

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

NOTES OF MEETING - 4-6 APRIL, 1979, PERTH

PRESENT:

Beryl Beaurepaire	Convenor
Dee Boss-Walker	Member
Sue Broad	"
Quentin Bryce	"
Connie Bush	"
Valerie Fisher	"
Jan Marsh	"
Wendy McCarthy	"
Joyce McConnell	"
Judith Roberts	"
Margaret Rosenthal	"
Sue Taylor	NWAC Secretariat
Carolyn Wiltshire	" "

APOLOGIES:

Lena Gustin

Visit to the Sexual Assault Centre of the Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital.

AGENDA ITEM - - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

It was agreed that copies of the Council's submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee reviewing the Family Law Act should not be released publicly at this stage.

Beryl Beaurepaire asked members to write down their impressions of their visit to the Sexual Assault Centre at the Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, and forward these to the Secretariat.

It was agreed that the Convenor should write to the Premier of W.A. thanking him, on behalf of the Council, for the luncheon given for them.

Council's Newsletter

Copies of the final draft of the first issue of Council's newsletter were distributed. Beryl Beaurepaire asked members to give their comments prior to the close the meeting on 6 April.

Pamphlets

It was agreed that Ms Janet Donald should be engaged if possible to undertake some more extensive research and produce a draft pamphlet on Education for Employment.

Carolyn Wiltshire reported on progress towards preparing pamphlets on specific issues for Council's distribution. It was agreed that a pamphlet on Aboriginal women should not be prepared until after the tour of the top end of the Northern Territory.

There was further discussion on the publication of Council's first newsletter in the Women's Weekly. Carolyn Wiltshire explained that costs involved in the proposal. Beryl Beaurepaire suggested that she and Wendy McCarthy could meet with Ms Buttrose to discuss the matter further if necessary. It was agreed that efforts should continue to have the newsletter inserted, provided that the costs involved remained as close as possible to \$25,000.

Press Statements

Council's role in issuing press statements was discussed. Members felt that they should have the right to issue press statements independent of Ministerial clearance. It was agreed that Beryl Beaurepaire should discuss the matter with the Minister.

Statutory Base

It was agreed that a paper should be prepared for Council's discussion on the merits/disadvantages of a statutory base, and that Quentin Bryce would prepare this.

ITEM 2 - CORRESPONDENCE

Council discussed the issues raised in the correspondence and it was agreed that:

- (i) with regard to courses in management, a letter should be sent to the University of N.S.W. concerning the need for consideration to be given to payment of costs of other than tuition fees, (such as child care) so that women have the freedom to take up scholarships in management.
- (ii) Council should write to the Budget Committee raising with them that it believed that persons in receipt of the age pension should be allowed to earn more money than they are at present, as the current situation only penalises those who want to help themselves.

- (iii) With regard to the offer by the National Council of Women to investigate, within its own resources, some particular aspects of concern to women, it was suggested that this investigation should be on the role of women in voluntary work. The study should cover such aspects as time spent, amount of money raised, and commitment of the women to the organisations involved. Judy Roberts, Joyce McConnell, and Wendy McCarthy should determine the terms of reference.
- (iv) Beryl Beaurepaire should accept the invitation to be principal speaker at the 7th National Public Relations Convention in October.
- (v) The Council should support the YWCA submission to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs for a three year grant for community work in Karratha, W.A.
- (vi) The Council should support the proposed ABC program "The Way We Are" with the request that it be shown in prime viewing time, and not later than 9.00p.m.
- (vii) With regard to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Council should write to the Minister for Home Affairs supporting the representation of women's point of view at international conferences, together with the inclusion of suitably qualified women in Australian delegations to such Conferences.
- (viii) The report on the visit to Perth by Ms Sue Broad and Secretariat members should be included in the Annual Report.
- (ix) Members should read the report on the Footscray Working Women's Centre, and let the Secretariat know whether Council should write a letter of support-in-principle to the Centre.
- (x) The Council could not co-sponsor the Women and Sport Conference as proposed by the N.S.W. Women's Advisory Council. It was not able to commit 1979/80 funds at this stage, and it did not see the Conference as being part of its program for the mid-Decade. However, the N.S.W. Council should be congratulated on its initiative and it was also agreed that the National Women's Advisory Council should discuss with them other ways they could assist the conference.

ITEM 3 - REPORT ON COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Members reported on their individual activities since their last meeting.

Jan Hallam from the West Australian newspaper was present during this item to obtain background information on Council activities.

ITEM 4 - TOUR OF N.T.

The tour by Quentin Bryce and Connie Bush to the top end of the N.T. in May was discussed. It was agreed that photos should be taken of the trip. Wendy McCarthy suggested that members should send in questions which they thought it was important to raise while on the trip. Once a report of the trip has been discussed by Council it was agreed that, subject to the Minister's agreement, it should be forwarded to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

ITEM 5 - EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

There was discussion of the sub-committees' work on this priority area, and the format of the report and the proposed pamphlet.

It was agreed that the report should concentrate on prospects for, and progress towards education for women and girls together with recommendations, and that a completion date of December 1979 should be aimed for. All Council members were asked to send in what material they had on this priority area. It was also agreed that Ms Janet Donald should, if possible, be engaged as a consultant to research and produce a draft for publication.

ITEM 6 - MS J. WILLIS, RESEARCH OR PART-TIME WORK

Council discussed Ms Willis' request for support for her submission, and it was agreed that a letter of support should be sent.

ITEM 7 - WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Jan Marsh reported on her meeting with the Inquiry into Technological Change, where Council was asked to suggest a research project which the Inquiry could sponsor. It was agreed that Jan Marsh would prepare a research proposal for the Inquiry, and that Jan Marsh, Quentin Bryce, and Val Fisher would determine the terms of reference for Council's submission to the Inquiry.

ITEM 8 - PROGRESS REPORTS(i) Knox Survey

Two members of the research group had met with Beryl Beaurepaire and the Secretariat to discuss the project. Copies of the interview questionnaire would be sent to members as soon as it was available. It is expected that the project will be completed by April, 1980, and progress reports will be submitted by the Group every two months.

(ii) Australian Women Against Rape

The proposal for research into incest was discussed. It was agreed that it was not within Council guidelines to provide funds to write a book, but that the Council was willing to reconsider a proposal which was restricted to research on an Australian-wide basis.

(iii) Migrant Report

The final draft of Council's report to the Minister on migrant women was discussed. It was agreed that:

- . a covering letter to the Minister should include acknowledgements.
- . there should be a summary of the recommendations at the conclusion of the report together with the relevant Galbally recommendations
- . Sue Jobson should be employed to work with a photographer so that photographs can be included in the published version
- . following presentation of the report to the Minister, that Council members should meet with the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and other relevant Ministers

(iv) Maternity Leave

Jan Marsh reported on the result of the ACTU's case before the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. It was agreed that a paper should be prepared on the current situation relating to maternity leave, and that it should be discussed further at the next meeting.

(v) Anti-discrimination Conference

Beryl Beaurepaire reported on the work of the sub-committee formed to organise the conference. Members were asked to forward names of possible participants to the Secretariat by the following week. It was agreed that participants should pay to attend the Conference dinner.

ITEM 9 - PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

It was agreed that members should prepare for the next meeting a list of priority areas for Council-sponsored research, based on the following guidelines:

- . the research should be of national importance.
- . it should be accompanied by an accurate estimate of costs
- . prior to the research being accepted as a priority area, each member should investigate the need for it within their own State

ITEM 10 - U.N. DECADE FOR WOMEN

Carolyn Wiltshire outlined the current state of Council's draft national targets.

Council's view was sought on the need for non-Governmental representation at the ESCAP Conference in New Delhi in November 1979 and it was agreed that the need for this level of representation should come to Government through women's organisations themselves.

Council members reported on their progress towards planning for State participation in the 1980 national conference.

In S.A. all the conferences (15 September - 3 November) have been organised, and letters have been prepared for women's organisations, welfare associations and schools.

In W.A. a preliminary sub-committee has been formed and they are confident of receiving State assistance.

It was reported that there were difficulties in co-ordinating activities in Queensland, and it was proposed that Quentin Bryce and Beryl Beaurepaire should meet with the Premier to discuss the matter. It was suggested that Council's next meeting in Townsville could be partially directed towards publicising the Council's role in the mid-decade. It was agreed that a public meeting could also be held in Brisbane two or three days prior to the Townsville visit.

Wendy McCarthy explained to other members that it was proposed in N.S.W. to submit an existing draft plan of action to Council's national conference, instead of holding a series of State/regional meetings. However she understood the State Government was awaiting confirmation from the Commonwealth Government on its sponsorship of activities.

In Tasmania, it was proposed to hold three regional meetings, and a sub-committee meeting had been arranged. Dee Boss-Walker understood that the Tasmanian Government was also awaiting a response at the Federal level before taking any concrete action.

In Victoria, discussions were being held between the State Women's Adviser, Beryl Beaurepaire and Jan Marsh to determine its activities.

Joyce McConnell reported that she was planning to organise a meeting of women's organisations and individual women to discuss the draft plan, and representation at the national conference.

In the N.T., Connie Bush and Quentin Bryce would discuss that Territories activity while on tour there in May. Council's meeting in Alice Springs in September could also form a focus for mid-decade activities.

ITEM 11 - WOMEN'S FILM FUND

Members discussed the information paper prepared by the Office of Women's Affairs on the role and activities of the Women's Film Fund. Members expressed a continuing interest in the Fund and its activities.

ITEM 12 - HOMEMAKERS ALLOWANCE

It was agreed that this item should be discussed in detail at the Council's next meeting, and that a paper should be prepared as a basis for discussion.

ITEM 13 - WOMEN'S REFUGES

The Council discussed the funding needs of women's refuges, which had been raised on a number of occasions, particularly during their current visit to Perth.

It was agreed that the need for women's refuges was Australia-wide, and the reality of this need could not be ignored any longer. It was suggested that government grants to refuges could include accounting assistance to overcome the problems which some refuges had in meeting financial requirements of their particular grant. It was agreed that the Council's concern should be drawn to the attention of the relevant Minister's.

ITEM 14 - Issues raised at public meeting

It was agreed that copies of the transcription of Council's public meeting in Perth should be forwarded, when available, to all Council members for further discussion at its next meeting.

ITEM 15 - PRESS ACTIVITIES

A paper on the media reaction to the Perth visit prepared by Adrian Aylott was distributed and discussed by members.

It was agreed that a press conference or news release at the conclusion of Council's meeting was not necessary.

ITEM 16 - OTHER BUSINESS

As a result of Council members' visit to Kalgoorlie, it was suggested that a project to support fostered Aboriginal children could be Government-sponsored. The Secretariat was asked to determine the feasibility of such a project.

ATTACHMENT

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES MARCH - APRIL 1979

- (i) Quentin Bryce
13 appearances in 5 weeks, including Quota,
Union of Australian Women, Griffith University,
Women Lawyers Association.
- (ii) Sue Broad
Meetings included visits to South Hedland in the
north-west, Trayning, and the formation of a
committee to organise Western Australia's
participation in mid-decade activities.
- (iii) Judy Roberts
Interviews on all television channels in S.A.,
meetings to organise S.A.'s conferences for mid-decade
activities, meetings with women's organisations and
State women's advisors.
- (iv) Connie Bush
Attended conference for aboriginal women at Yirrkala,
was successful in getting 3 women nominated for
steering committee for migrants, attended IYC meeting
at Alyangula.
- (v) Dee Boss-Walker
Met with State Women's Advisers on Education to discuss
Decade, attended film 'Wives' sponsored by Premier
on IWD, IYC conference, meeting of State women's
advisers, dinner for overseas guest speakers at IYC
conference, TUTA training session, and has spoken on
commercial and ABC T.V. channels.
- (vi) Joyce McConnell
Participated in Kalgoorlie trip, social security conference.
- (vii) Val Fisher
Has visited Goulburn Valley, Echuca, Swan Hill,
Orange, W.A.A. National Conference. Has written
articles for local papers and spoken on the radio.
- (viii) Jan Marsh
Has attended meetings of Inquiry into Technological
Change, anti-discrimination conference sub-committee,
NCW Sub-committee on Employment, ACTU Working Women's
Charter Committee.
- (ix) Wendy McCarthy
Attended IWD luncheon, launching of film 'Working
With Childcare', worked on education for employment paper.
- (x) Beryl Beaurepaire
(As in written report.)