

Kelly Hansen, Nova CEO



Welcome to our Newsletter!

The Nova newsletter will keep you informed of issues, events and at times, women's individual stories. Stories that will remind of their successes and celebrations, individual strengths in the face of adversity and the wonderful generosity of community.

Nova has had a very busy few months, one of our major highlights was a very successful International Women's Day Breakfast. Photos from our Breakfast are in this edition.

International Women's Day is more than a celebration. It is a political day that recognises not only current women but all those who have come before. Those women who fought hard for women's rights, such as the vote, parenting payment and working conditions. I find it difficult to reflect on International Women's Day without considering the current social, economic and political climate for women in Australia.

Older women experiencing homelessness is a growing group of women impacted by long term gendered poverty and inequality. Women and children escaping from domestic violence are cycling into homelessness and poverty. These issues can only be addressed through the removal of the structural barriers that continue to keep women and children living in poverty and unsafe conditions.

This edition of our Newsletter is dedicated to all those women that came before us and were able to make social change. We thank you.

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GENDERED POVERTY AT A GLANCE



GENDER PAY GAP

The full-time total remuneration gender pay gap is **22.4%**
Meaning, men working full-time earn nearly **\$27,000** a year more than women working full-time

GENDER SUPERANNUATION GAP

Older women are increasingly retiring into poverty
"Women currently retire with an average of **47%** less super than men"



AGING WOMEN

In 2016, there was a **31%** increase in older women experiencing homelessness from the 2011 Census
Nova assisted **66** women between the ages of 56-65 in the 2018/2019 financial year



SOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

Workplace Gender Equality Agency: Australia's Gender Pay Gap Statistics:
<https://www.wgea.gov.au/data/fact-sheets/australia-gender-pay-gap-statistics>

ACOSS Raise the Rate Campaign:
<https://raisetherate.org.au/>

Industry Super Funds: The Gender Super Gap
<https://www.industrysuper.com/about/features-and-articles/the-gender-super-gap/>

Retiring Into Poverty Report
<https://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Retiring-into-Poverty-National-Plan-for-Change-Increasing-Housing-Security-for-Older-Women-23-August-2018.pdf>



Did you know?

Research suggests it will take at least **118 years** (a conservative estimate) to achieve gender equality.

Of the 1 billion young people – including 600 million adolescent girls, that will enter the workforce in the next decade, more than 90% of those living in developing countries will work in the Informal sector, where low or no pay, abuse and exploitation are common.

<https://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/>

The United Nations regards the 'girl child' as the most vulnerable

*'In 2016, there was
a 31% increase
in older women
experiencing
homelessness'*

*Lack of transport
can be a real
barrier to
employment*



Cherie with her new wheels, thanks to the team at Cardiff Wholesale Cars

Wheels in Motion

How a car changed Cherie's life!

At 63 years of age, homeless was the last thing Cherie ever expected to be, but after an unexpected set back, that is exactly what happened. Thankfully help was at hand, and after contacting us at Nova, Cherie was provided temporary accommodation at one of our refuges.

Determined to turn her life around, Cherie was applying for jobs and attending interviews almost every day. The problem was, without a car, it was very difficult.

There were days Cherie was leaving the refuge at 9am, to connect with various buses, just to get to a 2pm job interview.

Sadly Cherie was faced with disappointment after disappointment, and the feedback was mainly around her availability and transport.

One day, Nova received a call from the amazing people at **Cardiff Wholesale Cars**, who after seeing our work in the community, wanted to donate a car to a woman in need. It was a difficult choice to make, but after careful review, we knew that this car would change Cherie's life. And that's exactly what happened.

Cherie was presented with her new car in the showroom at Cardiff, and to say she was surprised is an understatement. There wasn't a dry eye in the house, and Cherie could not have been more grateful. Staff had to convince her it wasn't a joke and it was really hers!

On the day, Cherie said she wanted to ensure the car will be 'used for good', to be able to give back and help others, and that's exactly what she's doing. While Cherie is still eagerly looking for support style work, receiving the car has enabled her to volunteer at her local Church and within the community where she assists and supports others in need.



Special

Nova Signature Biscuit to celebrate women's strength.

Soft on the inside, with a light and crisp protective coating, it's gluten free, made with love, symbolising women. This delicious handmade signature biscuit was specially made by former Nova client, Jan Ives as a gift for guests attending our IWD Breakfast.



As a former Chef, with a solid work background, Jan was in her 60's when she fell on hard times. "Things happen in your life, - you can end up in a space you didn't envisage" Jan said. When this happened to her, she was staying with friends, and didn't realise she was 'technically homeless'. Janice was on the waiting list for public housing, but had nothing secure to go to long term, and got in touch with Nova for support. With a love of food and helping others, Jan started to cook for other families staying in refuge which she loved. After getting back on her feet and in a place of her own, Jan wanted to 'give back' and offered to create a special biscuit for Nova's first IWD Breakfast and we couldn't think of anything more fitting! Thank you Jan, it was delicious and we are very appreciative indeed.



Special guest speakers; Jane R Goodall, Cassidy Davis and Joanne McCarthy

International Women's Day Breakfast

Friday 8 March 2019 was the first year Nova held an International Women's Day Breakfast and it was a great success.

As the sun rose over beautiful Merewether Surfhouse, over 100 people joined us for a delicious breakfast to celebrate women of all ages and stages.

Local counsellors and politicians, leaders and staff from numerous organisations, many of our supporters, local sports stars as well as people from the local community were motivated, entertained and enlightened by our special guest speakers. Professional local Sportswoman and player for the Newcastle Jets Women's League, Cassidy Davis, Acclaimed Newcastle Journalist, and Gold Walkley Award Winner Joanne McCarthy and Award Winning Novelist, Writer and Researcher, Professor Jane R Goodall, openly shared their knowledge, experiences, opinions and achievements, which we were truly appreciative of.

Entertainment by Blue Moon Music had the crowd on their feet, singing and dancing to well known powerhouse songs such as: 'I am Woman' and 'Sisters are Doing it for Themselves'. It certainly was a great way to start the morning and a fantastic way for us all to celebrate International Women's Day.

This event booked out fast, so please keep up to date with us on [Facebook](#) to find out about our 2020 breakfast as it's announced.

Photos from our IWD 2019 Breakfast - 8 March 2019





Leah (left) delivers the fridge she kindly donated to Lee Liewes (right) from Nova

Recycling

a fridge into a funky
Street Library!

Books are a huge part of our lives, transporting us from the present, to faraway lands, or to days past, as a way of relaxing, or taking us away from reality for a brief time. For those less fortunate than ourselves, having access to books might not be as easy as it is for the rest of us.

Street libraries have become a way of overcoming this problem in many communities throughout Australia and the world. People of all ages and backgrounds, are free to borrow a book from the street library and return it when finished. Anyone can leave books they no longer have a use for, or take one they'd like to read.

Nova for Women and Children decided to set up our own street library on the veranda of our Hunter Street drop-in centre. We asked for book donations via our Facebook page, and received lots of used books from Mayfield East Primary School. Next was a non working fridge, which was generously donated and delivered to us by Leah and her partner.

Right now, the fridge is being transformed by a few of the students at the local Big Picture, Cooks Hill Campus who are using their artistic flare to paint and decorate it.

Big thanks go out to Leah and her partner, the Mayfield East Primary School and The Big Picture Cooks Hill Campus for your involvement in our community project. We could not do this without you and we can't wait to see the finished results!

OPENING HOURS

General Office Hours:

9am to 4.30pm

Monday to Friday

Please Note:

The Newcastle office is closed to the public on Tuesdays, except for pre-booked appointments.

We are closed on weekends and public holidays.

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AFTER HOURS

If you are a woman escaping domestic violence, requiring after hours assistance please

Phone: 1800 656 463