

State President's 2024 CWLWA Conference Report

"The Lord is near to all who call on him." Ps 145:18

This year's conference was a very positive experience for everyone who attended. We were very pleased with the number of attendees, though recognise the tyranny of distance and personal circumstances did not allow everyone to attend. For those who were not able to attend, you were certainly in our minds and discussions during the day.

There was much conversation, laughter and the hum of those who were catching up during the day. The raffle was well received and the prizes were spread across the many branches. We were also blessed with some new members, who are a very welcome addition to our CWLWA group.

Our guest speaker Mr Michael Piu the CEO of St Pat's Community Support Centre Fremantle was outstanding. He was so appreciative of the donation CWLWA made which contributed to St Pat's raising sufficient funds to commence their redevelopment project in Fremantle. This project is important to meet the needs of the growing number of homeless and disadvantaged in the regions of Fremantle through to the Peel District.

The Social Issues Convenor challenged us with the idea of writing to our parliamentarians asking them to consider an alternative to Youth Detention for some of our most vulnerable children in the state. We are all asked to introduce the idea of Justice Reinvestment to the parliamentarians so they can explore the ideas and hopefully begin to implement. If you want to find out more about it, a simple YouTube video to explain it is at:

<https://youtu.be/VNII9IW2468>.

We were very fortunate to have our National President Ann Pereira join with us and address us about the current National and Eastern states issues. We were very thankful Ann made the journey over and it was a delight to have her share her considerable wisdom.

God bless from the 2024 Conference,

Pauline Marlborough
President CWLWA