter-church groups it is hoped that they will become part of Australian Church Women.

There is no intention to divide the ecumenical interest of men and women. AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN will participate in the interests and activities of the World Council of Churches' Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

The interim committee plan in the first instance to:

- . promote a FELLOWSHIP DAY and a WORLD COMMUNITY DAY each year
- . provide STUDY MATERIAL for women's groups. In the 1964 the study will be on the role of the laity with special reference to the cooperation of men and women in the Church
- . stimulate service projects
 - (a) at the local and national level - e.g. among migrants, aboriginals
 - (b) at the world level - e.g. providing scholarships, encouraging fraternal workers.

APRIL 1963

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Suggestions for a more formal structure of Australian Church Women

- - -

1. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The basic composition of the National Council of Australian Church Women shall be representative of:

- (1) Federal denominational women's organizations (appointed by the Federal Body or by whatever means appropriate to the particular church).

Church of England	4	
Methodist	2	
Presbyterian	2	
Congregational	1	
Churches of Christ	1	
Salvation Army	1	
Other churches one each		minimum 15

- (2) State Councils of Australian Church Women (by whatever name they are called) (see No.2 below)

Queensland	1	Sth. Aust.	1
N.S.W.	2	West. Aust.	1
Victoria	2	A.C.T.	1
Tasmania	1		

- (3) Special interest groups: as will be named in the Constitution
e.g. Women's World Day of Prayer Committee, Y.W.C.A. 2

- (4) The Australian Council of Churches 4

2. STATE COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The existing State women's inter-church groups (where their constitution provides for representatives to be appointed by the denominational women's organizations of the State) shall be invited to be the State Council of Australian Church Women.

3. STATE COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN shall have consultative status on the State Council of Churches or the Committee affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches.

(Consultants have the right to speak and move motions but not to vote.)

4. LOCAL GROUPS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN in suburban and rural areas shall be affiliated with the State Council of Australian Church Women.

5. The LOCAL GROUP of Australian Church Women shall become affiliated with the Local Inter-Church Council if that Council is affiliated with the State Council of the Australian Council of Churches.

6. Individuals may become corresponding members with the State Council of Australian Church Women if there is no local group to which they may belong.

7. When the invitation to existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils to become State Councils of Australian Church Women is extended the following points should be made:

1. That the present name of the State body may be retained but that the

organization function as the State Council of the ACW.

2. That the organization which functions as the State Council of ACW shall give priority to the promoting of and continuing assistance to local groups of ACW in suburban and rural areas.

3. That the State Council include all member churches of the Australian Council of Churches and such other churches as may desire membership. e.g. The Russian and Serbian Orthodox Churches are in the Inter-Church Aid in Australia but are not member churches of the ACC., the Baptist Federal Board of Christian Education is a member of the Australian Council of Christian Education and the Australian Christian Youth Council, but the Baptist Church is not a member of the ACC., the Baptist Unions in Victoria and Tasmania are members of the Victorian and Tasmanian Councils of Churches affiliated with the ACC., but the Australian Baptist Union is not a member of the ACC. The basis of membership shall be that which governs admission to the Australian Council of Churches:

"A fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

4. That the State Councils of the ACW determine their ratio of representation from their member groups.

5. That special interest groups which have membership on the National Council of ACW shall be invited to the members on the State Councils.

3/7/63

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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

PRESIDENT

the Rev. B. R. Wyllie

GENERAL SECRETARY

the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

the Rev. J. R. Neal

TELEPHONE: 61 4766

61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:

"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,

511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY

December 11, 1964

**TO ALL DELEGATES TO THE
FIRST NATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

Dear Friends,

We have been very glad to learn that you will be attending the first meeting of the National Committee of Australian Church Women. The members of the Interim Committee are sure that the calling of this National Committee is an important next step in the developing of ecumenical relationships between our women's groups.

INFORMATION

1. The meeting will be held at Deaconess House, Carillon Avenue, Newtown (which is very close to the University of Sydney).
2. A copy of the proposed agenda is enclosed for your information and to enable you to make your travel arrangements accordingly.
3. The cost for all accommodation and meals (including a 5/- registration fee) will be £2. Meals only 6/- each plus the 5/- registration fee.
4. Members of the National Committee are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches as observers and participants in the programme through to the Saturday evening, February 13 if they so desire. On Sunday afternoon and evening there will be meetings of denominational groups to which you are also invited. The plenary sessions of the Council's meeting begin on Monday morning, February 15.
5. Working Documents - we hope to circulate to you prior to the meeting a report of the Interim Committee's work during the past 2 years and reports from the States.

Would you please complete the enclosed form and return as soon as possible to the office.

With best wishes.

Encl.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie
Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)
Convener.

PER. *[Signature]*

MEMBER CHURCHES:

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends

NATIONAL COMMITTEE of
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

A
G
E
N
D
A

DEACONESS HOUSE
CARILLON AVENUE
NEWTOWN N.S.W.

FEBRUARY 10 - 11
1964

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 10

10.30am arrive - Morning Tea

SESSION 1:

11.00am Opening Prayers - Head Deaconess M. Andrews
Welcomes
Procedural arrangements
Review of the Interim Committee's work
Report from the States, etc.

12.30pm Lunch

SESSION 2:

1.30pm Constitution
3.30 Afternoon Tea

SESSION 3:

4.00 Study material - to be introduced by Mrs. S.M. Barrett
5.30 Close of Session
6.00 Tea

SESSION 4:

7.00 pm Programme of Australian Church Women - Introduced by Mrs. D. Verco
Projects: Fellowship of the Least Coin) Introduced by
Winifred Kiek Scholarship) Mrs. Wells
9.00 Prayers - Mrs. D. Strack

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SESSION 5:

9.00am Prayers - Mrs. A.G. Ashton
Constitution
9.30 Survey on the Service and Status of Women in the Churches
Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in the
Church, Family and Society.
10.30 Morning Tea

SESSION 6:

11.00am Appointments and Elections
Recommendations to the ACC Annual Meeting
11.45 Closing Prayer - The President
12.00 Lunch
1.00pm Opening Service of the ACC Annual Meeting -
St. Andrew's Cathedral, George Street.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Recommendations received from the Interim Committee following Consultation held in Sydney, March 17-18 with members of Denominational Federal Women's Organizations and State Women's Inter-Church Councils and given general approval by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches on April 15, 1964. The Interim Committee will now prepare a draft Constitution to be presented to the Australian Council of Churches' Annual Meeting in 1965.

(1) That the AIM of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN be:

"To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, study and fellowship and service across denominational divisions; and to encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries."

(2) That the STRUCTURE of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN be:

(a) Within the Australian Council of Churches:

That the National Committee of Australian Church Women function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society

(b) The National Committee shall include:

- i. Representatives of Federal Denominational women's organizations (appointed by the Federal body or by whatever means appropriate to the particular church).
Church of England 2 and other denominations 1 each.
- SR. > ii. One representative of the State women's inter-church councils who have agreed to be the unit of Australian Church Women.
- iii. Special interest groups invited by the National Committee to appoint a representative.
- iv. 4 representatives to be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches. In appointing these representatives consideration be given to:
 - 1. the inclusion of men
 - 2. the need to relate the work of Australian Church Women to the other parts of the Australian Council of Churches.
 - 3. the need to preserve denominational balance in the total membership of the National Committee.
- v. Representation from the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

(c) Meetings

- i. The National Committee shall meet for two or three days once each year.
The time and location of the Annual Meeting of the National Committee to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
- ii. A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. It is envisaged that the committee would be based in Sydney for the time being.

- (d) State Committees of Australian Church Women. The existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils wherever they are willing to act, will be recognized by the National Committee of Australian Church Women as the units through which Australian Church Women works. It is envisaged that such groups will have consultative status on the State Council of Churches or State Committees affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches.
- (e) Local Committees carrying out the purposes of Australian Church Women in suburban and rural areas shall be affiliated with that State Unit. These committees will also be encouraged to be a part of the local Inter-Church Councils affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches if one exists in the area.
- (3) PROGRAMME of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.
- (1) Australian Church Women will encourage studies and consultations by
- (a) providing study material for use in local groups and on special days.
 - (b) arranging consultations on particular issues.
- (2) Australian Church Women will seek to develop international fellowship in such ways as:
- (a) commending and sponsoring the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
 - (b) encouraging participation in Australian Inter-Church Aid programmes.
 - (c) arranging visits of overseas speakers to Australia, and participation by Australian women in ecumenical events overseas.
 - (d) encouraging individuals and groups to join the World Council of Churches Fellowship.
- (3) Australian Church Women working in co-operation with State Women's Inter-Church Councils will promote a Fellowship Day and a World Community Day each year.
- (a) Australian Church Women will prepare study material and suggest service projects for Fellowship Day.
 - (b) A State Women's Inter-Church Council will be asked to prepare the service of worship for Fellowship Day and a denominational group the service of worship for World Community Day.
 - (c) Fellowship Day will be held at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity or in June, and World Community Day on the fourth Friday in October. Fellowship of the Least Coin funds will be received on World Community Day.
 - (d) Wherever possible Australian Church Women will be associated with the Committee and Programme of the Women's World Day of Prayer.
- (4) FINANCE.

That the following principles regarding finance be accepted:

- (a) that no affiliation fee be sought from groups at present.
- (b) that where special days and services are held a percentage of the collection be used for the work of the State Women's Inter-Church Council and the National Committee of Australian Church Women.

c/o 511 KENT STREET
(Room 2 - 3rd floor)
SYDNEY.

APRIL 1964

10.5.64.

Dear Mrs Wyllie

Thank you very much for sending me the recommendations of the Consultation and the copy of your letter to Mrs Saunders. Now that I have read all this, & since we were all assured at the Inter-church Council meeting by the Rev John Neal that it was intended that churches choose their representatives by whatever method is appropriate to the church, e.g. General Synod for the C of E. & perhaps General Assembly of Australia for the Presbyterians. I feel very happy about the future. I think that with a couple of minor adjustments the recommendations ought to be acceptable to the P.W.A. but of course I can no longer speak for them.

and the P.W.A. of Australia cannot
appeal before September. I shall be
disappointed if there is any real
difficulty as this draft meets so
many of our difficulties.

I am sure that ~~the~~ Mrs
Thompson, the Federal Secretary of
the P.W.A., did write and say that
we could not really discuss the
position of the P.W.A. until September.
We have checked the Federal Minutes
and find that it is recorded that
a letter was sent. It must be
difficult for you to keep track of
everything.

Joan always asks me about things
here when she writes. She is in
Toronto working with the Presbyterian
Church which appears to have even
more ecumenical contacts than the
United Church - a strange thing.

With all good wishes to you both.

Yours sincerely Mary and Maureen

Mrs Saunders is concerned that this draft of the Constitution of Australian Church Women should not be presented to the Executive of the ACC on Sept. 30th in its present form.

She feels that some paragraphs will not be acceptable to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria, particularly § 2 under Finance. She thinks on the basis of comment by members of the Executive that they would not be willing for the National Committee to decide the proportion of funds to be allotted to State administration. National administration and projects. Could we add: "in consultation with State units." The choice of projects was that Victorian women would want to be consulted. The document gives the impression of too much power transferred to the National Committee.

She also has reservations about the second half of § 6 ii, on the grounds that it was going ahead of the measure of agreement we have reached.

(It might be more acceptable if it were not mandatory: eg. It is hoped that such local committees (avoiding the specific title which is not in line with Victorian practice) will co-operate with local Inter-Church Councils ^{affiliated} with the Australian Council of Churches.

(This is my suggestion only. JAC)

I have one or two other comments to make: Until this last draft of the Constitution there has always been some reference to international relationships under AIM. Is it now deliberately omitted? Could we say "across denominational and national boundaries"?

under 6 State & Local Organization (i)
"There shall be a Committee in each State
to serve as the State unit of Australian Church
Women." reads as if some separate ad hoc
committee might need to be set up,
whereas actually the WICC in Victoria
& in other states, serves this purpose.
body or organization might make it
clearer.

The next sentence should read, I
take it -

Each State unit shall cooperate.

With Compliments of The
Australian Council of Churches

(affiliated with the
World Council of Churches)

To be presented to the ACC Executive
on September 30

Room 2, 3rd Floor
511 Kent Street, Sydney
61-5224, 61-4766



D R A F T

CONSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

1. NAME: Australian Church Women.

2. The AIM of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN is

"To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, study, fellowship and service across the present denominational boundaries."

The programme of Australian Church Women shall be planned to serve this aim.

3. RELATIONSHIPS:

- (a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
- (b) Australian Church Women shall function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

4. COMMITTEES:

(a) The National Committee shall consist of representatives who shall be appointed annually:

- i. one representative of the Federal women's organizations of each church seeking membership in Australian Church Women, appointed by whatever means is appropriate to the particular church.
- ii. two representatives of each State women's inter-church organization which is recognized by Australian Church Women as its State unit.
- iii. one representative of each special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee.
- iv. two representatives appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
- v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The National Committee shall meet at least annually at a time and place, to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Fifty percent of representatives under 4.(a) i. and ii. shall constitute a quorum. Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.

(b) A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. The Working Committee shall consist of 10 members of the National Committee resident in one State and shall include the office bearers. The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee.

5. OFFICE BEARERS:

The office bearers shall be (1) A President; (2) Two Vice-Presidents; (3) A Secretary; (4) A Treasurer. They shall be elected annually by the National Committee provided always that the President shall not hold the office for more than two consecutive years. The office bearers shall serve as an Executive between Working Committee meetings.

② church
N.W.C.C.
next meeting
Oct 23.

①
Amend
only to Executive
Oct 30

6. STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATION:

1. There shall be a Committee in each State to serve as the State unit of Australian Church Women. Each State shall co-operate with the Council of Churches affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches in the State.
2. Local Committees either suburban or rural which carry out the purpose of Australian Church Women shall be affiliated with the State Unit. Local Committees of Australian Church Women shall co-operate with any local Inter-Church Council affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches which exists in the area.

7. PROGRAMME OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

The National Committee of Australian Church Women shall prepare a statement of its programme each year.

8. FINANCE:

1. Collections taken at special days and services included in the Australian Church Women programme (after local expenses have been met) shall be divided between (i) the administration of the affiliated State Women's Inter-Church Council organization (ii) the administration of the National Committee of Australian Church Women and (iii) national projects sponsored by Australian Church Women. The percentage to be given to i, ii, and iii shall be determined each year by the National Committee. *would not agree.*
2. The funds of the Fellowship of the Least Coin shall be paid annually by the State units to the National Committee for remittance to the Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, in the World Council of Churches.
3. (a) ~~Accounts shall be kept as determined by the National Committee in consultation with the Honorary Treasurer of the Australian Council of Churches.~~
- (b) Bank accounts shall be operated by the President, Secretary and Treasurer and such others as may be appointed, the signatures of any two of whom shall be sufficient discharge.
- (c) Statements of accounts shall be presented to the meetings of the Working Committee, and ^{audited} annual statements to the National Committee and to the Australian Council of Churches.
- (d) The financial year shall end on December 31.

9. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION:

The Constitution shall be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of members of the National Committee present. Notice of motion to amend the Constitution shall be given to the Working Committee by any organization having representation on the National Committee. All constituent bodies shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee. Amendments shall be operative upon ratification by the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

10. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of the National Committee, its project and trust funds shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.

SYDNEY
SEPTEMBER 1964

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

April 22, 1964

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,
40 Middleborough Road,
BUNDOOR, E.13
Victoria

Dear Colonel Saunders,

Thank you for your letter which came only this morning. I am writing in haste so that you have a letter before your meeting on Friday.

- (1) I cannot recall that we have received a communication from the P.W.A. of Australia to the Interim Committee. At a very early stage I discussed Australian Church Women with the Federal President, Mrs. Christie Johnson, and subsequently she expressed interest and the desire to co-operate.
- 2) At the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in February, the Rev. J. Peter, a Presbyterian representative, read a statement from the P.W.A. of Victoria. This statement expressed the views contained in the report, a copy of which you have forwarded to me. I gather from conversation with Deaconess Ritchie that when Mr. Peter presented this report it had not been adopted by the P.W.A. of Victoria but was a working document prepared for the next meeting. However, the Interim Committee gave careful consideration to Mr. Peter's contribution to the discussion.
- 3) It was after this document at the Annual Meeting of the ACC that the Interim Committee decided to ask the Denominational Women's Federal Organizations to send representatives to the consultation held on March 17 and 18 in Sydney. The ACC was not able to help with travel expenses and in all cases denominational groups asked women resident in Sydney to represent them. Because the Presbyterian Federal President was overseas, the invitation to send representatives was sent to the Federal Secretary, Mrs. Thompson of Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania. As far as I knew she did not reply to our correspondence but I imagine that it was she who arranged for Mrs. A. Deegan and Mrs. F. Hanlin to represent the P.W. of Australia.
- 4) You will recall that at the Consultation I expressly asked that representatives take the responsibility for introducing any subject or question that their Constituent bodies were expressly interested in. Now Presbyterian representative suggested that P.W.A. OF Australia had taken any strong decision concerning A.C.W. and I was careful to cover both points made by Mr. Peter in discussion at the Consultation.
- 5) The recommendations which have now been accepted by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches have taken care of both requests made by Mr. Peter on behalf of the P.W.A. of Victoria -
 - a) it is proposed that there will be representation on the national committee of Australian Church Women from Federal denominational women's organizations as well as representatives of women's inter-church councils.
 - b) it is proposed that Australian Church Women function in relationship with the ACC's Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
- 6) Under separate cover we are sending material which gives the resolutions of the ACC Executive regarding Australian Church Women. This material is being sent to all Heads of Churches, Federal and State; Federal denominational women's organizations; and women's inter-church councils. In addition I am sending copies of this letter to Mrs. Faichney, Mrs. Coates, Deaconess Ritchie and Mrs. McNeil.

I hope that this has answered your queries.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Willis
Mabel G. Willis (Mrs)
Convener.



Draft Constitution
Presbyterian 21 MA. 1964
**Women's Association
of Australia**

VICTORIA UNIT

354 Burwood Road,
Burwood. E.I3.
19th May 1964.

Dear Mrs Wyllie,

It was agreed in principle by the Presbyterian Women's Association of Victoria to accept the Recommendation from the Interim Committee following the Consultation of March 17th and 18th, but we would like to bring to your notice three points.

2.b.III. (We would prefer it to read as follows)
Special Interest Groups invited by the National Committee to appoint a Fraternal Delegate as in the Australian Council of Churches.

2.b.IV. We are of the opinion that some of the Representatives should be men where possible.

We wondered if the inclusion of a programme in their Constitution was advisable, as this may be somewhat restricting.

Yours Sincerely,

E. Elizabeth Albers

(Mrs E. Albers) Hon Secretary.

N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council.

President - Lt. Col. Hazel Cross.

Secretary - Mrs. H. J. Lilley,
206 Eastern Valley Way,
WILLOUGHBY.

The Convenor,
Australian Church Women Interim Committee,
A.C.C.
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Following the July meeting of the W.I.C.C. I have been asked to inform you of the points queried by the Council in the suggested draft of the A.C.W. Constitution.

- ap
- see me
- (1) The Aim is quite acceptable but could there be some brief statement or motto.
 - (2) The Council does not approve proportionate representation. They favour equal representation from the Churches. The Council questions the reason for six representatives of the A.C.C. on the National Committee. The matter of financing the Annual meeting of the National Committee was raised.
 - (3) Concerning the State Units. It was felt that there should be some clause or by-law by which there should be a guarantee of autonomy with the State. Particularly in regard to existing assets.

I hope I have not omitted anything. But if I have I am sure any of the others will be able to recall it

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lorna Lilley

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

August 25, 1964

Mrs. H.J. Lilley,
NSW Women's Inter-Church Council,
206 Eastern Valley Way,
WILLOUGHBY. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Lilley,

Thank you for your letter setting out the comments of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council on the draft Constitution of Australian Church Women. As you know the draft constitution was discussed briefly at the Interim Committee meeting and then was referred to Mr. Perkins and myself for re-drafting. Following recommendations from several States some changes have been made.

1. Equal representation from Churches' Women's group has been included.
2. 2 representatives from each State Unit have been included.
3. One representative only from Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women has been included, thus reducing the ACC representation from six to five.

As far as Mr. Perkins and I can detect there is nothing in the Constitution which could be construed as restricting the autonomy of the State Council within the State and no suggestion that existing assets could be touched by the National Committee of Australian Church Women. The clause on dissolution refers only to the funds of the National Committee.

The request for a brief statement or motto has been noted and will be discussed at a later meeting.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)

The date on this and the following letter should read 1.7.64 – see reply

Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. Colonel Saunders,
40 Middleborough Road,
Burwood, E.13
Telephone: 28 5702.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Brigadier Dalziel

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. T. G. Grieve,
9 Serpentine Street,
Mont Albert, E.10
Telephone: 89 4505.

1.7.65

Mrs. B. R. Wyllie
Wesley College
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

At the Annual Meeting of the Inter-Church Council of Victoria, consideration was given to the draft Constitution to be presented to the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in 1965. I have been asked to pass on some comments made by the Executive and Council.

(2) (b) ii. 'One representative of the State Inter-Church Council to be appointed to A.C.W.' Has any thought been given to the length of appointment? The Executive felt that limited tenure of office would be wise, as re-appointment would keep a representative for a longer period, if desired.

(c) It would be as well to watch the State balance, as well as the Denominational balance of representatives.

(3) (b) World Community Day There is some doubt about the programme becoming the work of one Denomination? Over the years, we have developed the Inter-Church picture in all work, so that the proposed change calls for some adjustment, if agreed in its present form.

(4) What percentage is considered for A.C.W.?

The Council received, and accepted the report with interest.

With kindest regards!

I am

Yours sincerely,

Clarence Saunders
Hon. Sec.

Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. Colonel Saunders,
40 Middleborough Road,
Burwood, E.13
Telephone: 28 5702.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Brigadier G. Dalziel

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. T. G. Grieve,
9 Serpentine Street,
Mont Albert, E.10
Telephone: 89 4505.

1.7.65

Mrs. B. R. Wyllie
"Wesley College"
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Thank you for your letter of May 29th., telling me of your chat with Mr. Neal after his return from Melbourne.

Your letter from Mrs. MacNeil will have helped you, as her letters to us have cleared away so many of the problems we have faced in the Council for some time. You will be pleased to know that at our Annual Meeting on Friday last, the same understanding of Australian Church Women was evident, when Mrs. McNeil spoke at various times.

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Wardlaw, and Mrs. Albers spent an afternoon here with me, when I was able to go through the complete file on Australian Church Women. They were each very happy about this, and feel that they now have the picture quite clearly.

I trust you have received the Minutes of our April Inter-Church Council. From that date, I have asked the Minute Secretary to send you a copy of Minutes after each meeting. This will keep you in touch with what is happening in the Council.

With kindest greetings!

I am
Yours sincerely,

Flora Saunders
Hon. Sec.

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

August 25, 1964

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,
Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council,
40 Middleborough Road,
BURWOOD.

E.13 Victoria

Dear Mrs. Saunders,

Thank you for your two letters of July 1st.

We had further discussion on the Constitution at the last meeting of the Interim Committee and have now prepared another draft. Thank you for the suggestions from the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.

(2) (b) ii. Our most recent draft provides for 2 representatives to be appointed by the State Women's Inter-Church Council. This request had been made by other States. I do not think that it would be possible in the Constitution of Australian Church Women to stipulate for what period a representative of a particular council could remain on the National Committee. This would be a matter for the State Council itself. Appointment of representatives to the National Committee must be made annually.

(2) (c) It is hoped that any imbalance either denominationally as from point of view of State representation can be adjusted through the selection of representatives by the Australian Council of Churches Executive.

(3) (b). World Community Day. This is a programme matter and not constitutional. The National Committee meeting annually will determine how the programme will be organised.

(4) This percentage will be determined by the National Committee each year.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wylie (Mrs)

Womens Inter-Church Council of Queensland

32 Coronation St.,
Bardon,
Queensland,
31st. July 1964.

Mrs. M. G. Wyllie,
Convener,
Interim Committee of
Australian Church Women.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Re Draft Constitution of Australian Church Women.

At the meeting to-day of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland, which is the State Unit of Australian Church Women, the Draft Constitution was discussed after having been considered by the various affiliated Church groups.

Re Section (2) STRUCTURE of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN Paragraph (b)

Sub-Paragraph ii. the following motion was passed:-

"As the State Women's Inter-Church Council will have the responsibility of the work of Australian Church Women in its own State it should have at least two (2) representatives on the National Committee."

With this suggested amendment, the Draft Constitution of Australian Church Women was adopted.

Praying that God's blessing and guidance may be with your meeting.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Dennis
(Mrs. F. G. Dennis)
Secretary.

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

August 25, 1964.

Mrs. F.G. Dennis,
Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland,
32 Coronation Street,
BARDON.
Queensland.

Dear Mrs. Dennis,

Thank you for your letter of July 31. In the present draft of the Constitution you will find that 2 representatives have been included from State Women's Inter-Church Councils.

I hope that you have received the material on the Fellowship of the Least Coin and on World Community Day and that both are being promoted in Queensland. The latest Australian Church Women Newsletter should be with you soon.

With warm regards and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)
Convener.

The Deanery
Armidale. N.S.W.

21st July, 1964.

Mrs B.R. Wyllie,
Convener of the Interim Committee
of the Australian Church Women.

Dear Mrs Wyllie,

The Women's Fellowship of the World Council of Churches at Armidale appointed a small Committee under my convener-ship, to read and comment on the Draft Constitution for "Australian Church Women" sent by you to Mrs Moyes.

Our few comments are mainly in the form of questions as we realise that a great deal of study and care has gone into the preparation of this draft. As a comparatively small country group it is hard for us to appreciate fully the difficulties which have had to be faced, and the nation-wide view which has had to be taken.

Our first query arises from the strong conviction that great changes are taking place in the whole Christian world on this subject of unity, and we would not like to see the door barred to the future entry of the women of the Roman Catholic Church to our fellowship. We feel that the use of the word "denominational" divisions in the AIM has a very Protestant connotation. Could the word be omitted altogether, or "across the present divisions of the Church" be substituted?

Again, in 2bl. we feel that no thought has been given to the possible joining of the Roman Catholic women, as their numbers would certainly merit the same representation as the Church of England. While realising the numerical basis of this representation, we think it a pity that any mention has to be made here of specific churches. It might raise such questions as "on a number consideration, would not the Presbyterians or Methodists rate a higher representation than a smaller group?"

We are moved to put forward this plea for a consideration of a future wider membership of the A.C.W. because we have in our Armidale group representatives of the Roman Catholic Women who join in our fellowship.

This brings me to our main question, which is not directly concerned with the wording of the Constitution, but rather with the whole subject of uniting the church women in Australia.

We gather that the aim of this Movement is to unite in an Australia-wide body, all the existing Inter-Church Women's organisations as well as such groups as ours, formed under the aegis of the W.C.C. But, for reasons unknown to us, it appears that these various organisations will only affiliate with, not take the name of, the Australian Church Women under the banner of the Australian Council of Churches. We suppose the inter-church groups already in existence embrace all Christian Churches, in our community, while the W.C.C. is, of course still without the Baptists, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Roman Catholic Church. Is it possible that all these various groups which you wish to affiliate with the A.C.W. may in time be prepared to adopt this much more attractive and simpler name?

One last question. Is this move to form A.C.W. a means of uniting in one Federal body all existing Church Women's groups, while encouraging the formation of further local W.C.W. groups? Or is it intended that new groups should become Inter-Church groups, the "unit" of A.C.W.? This directly affects us in Armidale, as we are at present a Women's Fellowship of the W.C.C. We feel that as our association now includes the Baptist, the Seventh Day Adventist and the Roman Catholic women, it would be better for us to become a Women's Inter-Church Group, and as such, affiliate with A.C.W. Individual women could then still be members of the W.C.C. Fellowship.

With best wishes for this new move towards unity,

Yours sincerely,

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

August 25, 1964.

Mrs. Wetherall,
The Deanery,
ARMIDALE.
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Wetherall,

Thank you for your letter of July 21. We are grateful for your suggestions and queries regarding the draft Constitution of Australian Church Women and we have incorporated several of the suggestions in the newest draft of the Constitution. In particular we were impressed with your wish to exclude the term denomination. We did this in the "aim", but were unable to alter the phrase Federal Denominational Organizations.

About the name. This has been a difficult question. Already existing organizations, e.g. State Women's Inter-Church Councils, have hesitated to suggest a change of name to their members. Their hesitation is understandable. We need to discuss this further but personally I hope that the name Australian Church Women will be taken by more and more groups and in particular by new groups that are formed in localities where no Women's Inter-Church group exists. We have always hoped that Australian Church Women would be a means of encouraging membership in the World Council of Churches Fellowship.

We have another draft of the Constitution now ready and we will send you a copy. The Australian Church Women Newsletter should also reach you soon.

Yours very sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)
Convener.

D R A F T

CONSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

1. NAME: Australian Church Women

2. The AIM of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN is

"To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, study, fellowship and service across the present divisions of the Church; and to encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries." The programme of Australian Church Women shall be planned to serve this aim.

3. RELATIONSHIPS:

- (a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
- (b) Australian Church Women shall function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

4. COMMITTEES:

- (a) The National Committee shall consist of representatives who shall be appointed annually:
 - i. one representative of the Federal women's organization of each church, appointed by whatever means is appropriate to the particular church.
 - ii. two representatives of each State women's inter-church organization which is recognized by Australian Church Women as its State unit.
 - iii. one representative of the Federal organization of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee.
 - iv. two representatives appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
 - v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The National Committee shall meet at least annually at a time and place, to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Fifty percent of representatives under 4 (a) i. and ii. shall constitute a quorum. Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.

- (b) A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. The Working Committee shall consist of 10 members of the National Committee resident in one State and shall include the office bearers. The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee.

5. OFFICE BEARERS:

The office bearers shall be (1) A President; (2) Two Vice-Presidents; (3) A Secretary; (4) A Treasurer. They shall be elected annually by the National Committee provided always that the President shall not hold the office for more than two consecutive years. The office bearers shall serve as an Executive between Working Committee meetings.

6. STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATION:

- i. There shall be a Committee in each State to serve as the State unit of Australian Church Women. (See Para. 4 Clause 2). Each State Unit shall co-operate with the Council of Churches associated with the Australian Council of Churches in the State.

- ii. Committees in local areas which carry out the purpose of Australian Church Women shall be affiliated with the State Unit.

7. PROGRAMME OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

The National Committee of Australian Church Women shall prepare a statement of its programme each year.

8. FINANCE:

- i. Collections taken at special days and services included in the Australian Church Women programme (after local expenses have been met) shall be divided, as determined each year by the National Committee in consultation with its State Units, between (i) the administration of the affiliated State Women's Inter-Church Council organization (ii) the administration of the National Committee of Australian Church Women and (iii) national projects sponsored by the National Committee in co-operation with State Units.
- ii. The funds of the Fellowship of the Least Coin shall be paid annually by the State units to the National Committee for remittance to the Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, in the World Council of Churches.
- iii. (a) Accounts shall be kept as determined by the National Committee in consultation with the Honorary Treasurer of the Australian Council of Churches.
(b) Bank accounts shall be operated by the President, Secretary and Treasurer and such others as may be appointed, the signatures of any two of whom shall be sufficient discharge.
(c) Statements of accounts shall be presented to the meetings of the Working Committee, and audited annual statements to the National Committee and to the Australian Council of Churches.
(d) The financial year shall end on December 31.

9. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION:

The Constitution shall be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of members of the National Committee present. Notice of motion to amend the Constitution shall be given to the Working Committee by any organization having representation on the National Committee. All constituent bodies shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee. Amendments shall be operative upon ratification by the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

10. DESSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of the National Committee, its project and trust funds shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.

SYDNEY

OCTOBER 1964.



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

GENERAL SECRETARY
the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
the Rev. J. R. Neal

TELEPHONE: 61 4766
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

To State Units.

Dear Friends,

Consideration was given at the last meeting of the Working Committee as to whether the Constitution of Australian Church Women should be produced in any different form to the present duplicated copies.

It seemed to the Committee that any present need should be adequately met by the duplicated copies.

We are sending you copies of the Constitution as you may be glad to have these in connection with promotion.

Should you require more, we will be happy to supply these.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Lt. Colonel H. Cross,
Honorary Secretary.

MEMBER CHURCHES:

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: Australian Church Women.

2. The AIM of Australian Church Women is

To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian women of different churches to worship, study and serve together and to encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

The programme of Australian Church Women shall be planned to serve this aim.

3. RELATIONSHIPS:

- (a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
- (b) Australian Church Women shall function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, within the Division of Church and Community of the A.C.C.

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- iii. one representative of the Federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee.
- iv. two representatives appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
- v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The National Committee shall meet at least annually at a time and place to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Fifty percent of representatives under 4 (a) i. and ii. shall constitute a quorum. Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.

(b) A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. The Working Committee shall consist of 10 members of the National Committee resident in one State and shall include the office bearers. The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee.

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The office bearers shall be (1) a President; (2) two Vice-Presidents; (3) a Secretary; (4) a Treasurer. They shall be elected annually by the National Committee provided always that the President shall not hold the office for more than two consecutive years. The office bearers shall act on behalf of the Working Committee between meetings.

6. STATE AND LOCAL ORGANISATION:

- i. Each State Unit shall co-operate with the Council of Churches associated with the Australian Council of Churches in the State.
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notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee. Amendments shall be operative upon ratification by the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

10. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of the National Committee, its project and trust^{fund} shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.

FEBRUARY 11, 1965
SYDNEY.

March 5, 1965.

Mrs M. G. Wyllie,
17 Wilona Avenue,
GREENWICH. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Wyllie,

You will have noted that at the Annual Meeting when the Constitution of Australian Church Women was being discussed an amendment was passed to add to Clause 3b the words "within the Division of Church and Community". Although this amendment has not officially been before the Committee of ACW I presume that it will be acceptable as an amendment since it merely clarifies formally relationships already existing. Doubtless you will bring this to the next meeting of Australian Church Women for formal acceptance.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. J. R. Neal
Executive Secretary

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

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- v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.
- vi. the office bearers (see 5).

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February 10, 1967
Sydney.

