

## Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) Triennial report 2013-2016

1. **National Federation/Association in (Country):** AUSTRALIA
2. **Name of person completing form:** DALMA JACOBS
3. **Position in the NFA:** CIR

### **Membership Development :**

4. **Number of full members in 2015 (eligible for GWI membership, including life members):**

TOTAL 544: ACT 15; NSW 163; QLD 186; SA 37; VIC 70; WA; 73.

5. **Number of members in special categories (not eligible for GWI membership):**

Total 23: NSW 11; QLD 5; VIC 7.

6. **Please describe any strategies your federation/association used during the triennium that helped you to attract new members.**

See Attachment 1 for examples and also Q 9.

AFGW Membership growth is the responsibility of State Associations and Branches. Active State and Branch Committees are needed to grow future membership.

7. **Did your national association or federation use any membership development resources from the GWI website or from the webinars during the triennium? If so, please indicate which ones.**

Some State Associations are using ideas on membership development and project management from the GWI workshop in Perth. Some individual members are participating in selected webinars but details are not recorded. See responses to other Qs.

8. **Did your NFA make use of a regional capacity building workshop and if so what strategies from the workshop did you use and how has it helped you to grow your NFA/branch?**

AFGW was unable to attend the Regional Workshop in Fiji. Some members attended the Capacity Building Workshop in Perth but it is too early for new strategies and benefits to be evaluated. The ideas, enthusiasm and support given has enabled State Associations and Branches to begin to focus more clearly on rebuilding membership, and strengthening alliances with other groups and institutions. See Attachment 1.

## **Communications :**

### **9. What methods of marketing/publicity did your NFA use to raise the profile of your association during the triennium? Did these methods bring in more members?**

AFGW has a well developed website which is updated regularly. All State Associations and some Branches also have Websites linked to AFGW's Website and some are setting up a Facebook pages. Other traditional activities are used to try to promote membership and public awareness e.g.

- Personal introductions
- Local media articles and advertising
- Events such as breakfasts, dinners with speakers and book clubs
- Alliances with other like minded NGOs
- Breakfasts with post-graduate students at different universities
- On going scholarships programs and presentations of awards events
- Changing venues for events, reasonable rates and accessible to transport
- publication of education advocacy at National and State level on the websites.

AFGW can't always say what attracted new members - we should be asking them. One volunteered being attracted by the Uganda Teacher Training project on the GWI website.

### **10. Which information/material received from GWI is the most useful to your NFA?**

Pro-forma media releases announcing international days and GWI activities are appreciated but should be timely for adaptation to local situations. Webinars provide useful background information and tips and allow actively participate with international colleagues. GWI website material is included in various newsletters, advocacy, submissions and presentations. GWI Updates, GWI in Focus and the President's Letters are circulated.

### **11. What information could we provide that GWI doesn't provide currently that would be useful to you to use in communications?**

A library of useful photo images that can be downloaded copyright/royalty free for use in improving forms and brochures. An updated version of Inside IFUW, a guide for Leaders of NFAs and GWI which provided a clear understanding of the structure of GWI for new and potential leaders.

### **12. How do you share GWI information inside your NFA?**

- |                                  |                                         |                                        |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Forward via an email network     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| Include excerpts in a newsletter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| Distribute printed copies        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Not normally except to a few members without email and brochures displayed at functions

**Other Please specify):**

AFGW, STATE and BRANCH Websites: AFGW FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS AND AGM REPORTS, STATE and BRANCH NEWSLETTERS, PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTERS and EMAIL NETWORKS. AFGW (at national level) has recently introduced a shorter more regular E News covering more than National Council business. Contributions are welcome from members. During 2016, issues will cover AFGW history, CSW60 and STEM education. Some States and Branches use Facebook to advertise events and make announcements.

**Programme**

**13. Main programme theme(s) of your NFA during the 2013-2016 triennium:**

EDUCATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS. Provision over 50 years of fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, prizes and other assistance (around \$425, 000 annually) and is the major program and action within AFGW and its State Associations and Branches. See Attachment 2

**14. Has your NFA taken any action during the triennium on any of the resolutions adopted by the 2013 Conference in Istanbul or earlier Conferences or to an advocacy message from GWI?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please indicate which resolutions and the type of action.**

See answer to Q 19

Examples of possible action: your NFA investigated the situation in your own country, submitted papers to your government, worked for special legislation, met with government officials to discuss your concerns, participated in the civil society Universal Periodic Review report, or organized a special project or event to publicise a problem. **See responses to Qs 13, 15, 19 and 20.**

**15. What other issues did your NFA address in your advocacy work?**

See all National advocacy letters, submissions and responses on the AFGW Website at: <http://afgw.org.au/what-we-do/advocacy/>. AFGW continues to remind government ministers that equity in education requires evidence based assessment of funding for schools, and quality teachers provided with up-to-date professional development opportunities.

**16. Did your NFA participate in International Women's Day activities during the triennium? If yes, in what way?**

AFGW members mainly participate in IWD activities as individuals. A few AFGW Branches hold their own IWD events with speakers and venues booked well in advance of GWI's topic

announcement. One Branch event was reported in 27 April 2016 issue of GWI Update with a photo and topic Restorative Justice.

**17. Please check any of the following GWI resources that your NFA has used in developing its programmes or activities:**

- X GWI Policy Resolutions
- X GWI Policy Papers
- X GWI Manifestos
- X GWI Policy Update
- X Website pages and reports from GWI

**18. How has your NFA used these resources?**

The GWI website provides direction on policy decisions used in setting up projects, participating in events, or action involving alliances. AFGW is distributing the STEM related brochure and citing the GWI Education Manifesto in our advocacy.

**19. If any of your activities involved collaboration with other non-governmental organisations, government, business or other organisations, please indicate which actions and which organisations:**

AFGW has a national voice through membership of 2 of 5 National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government i.e. economic Security4Women Inc. (eS4W) and Equality Rights Alliance (ERA). See Websites for details:

<http://www.security4women.org.au/> and <http://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/>.

AFGW has representation on the ABS Gender Statistics Advisory Committee developing the Australian Gender Indicators product. State Associations and Branches collaborate with local Universities and benefit from partnerships with local NGOs supporting projects as appropriate. Details of relevant GWI Resolutions are circulated to a range of women's NGO as contributions to submissions e.g. R1/13 **Early and Forced Marriage** and R7/98: R4/13 **Promoting Violence-Free Family Life**.

**20. Please describe any projects or special activities that your federation/association carried out in the 2013/2016 triennium.**

See Attachment 2

- **Number of branches and members involved:** Numbers of attendees not usually recorded on a permanent basis