

33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD 2135  
November 21, 1994

Mrs Kerry Chikarovski M.P.  
The Nsw Minister for the Status of Women  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mrs Chikarovski,

On behalf of Australian Church Women, NSW Unit, I would like to warmly congratulate you on your adoption of the recommendation highlighted as a key issue in the report of the "International Year of the Family" Advisory Committee, for the training of school students in Parenting Skills.

In this the year of the family, we are most encouraged to see this highly enlightened approach toward helping the many mothers and fathers of the future, to learn the parenting skills, which will enable them to understand and cope with the many demands placed on the family unit.

It is to be hoped these parents will not suffer the despair and depression, which many young mothers of today are experiencing, due to their lack of knowledge and training in this most demanding of vocations.

Our congratulations once again on your foresight in supporting the families of the future in this most innovative step, which we hope will become a subject in the core curriculum of all High Schools.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. I. Reid".

(Miss) H. I. Reid  
Convenor of Social Issues Committee



New South Wales

**Hon. Kerry Chikarovski, MP**  
Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment  
Minister for the Status of Women

♦ Level 8, 185 Macquarie Street,  
Sydney NSW 2000

♦ Facsimile (02) 237 2500  
♦ Telephone (02) 237 2555

MW: 94/584

Miss H T Reid  
Convenor of Social Issues Committee  
Australian Church Women  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

16 FEB 1995

Dear Miss Reid

Thank you for your letter dated 21st November 1994, supporting the teaching of parenting skills to school students, one of the recommendations contained in the report "If Motherhood is Bliss, Why do I Feel so Awful?" Community Consultations on Post Natal Stress and Depression in NSW.

In its consultations the NSW Women's Consultative Committee found ample evidence to support the need for formal education in parenting skills.

The Women's Consultative Committee will follow up implementation of the report recommendations with the appropriate government departments. This includes the NSW Department of School Education which has responsibility for providing parenting education as part of the Years 7-10 Personal Development Syllabus.

Yours sincerely

Hon (Mrs) Kerry Chikarovski, MP  
**Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment**  
**Minister for the Status of Women**

Heather

22 November 1994

The Editor  
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Dear Sir,

Australian Church Women wish to affirm their support to the recommendation from the NSW Government, contained in the article "If Motherhood be bliss; why do I feel so awful?", particularly the introduction in NSW schools of parenting education. We add that the subject should be a core one for both boys and girls and that it include food technology as well as life and home management.

We congratulate the Minister for the Status of Women, Mrs Kerry Chikarovski for launching the report at the beginning of Family Week. It is an urgent matter that we have more education for parenting and home management for both boys and girls.

Yours sincerely,

Hecker

22 November 1994

Mrs J Elliston,  
President  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW INC.

Dear Mrs Elliston,

It was brought to our attention at our state council meeting this week that the headlines of one of the Monday tabloids was in regard to the millions of dollars that would be 'spent' at the casino.

We remember that in the early days ( of Premier Greiner) that the NCW placed on record their opposition to the casino and all the ensuing repercussions etc ..., and Australian Church Women would like to affirm their support of any further opposition to these ensueing dangers that are facing our community.

We want to advise you that we will be writing to Mr Fahey, stating our opposition to the introduction of the casino and asking that even at this stage plans can be scrapped.

It is our request that NCW should continue to be a voice in this issue, and offer you our full support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

TCO/IDB  
R/11



Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

-5 DEC 1994

Miss H Reid  
Convenor Social Issues  
Australian Church Women  
8 Metella Crescent  
BELFIELD NSW 2191

Dear Miss Reid,

I refer to your recent letter concerning the Sydney Casino.

I have carefully noted all that you have said and I feel the most appropriate action is for me to specially acquaint my colleague, the Hon AM Cohen, MP, with the terms of your letter.

This I have done and you may be sure that your letter will receive close consideration by my colleague.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ATink'.

Andrew Tink MP  
Parliamentary Secretary

for Premier



NEW SOUTH WALES

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CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

RML941860  
Dept Ref 94/2557

Ms Heather Reid  
Convenor Social Issues  
Australian Church Women  
8 Metella Crescent  
BELFIELD NSW 2191

14 DEC 1994

Dear Ms Reid

As you are aware, the Premier of NSW, the Hon. J Fahey MP, has requested that I reply to your letter of 28 November 1994 written on behalf of the Australian Church Women (NSW Unit) concerning the Sydney casino.

While I have noted your organisation's strong opposition to the casino project, there are many people in this State who have no objection to a casino. It was the responsibility of the Parliament to take into account the views of the community when debating the Casino Control Bill during 1992 and it should be appreciated that almost all Members of Parliament voted for the legislation. This legislation became law in 1992, when the Casino Control Act was passed by Parliament.

I would like to point out that I have no power to either issue the casino licence nor cancel it. This power is held exclusively by the independent body of the Casino Control Authority, which was created through the Casino Control Act. Once the casino licence is issued, it is only the Authority who has the power to cancel the licence.

Like your organisation, the Government has always been concerned about the social impact of legal casino gaming. The fact that we established the public inquiry conducted by former Chief Justice Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG is testimony to this.

The Street Report indicated that for the overwhelming number of people, gambling is just one of many leisure activities. However, the unfortunate reality is that a small minority of people in our community do have gambling problems. The Government is prepared to tackle these problems and has adopted a series of consumer protection measures advocated in the Street report. These include:

- ~ the prohibition of automatic teller machines within casino boundaries;
- ~ a prohibition on credit betting;
- ~ training courses to assist casino staff to identify problem gamblers;

- ~ placement of signs informing people with gambling problems of sources of help;
- ~ the availability of self-banning orders for individuals with admitted gambling problems;
- ~ guidelines to cover inducements provided by the casino to gamblers; and
- ~ the regulation of advertising for casino gambling.

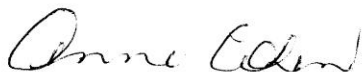
Benefits to the community will also flow from the obligation of the chosen casino operator to pay a 2% community benefit levy on casino gaming revenue. This levy is additional to the casino duty dedicated to health services. The proceeds of the levy will be paid into a Community Benefit Fund and will be used to:

- ~ fund appropriate research into gambling and the social and economic impact on individuals, families and the general community in New South Wales;
- ~ promote industry and community awareness of problem gambling and associated activities through education campaigns;
- ~ support voluntary organisations offering counselling services for problem gamblers and their families; and
- ~ fund such other community projects and services as the Minister may determine as being of benefit to the community generally.

The significant funds derived from the Community Benefit Fund, coupled with the casino's revenue generating capacity, will make it easier to address any adverse consequences from casino gaming.

While I appreciate that your organisation is totally against a casino, there is much support for the Sydney casino and I believe that the Government has been cautious and responsible in its approach to the introduction of casino gaming.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Anne Cohen, MP  
Minister

LEVEL 12, 1 FRANCIS STREET, DARLINGHURST, N.S.W. 2010  
TELEPHONE: (02) 339 7109 FACSIMILE: (02) 339 7788



**Head Office**

ABC Ultimo Centre  
700 Harris Street  
Ultimo NSW 2007  
GPO Box 9994  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Tel (02) 333 1500  
Fax (02) 333 5305  
Telex 26506

19 March 1996

Deaconess M Andrews AM  
L8 Macquarie Towers  
250 Jersey Road  
WOOLLAHRA NSW 2025

Dear Deaconess Andrews

Thank you for your letter of 14 March.

As the national channel the ABC offers programs of interest to all Australians, not just some of them. No reasonable person could argue against the proposition that each day the ABC's radio and television networks, its symphony orchestras and all its other services provide an extraordinary range of offerings to people of all walks of life.

The enclosed page clearly indicates the popularity of the Mardi Gras telecasts. In both years they came first, scoring very large audiences in all states. This year the telecast has again attracted a very high viewing audience. Audience figures are measured independently by the A.C. Nielsen company so there can be no question of the accuracy.

I ask you to remember that the ABC is paid for by all Australian taxpayers. The Mardi Gras clearly appeals to a very large audience and most people find nothing of great objection in it.

After each year's telecast, the ABC monitors audience reaction and you may be assured that your views will be taken into account.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Grant', is written over a horizontal line.

ROGER GRANT  
General Manager  
ABC Corporate Relations

Attach:

### ABC-TV — Most Popular Programs

1994		1995 (to mid June)	
Program	5 Cities Audience '000	Program	5 Cities Audience '000
* 1. Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras	1452	* 1. Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras	1263
* 2. Mother and Son	1305	2. Heartbeat	1144
3. Mr Bean	1252	3. Vicar of Dibley	1135
4. Keeping Up Appearances	1277	4. The Bill	1132
5. Clive James on '93	1231	5. As Time Goes By	1100
6. Movie: Romancing the Stone	1202	6. Movie: Sink the Bismark	1095
7. Clive James Postcard New York	1162	7. Movie: North West Frontier	1075
8. Heartbeat	1132	8. Birds of a Feather—Special	1072
9. Life of Python	1069	* 9. ABC News	1057
10. Heartbeat Christmas Special	1065	* 10. Late Edition News	1006
* 11. Budget 1994	1064	11. Pie in the Sky	1004
12. The Bill	1049	* 12. Budget 1995	987
* 13. Late News	1046	13. Birds of a Feather	921
* 14. Money or the Gun: Antarctica	1039	14. Surgical Spirit	917
* 15. The Investigators	1018	15. One Foot in the Grave	888
* 16. ABC News	1004	16. Minder	877
17. Shirley Temple—America's...	1000	* 16. News Special Republic PM	877
18. Clive James Postcard Cairo	990	18. Clive James Show 95	875
19. Rumpole of the Bailey	989	* 19. News Spec. Republic Opposition	874
20. Movie: Working Girl	989	* 20. Anzac Day March	858
* 21. Best of the Late Show	987	20. Side By Side	858
* 22. Sex Gyps & Videotape	963	22. Life in the Freezer	845
* 23. Holiday	949	23. Movie: ... Undefeated	836
24. Movie: Harnessing Peacocks	945	* 24. 7.30 Report	831
25. Great Railway Journeys	933	25. Clive James On 94	820

\*ABC produced programs

Note: 1994 based on calendar year

### ABC-TV — MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS

1993		1994 (to mid-June)	
Program	5 Cities Audience '000	Program	5 Cities Audience '000
* 1. Budget 1993	1426	* 1. Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras	1452
2. Mr Bean	1390	2. Mr Bean	1388
3. Clive James on '92	1322	* 3. Mother and Son	1305
* 4. Stark-Part 1	1226	4. Keeping Up Appearances	1301
* 5. The Investigators	1207	5. Clive James on '93	1231
* 6. Wolves of the Sea	1166	* 6. Sex, Guys and Videotape	1173
6. Movie—Five Fingers	1166	* 7. The Investigators	1116
* 8. 7 Deadly Sins: Lust	1131	8. One Foot in the Grave	1113
* 9. The Big Wet	1130	* 9. ABC News Monday-Friday	1092
* 10. The Great Debate—No 1	1122	10. The Bill	1081
* 11. Mysteries of Ocean Wanderers	1102	* 11. Budget 1994	1064
12. Annus Horribilis	1076	* 12. Money or the Gun—Antarctica	1039
* 13. News Special: Verdict '93	1070	13. Shirley Temple America's Little Darling	1000
* 14. Police Rescue	1066	14. Clive James Postcard Cairo	990
15. Movie—Adventures of Robin Hood	1061	15. Rumpole of the Bailey	989
16. Lifesense	1055	15. Movie—Working Girl	989
* 17. Stark-Part 2	1016	* 17. The Best of The Late Show	987
* 18. World Series Debating	1013	* 18. Frontline	957
* 19. Quantum	1007	* 19. Holiday	949
* 20. Last Man Hanged	1006	* 20. Police Rescue	924
* 21. Great Debate—No 2	1003	20. Middlemarch	924
* 22. ABC News (Monday-Friday)	1002	22. Wildscreen	920
* 23. Outback Story	994	* 23. The 7.30 Report	908
* 24. Gumshoe	982	* 24. Quantum	896
* 25. So Help Me God	976	25. House of Eliott	895

\* ABC produced programs

33 Melville Ave.  
STRATHFIELD 2135

14th June, 1996

Senator, Honourable Richard Alston,  
Federal Minister for Communications  
and the Arts,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

Dear Senator,

We, the members of Australian Church Women N.S.W. Unit, wish to voice our concern at the portrayal of violence, not only in the material shown in television programmes, film, video and computer games, but in news programmes as well.

It is our concern that a strong link exists between these materials shown in the electronic media and the proliferation of violent crime in our community.

We also wonder if thought is being given to examine the Internet and the material, which seems to be freely available to our children and youth, of a violent and pornographic nature.

Yours sincerely,

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HEATHER REID  
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER



DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND THE ARTS

Our Reference  
B96/408

Ms Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convenor  
Australian Church Women  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Ms Reid

Senator the Hon Richard Alston, Minister for Communications and the Arts, has asked me to thank you for your submission of 14 June 1996 to the Committee of Ministers inquiring into the portrayal of violence in the electronic media. Your views were taken into account by the Committee and I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the Minister's media release announcing the decisions taken by the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Morton'.

N C Morton  
Assistant Secretary  
Film Industry Development Branch

16 July 1996

# Media Release



SENATOR THE HON RICHARD ALSTON

*Minister for Communications and the Arts  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate*

## GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS ON MEDIA VIOLENCE

The Commonwealth Government will act on a number of fronts to meet public concerns about the portrayal of violence in the electronic media.

The recommendations of an internal report to Cabinet by a Ministerial Committee on the portrayal of violence in the media were endorsed at a Cabinet meeting today.

The Committee, set up in early May following the Port Arthur massacre, received more than 650 submissions and letters which overwhelmingly supported the Government's initiative and called for action to respond to their concerns.

The Committee also surveyed research material on the topic of media violence, and held meetings with broadcasters and regulatory bodies.

Announcing the Government's decisions, the Committee Chairman, the Minister for Communications and the Arts Senator Richard Alston, said: "The Committee is grateful for the large public response to our call for submissions, and to the industry and other organisations who assisted us.

"We are firmly of the view that there is no single or simple solution to the issue of violence in the media. However, there are a range of initiatives which can be taken at different levels in order to address specific aspects of a multi-faceted problem.

"We have also decided to put in place measures to ensure that the wide range of issues raised in submissions can be further pursued, and that there is a means for the on-going monitoring of public concerns."

The Committee included the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, John Anderson; the Minister for Health and Family Services, Michael Wooldridge; the Minister for Family Services, Judi Moylan; the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Daryl Williams QC; and the Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) Christopher Miles.

The Government accepted the Committee's recommendations that:

- specific research should be commissioned to identify and investigate ways of assisting groups most at risk from the portrayal of violence. Public education campaigns by industry and in schools should also be continued;
- An Industry Code of Practice for Video and Interactive Software Retailers should be introduced;
- Technical blocking devices (eg the V-chip) should be built into all new television sets with implementation details to be decided in consultation with industry and should be made available for existing television sets;

.../2

- Prohibitions should be introduced on the export of all refused classification materials ensuring export regulations are consistent with import regulations; and the Australian Customs Service should investigate the extent to which it is feasible and necessary to increase vigilance in respect of prohibited material at the Customs barrier;
- The Commonwealth Attorney-General should discuss with State Censorship Ministers:
  - arrangements to make it an offence to possess films, videos and video and computer games that have been or would be refused classification because of violent content;
  - expansion of the Community Liaison Officer scheme;
  - amendments to classification guidelines for films and videos to remove the high level violence material from the 'R' classification; and recall for reclassification those films classified high 'M' prior to 1993.
- Broadcasters should modify films for broadcast in accordance with Office of Film and Literature Classification Guidelines and restrict the broadcast of MA programs carrying a consumer advice V symbol to between the hours of 9.30pm and 5.00am;
- Broadcasters should review complaints mechanisms so as to ensure that they are effective and responsive to community concerns;
- The Commonwealth Attorney General should review the composition of and terms of appointment to the Classification Board and the Classification Review Board;
- Matters arising from submissions to the Committee should be referred to the Senate Select Committee on Community Standards Relevant to the Supply of Services Utilising Electronic Technologies.

The Committee did not make a specific recommendation about computer or video games as the issue had received little detailed attention in the public submissions and because the classification guidelines for computer and video games, which only date only from 1994, are already more restrictive than those for film and video (eg no R material is allowed).

The Committee was aware that these guidelines are scheduled for review at the end of 1996 and was encouraged by the results of a joint ABA/OFLC report on *Families and Electronic Entertainment* released on 27 June 1996 which showed that parents are more concerned with the content of television programs than the content of computer games.

Senator Alston said this was a matter the parliamentary committee could continue to keep under review.

"The Government recognises that in making these recommendations a number of them will require consultation with State and Territory Governments and Commonwealth agencies as to their implementation. We expect that some other matters will be considered in the context of the review of the Federation of Commercial Television Stations Code of Practice," he said.

**Contact:** Ashley Manicaros, Minister's office (06) 277 7480 or 0419 636 879

C25/96  
9 July 1996

29 July 1996

Senator Jocelyn Newman  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister  
for the Status of Women  
CANBERRA

Dear Senator Newman

Please find enclosed a petition, which I send you on behalf of the council of the New South Wales unit of Australian Church Women.

I would like to say how much I enjoyed your address at the National Council of Womens seminar, and would like you to know that we have written to Senator Allston expressing our concern at the portrayal of violence, not only in the material shown in television programmes, film, video and computer games, but in news programmes as well.

It is our concern that a strong link exists between these material shown in the electronic media and the proliferation of violent crime in our community.

We congratulate you on the stand which you have taken to bring the concerns of women and children before the parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Reid (Miss)  
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER  
ACW NSW STATE UNIT.  
33 MELVILLE AVE  
STRATHFIELD 2135



DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND THE ARTS

Our Reference

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to your submission to the Committee of Ministers on the portrayal of violence in the electronic media and the media release sent to you recently on the Government's decisions on this matter.

One of the decisions made by the Government was that matters arising from submissions to the Committee of Ministers should be referred to the Senate Select Committee on Community Standards Relevant to the Supply of Services Utilising Electronic Technologies. This decision was based on a desire to ensure that the Government is fully apprised of community expectations and to enable all submitters to have an adequate opportunity to be heard.

I am writing to seek your agreement to the Department allowing the Senate Select Committee to have access to your submission for this purpose.

There is no need for you to provide your written consent. I will assume that you have no objection to the proposed course of action if you have not responded by **19 August 1996**.

However, if you do not wish to provide access to your submission, or require further information, you should write to me at the address at the foot of this letter or telephone Mr Alan Roberts on 06-2791757 before 19 August.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C. Morton'.

N C Morton  
Assistant Secretary  
Film Industry Development Branch

3 | July 1996

GPO Box 2154 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia. Telephone (06) 279 1000 Facsimile (06) 279 1901

cte0108.doc

33 Melville Ave.,  
STRATHFIELD 2135  
14th June, 1996

The Honourable Alexander Downer,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the N.S.W Unit of Australian Church Women, the State Council would like to congratulate you on the stand you have taken over landmines and the banning of their use.

We would also applaud the stand you have taken over Burma. In June 1995 we wrote to Senator Evans expressing our disquiet over the poverty and deprivation of basic health care, which is being meted out to the Burmese refugees on the Thailand border by the U.N.

Surely for the health of the whole world Australia should apply pressure to have these people treated in proper hospitals, funded with our aid money.

We ask why Australia should continue to support the U.N. when women and especially children, are being sold into prostitution by the Burmese pimps and Government officials because these people have so little economic power and are considered to be people "in exile" by the U.N. not refugees. With the use of illegal passports, it would not be unlikely that the traffic of these unfortunate people could see them reaching Australia.

We noted an article in the Sydney Morning Herald of October 27, 1995 where David Lague stated "Amnesty International Australia issued a report yesterday calling on Canberra to push for a United Nations resolution condemning the SLORC". "The human rights situation remains critical" said an Amnesty spokesman, Mr. David Begg.

Our unit hopes that you will be able to bring pressure to bear on both the SLORC and the U.N. to help end this organised trafficking of Burmese women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation and migrant labour and so return true dignity to these people, many of whom are ethnic minorities.

Yours sincerely,

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HEATHER REID  
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER

33 Melville Ave.,  
STRATHFIELD 2135

14th June, 1996

Mr. Bob Carr,  
Premier of N.S.W.  
Parliament House,  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr. Carr,

As a body of concerned Christian women, the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women wants to congratulate you and the entire N.S.W. Parliament, on your stand to have fully automatic and semi-automatic guns banned in our state.

This has taken a great deal of courage and we would applaud you on such a strong stand.

Yours sincerely,

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HEATHER REID  
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER



Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

TCO/10054/MJP:JB

16 July 1996

Ms H Reid  
Social Issues Convener  
Australian Church Women  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Ms Reid,

I refer to your letter concerning gun control.

As you know, the Commonwealth and States and Territories have agreed to implement uniform national gun laws, including a ban on automatic and semi-automatic firearms, a national registration and licensing system, a one-year amnesty to give people an opportunity to hand in prohibited firearms and a buy-back scheme to compensate gun owners who voluntarily surrender their firearms. This policy is also supported by the New South Wales Opposition Liberal and National Parties.

The Commonwealth and States have given the following assurances:

- primary producers will be allowed access to low-powered semi-automatics if they can demonstrate a genuine need such as culling feral animals;
- firearms other than automatics and semi-automatics can still be used provided they are registered and owners are licensed;
- the new controls do not rest on confiscation but rather the buy-back of prohibited firearms, based on their value as at March 1996; and
- Olympic sporting shooters will not be disadvantaged.

The NSW Parliament has now passed the Firearms Bill 1996 which implements the resolutions agreed by Police Ministers on 10 May. However, the Government will accept submissions on matters of practical implementation by the end of July, and any suggestions which will improve the working of the licensing/registration system can be enacted next session. Copies of the Bill have been provided to all local councils to be made available in local libraries for public perusal.

I recognise that some responsible, law-abiding gun owners may be inconvenienced by the new laws. However, it is the view of the Prime Minister, State Premiers, and all major political parties that this inconvenience is outweighed by the need to reduce access to firearms and the number of firearms in the community.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Carr  
Premier

33 Melville Avenue

STRATHFIELD 2135

5th June, 1997

Mr. Robert J.W. Harrison M.L.A.  
Office 1/1st Floor Edessa Acade  
88-90 Terralong Street  
KIAMA 2533  
~~KIAMA~~ 2533

Dear Sir,

I am writing, to warmly congratulate you, on behalf of the  
New South Wales Unit of Australian Church Women.

One of our Council members, drew our attention to the article  
in the Kiama Independent, headed, "M.P. slams Gay Games bid spending."

At this time, when reconciliation is being called for, we  
find it hard to understand why the N.S.W. Government has chosen to dis-  
criminate against "The Push and Power Sporting Association"; who asked  
for such a small grant to hold their games, and yet gave almost double  
this amount for a BID for the 2002 Gay Games.

It is indeed gratifying to know, there are members of Parliament  
who will speak out for the children of our community, and we thank you  
for this.

Yours Sincerely,

(Miss) H. Reid  
Social Issues Convenor

33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD 2135  
5th June, 1997

The General Secretary,  
Mr. John Della Bosca  
Australian Labor Party  
P.O. Box K408,  
HAYMARKET 1240

Dear Sir,

I am writing to congratulate your party on behalf of the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women on the stand taken by your member Mr. Bob Harrison, M.L.A. the member for Kiama.

It is indeed refreshing, that a member of Parliament is willing to speak out on behalf of disabled children, who have little political power, as compared to the homosexual community.

How sad it is, when the N.S.W. Government, could not give a grant to "The Push and Power Sporting Association" to hold a State sporting event for these children, yet gave almost double this amount for a bid to host the 2002 Gay Games.

Again our warmest congratulations on his stand.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) H. Reid  
Social Issues Convenor

33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD. 2135  
15th July, 1998

The Hon. Richard Alston,  
2nd Floor  
4 Treasury Place,  
EAST MELBOURNE. 3002

Dear Senator Alston,

The New South Wales Unit of Australian Church Women would like to congratulate you, and the Government, on the stand you have taken regarding the decline in standards of both television and radio.

It is pleasing to know that Senators such as yourself and Senator Harradine have taken a strong stand on programmes such as "Sex Life" on Channel 10, and the Triple M radio programme.

We feel strongly, that this type of programme is degrading to both men and women, and is far from uplifting in any moral or artistic way.

Once again our congratulations on making the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations, and the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters aware of their own codes of practice and the need to enforce them.

Yours Faithfully,

Heather Reid (Miss)  
Social Issues Convener  
Australian Church Women (NSW Unit)

*New enclosure encl.*

## Alston sex alert: he's cracking whip

By ANNE DAVIES

SMH 29/1/98  
The Minister for Communications, Senator Alston (right), has signalled a crackdown on nudity and sexually explicit programs on television and radio, saying the airwaves risked becoming the electronic version of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Attacking television and radio station executives and the industry regulator, the Australian Broadcasting Authority, Senator Alston told Parliament yesterday that he intended to clean up the airwaves.

"I think the entire community is concerned about the proliferation about what seems to be increasingly prurient programs on both radio and television," he said. "You could be forgiven for thinking television and radio programmers have taken a dose of Viagra."

Senator Alston said he was shocked by the proliferation of programs such as *Sex Life* on Channel 10, and a program on radio station Triple M, which involved callers revealing their sexual exploits in lurid detail, or presenters giving running commentaries on guests stripping in the studio. "I have to say I was shocked to read the extent to



which some of these programs have descended. There has been concern in recent times about *Playboys*, *Really Naked Truth No 1*, which essentially showed nude women and men's reaction to them and justified it on the basis that the subject matter of the program was nudity."

Senator Alston said he had written to the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations and the the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters, warning that they needed to enforce their own codes of practice.

"I don't think anyone in this country wants to see an electronic version of Sodom and Gomorrah ... and we will take efforts to make sure it doesn't occur," he said.

His remarks precede some difficult negotiations with the Tasmanian morals campaigner, Senator Brian Harradine, on two important bills: for the Telstra sale, and digital television.

*at Bonnie Anne M-ban  
referred to this, also the  
Town Hall decorations for  
Christmas.*



31 March 1998

Mrs M J E McCann, OAM  
10/51 Upper Pitt Street  
KIRRIBILLI NSW 2061

Dear Mrs McCann

Thank you for your recent letter in relation to our window displays at Christmas time.

Whilst we have not yet made any decisions for Christmas 1998, we will be covering our Christmas planning for this year shortly. I will raise your thoughts with our Marketing group and trust that whatever we do will reflect both David Jones' position in the market and the spirit of Christmas.

Once again, thank you for taking the time and trouble of writing in.

Yours sincerely

**L Peter Wilkinson**  
Chief Executive

## DAVID JONES

David Jones Limited A.C.N. 000 074 573

86-108 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 503 Sydney NSW 2001 Telephone 61 2 9266 5730 Facsimile 61 2 9267 4771



**TV News**

Australian  
Broadcasting  
Corporation

221 Pacific Highway  
Gore Hill NSW 2065  
Australia

GPO Box 9994  
Sydney NSW 2001

Tel (02) 9950 3000  
Fax (02) 9950 4898

15 June 1998

Mina Whybourne  
1/20 Jacaranda Road  
Caringbah NSW 2229

Dear Ms Whybourne,

Thank you for your letter regarding ABC's evening news.

We sincerely apologise if the item on Sexpo at the old Sydney Showground offended you.

However it is with respect we disagree with your views that such an event should not be reported. It is a fact of life that the sex industry is a significant, if hidden, component of every human society. By treating the Sexpo convention with candour and even a degree of humour, we feel that the sometimes "dirty" connotations lent to matters sexual may be lessened in some quarters.

Nevertheless we are constantly reviewing the way in which we present news. Your letter has been circulated and has prompted constructive debate on the points you raise.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and I hope you remain a dedicated and critical viewer of ABC TV News.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Uechtritz", written in a cursive style.

**Max Uechtritz**  
**National Editor**  
**Television News**

1/20 Jacaranda Road  
CARINGBAH 2229  
30th May, 1998

The Manager,  
Australian Broadcasting Commission,  
Box 9994 GPO  
SYDNEY 2001

Dear Sir,

What was the ABC news planner (or whatever he/she is called) thinking about to programme that horrific segment on a so called "Sex Aids" Display - as part of the 7 p.m. News on Thursday last 28th May. I was quite repelled by it as were my friends - fortunately no young children were present. (I would not like to explain such perversion to young minds.) I am not sure whether Richard Morecroft was amused or shocked when the camera returned to him, but he certainly looked somewhat surprised.

I have been an ABC viewer and listener all my life but I am increasingly disturbed by the use of very crude language in films and interviews. Can you explain to me why there is so much interest in excreta and fornication as descriptive words for all sorts of situations. (The English language has such beautiful words - I hate to hear it desecrated by coarse and ugly words.) "Bloody" as a descriptive word was bad enough but these other words are disgusting.

I would be interested to hear your comments.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Mina Whybourne



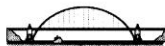
## • Rehabilitation Services Command •

Australia Eastern Territory

**COMMAND**  
**HEADQUARTERS**  
85 CAMPBELL  
STREET  
SURRY HILLS  
NSW 2010  
**PHONE**  
(02) 9212 4000  
**FAX**  
(02) 9212 4032



**Red Shield  
Industries**



**the  
bridge  
programme**

24 February 1998

Jan Harrison  
Secretary  
NSW State Unit  
Australian Church Women  
5/7 Gilmore Street  
WEST WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Dear Jan

Thank you for your kind words of support and encouragement in respect to our stand against the relaxation of Drug Laws.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated. I really believe that we are involved in spiritual warfare and what we are seeing in the drug debates is an extension of the whole 'Struggle against principalities, powers and rulers of spiritual darkness in high places'.

I hate to think what the ultimate impact on our society will be if these substances were made respectable and available. Already we know the impact of Alcohol on the wellbeing of our society and what the others would bring is just unthinkable.

Would you please express to the Australian Church Women that you represent, my sincere appreciation for the insurance of prayer. Whilst we must employ ever intelligent and democratic means to resist the pressure to lower our standards in Australia, nevertheless our ultimate weapons are not carnal and I believe prayer to be a vital ingredient in that whole armour of God.

Thank you again and may God richly bless you and the Australian Church Women.

Yours in His Service

Per.....  
Brian Watters (Major)  
COMMANDER

Major Brian Waters,  
Commander,  
Rehabilitation,  
Services Command,  
P.O. Box A435,  
Sydney South 1232.

Dear Major Waters, The New South Wales Unit of  
Australian Church Women, would like to congratulate  
you on your continuing stand, against the relaxation  
of our State drug laws.

We would like you to know we stand with  
you in prayer, and feel the introduction  
of the State Government's proposed clinical trials of  
Maltrexone, at last gives hope to people addicted to  
drugs.

It is our hope, that the Government will  
include you, and your workers in this ongoing  
programme.

May God richly bless you all.  
Yours sincerely,



Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

A98/02208 - SPB

- 2 MAR 1998

Ms J Harrison  
Secretary  
NSW State Unit Australian Church Women  
5/7 Gilmore Street  
WEST WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Dear Ms Harrison

I refer to your recent letter concerning drug laws.

Your views have been noted and I appreciate the reasons which prompted you to write to me on this occasion.

As the matter you have raised primarily concerns the administration of the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon A J Refshauge, MP, I have arranged to bring your approach to the Minister's attention.

You may be sure that your comments will receive close consideration.

Yours sincerely

  
Bob Carr  
Premier

The Hon. Robert Carr,  
Level 40,  
Governor Macquarie Tower,  
1 Farrer Place,  
Sydney 2000.

Dear Sir, On behalf of the New South Wales Unit  
of Australian Church Women, we would like  
to congratulate you, on your stand against the  
legalisation of drugs.

We feel, the State Government's proposed  
clinical trial of Maltrexone, at last gives hope  
of a full and happy life, to many people,  
who are drug dependant, and <sup>who know</sup> have little hope  
of a normal life in the future.

Please convey our warm wishes to your  
Government on their stand in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

*A.C.W. N.S.W. Nat. Council Meeting 17.5.98*

Heather Reid has asked that I bring the following matter to your attention.

It is an extract from a submission to the Hon Michael Wooldridge, Minister for Health and Family Services by members of the National Council of Women of Australia.

The Australia New Zealand Food Authority recently released a proposed standard "for foods produced using Gene Technology" which will not require all genetically engineered (G.E.) foods to be labelled.

Already there are, in our food, ingredients derived from Genetic Engineering eg some soya beans imported from the USA contain 200 times the legal level of Roundup herbicide. U.S.G.E. soy is mixed with non-G.E. soy. Soy and soya related products (flour, oil, thickeners) are present in varying amounts in many processed foods-

breads, biscuits, margarine, mayonnaise, chocolate, crisps and baby-food. These are not labelled.

NCW members believe the proposed new standard puts consumers' health at risk and is at odds with the rights of consumers to make informed choices about the food they purchase and consume.

Antibiotic resistant genes have been introduced into many G.E. foods-- this could eventually reduce the effective treatment by antibiotics. If Australian authorities do not prohibit these foods, consumers should at least know that these genes are present in the food, so that they can make informed choices about possible risks.

The most serious threat to consumers' health could come from allergic reactions to the new, untested proteins that are produced in foods by the new genes. Again, the very least that should be done is labelling so that consumers prone to food allergies could avoid these foods.

Our executive feels the best action to take would be for each person to write as an individual to the Minister along these lines

"I ask you, as Federal Minister for Health and Family Services with the responsibility of protecting the health of Australians, to request the Australian New Zealand Food Authority to re-think and then re-draft the standard for G.E. foods. It must require labelling of ALL foods containing G.E. ingredients."

Dr Wooldridge's address

The Hon Dr Michael Wooldridge M.P.

Minister for Health and Family Services

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600.

*Karin Cooper*

# Labelling of Genetically Engineered Foods

August 1998

## **An extract from a submission to the Hon. Michael Wooldridge, Minister for Health and Family Services**

Members of the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. (NCWA) are concerned about Proposal P97 of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority. This recently released proposed standard "for foods produced using Gene Technology" will not require all genetically engineered (G.E.) foods to be labelled.

We understand that the proposed standard seeks the approval of all Health Ministers. We appeal to you not to approve it in its present form.

Already there are, in our food, ingredients derived from G.E. "Roundup Ready" soya beans imported from the U.S. which contain 200 times the legal level of Roundup herbicide. U.S. G.E. soy is mixed with non-G.E. soy. Soy and soya related products (flour, oil, thickeners) are present in varying amounts in many processed foods - breads, biscuits, margarine, mayonnaise, chocolate, crisps and baby food. These are not labelled.

We believe that the proposed new standard puts consumers' health at risk and is at odds with the rights of consumers to make informed choices about the food they purchase and consume.

At the Gene Technology Forum convened by ANZFA in Sydney 1996, the message conveyed was that there was a need for a standard covering all G.T. aided food products which would be assessed on a case by case basis and would ensure appropriate labelling.

Very soon we could be consuming oil and margarine produced from canola, genetically engineered to resist another herbicide, Basta, which has been shown to produce birth defects in laboratory animals. The Genetic Manipulation

Advisory Committee (G.M.A.C.) is considering giving approval for the commercial release of Basta resistant canola to be grown in Australia. Oil and margarine from G.E. canola would not require labelling under the ANZFA proposal.

Antibiotic resistant genes have been introduced into many G.E. foods. Following the 1992 UK Inquiry into antibiotic resistant marker genes, the authorities have refused to approve the release of these foods, demanding that they be removed from G.E. foods because of the concerns that these genes could transfer to pathogenic microbes, thereby reducing the effective treatment by antibiotics. If the Australian authorities do not prohibit these foods, consumers should at least know that these genes are present in the food, so that they can make informed choices about possible risks.

The most serious threat to consumers' health could come from allergic reactions to the new, untested proteins that are produced in foods by the new genes. There is currently no way of screening these new foods for potential allergy provoking proteins, short of testing them on humans, a costly and possibly unethical procedure. Once again, the very least that should be done is that these foods should be labelled so that consumers who are prone to food allergies could avoid them.

In the Draft proposal contained in ALINORM 97/22 - Appendix IV - Section 4.2.2 states "The presence in any food or food ingredients obtained through biotechnology of an allergen transferred from any of the products listed in Section 4.2.1.3.<sup>5</sup>, shall be declared."

Within the mandate of Codex and of the CCFL and the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Section 4.2.2.2) addresses the question of labelling of foods which may pose specific religious or ethical concerns by requiring the declaration of specific food ingredients. It is proposed that the food components derived by biotechnology from these same sources also be declared. This area does not appear to be addressed in the proposed standard.

ANZFA proposes that GE foods will not have to be labelled if they are "substantially equivalent" to their existing conventional counterparts, but we question how the Authority will define "substantially".

In an example given by the Authority, it is suggested that tomatoes modified to be sweeter will require labelling, whereas tomatoes engineered to produce a toxin that kills caterpillars will not require labelling.

So we will have the confusing situation where foods that are modified and could be less healthy will not require labelling while others which could be more healthy will have to be labelled. It appears that industry wishes to label only foods they think consumers will accept.

The proposed standard is also inconsistent with the patent laws. To obtain a patent for a GE plant, it has to be demonstrated that it is different from, or in other words, "not substantially equivalent to" its conventional counterpart. Yet, when it comes to labelling, industry and government authorities are claiming that most foods derived from these GE plants are "substantially equivalent".

We ask you as Federal Minister for Health and Family Services, mindful of the responsibility placed on you in this position, of protecting the health of Australians, to request ANZFA to go back to the drawing boards and re-draft the standard for G.E. foods. It must require labelling of ALL foods containing G.E. ingredients.

**Valerie J. Cocksedge**  
**Australian Convenor for Home Economics & Consumer Affairs**  
**National Council of Women of Australia**

## CFA Policies

**The Consumers' Federation of Australia Inc. (CFA) has notified us that the following policies are available from their Secretariat on 02 6257 6311 or [cfa@spirit.com.au](mailto:cfa@spirit.com.au)**

- Access to Justice (1995)
- Bank Fees and Charges (1995)
- Consumer Participation in Government Decision Making (1994)
- Economic and Ecologic Management (1990)
- Government, Participation and Information (1990)
- Guidelines for dispute resolution mechanisms (1992)
- Guidelines to protect consumer rights in the reform of public utilities (1994)
- Health and Welfare (1990)
- Industry Self Regulation (1992)
- Knowledge and Technological Change (1990)
- Legal Services (1994)
- Life Insurance (1995)
- National Competition Policy (1995)
- New Food Technologies (1996)
- Particular Measures for Particular Goods (1990)
- Policy Compendium (1990)
- Representatives (Draft 1996)
- Superannuation (1994)
- Superannuation Update (1995)
- The Consumer Marketplace (1990)
- The Legal System (1990)
- The Rights and Responsibilities of Consumers (1990).

*Heather Reid*

5/7 Gilmore Street,  
WEST WOLLONGONG. NSW 2500  
6th February, 1998

The Manager,  
Mr. Peter Wilkinson,  
David Jones Pty. Ltd.,  
G.P.O. Box 503  
SYDNEY. 2001

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

The New South Wales Unit of Australian Church Women would like to warmly congratulate you, and your staff, on the wonderful presentation of Christmas music which we were treated to this year.

The animated window display was greatly enjoyed, and we are wondering if this year a story closer to the Christmas message could be considered.

Our warm congratulations once again to your firm and the staff for the joy they brought to many people.

Yours sincerely,

*JH*

(Secretary)

NSW UNIT, AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Convenor of Social Issues - Miss H. Reid.



23 February 1998

Ms Jan Harrison  
Secretary  
Australian Church Women (NSW State Unit)  
5/7 Gilmore Street  
WEST WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Dear Ms Harrison

Thank you so much for your recent letter and positive comments in regard to our David Jones choir and our window displays over the Christmas period.

Whilst we have not yet made any decisions regarding our intentions for Christmas 1998, we will be covering our Christmas planning for this year sometime in March. I will raise your thoughts with our Marketing group and trust that what ever we do will reflect both David Jones' position in the market and the spirit of Christmas.

Once again, thank you for taking the time and trouble of writing in.

Yours sincerely

**L Peter Wilkinson**  
Chief Executive

## DAVID JONES

David Jones Limited A.C.N. 000 074 573

86-108 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 503 Sydney NSW 2001 Telephone 61 2 9266 5730 Facsimile 61 2 9267 4771

10/51 Upper Pitt St  
Kirimilli 2061  
20.3.98

The Lord Mayor of Sydney  
Dear Councillor Sartor,

I wrote to you Jan 9  
+ said how exciting the Xmas decorations  
on the Town Hall were - but there was no  
special reason showing. This year could  
we have a scintillating Star - an  
Angel of great proportions + a baby -  
with the mother embracing him. - all  
the excitement around - I'd like to  
see kangaroos, koala bears, pelicans,  
penguins, kookaburras (laughing sounds)  
- one aborigine + one white child -  
hand in hand.

Please expand.

yours sincerely

Marie H. 1920



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY  
COUNCILLOR FRANK SARTOR

- 9 JAN 1998

Ms Marie McCann OAM  
10/51 Upper Pitt Street  
KIRRIBILLI NSW 2061

- 9 JAN 1998

Dear Ms McCann

Thank you for your letter which I received on 24 December 1997, regarding the Town Hall Christmas decorations for 1997.

The transformation of the Town Hall into a giant Christmas Tree was the first application of a major City decorations strategy using leading City decorations adviser, James Gordon.

A key part of the strategy was the trial and review of a variety of decoration schemes in the build up to the celebrations in 2000 and the Centenary of the Federation. Last year, Christmas decorations were featured in four City precincts - the Town Hall, Pitt Street Mall, Chifley Square and Martin Place.

We have recently completed a survey to gauge public opinion of the decorations. You may be interested to learn that the Town Hall Christmas Decorations received a high approval rating from a broad cross section of City stakeholders - including City workers, residents and visitors to the City. A total of 74% of those surveyed expressed approval of the decorations. We were pleased to learn that the decorations had a particularly high appeal to children - 100% of the children surveyed said they liked them.

According to our survey, the features which most people liked about the decorations were their bright colours, large size and the fact that "they were fun." People believed the decorations brightened up the City and put City goers in the Christmas spirit. Personally, I think they were more spectacular in the evening when they combined with the effects of the Town Hall lighting.

Of course, we were conscious that the style of decoration may not have appealed to everyone so we included a range of decoration styles in the City. For example, the decorations in Chifley Square provided a sophisticated and elegant contrast to those at the Town Hall. However, they were based on a special lighting scheme and were mostly visible in the evening, when children were less likely to be in the vicinity.

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Town Hall Sydney NSW 2000 Australia Telephone 61 2 9265 9229 Facsimile 61 2 9265 9328

Thank you for taking the time to let me know your views. I appreciate your suggestions which will be taken into consideration at future City decorations programs

Yours sincerely



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

---

Miss Heather Reid,  
33 Melville Avenue,  
STRATHFIELD  
14<sup>th</sup> March, 2000

The Manager,  
The Ink Group Pty. Ltd.,  
111 Burrows Road,  
ALEXANDRIA. 2015.

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the NSW Unit of Australian Church Women.

One of our Council members drew our attention to some cards which were sold to her in a Christmas pack. She was in a hurry, and picked up the pack which showed cards with a religious theme. Imagine her disgust when she opened the pack to find cards designed by —Andrew Weldon NGEN 4 001 473, Sister Cathryn Frances NGEN 4001 496, Back Room Productions NGEN 4001 406 and a fourth un-named NGEN 4001 503. We consider this to be most unethical.

As a consequence we have informed our Council members the name of the publisher, and suggest they avoid buying their product in the future.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Heather Reid,

SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENOR.



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW State Unit

Secretary: Major Glenys Holley  
1/9 Lawler Street  
Picnic Point 2213  
PH: 02) 9771 0015 (H) 02) 92669520 (W)

Miss Heather Reid,  
33 Melville Avenue,  
STRATHFIELD. 2135  
11<sup>th</sup> April, 2000.

The Leader of the Opposition,  
Mrs. Kerry Chikarovski,  
Legislative Assembly,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
SYDNEY. 2000.

Dear Mrs. Chikarovski,

The NSW Unit of Australian Church Women would like to congratulate you and your party on the stand you have taken regarding the proliferation of poker machines in this State.

We wrote with concerns to the former Liberal Government as we felt gambling on poker machines would increase with the establishment of a casino. Mrs. Cohen pointed out that addicts would be treated, with 1% of profits being put aside for this purpose.

We now feel many homes have been affected with the increase of machines in clubs and hotels, and applaud your stand on this scourge. ACW asks that all establishments be asked to contribute to the fund being used to fight the disease of gambling.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Heather Reid

SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENOR.

*for G. Holley*



**OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

KC:kl  
ref:04846

Miss Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convenor  
Australian Church Women  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Miss Reid

Thank you for your recent correspondence – I very much appreciate the congratulations.

Problem gambling is one of the most serious and endemic social problems we face in our community today. In our State alone, the number of poker machines has skyrocketed from 62,332 machines in 1995, when the Carr Labor Government was elected to office, to 94,300 in 1998. To put it another way, recent research has confirmed that 10 per cent of the world's poker machines are sited right here, in NSW.

Not surprisingly, the jump in poker machine numbers – and the general expansion of gambling in our community – has led to an increase in gambling-related problems.

Now, for most people having a go at the pokies is an enjoyable and harmless pastime. Sadly, for others it can be an addiction. The social cost of such addiction – such as family disruption and the like - often goes unnoticed by the decision makers.

Please be assured that I will continue to advocate for improved protection and assistance for problem gambling, and promote the establishment of an independent gaming authority to take decisions about gaming regulation out of the hands of politicians. Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Chikarovski'.

Mrs Kerry Chikarovski MP  
**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**



NSW State Unit

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

---

Miss Heather Reid,  
33 Melville Avenue,  
STRATHFIELD  
14<sup>th</sup> March, 2000

The Hon. Richard Face,  
Minister for Gaming and Racing,  
23 Smith Street,  
CHARLESTOWN. 2290.

Dear Sir,

In 1994 the members of Australian Church Women were concerned at the establishment of a casino in Sydney, and the problems which would ensue for people, families, businesses and society in general.

We wrote to the then Premier and the Minister for Gaming, the Hon. Cohen to express our concern over the problems caused by gambling and asked that the Government withdraw the licence.

Since then greater problems have grown with the granting of poker machine licences in hotels.

It was with disbelief that our attention was drawn to a news item which suggested Westfield at Burwood were asking for a tavern licence in their new complex being built, and that poker machines would be installed.

Surely the Government will not grant this licence, in light of the money which is being spent to help problem gamblers and their families.

The article went on to say, if this were granted, they would apply to have other complexes, such as Chatswood, Caringbah and Hornsby licensed too.

How confident could parents be of allowing their teenagers to go shopping on their own, and know that this temptation was within the complex. How easy for the gambler to draw money in the complex and try to satisfy their addiction.

I therefore ask, on behalf of the NSW Unit of Australian Church Women, that you refuse this request if it is made by Westfield Holdings.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Heather Reid

SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENOR.



MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development

RML 00/0587

Miss Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convener  
NSW State Unit  
Australian Church Women  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

22 MAY 2000

Dear Miss Reid

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2000 noting the concerns of the NSW State Unit of the Australian Church Women about the placement of machine gaming facilities within shopping complexes, in particular in Westfield shopping centres.

By way of background, only hotels and registered clubs in this State (together with the Sydney casino) are permitted to operate gaming machines, and they may only do so subject to a wide range of regulatory controls. The proposed operation of gaming machines in shopping complexes, or elsewhere, is generally brought about by a person seeking to be granted a hotelier's licence to operate a hotel from within those places. An application of this kind may only be granted - following consideration of any objections - by the NSW Licensing Court, with the authority to operate gaming machines at the hotel granted by the Liquor Administration Board.

In line with this Government's on-going responsible gambling initiatives, consideration has been given for some time to aspects of the entitlements of hotels to operate gaming machines where to do so may not - in particular circumstances - be in the wider public interest. Hotels are limited to operating a maximum of 30 gaming machines each.

This has mostly been in the context of the development and growth of 'gaming dens' in some metropolitan areas, but also as a result of the proposed relocation or establishment of hotels - with gaming machines - in larger shopping complexes, as well as in areas with an already high concentration of machine gaming opportunities. Part of the Government's consideration of this issue has involved the merits of separating-out the gaming machine entitlements ordinarily attaching to a hotel licence so that a hotel which seeks to be established in (or an existing hotel licence which seeks to be removed to) a new location, does not carry an automatic entitlement to operate gaming machines at that new location.

I have said before that I would have no hesitation in acting should it become apparent that hotel gaming entitlements are being abused, or are sought to be exploited in a manner which is clearly contrary to the wider public interest. In my view, the wider public interest is not well served by the proliferation of gaming machines in complexes which are predominantly designed to meet the daily and weekly grocery and other essential shopping needs of families.

Level 13, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney 2000, NSW, Australia  
Telephone (02) 9237 2555, Facsimile (02) 9237 2500  
Email mindgr@ozemail.com.au

Against this background, on 28 March 2000, the Premier announced various gaming machine restrictions for registered clubs and hotels. On 11 April, I introduced the *Gambling Legislation Amendment (Gaming Machine Restrictions) Bill 2000* into the Legislative Assembly to give effect to those measures.

Among other things, this Bill effectively prohibits gaming machines from becoming a feature of larger shopping complexes of this State. Those who wish to access gaming machines have the opportunity of doing so at a variety of other adult-centred facilities away from such complexes. While it will not affect the capacity of hotels - or registered clubs - to seek to relocate to those complexes, such venues will not have an entitlement to operate gaming machines so long as they are located within a retail shopping centre. Further, those few venues already operating gaming machines within retail shopping centres will not be able to acquire any further machines.

This legislation has now been approved by the Parliament.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



J. Richard Face MP  
Minister for Gaming and Racing



NSW State Unit

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Secretary: Major Glenys Holley  
1/9 Lawler Street  
Picnic Point 2213  
PH: 02) 9771 0015 (H) 02) 92669520 (W)

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Miss Heather Reid,  
33 Melville Avenue,  
STRATHFIELD. 2135  
11<sup>th</sup> April, 2000.

The Hon. Robert Carr,  
Suite 501, Level 5,  
806 Anzac Parade,  
MAROUBRA. 2035.

Dear Sir,

We the members of Australian Church Women (NSW Unit) wish to congratulate you, and your Government, on the embargo you have placed on the allocation of poker machines in this State.

The growth of gambling in this State has been of concern to us for some time, and we hope this embargo will be applied to hotels as well.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Heather Reid

SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENOR.

*for G Holley*

16 June 2000

Miss Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convener  
Australian Church Women  
1/9 Lawler Street  
PICNIC POINT NSW 2213



**Westfield Shopping Centre  
Management**

Level 20 Westfield Towers  
100 William Street  
Sydney NSW 2011  
GPO Box 4004  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Australia

Telephone 02 9358 7600  
Facsimile 02 9358 7681

Dear Miss Reid,

Thanks for your letter of 6 June addressed to our Executive Chairman, Mr Frank Lowy.

We note at the outset that Westfield has made no application in relation to gaming machines at Westfield Shoppingtown Burwood. The application had been made by a company that sought to open a tavern in the shopping centre, fronting Burwood Road, and has since been denied approval by Burwood Council.

Westfield has stated publicly that if a prospective tenant obtains the necessary licences and approvals for their business then we will consider their application to lease space in a shopping centre. Often, as is the case in Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland, these facilities are integrated leisure taverns incorporating a family restaurant, bar, pool tables, TAB etc but no gaming machines per se.

Westfield and the other members of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia are sensitive to community concerns about gambling. We note that these concerns have led governments around Australia to closely regulate the gaming industry through licensing requirements, supervision by gaming authorities, limits on the number of gaming machines and taxation measures.

The NSW Government has now introduced legislation into Parliament which precludes the introduction of poker machines / gaming into enclosed shopping centres, but not on a retrospective basis.

Thanks for your concern in writing to us. May god bless you.

Yours sincerely,

**WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE MANAGEMENT CO PTY LTD**

**JOHN C SCHRODER  
DIRECTOR - SHOPPING CENTRE MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA**

CC: Frank Lowy / Di Pocock

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**Westfield Shopping Centre Management Co. Pty. Limited** ACN 000 712 710  
Level 24, 100 William Street, Sydney NSW 2011, Australia.



OFFICIAL PARTNER



Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

Miss H T Reid  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

- 7 JUL 2000

Dear Miss Reid

Thank you for your letter supporting the Government's recent gaming reforms.

The reforms will ensure that decisions about gaming machines, their location and accessibility, have due regard for the community's concerns about gambling.

In relation to your suggestion that the freeze be extended to hotels, I should point out that the Government's approach is based on both the overall growth in machine numbers that has taken place in recent times and the particular sectors in which such growth has occurred. Hotels are currently limited to holding no more than 30 gaming machines for each venue, and it is apparent that the number of gaming machines in hotels has stabilised. The number of gaming machines in clubs, by contrast, has risen and has shown few signs of slowing.

Hotels, however, have not been exempted from the Government's reforms. Hotels seeking to become established in retail shopping centres are now prohibited from operating gaming machines in such centres. Furthermore, hotels seeking to relocate or to obtain new licences are no longer automatically entitled to operate gaming machines. They are required to submit a social impact assessment report to the Liquor Licensing Court or to the Liquor Administration Board, addressing the social and economic impact of acquiring gaming machines on the well-being of the community in which their premises are located. Such reports will be used by the Court or the Board in determining whether gaming machines should be located in new premises.

I trust that the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Andrew Refshauge  
Acting Premier



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Secretary: Major Glenys Holley  
1/9 Lawler Street  
Picnic Point 2213

PH: 02) 9771 0015 (H) 02) 92669520 (W)

COPY

6<sup>th</sup> June, 2000.

Mr. F. Lowy,  
GPO Box 4004,  
SYDNEY. 2001.

Dear Mr. Lowy,

I am writing on behalf of the NSW Unit of Australian Church Women, to express our shock at newspaper reports that your company, Westfield Holdings, is allowing its Tavern licences to apply for poker machine licences.

As you will appreciate all of our members have, and do, shop in Westfield Shopping Malls as they are clean, bright and safe for all the family. This is why we are so concerned by these reports.

Parents of teenage children will no longer feel confident that such a temptation as poker machines are completely unattainable, and for the family at risk it is placing them in a most accessible and vulnerable position.

We are asking you to intervene in your company's policy and state that you will not condone this move. We feel you will gain much public approval, as you would help to strengthen the safety of the family in disallowing such a move in your shopping centres.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Heather Reid

SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER.

per G R Holley (Sec)

Frank Lowy AC  
Chairman



**Westfield Holdings Limited**  
ACN 001 671 496

Level 24  
100 William Street  
Sydney NSW 2011  
Australia

Telephone 61 2 9358 7100  
Facsimile 61 2 9358 7050  
Email. chair@westfield.com.au

*13 June 2000*

*Miss Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convener  
Australian Church Women  
119 Lawler Street  
POTUNG POINT NSW 2213*

*Dear Miss Reid*

*Thank you for your letter of last week addressed to Mr Frank Lowy. As Mr Lowy is overseas at present, I have passed your complaint on to Mr John Schroder, Director of Westfield Shopping Centre Management, who will reply to your letter very soon.*

*Yours sincerely*

  
*Bernice Goldstein*



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Secretary: Major Glenys Holley  
1/9 Lawler Street  
Picnic Point 2213

PH: 02) 9771 0015 (H) 02) 92669520 (W)

COPY

6<sup>th</sup> June, 2000.

Mr. Anthony Brown,  
Cota (NSW) Inc.,  
Level 6, 93 York Street,  
SYDNEY. 2000.

Dear Anthony,

On behalf of the Council and Executive of Australian Church Women NSW Unit I would like to say a very warm thank you for the excellent work you have done on behalf of the older people of this state.

We feel it was because of our contact with you at the Expo for older people in 1998 that we were able to participate in Coalition '99 and all the exciting events which ensued.

Congratulations on a job very well done, over and above the call of duty many times.

We wish you well in your future endeavours and know you will bring a true Christian spirit to whatever task you undertake.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Heather Reid

SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER.

*for G R Holley (Sec.)*

## **POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF IYOP IN NSW**

**As distilled by 30 representatives of Partners in groups at "Showcasing IYOP"  
May 10 2000**

- **Head of steam** achieved through 18 months of co-operative networking and partnerships
- Partnerships between Community/Government - Whole of Community approach
- **Rhetoric** really has led to **action** in the formation of **PLATFORM FOR ACTION**
- **IYOP partnerships, collaborative structures could be a good model for International Year of Volunteers**
- Better communication between young and old/between rural and city/widely differing groups
- Different quality of awareness in group consultative process and partnerships
- Recognition of inter-relatedness, goodwill and cohesion. Social Capital in action. E.g. Supportive Neighbourhood Groups
- Focused public attention on ageing issues
- Development of 5 Working Parties to identify issues of concern
- Each has a representative on Platform for Action Steering Committee
- Cross-pollination of ideas/views/activities towards common goals
- Opportunities to try something new
- Stimulus to take action within a time frame
- Older people being forced to plan ahead
- Information Technology Education for Seniors
- Wellness groups started
- Raised awareness of older issues in Government Departments who were forced to do something & report back
- Formation in Camden of an Issues Group of Senior Citizens. This is a consultative committee and could be replicated in all Local Government Areas
- Older Women's Network is in process of establishing 10 Supportive Neighbourhood Groups
- Visibility of older people as active participants (not just recipients)
- Youth as resource/partners - future opportunities for cooperation e.g. International Year of Volunteers
- Springboard for new engagements e.g. International Year of Volunteers

## **CONCERNS THAT MOMENTUM IS NOT LOST**

- That the Platform for Action gets implemented. Closer liaison needed between steering committee and working parties and 90 Partner Organisations
- That strategies be put in place for how to communicate desired action by Partners e.g. sensitive lobbying
- Continue to address denial of ageing by all age groups
- Continue to encourage involvement by grassroots

- Continue to listen and really hear views of older people

#### **FUTURE CHALLENGES**

- To obtain funding for ongoing Platform for Action secretariat (even part-time), shared premises and administrative back-up (eg as COTA provided for AC 99 with voluntary Chair of three central committees since 1996).
- Functions of secretariat to include: servicing of steering committee, working parties, liaison with Partners to organise forums twice or three times a year for the duration of Platform for Action.
- Additional desirable functions: To strategically plan campaigns eg letter-writing to Government Departments
- To organise training workshops for Partners in writing submissions and grant applications
- To oversee regular **evaluation** of Platform for Action (perhaps at these half-yearly forums)
- To publicise positives of the year
- To put out Good News for Politicians
- To broadcast a publicity release for older readers and others (Peg: International Seniors Day??)
- To stress that changes benefiting older people actually benefit whole community
- To encourage continuing involvement in decision making in local communities eg Camden
- To continue to pursue and foster proper communication and "paying attention" to Seniors
- To plan for future generations of older people
- To get behind Supportive Neighbourhood Groups
- To lobby for Consultative Committees of Senior Citizens in all Local Government Areas as has been achieved in Camden. A model exists
- NSW Committee on Ageing is a means to raise issues with Government in NSW
- Individual organisations need to take responsibility for internal dissemination of information
- Older and younger generations need to be more accepting of each other

Summarised by Jane King, Platform For Action (temporary) Secretariat 9286 3860 fax 9286 3860  
c/o Council on The Ageing  
Level 4  
280 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000

May 17 2000



The Hon. Dr Marlene Goldsmith, M.L.C.  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9230 2354 9230 2332  
Fax: (02) 9233 3661

17 March 1997

The Editor  
Sydney Morning Herald  
Fax: 9282 3492

Madam,

As a society, we cannot have it both ways. It is illegal to use children in pornography and treat them as sexual beings. Yet we accept magazines continually pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable for publication. We profess shock and horror about pedophilia, while magazines like *Dolly* and writers like Catharine Lumby (*Herald* 14 March) and Gerard Henderson (15 March) seem to believe it acceptable to present a 13-year-old as a sex object.

It was not the makeup and high heels I found shocking. Young girls have always liked to dress up. Rather, it was the presentation.

Item: Miranda clutching a long cardigan around her with the caption "stretch it to the max - the cardi's full of surprises". A glimpse of a black strap as the only visible clothing underneath hints at the kind of surprises.

Item: Miranda, one arm defensively over her chest, cardigan unbuttoned from bottom to show navel.

Item: Miranda in a coat, open to the waist, with apparently only an open mesh slip underneath.

Their rationale is evident: titillation sells. It is sad, in this case, that *Dolly* has exploited a charming little girl and her family, whom I respect, to increase its circulation (and I'll bet it did!).

And it is hypocritical to pursue pedophiles while condoning "fashion" spreads like this one.

Marlene Goldsmith MLC

X

March 17, 1997

The Honourable John Howard  
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

We the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women, would like to congratulate you on the high honour conferred on you by Rotary International, with the conferring of the "Paul Harris Fellowship".

As concerned christian women, we also applaud your stand on the gun laws, and wish to thank you for helping to make our communities safer for both women and children.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Reid  
Covenor for Social Issues  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD 2135

March 17, 1997

The Director,  
Liberal party of Australia  
NSW Division  
Private Bag 2  
KINGS CROSS            2011

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the NSW Unit of Australian Church Women to congratulate you on the stand which your party has taken on the article printed in the latest edition of "Dolly" magazine.

It was refreshing to both see and hear Dr Marlene Goldsmith speaking on the television, making such forthright and sensible observations about the harm such an article could have on vulnerable teenagers.

With such an advocate for women and children, we feel our community is well served.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Reid  
Covenor for Social Issues  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD        2135

March 17, 1997

The Hon. Dr. Marlene Goldsmith M.L.C.  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Dr. Goldsmith,

I am writing on behalf of Australian Church Women to congratulate you on the stand which you have taken on the article in "Dolly" magazine concerning the teenage models.

It is refreshing to both see and hear on television, an advocate for women and children, who is not afraid to uphold christian standards. We thank you for this.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Reid  
Covenor for Social Issues  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD 2135



The Hon. Dr Marlene Goldsmith, M.L.C.  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9230 2354 9230 2332  
Fax: (02) 9233 3661

8 April 1997

Ms Heather Reid  
Australian Church Women  
33 Melville Avenue  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Ms Reid *Heather,*

Thank you very much for your letter regarding *Dolly* magazine and *A Current Affair*. This is a difficult and sensitive issue to pursue, as I am sure you would understand, so I particularly appreciate your getting in touch to let me know that I have your support.

Your support means a lot to me. I have attached a Letter to the Editor I wrote to the *Sydney Morning Herald* (unpublished - surprise, surprise!) for your interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlene Goldsmith", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Marlene Goldsmith



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**  
**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

President: Mrs Evonne Sullivan AM JP  
Secretary: Mrs Jean Thomson  
Treasurer: Mrs Helen Lloyd

PO Box 95  
Yarralumla  
ACT 2600  
3.9.97

Miss Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convenor NSW Unit of ACW  
33 Melville Avenue  
Strathfield, NSW 2135

Dear Heather

National President has asked me to write on her behalf re your recent letter. Evonne acknowledges your letter of 22 August and enclosures. As it was postmarked 6 pm on 24 August (Leightonfield Mail Centre) it was not delivered to the home of National President until 26 August, therefore was not received in time for the National Executive meeting on 25 August.

Thank you for the information regarding the inquiry inviting submissions on the U.N Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I note that the closing date for submissions is now 30th October; therefore it would be correct to address the matter to the Incoming National Executive.

National Executive suggest that the matter be raised during General Business at Conference, and hopefully a decision could be made as to whether ACW should forward a submission. As you say, it is a delicate matter, and any such action would have to be approved by the various State/ Territory Units.

However, if NSW Unit agrees, you could send a submission on their behalf, quite independently of whatever the Conference decides National Executive should do.

Once again, thank you for bringing the matter to our attention.

Yours with Christian greetings

Jean Thomson  
National Secretary.



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**  
**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

President: Mrs Evonne Sullivan AM JP  
Secretary: Mrs Jean Thomson  
Treasurer: Mrs Helen Lloyd

PO Box 95  
Yarralumla  
ACT 2600  
5.8. 97

Mrs Heather Reid  
Social Issues Convenor, NSW Unit of ACW  
33 Melville Avenue  
Strathfield NSW 2135

Dear Heather

Thank you for your report on the activities of NSW Unit on Social Issues.

Unfortunately I will not be able to use this in the Biennial reports of ACW as no other Units have sent in any reports in this Convenorship.

A few of the other Units have Convenors for Social Issues, but not all, so perhaps the whole matter needs to be queried.

Once more thank you for taking the trouble to write a report.

I look forward to meeting you at the Conference in September

Yours with Christian greetings,

Jean Thomson  
National Secretary.



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Jesus, our Living Hope

National Social Justice Convenor

Mrs Mavis Ellis

4/24 Sixth Avenue

CHELTENHAM SA 5014

Telephone (08) 8240 0601

Miss Heather Reid  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD 2135

Dear Heather

I hope that the year 2000 will be a worthwhile and healthy one for you. I was unable to attend the National Conference in Brisbane last September and therefore did not have the opportunity to meet any of the Unit Social Justice Conveners. Then I had some health problems which eventually resulted in me having my gall bladder removed in mid-November. I realise half of January is gone and the first six months of our 2 years term is almost over.

The position of national convener is a new one and I'm not sure where to begin. There are so many social injustices that the danger is that we can feel overwhelmed and not do anything because it is just too hard. I would be pleased to hear what you are doing in your Unit. Our SA Unit has become involved in the Fairwear Campaign and took the following resolution to the National Conference;

"With other State and Territory Units, support the aims of the Fairwear Organisation in its efforts to protect the rights and human dignity of outworkers by writing to appropriate Government Ministers, retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers and Fashion Houses who have NOT signed the Homeworkers Code of Practice" One of my duties is to ensure that resolutions are acted upon but I will need your help to do this. I am enclosing a brochure with a contact address in your state along with a copy of the SA Newsletter (in which ACW gets a mention) and a Petition. You would need to check with your state office to see if George Gross and Harry Who are in your State. The vigil referred to in the Newsletter was held in front of their premises but as I had day surgery that day I was not able to attend. Our SA Unit president and Social Justice Convener attended. Please let me know what you feel about this.

You may have watched Compass on ABC TV last Sunday. I was impressed that leaders of the Eastern Orthodox Churches are conferring with scientists on ways of halting the degradation of the environment and turning around the harm already done around the Black Sea. They stated that the Church has a responsibility to help the community see its responsibilities to care for the environment. I have joined the SA Council of Churches Social Questions Liaison Group and they have got behind the Heads of Churches task group on gambling. You can probably suggest other areas of concern.

On the back of this letter I have printed the words of a song used in my own church recently. I'm not sure about copyright if you wish to use it but have included the details. The tune is well known and we can at least read it prayerfully from time to time throughout the year to keep us on track.

I would like to hear from you before our meeting on 22/2 if possible.

Yours sincerely

*Mavis Ellis*

18th January, 2000.

Australian Church Women seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **SONG FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.**

**1.**

**Sing a song for peace and justice,  
speak for those who cannot speak!  
Claim the world for peace and justice:  
let the strong support the weak.**

### **REFRAIN:**

**Light a candle in the darkness,  
hope and freedom must not die!  
Hope and freedom must not die!**

**2.**

**You who live in happy places,  
who can laugh and speak and sing,  
listen for the other voices  
mute with fear and suffering.**

### **Refrain....**

**3.**

**Thousands cry in nameless prisons  
plead with powers who hold the key:  
plead that human rights be honoured,  
that the innocent go free.**

### **Refrain:**

**Light a candle in the darkness,  
hope and freedom must not die!  
Hope and freedom must no die!**

(Tune - CWM RHONDDA AHB 478 -Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah)

From 'New Journeys Song Book' JBCE Complication Copyright  
c Words by Shirley Murray.



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Jesus, our Living Hope

National Social Justice Convenor

Mrs Mavis Ellis

4/24 Sixth Avenue

CHELTENHAM SA 5014

Telephone (08) 8240 0601

Miss Heather Reid  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Heather

Time for another epistle from me! I have just returned from an eleven day trip to Wilsons Promotory in Victoria where I was able to do some bushwalking. I am now renewed in body and must put my mind to Social Justice issues again.

Towards the end of February I attended, along with our SA Social Justice Convenor (Mrs Lynn Smith), a Forum on Partnerships against Domestic Violence. Lyn has done a report which she has given me permission to include in this letter.

"Speakers were Hon. Jocelyn Newman, SA Attorney-General Trevor Griffen and SA Police Commissioner Mal Hyde. The emphasis is moving towards focussing on prevention rather than dealing with situations as and when they arise. More ways of doing this are being sought and Relationships Australia is working hard in an endeavour to deal with problems in a holistic manner. Religious leaders from five faiths gave their perspectives stressing the importance of family unity and recognising the need for early intervention. The home should be the most sacred place and we all have a responsibility to make that a reality. In summing up, Commissioner Hyde emphasised that domestic violence is a crime and as such should be reported wherever it is witnessed. Not to do so is tantamount to being an assessor. Violence is a learned behaviour created through many aspects of an imbalance of power in relationships and changes in society. Help must be given across all cultures and creeds by the community and its agencies if we are to stamp out this blot on our society. Much has been done but there is still a long way to go. Whilst some victims are men, it is women who are mostly affected, particularly those from non-English speaking backgrounds. because they feel isolated, and also due to the subjectiveness of their up-bringing and traditions. When adults are affected, the children of families often see it as an acceptable part of relationships. We have to teach them a better way of living as a family."

Further to my report last time on the Fairwear Campaign, I have copied a report from the Southern Cross, the Catholic magazine in S.A. onto the back of this letter. I am also enclosing a copy of Manifesto 2000 which needs to be dealt with fairly promptly as the goal is to present 100 million signatures to the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2000. More copies can be obtained from the UN office in your state and it would be better to mail them back to that address rather than the SA one.

There is also information about the World March of Women. Post cards need to be sent to the Queensland address and more should also be available from your UN office. This is a simple thing for all members of your committee to do. Just complete, put a stamp on and post well before the end of September.

I look forward to hearing what you are doing in your Unit. If we can share ideas, we can encourage each other to take action on different issues.

Yours sincerely

Mavis Ellis

12th April, 2000

Australian Church Women seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*With a crowd of approximately 35 people, three students from The Adelaide Young Christian Students Movement protest in front of a prestigious Unley boutique. Elsewhere in Adelaide someone is being paid \$2 to \$3 an hour to produce \$500 garments. The YCS is part of the fight for the Fairwear campaign, which is aimed at improving the lifestyles of many outworkers around Australia. Daniel Zwarts explains.*

## The invisible workers

The Young Christian Students have been involved in the Fairwear campaign since early 1998 creating an awareness of the campaign all around Australia.

The Fairwear campaign has been running since May 1987 in South Australia with quite a collection of achievements. More than 100 companies have signed the homeworkers code of practice which entails a commitment from companies to ensure all outworkers receive award rates of pay.

Outwork in Australia is a serious problem. Many stories are told by the public, community workers, educators and trainers, and outworkers themselves about injuries, petty wages, late payment, no payment, 16-18 hours work a day with little or no time for family let alone a life away from work.

These are just some of the tragic stories that have come from experiences outworkers have had. To keep a sense of secrecy and safety among the outworkers (many fear their employers) no names are mentioned throughout any of these stories.

Never having experienced what an outworker goes through, all I can give is conversations they have had and the brutal truth of these stories is the closest many people may ever come to learning the trauma experienced by any outworker.

Most outworker stories are of women of an Asian background (there are many people involved from non-Asian backgrounds also) who cannot speak English. This leads to communication problems between employers and employees (if there is any communication at all) and situations where the employees are simply taken advantage of.

The following story comes from a community worker:

"A Vietnamese sewing outworker worked for a Chinese contractor. The female contractor failed to pay the worker for a number of consecutive orders until the amount owed reached about \$3,000.

"The contractor said she couldn't pay because her supplier hadn't paid her. The supplier had complained about the quality of the garments so had not paid the contractor.

"The outworker kept ringing the contractor, but was always given an excuse. Although this outworker had a legitimate complaint she didn't take any action because she couldn't speak English, didn't know any organisations that could help, was fearful of government organisations and didn't believe anyone could help her.

"Also the contractor was part of the outworker's community and could make trouble for her."

The story illustrates how abused the outworkers can be. The outworker in the story was owed \$3,000, but was literally powerless to retrieve the money she was owed.

This story came from a Vietnamese community worker:

"A Vietnamese woman sews garments for a contractor to a major South Australian retailer. She sews till 2 am then begins again at 6 am. She does this seven days a week. She cannot speak English and very rarely leaves home."

The tragedy of circumstances in this story illustrates the full extent of the powerlessness of outworkers. They cannot negotiate when it comes to working conditions and especially in this case hours worked.

This story came from a former outworker:

"She now wears glasses from the eyestrain of working in poor light, has constant backache, regularly gets dermatitis in the fingers as a skin reaction from some laces. One particular dye has a noxious smell. She didn't complain but accepted these problems as part of the work."

Occupational health and safety is one thing many employers don't know or simply don't care about. Many employees suffer overuse injuries or injuries such as sewing through their fingers because they have been working too long. The employees know little about OH&S so they accept the way they are forced to work.

The stories I have mentioned illustrate only the negatives of being an outworker. There are positive outworker situations usually coming from outworkers who are employed by someone who has signed the homeworkers code of practice and are therefore receiving award rates of pay and are being treated well by their employers.

This article might make you aware, it might shock you, it might even anger you. I ask of you one thing: do something about it. Contact Fairwear, talk to other people about it, take some action and we may start a process of positive change for the invisible workforce.

*Daniel Zwarts is a full-time worker for the YCS*

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
'Jesus, our Living Hope'

National Convener

Social Issues :  
Mrs Mavis Ellis  
4/24 Sixth Avenue  
CHELTENHAM SA 5014  
Telephone (08) 8240 0601

Miss Heather Reid  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Heather

Thank you for your letter enclosing copies of letters you have written on behalf of your Unit. The mention of your actions on gambling in your Unit minutes prompted the National Executive to have me write to our 'NO POKIES' M.P. and also to Dean Brown, our Human Services Minister congratulating them on stands they had taken at a recent weekend seminar on the problems of gambling. I have heard that there has since been a conference in NSW.

I am enclosing the centre spread of New Times, the UCA paper, and also an insert from Transmission both of which have much information on the problem and which you may find helpful.

At a recent meeting of the SA Council of Churches Social Questions Group, Stephen Richards said that although many politicians make noises about wanting to do something about the number of pokies etc, they are faced with the fact that if the income from gambling is reduced, they have two choices, either to reduce services or increase taxes, both of which would create more backlash in the community than concern about the damage done by gambling. So it seems we have a long battle ahead but we can but keep on trying.

Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely

*Mavis Ellis*

Mavis Ellis  
Social Justice Convener, National Executive.  
23rd May, 2000.

Australian Church Women seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
'Jesus, our Living Hope'

National Convener

Social Issues :

Mrs Mavis Ellis

4/24 Sixth Avenue

CHELTENHAM SA 5014

Telephone (08) 8240 0601

Miss Heather Reid  
Secretary, A C W Social Justice Convener  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Heather

Plenty seems to be happening in the area of Social Justice and I write to bring a few matters to your attention. Thank you for your efforts in NSW.

1) Homeworkers Code of Practice re: No Sweat Shop Information Campaign.  
I will copy this letter and ask that you give consideration to helping in some way as you will remember that the National Conference resolved to support the aims of the Fair Wear Campaign. I will reply saying I have passed on the information to State Units. I was not able to attend a Fairwear Breakfast held in Adelaide recently but an Indonesian told of poor conditions in Nike factories there and I felt angry everytime I saw the Nike emblem during the Olympics.

2) Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Corroboree 2000, Towards Reconciliation and Roadmap for Reconciliation.  
These came with a covering letter signed by Dr Evelyn Scott and Sir Gustav Nossal and ask for us to advise on our commitment to reconciliation. It is not practical to try to copy these documents so if you have not received them, I suggest that you phone toll free 1800 807 671 and request them. It is difficult for the National Executive to make a commitment to this but I have indicated in my reply that I will encourage State Units to do so. I have also mentioned that most of our Denominations have apologised for past injustices.

3) Report from Jean Thomson who attended a Seminar and workshop on behalf of the ACT Unit. Thanks to Dorothy McMaster for forwarding this to me.

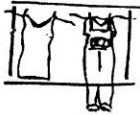
4) I attended a workshop arranged by the Coalition for Justice for Refugees on the plight of Asylum Seekers at the Woomera Detention Centre in S.A. The Federal Government along with the Media has certainly painted a very negative story on why these people have been prepared to risk so much to reach Australia and has kept conditions in the Centre very secretive. Lawyers and others who have been able to visit the Centre give vivid descriptions of the appalling conditions inside the Centre and suggest that the breakout and riot were a reaction to this. When released with temporary 3 years visas, these people, mainly from middle east countries, are brought by bus to Adelaide where there is a very small number of their own nationalities to support them. Church Missions and the S.A. Council of Churches are doing all they can to help them settle but they are not entitled to many of the benefits usually given to other Refugees. The Insight program on SBS last Thursday evening was very informative and it would be worthwhile to try to obtain a copy if you did not see it. I intend to write to the Prime Minister raising some of the concerns mentioned.

Yours sincerely

*Mavis Ellis*

Mavis Ellis  
10th October, 2000

Australian Church Women seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## **Fair Wear South Australia**

**December 1999**

**No. 8**

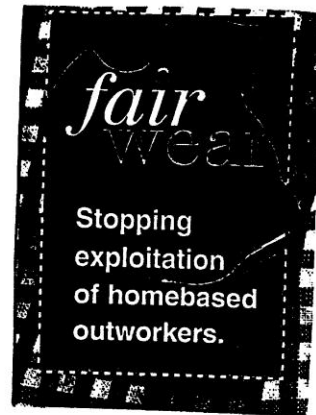
email : [fairwear@vic.uca.org.au](mailto:fairwear@vic.uca.org.au)

Webpage : <http://vic.uca.org.au/fairwear>

Phone

Christine Gates ph 8447 7033

Liz Armstrong ph 8212 4066



Dear Supporter

Its Christmas AGAIN - how quick was this year or is age beginning to tell. We encourage all Fair Wear supporters to encourage friends and work colleagues to Christmas shop for clothing and footwear with those places who have signed the Homeworkers Code of Practice. Bring the list out in front of the salesperson so they know the list is being circulated. Then have a special and enjoyable festive season.

Regards

Christine



**George Gross and Harry Who**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Fair Wear supporters gathered outside of the Unley Rd shop and held a wonderful candle lit vigil. The Trade Union Choir shared their exuberance and voices with those gathered. We acknowledged 6 retailers, in view of the vigil, who have signed the Homeworkers Code of Practice. They are Country Road, Sportsgirl, Sportskraft, JAG, Maggie T and Carla Zampatti. Five pages of signatories for the petition were collected and we urge you to collect a page for us, and we will forward to Mr Gross. Fair Wear in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide will follow up with this company and we are hopeful they will have signed in time for newsletter in 2000. Many thanks for all involved.



**Petition**

We enclose a petition we hope you and friends and work colleagues can sign and post back to us. We will continue forwarding them to Mr Gross next year with the clear message 'we are still here'

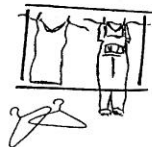


**Australian Church Women**

At the recent national conference of the Australian Church women in Brisbane, women from South Australia were successful in putting forward a resolution to support the Fair Wear campaign. Representatives were also holding candles and singing at the vigil, which was fantastic. It is wonderful to see and hear of this support for improving conditions for outworkers.

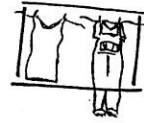
**Working Group in 2000**

In order to continue the Fair Wear campaign in South Australia we will need new working group members. The minimal requirement is attending meetings, held every 6 weeks in the city. We work on one key action for the year and are involved in numerous presentations, work in schools, responding to individual requests, keeping an eye on federal and state legislation changes and working with the campaign interstate. People





do bits of this or none of this and that's OK. We also enjoy being together and sharing laughter. If you or someone you know is interested, even in the laughter bit, then PLEASE contact Christine or Liz.



#### Australian Young Christian Students Association

We wish to acknowledge the support of this association in promoting sewing outwork issues, supporting improvement in working conditions and encouraging active support for the national Fair Wear campaign throughout their networks. Many thanks.



#### Senate Inquiry

Interstate Fair Wear campaign workers forwarded a detailed submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Workplace Relations Act (1996) and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment Bill (1999). Copies are available from Christine if you are interested. (someone may be) The affects of these changes, happening at both federal and state levels, is completely unacceptable. Yet again Fair Wear resources have to be directed at legislation changes that have adverse affects on outworks. Having been involved in the Industrial Relations Commission for a year fighting to retain award protection for outworks we are again having to oppose legislative changes that give even less protection to these workers.



#### 2000 Newsletter

Are you interested in organising the newsletter once every 3 months? The working group draft written information but we need someone to type up and Or do you know someone? Phone Christine 8447 7033



If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter could you let us know. Many people have let us know that it does keep them updated and they find it valuable. Next year we will post out to people who have indicated they wish to continue receiving a newsletter.



Tear off slip

Please keep me on the Fair Wear newsletter mail out list for 2000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Post to Liz Armstrong c/ Fair Wear Campaign SA  
Uniting Church Synod 33 Pirie Street Adelaide 5015

Posted  
26/6/2001



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
'Jesus, our Living Hope'

National Convener  
Social Issues :  
Mrs Mavis Ellis  
4/24 Sixth Avenue  
CHELTENHAM SA 5014  
Telephone (08) 8240 0601

Miss Heather Reid  
Social Justice Convener, NSW Unit of ACW  
33 Melville Ave  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Dear Heather

Our National Committee is coming to the end of its term and I am required to present a report for the National Conference in September. I would like to include reports from the various Units so would be pleased if you could forward to me a paragraph on your activities for the last two years. My report is not to be longer than one A4 page and is required two months before the Conference so I will be pleased to receive your report as soon as possible but certainly by the 15th July.

Will you be coming to the Conference? I will look forward to meeting you if you come?

Yours sincerely

*Mavis*

Mavis Ellis  
21st June, 2001

Australian Church Women seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.