



**Government of South Australia**  
Office for Women

**2015**


**South Australian**

**Women's  
Honour Roll**

Acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of South Australian women

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## Message from the Minister

I am very pleased to be presenting the fifth South Australian Women's Honour Roll. The 2015 Women's Honour Roll highlights the ongoing significant influence South Australian women have on our community. Too often women go unacknowledged for their hard work and dedication to helping others, in furthering knowledge, in promoting women's rights, in sport, in art and culture, and in many other fields.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of the first women's domestic violence service in South Australia. Since 1975, these services have been essential in saving the lives of many women and children and in ending the cycle of violence that can occur in families by offering women support, education and accommodation. Many outstanding women have worked to protect women and their children experiencing violence in these essential services and continue to do so.

To mark the anniversary I have decided to expand the number of women highlighted in the 2015 South Australian Women's Honour Roll: Thirty women have been highlighted in this publication due to their outstanding contribution to the lives of South Australians and their incredible commitment to making a difference. These women have created change and achieved incredible outcomes in a wide variety of fields showing just how much women give to our community.

These women show us the diversity of South Australia with new Australians who arrived as refugees and migrants, Aboriginal women whose cultures are intrinsic to South Australia, those who have achieved through their work and those who volunteer their time. The contribution of these diverse and talented women to South Australia is celebrated in the 2015 South Australian Honour Roll.

Congratulations to the 30 outstanding women showcased here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Gail Gago'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Hon Gail Gago MLC  
**Minister for the Status of Women**

# Zita Adut Deng Ngor

## A driven advocate for culturally and linguistically diverse women's rights and safety

As the Director of the Women's Legal Service SA, Zita has led the organisation from strength to strength. She has driven and overseen the diversification of the organisation resulting in the Women's Legal Service SA being considered an expert in the provision of legal services for women, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who have experienced violence.

Zita came to Australia as a refugee from South Sudan as a young girl. Since then Zita has achieved many firsts, she was the first person in her family to graduate from University and the first Sudanese woman to graduate in law from an Australian University. Zita has contributed greatly to assisting many African families and in particular members of the South Sudanese community in settling in South Australia.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence, especially within the culturally and linguistically diverse community, is very close to Zita's heart. In 2013, she contributed to the organisation of the "Stand Up: National conference on the elimination of all forms of violence against CALD women" a national conference to look at the issue of gender-based violence in relation to women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

# Marg Allen

## A committed worker on the frontline of women's safety

Marg retired in February 2015 after working for 31 years in the domestic violence sector, providing support to women and children at risk of violence. Throughout these 31 years, Marg contributed to providing direct services to women and children and to the people of the Southern Adelaide community.

Marg has significantly contributed to a safer community through the development of the Southern Domestic Violence Service. Through the foundation years of women's shelters in South Australia, Marg worked as a frontline worker and later as a team leader helping to create an exceptional service to support women and children at their greatest time of need.

Marg is well known throughout the greater community as a woman focused on women's and children's safety and support. She has been a champion for her fellow workers by developing workforce skills, protecting their welfare and focusing on providing quality services to women and their children.

# Vicki-ann Bendessi-Whichello

## A deeply missed community champion

Vicki-ann was a proud Arrende woman who lived a challenging and inspiring life. Vicki-ann started her life of influence as a young mother volunteering in a homeless shelter she had once lived in and ended up joining the Advisory Board as a community member.

An artist with a keen eye for colour and pattern, Vicki-ann held a strong conviction that art offered an alternative form of counselling to those who needed support in hard times. She used her own experiences and spirituality to inspire and support others going through difficult times. She ensured her positive guidance was felt by her children as they grew and by her family and friends through tolerance, love and example.

Vicki-ann's influence on her family, friends and community will not soon be forgotten.

# Linda Bertram

## A devoted volunteer

Linda has been an active member of the Country Women's Association of South Australia over many years and has held volunteer positions at branch, state and national level. As current State President of the Country Women's Association of South Australia, Linda travels to all 120 branches across the State encouraging women to make a difference within their community.

Linda works full-time in her voluntary position as State President. Linda's commitment to the association extends from public speaking engagements inspiring others to make a difference to mentoring women at all levels.

In Linda's local area of Gawler she has served as a representative for the Country Women's Association on multiple committees organising local community events including the International Women's Day Committee, Christmas Carols Committee and the Operation Flinders Committee.

It is through Linda's resolve and her supportive team of volunteers that the Country Women's Association of South Australia is progressing into the future and entering a new period of renewal and change. Linda continues to ensure women's voices are loud and clear in our community.

# Pat Buckskin

## A passionate leader in Aboriginal education

Pat is a proud Narrunga/Kurna woman who grew up in a family of ten children in the Riverland. She is a proud mother, grandmother and family matriarch.

Pat's involvement in Aboriginal education commenced in 1972 when she undertook a traineeship and was appointed to Mansfield Park Primary School as the school's first Aboriginal Teacher Aide. In 1987, following the formation of the then Education Department's Aboriginal Education Unit, Pat was appointed as the first State Manager of Aboriginal Education Workers - a position she held until her retirement in 2009.

Pat was critical in the development of the Aboriginal Education Workers' Award during her time seconded to the Australian Education Union. The Award was the first culturally based education award in Australia.

Pat also served on the South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Committee for many years. During this time Pat was the main driver and advocate for the establishment of the Kurna Plains Aboriginal School which was the first public Aboriginal school established in an urban setting in Australia.

Pat continues to contribute to Aboriginal education as she has recently joined the re-established Consultative Committee and newly incorporated South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council.

# Sam Burgess

## A champion of junior roller derby

Sam has worked as a volunteer administrator, promoting the sport of junior roller derby since 2010 when she established the Lil' Adelaide Rollers team for South Australian young people. The sport is widely recognised as one which predominantly celebrates and supports female athletes, however, Lil' Adelaide Rollers is a mixed gender league inviting all young people to take part.

As a leader in the roller derby community Sam has helped children aged from 8 – 17 to achieve their goals within the sport, by organising their participation in interstate and international competitions.

In 2014 alone Sam's volunteer work included coordinating the 2014 Junior Roller Derby Carnivale, the largest junior roller derby event held in Australia, becoming trainer, bench coach and Operations Manager for Team Australia, leading the first group of Australian junior derby athletes to the inaugural Junior Roller Derby World Cup in Seattle and joining the steering committee of the Masters Games Roller Derby.

Sam is the Australian Representative for the international body, Junior Roller Derby Association, and through her efforts the first Junior Roller Derby Association endorsed competitions have been played in Australia.

Sam's ongoing volunteer efforts as an administrator, organising roller derby events and fundraising, have allowed athletes, and particularly girls and young women of all ages, to demonstrate and improve their skills in a sport they love.

# Pam Catcheside

## A scientist with an exceptional appetite for mycology

Pam is an expert in the field of mycology, the study of fungi, requiring a high level of scientific expertise which she continues to develop at the highest level in her volunteer role as Honorary Research Associate at the State Herbarium of South Australia.

Pam retired from a distinguished career in secondary Biology and Science education in 1998. Since then she has embarked on an entirely new career, becoming South Australia's preeminent expert on macrofungi.

Pam's work on Kangaroo Island monitoring the macrofungi annually since 2002 has resulted in many significant discoveries including documenting new species and, in 2011, collecting the State Herbarium's one-millionth specimen.

Pam's discoveries, records and publications have not only enhanced our knowledge about South Australia's fungi populations, but they contribute to national and international databases and research on global fungi populations ensuring that her knowledge and expertise is passed on to future generations.

Pam is generous in her time supporting local naturalist societies to ensure that their important work continues, and that the knowledge generated through citizen science is accessible to help support government conservation activities as well as informing the community.

# Sandi Chapman

## A dedicated leader in women's safety

Sandi has had a career spanning over 27 years dedicated to the service and education of women and children experiencing domestic violence. With an insatiable drive to help others, she demonstrates this through strongly advocating on behalf of women and children in the interest of equality and social justice and her work with government and non-government agencies to develop and continually improve the Murraylands Domestic Violence Service.

Sandi also works with local community groups to educate them regarding violence against women and their children. She developed and conducted a domestic violence program for Riverland High School students as well as many workshops with local police, parents groups, local GPs and church groups.

As a volunteer, Sandi has also served on the Management Committee of the Riverland Domestic Violence Unit, Riverland Domestic Violence Action Group and was a board member of the Women's Housing Association for nine years.

# Sheila Evans

## A pioneer of women's safety and support

With a strong background in and commitment to achieving justice and equality for women, Sheila has played a leading role in raising community awareness of domestic violence. Sourcing funding from the union movement, Sheila founded one of the first women's shelters in South Australia in 1975 - the Para Districts Women's Shelter, now known as the Northern Domestic Violence Service.

Sheila has been passionate about preventing domestic violence for many years and joined the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast Committee to further this agenda. She also served as a founding member of the South Australian Women's Shelters Advisory Committee.

After retirement from the public service, Sheila became a Consultant Project Manager to the Murray Mallee Community Health Service and developed 'Our Wellbeing Place', a facility in Murray Bridge for mental health consumers and carers.

Sheila has actively contributed to her community as a leader and a board member to found and strengthen community organisations.

# Mary (Mallamar) Graham

## A shining light in Aboriginal health care

Mary was a proud Kurna, Narrunga, Ngarrindjeri woman from Point Pearce. She started as a volunteer at the Gawler Health Service running a support group but soon became the first Aboriginal Health Worker at the Service. In this role Mary soon identified that Aboriginal people did not regularly access the service and did not attend regular GP appointments. In 2015, because of her leadership and initiative, the service now runs Nunga Clinics that provide a comfortable and inclusive space for Aboriginal people to access health services.

Mary's vision for Aboriginal people was much broader than access to health care - she truly sought respect and reconciliation as well. This vision helped to transform the Gawler Health Service into a culturally respectful service where all staff have an understanding of cultural differences and barriers to participation.

Mary's impact on her community will be a lasting memorial to her vision and commitment to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in her region.



# Maria Hagias

## A committed champion for women and children's safety

Maria is the Executive Director of the Central Domestic Violence Service and Co-Chair of the Coalition of the Women's Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Services in South Australia. In undertaking community education and proactively advocating for continuing education of services involved in domestic and family violence cases, Maria has become a leader in the field, inspiring admiration and respect in all who work with her.

Maria has provided support to many families who have experienced domestic violence yet has still found time to be a major partner in the South Australian Government's Women's Safety Strategy since 2005, serve on multiple boards and committees, and advise on law reform, system improvement strategies and prevention activities. Maria was recently selected by the South Australian Government to represent South Australia on the Council of Australian Governments' Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children. Maria has also been instrumental in supporting the children of Zahra Abrahamzadeh to create the Zahra Foundation which promotes women's financial independence and provides immediate crisis support.

For many years Maria has raised awareness of violence against women and has advocated continuously for the right of all women and children to live safely without fear of violence.

# Debbie Harrop

## An extraordinary hero of the emergency services

Debbie is a Rescue Retrieval Paramedic in the Special Operations Team of the South Australian Ambulance Service who regularly achieves beyond the scope of her work to volunteer with local communities.

The Special Operations Team is a small group of intensive care paramedics who are trained to access and treat patients in difficult and hazardous environments or unusual situations. Special Operations also includes helicopter operations and Debbie has been involved in many rescues where she has been lowered from a helicopter to reach a patient who is unable to be carried out of an inaccessible area.

She is also a member of the State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force which consists of specialised technical rescue technicians trained in the location and rescue of people trapped after a structural collapse.

Debbie is currently one of only two women who are rescue retrieval paramedics in South Australia. Debbie has been deployed overseas on two occasions to assist countries in need of help in East Timor in 2000, and in Banda Aceh in 2005 after the devastating Boxing Day tsunami. On each occasion, Debbie used her own time to volunteer with the local community and organise deliveries of new toys for local children.

Debbie's accomplishments and hard work inspire and empower other women to succeed in male dominated workplaces.

# Wendy Higgins

## A business woman driven to succeed in a traditionally male industry

Wendy began her career 42 years ago with the Bank of Adelaide and has since built an outstanding reputation as one of the best mortgage brokers in Australia. Over her career Wendy has helped thousands of clients to achieve their dreams of home ownership and her franchise office continues to be the most successful in Australia.

Mortgage broking is primarily a male dominated industry and Wendy's success is a testament to her hard work and dedication; she is an inspirational role model to others wanting a career in mortgage broking and to both men and women in industries where there is a minority.

Not only has Wendy experienced great success in her field of business but she also makes an outstanding contribution to her local community through her generous sponsorship. For the past 12 years she has provided financial support and personal encouragement which has been crucial to the development of many grass roots clubs and community groups. Through this fundamental assistance and support, Wendy has provided opportunities for players to develop their skills and has made a genuine impact on their lives.

On a more sombre note, Wendy's charitable impact has also been felt internationally, through her financing of the building of a shelter on a mountainside in Tibet in memory of her late husband.

# Ulrike Klein

## Philanthropist and star of the arts in South Australia

In 1983, Ulrike and her husband Jurgen's search for a suitable environment for manufacturing organic aromatherapy based products led them and their four young children from Germany to the Adelaide Hills. Here, using their combined skills and knowledge, Ulrike and Jurgen created the globally successful skin care brand Jurlique.

Now no longer directly involved with the company, Ulrike is committed to giving back through her philanthropy. Together with her children she has established the Klein Family Foundation, which is a private ancillary fund, and she has fully funded Ngeringa Arts.

Perched on the hillside in the picturesque Adelaide Hills just outside Mount Barker, the Ngeringa Arts Cultural Centre provides an acoustically perfect new performance space, artists' studio and restaurant. This development brings together everything that the farm has to offer in one state of the art and environmentally sustainable building.

Since its inception Ngeringa Arts has been committed to acquiring fine musical instruments for talented Australian musicians. It has developed a very close association with the internationally acclaimed Australian String Quartet and has committed to acquiring and loaning the quartet a unique set of instruments handcrafted by GB Guadagnini during 1743 – 1784.

Ulrike's enduring vision is to build a legacy for future generations and to enrich Australian culture.

# Debbie Kralik

## A dedicated researcher and practitioner

Debbie was a Professor of Nursing whose knowledge and influence in the field was widely acknowledged and appreciated. She was the author of five books and contributed chapters to many other publications. She presented at multiple conferences throughout Australia and overseas.

Debbie's research often delved into areas where little or no research had previously been undertaken. This work made a profound difference in people's lives especially the elderly and those with chronic illness. Her passionate commitment and fierce advocacy for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups inspired others to follow their passion into nursing and study.

Current researchers are building on the body of knowledge researched by Debbie, basing their works on models of care that she authored in dedicated collaboration with her peers. Debbie's influence in the field of community based nursing will continue to inspire students in Schools of Nursing throughout Australia for many years.

Those who knew her, as well as those who have benefited from her outstanding research and knowledge will remember her passion for community and helping the vulnerable.

# Chelsea Lewis

## An inspired campaigner for the voices of young women in Australia

Chelsea has played a pioneering role in South Australia to create a space for young women to voice their concerns. In doing so she has enabled the active participation of young women in various aspects of our community. By creating opportunities for them to demonstrate their leadership Chelsea has created a platform for these young women to carry forward the work to achieve women's equality.

Chelsea is widely acknowledged for her work with young women through the YWCA. In order to give young women a voice, in 2012 she established the South Australian YWCA Adelaide She Speaks Survey of girls and young women aged 15 – 30. This survey has gone on to be supported by several Australian YWCAs and became the nation's largest young women's leadership survey in 2014.

To highlight the need for men to take responsibility in addressing violence against women, in 2014-15 Chelsea created the Rise Above the Pack campaign. The community safety campaign raised awareness of men's role in creating safe public spaces and men such as the Premier of South Australia and the Lord Mayor participated in the associated poster series.

Chelsea regularly goes above and beyond her work to ensure women's voices are heard. She continues to inspire young women to find their voices and build their capacity to achieve greater equality for all women.

# Gillian Lewis

## A passionate campaigner against domestic violence

Gillian has been a policy adviser for the South Australian Government for many years, specialising in challenging aspects of ethically contentious health policy such as autopsy practice, end-of-life decision making and reproductive medicine. She applies these experiences to her work in the community through the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW), the White Ribbon Campaign and her service on boards.

Wanting to raise awareness of what has been her passion for decades, Gillian conceived and established the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast in 2006, bringing together women's groups and men as White Ribbon Ambassadors, and working with the national White Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness of domestic and family violence.

Gillian's community involvement and leadership extend beyond her role as Co-convenor of the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast Committee to include being Secretary of the White Ribbon South Australia Committee, President of the SA Playgroup Association and a member of UN Women.

Gillian uses her generosity, passion and excellent negotiation skills to bring people together across South Australia from diverse groups to work for a common cause.

# Fliss Lord

## A determined women's rights advocate

Fliss is an icon in the community sector, known for her tireless work in improving equal opportunities for all people from all countries and all communities, especially through education.

Currently an elected member of the Burnside City Council, Fliss has dedicated her life to ensuring inclusion is reflected in the boards and committees she serves on as well as her community memberships.

Fliss' passion for achieving equal opportunity is evidenced by her extensive involvement with the women's sector. Between 2000 and 2015 Fliss volunteered as the Convener of the Women's Information Service Support Group. She has served as President of Graduate Women South Australia; Convener and State Delegate to the Women's Electoral Lobby Australia; she was a committee member of the Older Women's Advisory Committee South Australia; and a member of the United Nations Association of Australia Status of Women Committee.

Fliss has also played an active role in advising the South Australian Government, beginning in 2000 with her work on the State Collaborative Approach, Prevention of Domestic Violence group.

Through her dedicated service to the community and the women's sector, Fliss has unequivocally demonstrated the significant and lasting contributions women make to South Australia.

# Anuradha Mundkur

## A passionate advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment

Anuradha's focus is to empower individuals and organisations with the capacity to critically engage with the process of analysing and finding innovative strategies to deal with complex gender inequality issues, including gender based violence.

In 2007 Anuradha was elected to the board of UN Women Australia where she made significant contributions to establishing governance mechanisms for the organisation. After finishing a three year term Anuradha initiated and set up the Adelaide Chapter of UN Women Australia.

As the Associate Director of the Gender Consortium at Flinders University, Anuradha has made significant contributions in the establishment of a unit that focuses on developing the capacity of emerging leaders (especially women in developing countries). The Unit contributes to gender-sensitive approaches to economic and social development at national, regional and international levels.

Anuradha gives her time to multiple boards and committees including the Premier's Council for Women, the Women's Education Advisory Group, the Executive Committee of the Women Peace and Security Civil Society Coalition and the Executive Committee of Academics Stand Against Poverty.

# Lavene Ngatokorua

## Selfless champion for the community

Lavene is a proud Wangkangurru, Adnyamathanha, Luritja and Kuyani woman. She is a well-respected leader who gives her time and energy in multiple capacities to increase the wellbeing and enjoyment of life of all members of her community.

As a mentor and role model to the young people in her community of Davenport and Port Augusta, Lavene strives to ensure that her culture and community is always vibrant. She is well loved for her tireless efforts to inspire through sport, culture and dance.

Lavene has served her community as a carer, nurse, sports coordinator and Community Constable. She has been instrumental in facilitating the annual NAIDOC week cultural day in Port Augusta to showcase Aboriginal culture in the region and educate people about the issues facing Aboriginal people.

Through the youth dance group "Dusty Feet Mob" Lavene helps young people overcome barriers and achieve their full potential. The group has performed at the Port Augusta NAIDOC week cultural day, across South Australia and in Tasmania.

Lavene works with multiple women's groups organising activities in Davenport and working with individual women in her community. She personally supports women who have experienced domestic violence and goes out of her way to support women in need.

# Maurine Pyke QC

## A tireless volunteer committed to women's safety

Maurine has volunteered her time as a member of the Central Domestic Violence Service (CDVS) Board of Management for the past 30 years. She began as a Board Member in the North Adelaide shelter, one of the original shelters for women and children established in South Australia and for 20 of the past 30 years has been President of the CDVS Board of Management.

In her time on the Board, Maurine has been responsible and actively involved in the development and growth of quality service provision for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence in the western, eastern and central areas of metropolitan Adelaide. Maurine has overseen the development of best practice crisis accommodation services which are now embedded in the domestic violence service system in general.

Maurine also had a critical role in advising the South Australian Government on domestic violence law reform.

Maurine's commitment and values are underpinned by the importance of women's and children's voices being heard and fundamental to the responses implemented by CDVS.

# Georgia Ross

## A giving volunteer and role model

Georgia is a consistent and passionate volunteer who constantly strives to inspire others and serve her community through extensive volunteer work.

As the President of the South Australian Country Women's Association Adelaide Branch Georgia inspires other women to engage with their communities, support women and learn new skills. Georgia coordinates the CWA Show Café, an important fundraising opportunity for the branch at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Georgia orchestrated a partnership between the South Australian Country Women's Association and the Metropolitan Fire Service which has led to increased fundraising opportunities for both organisations. At an international level, Georgia has spent time volunteering in Uganda building houses and providing educational material to children.

She also inspires through her other volunteer roles as a Surf Life Saver, in which she is currently studying to become a trainer; working with homeless people at the Hutt St Centre and through feeding those in need with St Vincent de Paul's 'Fred's Van'.

# Genevieve Rieger

## Soaring in male-dominated skies

Major Genevieve Rieger has succeeded in a field where there have traditionally been very few women – piloting Australian Defence Force helicopters.

Genevieve graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 2001 and in 2006 she completed a pilots course, subsequently working with and piloting helicopters in Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Afghanistan and Australia.

Genevieve has combined her work in the Defence Force with many volunteer activities including collecting toys for children in orphanages in East Timor, advocating for the advancement of women in defence and regularly speaking to interest groups and at schools about her career and experiences. She recently became the interim President of the newly established Women's Veterans Association Australia Returned Services League Sub-branch. She has even made the effort to directly inspire girls at her old school to achieve in non-traditional roles by landing a helicopter on the school oval, the same set of circumstances in her childhood which inspired Genevieve to become a helicopter pilot.

Genevieve shows South Australian women that it is possible to pursue and succeed in a non-traditional, active and male-dominated field. She is now the Army Aviation Liaison Officer within an Air Force Flight Test Unit and flies civil helicopters in her spare time.

# Michelle Ryan

## Achievement through dance

Michelle has more than twenty years' experience as a performer, choreographer, rehearsal director and producer. Her passion for dance has led her to become Artistic Director of Restless Dance Theatre.

Michelle has proven to all that barriers can be overcome and that a strong held belief in your own abilities can lead to amazing things. As Artistic Director of Restless Dance Theatre, Michelle provides opportunities for people with differing abilities to express themselves through dance and movement.

Michelle has shown that having a disability should not mean that a career in dance, or any of the performing arts, is inaccessible. Her work is instrumental in creating new works for people with disability and promoting a beautiful and heartfelt picture of our community through the eyes of those who often are not asked to express themselves.

Performing as a dancer in her wheelchair in stunning performances across Australia and internationally, Michelle's own journey has inspired many to continue to chase their dreams despite the obstacles and her art inspires our community to see the potential in all its members.

# Jo Stewart-Rattray

## IT professional, educator and mentor

With over 25 years' experience in the IT field, Jo's outstanding achievement in the fields of information security, audit security and education have made her a highly sought after educator and speaker.

She is recognised at the highest level by ISACA having sat on the International Board of Directors as both Vice President and Director. ISACA is a professional body with some 110,000 members in many countries around the world and represents professionals from the assurance, governance, information security and cybersecurity disciplines.

Over her career Jo has worked tirelessly to support the needs of Indigenous and isolated learners in the fields of information security and governance, particularly in Papua New Guinea. She has also been involved in significant research in the information security arena as part of her ongoing involvement with ISACA at an international level.

Jo encourages a greater participation by women in board level activities and is part of a local support network for professional women. She has acted as a mentor in a formal mentoring program for women wishing to become 'board ready' and always encourages women to become involved in senior management and executive level roles.

# Marge Rogers

## A dedicated crusader for women and children's safety

Marge has worked at the Northern Domestic Violence Service (NDVS) since 1985 when she assumed the duties of a relief and weekend worker. She has since become an invaluable member of the Service and a leader in women's and children's safety services.

Marge is a key driver of community initiatives in which the service participates. She has been instrumental in building the fundraising base for the service by working tirelessly, often in her own time, to develop relationships with community organisations. Her connections to the local community, key identities and decades of service to NDVS provide the Board and staff with a unique and valuable perspective on how to view, and plan to address, regional issues.

Her dedication to working with women living with domestic violence includes a commitment to speaking out about injustice and promoting relationships that are based on respect. These efforts to educate her community about domestic violence and its impact on women and their children have raised a greater understanding of domestic violence throughout the community and with local organisations.



# Jodie Sloan

## Committed advocate for victims of crime

Since 1992 Jodie has worked tirelessly supporting victims of crime and advocating for their human rights. Her work has always had a strong focus on groups that experience particular oppression including women, carers and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

At the local level, Jodie has made significant impacts on the lives of many victims of crime. She has provided direct support to countless individuals and families. She has played a major role in developing and managing support services that uphold social justice and human rights principles. At the national level, Jodie has been directly involved in the implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children as well as participating in private round tables conducted by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Jodie has addressed structural barriers and enhanced many women's access to their human rights. She is a tireless supporter of women experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault and survivors of child sexual abuse.

# Emily Tanui

## A tireless advocate in many areas

Emily is the President of My Sister's Keeper, a not for profit organisation founded to provide support and empowerment to migrant and refugee women and girls. She is deeply committed to working with migrant women to help them overcome depression and stress. My Sister's Keeper provides a safe space for women to take part in honest dialogue about mental illness and use their stories to help heal each other.

Emily is also a tireless advocate for raising awareness about stroke as a health issue for young people in the community. Experiencing a stroke at the age of 30, Emily has since become a leader in stroke awareness.

Emily also serves her community as Treasurer of Celebrate African Australia, State Coordinator of All Hands on Deck for Ebola, Ambassador for the Liberian women's group Ladies with Integrity, and on the committee of the Kenyan Association of South Australia.

With passion, humour and insight, Emily encourages people from all walks of life to accept obstacles, overcome them and never give up.

# Sonia Waters

## A natural leader and positive role model

As a proud Aboriginal woman, Sonia has inspired many other women, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to get involved in their local communities and workplaces to contribute and help others. Sonia's dedication and commitment to social policy has inspired her colleagues, peers and community members to become involved in positive social change.

Sonia has taken part in the Journey of Recognition, travelling with the Recognise campaign across the country advocating for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia's constitution. Sonia has also appeared with her family in the latest series of television commercials aired nationally as part of the Recognise campaign.

Committed to creating and increasing job opportunities for Aboriginal people in South Australia, Sonia leads by example and is a role model to people within government, community services and the community at large.

Sonia also serves her community as volunteer convener of the Stolen Generation Sisters group, a carer for senior Anangu women in her community and as a respite carer for Aboriginal young people. She also initiated and led the Australian Rotary Health Scholarship program for Aboriginal students studying medicine and the Department of Health Aboriginal Scholarship Program, both of which are ongoing scholarship programs.

# Vicky Welgraven

## A strong advocate and ambassador for Aboriginal women's rights

Vicky is a proud Adnyamathanha woman from the Northern Flinders Ranges. She is passionate about Aboriginal women's rights, reconciliation and education of the wider community about her culture.

Vicky has always been passionate about Aboriginal women's issues and rights. She has been instrumental in working towards setting up the South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance, introducing the acknowledgment of country to meetings of the Outer Army Supporter Group (an unofficial supporter group of the Port Adelaide Football Club), and speaking to the State Government in Parliament House on gaps in services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

In 2014, Vicky was nominated by the South Australian branch of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) to be the South Australian representative on the national NATSIWA Board. NATSIWA was established in 2009 to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to have a strong and effective voice in the domestic and international policy advocacy process.

Vicky maintains her involvement with local Aboriginal communities in Adelaide through: her work in the South Australian public service; as former Chairperson of Nunga Mi:Minar, a family violence service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children; and as Deputy Chairperson on the Central Adelaide Mental Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

# Honour Roll Nominees

2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015

## A

Jane Abdilla	2009
Intessar Abou-Hamdan	2015
Rachel Abdulla	2009
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Office for Women acknowledges that we are on Kurna land and pays respect to the traditional owners of this land.

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