

Victorian Medical Women's Society Newsletter

Founded 1896

Celebrating our history, advancing our future

May 2017

afmw.org/vic

Volume 15 Issue 2

President's Report

Associate Professor Deb Colville

Dear Members,

Welcome to our VMWS newsletter.

I'd draw your attention to our AMA governance summary from member and past executive VMWS and AFMW member, Dr Jill Tomlinson. Dr Rosalind Terry, our VMWS AMA representative has reported back to the VMWS committee on the success of Dr Lorraine Baker, also a VMWS member, in her current role as AMA president.



Additionally, we are seeking new members, particularly as office bearers. I will be stepping down as VMWS president after this year, leaving open another opportunity for an executive position. Since the future of the VMWS is YOU, please volunteer for our incoming 2018 committee. We will also require members to fill shadowing positions to enable transfer of skills and knowledge to future office bearers, most notably the President, Vice President and Secretary roles. Experience is not required for these shadowing roles, rather your enthusiasm. Please let us know via e-mail if you are interested in any of these positions.

I'd urge you to come along to our AGM and have your say, too.

Best regards Deb Colville
President

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

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| Mon 5th June | VMWS Committee Meeting, Dr Ros Terry's home |
| August 11 th – 13 th | Women in Medicine Symposium, Sydney |

VMWS Committee 2017

President	A/Prof Deb Colville	
Vice President	VACANT	
Secretary	Dr Kasia Michalak	
	Shadow: Ms Lydia Di Stefano	
Treasurer	Dr Rosalie Cooper	
Public Officer	Dr Kate Duncan	
Immediate Past President	Dr Magdalena Simonis	
General Committee	Dr Desiree Yap	
	Dr Natalie Yap	
	Dr Hui Ling Yeoh	
Newsletter Editors/Publicity Officers	Dr Kelly Hughes	
	Dr Claire Felmingham	
	Assistant: Dr Annie Rose	
Sponsorship Officer and Student Coordinator	Dr Elysia Robb	
Social Secretaries	Dr Kim Pham	
	Dr Natalie Yap	
	Dr Adelle Storch	
Senior Members' Representative	Dr Rosalind Terry	
AMA Representative	Dr Rosalind Terry	
	Shadow: Dr Kasia Michalak	
Vic Reps on AFMW Council	A/Prof Jan Coles	Dr Kate Duncan
	Dr Marissa Daniels	A/Prof Deb Colville (National Coordinator)
IT Officer	Dr Michelle Li	
	Assistant: Dr Annie Rose	
	Shadow: Dr Hui Ling Yeoh	
Archivist	Dr Anne Stanaway	
	Shadow: Dr Rosalie Cooper	
Student Representative – Monash University	Ms Lydia Di Stefano	
Student Representative -Deakin University	Ms Rachel Shingaki-Wells	
Student Representative – Notre Dame University	Ms Natalie Perera	
Student Representative – The University of Melbourne	Ms Tehreem Rawal	

Events Calendar 2017		
Month	Date and event	Location (if known)
May	5 th MABEL Research Forum, Thursday May 25	Melbourne Business School, 200 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053
June	Committee Meeting, Monday June 5	Home of Dr Rosalind Terry
August	Women in Medicine Symposium, August 11-13	The Grace Hotel, Sydney

The Victorian Medical Women’s Society (VMWS) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA)

Dr Jill Tomlinson, AMA Federal Council member, former VMWS Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, and former AFMW Secretary and Webmaster

You likely know that VMWS has a representative position on the AMA Victoria Council, which is held by its VMWS committee member and Senior Members’ Representative Dr Rosalind Terry. But did you know that VMWS members currently also hold positions as the AMA Victoria President (Dr Lorraine Baker) and AMA Victoria Area Representative to Federal Council (Dr Jill Tomlinson)? Having two members sitting on AMA Federal Council, which develops the medicopolitical policy for the AMA, gives VMWS members ready access to voice their concerns at the highest level of Australian health politics.

Many medical women have told me that they find the workings of the AMA somewhat opaque, and I know that unless you’re actively involved in the AMA it’s likely that you feel this way – whether you are an AMA member or non-member. But if you’re interested in how the AMA works, allow me to give you an insight by outlining the current committees and councils that I’ve become involved in since taking on the AMA Federal Council position of Victoria Area Representative in 2016.

Like Australia, the AMA has both federal and state bodies, which allow it to deal with state and federal issues.

Currently I hold positions on the following committees and councils:

- AMA Victoria Council
- AMA Federal Council
- Federal AMA Ethics and Medicolegal Committee
- Federal AMA Working Group to advise on the Private Health Ministerial Advisory Committee
- Federal AMA Medical Practice Committee
- Federal AMA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

In addition to councils and committees the federal AMA also establishes working parties from time to time, such as the 2016 working party that updated the federal AMA position statement on female genital mutilation, and other working parties on climate change, nutrition and breastfeeding. Councils and associations that I don’t sit on, but whose work I hear about during Federal Council meetings, include the Councils of General Practice, Doctors in Training, Private Specialist Practice, Public Hospital Doctors and Rural Doctors, and the Australian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA). Additional committees that report to Federal Council include the Taskforce on Indigenous

Health, the Medical Workforce Committee, the Health Financing and Economics Committee, the Council of Private Specialist Practice, the Council of Public Hospital Doctors, and the Council of Rural Doctors.

Having so many councils and committees makes for a lot of teleconferences and meetings, and a seemingly never ending stream of agenda papers to read, but it is also what allows the AMA to cover a remarkable breadth of issues with input from medical students and doctors from around Australia.

One of the recent developments that is likely to interest VMWS members is the establishment of the Federal AMA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee in November 2016, following a motion at Federal Council. The committee’s inaugural meeting was held on International Women’s Day on March 8, and the committee’s scope is to develop new and revise existing policy on equity, inclusion and diversity issues which relate to healthcare and the medical profession. As a member of this committee it is my hope that we can create change, and address the perception that the AMA is an organisation that exists for the benefit of white, older men. There is good gender representation around the table at AMA Federal Council, but like most medical (and other) organisations there is room for improvement within the AMA in matters of equity, inclusion and diversity – which includes, but is not limited to, gender issues. As a long term VMWS member who has held executive roles in VMWS and AFMW these are matters that are dear to my heart.

I have summarised the role and recent agenda items of the other councils and committees that I sit on in the table below. The scope is broad and it is a challenge to juggle the work involved in reading the Agendas, the emailed policy consultations, the teleconferences and face-to-face meetings, and my other roles (which includes full time public and private work as a plastic, reconstructive and hand surgeon) but the opportunities for learning and contributing to Australian healthcare policy are tremendously rewarding. It is an honour to be the Victorian Area Representative and I am keen to ensure that all VMWS members (both existing and potential AMA members) are aware that they can raise their issues of concern with me and with the AMA. Together we can create a stronger (and intersectional feminist) healthcare system in Australia, and work together to address issues such as underrepresentation of women in medical leadership, flexible training and workplace arrangements, bullying and discrimination and doctors’ health.

Committee/ Council	Role and recent Agenda items
AMA Victoria Council	AMA Victoria Council is a forum for members to raise and discuss issues affecting the profession and patients. It meets quarterly and is a forum to influence policy and activities via recommendation to the Board.
Federal AMA (FAMA) Federal Council	Federal Council develops the AMA’s medico-political policy and reviews existing policies to ensure that they remain relevant. It assists to ensure that the AMA’s medico-political policy represents the views of members, and identifies and engages with those sections of the medical profession that are underrepresented in the AMA membership. In November 2016 Federal Council passed multiple position statements including the position statement on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide; it also voted to establish an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee. Other recent issues include the MBS reviews, marriage equality, female genital mutilation, sexual diversity and gender identity, addiction, breastfeeding, social determinants of health, firearms, blood borne viruses, autism spectrum disorder, prisoner health, water fluoridation, prevocational medical education and training, and medical billing.
Ethics and MedicoLegal Committee (FAMA)	The EMLC develops new and revises existing policy on ethical and medico-legal issues which relate to the medical profession, including guidelines for members on these issues. Objectives for EMLC in 2017 include updating position statements on genomics, organ donation, patient examination and relationships of doctors with industry. Further discussion regarding the euthanasia position statement that was

	passed by Federal Council in November 2016, Victorian end of life care happenings, recent VCAT case involving Dr Rodney Syme.
Medical Practice Committee (FAMA)	The MPC develops new and revises existing policy on the legal framework for the practice of medicine in Australia. It considers registration requirements; safety and quality in healthcare delivery; the professional and financial aspects of the medical profession's relationship with private health insurers, third party payers and private hospitals; the development, management and regulation of scopes of practice of non-medical health practitioners; medical indemnity, and the regulation and funding of medicines, medical devices and medical services. The committee also looks at the provision of medical care in the aged care sector and to people with disabilities, and eHealth. Recent topics have included policy around AHPRA mandated chaperones, the National Strategy on Digital Health (including a teleconference in December with representatives from the Australian Digital Health Agency), the AMA Fees List, medical indemnity issues and National Maternity Services Framework project.
Equity, Inclusion, Diversity Committee (FAMA)	This federal committee develops new and revise existing policy on equity, inclusion and diversity issues which relate to healthcare and the medical profession.
Working Group to advise on AMA input to the Private Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (FAMA)	This federal working group provides advice to the AMA representative on the PHMAC which will be making recommendations to the Minister regarding Private Health insurance in Australia.



Monash University Medical Student's Society Gender Equity Officer

Ms Lydia Di Stefano, Student Representative – Monash University



Although there are more females than males at the student level, there remains a 'glass ceiling' as women are underrepresented in formal leadership positions in the medical profession. Gender-based discrimination including sexual harassment remains an issue in Australian hospitals, with fear of career damage fuelling a culture of silence for victims and bystanders. I'm sure readers of this newsletter will be all too familiar with these examples of inequity faced by female doctors and medical students.

Currently, the Monash University Medical Undergraduates' Society (MUMUS) has no dedicated gender officer or subcommittee. At Monash there is no medical women's group. For this reason, I am in the process of drafting a proposal for a Gender Equity Officer on the MUMUS committee. In order for the role to be established, a number of meetings will take place and the current MUMUS representatives must be in agreement.

I envision the role to involve working to ensure gender equity throughout MUMUS, its subcommittees and the medical department at Monash. Addressing unique issues faced by women, transgender and gender nonconforming (GNC) individuals through support, advocacy and systemic change will encourage active participation and contribution of all genders to MUMUS and its subcommittees, The Gender Equity Officer would also promote women's, GNC, transgender and intersex health issues as vital to the medical curriculum.

Ensuring medical schools are supportive environments for all genders, and educating students on the issues faced by their female, GNC and transgender peers will act to create a culture of equality that I hope will persist beyond the undergraduate level.

If you have any ideas about what a Gender Equity Officer could contribute to MUMUS and the Monash medical course more broadly, or if you have had any experience establishing a similar role at your medical school or workplace, please get in touch: lmdi6@student.monash.edu

Meet the Committee

Each issue of our newsletter features some of our fabulous committee members, so you can get to know your representatives.

Ms Natalie Perera, Student Representative – Notre Dame University



Natalie is a final year medical student, studying at the University of Notre Dame. Born in Melbourne, Natalie spent the last ten years studying a myriad of degrees all over the east coast of Australia, leaving her with a BBioMedSc (Deakin University), BHLthSc(Hons) (Deakin University), GradDipPsychStudies (Deakin University) and PGradDipPsych (Bond University). Natalie is particularly interested in the mental health and wellbeing of medical students and junior doctors. As she moves into the world of medicine as an intern next year, she hopes to continue her advocacy and research in this area. Being on the VMWS committee is an honour for Natalie; the opportunity to work alongside such amazing women with remarkable careers makes her feel excited for what the future holds. In the last year, Natalie has undertaken research in the world of palliative care, which resulted in her poster being presented at the International Congress on Palliative Care in Montreal.

In her spare time, Natalie loves to go for walks with her 6-year-old rescue greyhound named Lily. She also loves to cook, spend time with family and friends, and travel the world – the next destination (hopefully) being Japan!

Dr Michelle Li, VMWS IT Officer, Medical Resident – St Vincent's Hospital



Michelle is a medical resident at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. She is an advocate for equitable and accessible healthcare, with a particular focus on education and gender literacy. Alongside holding committee positions with several medical and women-led organisations, including the Victorian Medical Women's Society, she also facilitates violence prevention programs and advises State Government on LGBTI policy. Currently, she is Deputy at Chalk Circle, a not-for-profit organisation focused on delivering gender literacy programs to secondary schools nationwide – whose educational reach has previously included Darwin, regional Victoria and even the Australian Society of Anaesthetists.

A published writer and fiction editor, Michelle has relished many roles with *Lot's Wife*, *Voiceworks Magazine* and the John Marsden Prize for Young Writers. Previously, she was one of the inaugural recipients of the Monash Prize for Creative Writing. She greatly enjoys the vibrant arts scene in Melbourne – though not, perhaps, as much as she enjoys its food. She endeavours to eat her way across the city, one smashed avo at a time.

Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) Survey – What Issues Are Important to You?

The MWIA Strategy and Membership Committee, with input from yMWIA and the Scientific and Research, and Executive Committees has developed an online survey for medical students, junior doctors, and practicing and retired women doctors of all ages. Our aim is to better understand our demographics, and the issues that you feel we should be concentrating upon.

The survey should take no more than five to ten minutes to complete. Your support will be very much appreciated.

The link to the online survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9LTCJMB>

Responses are open until 7th June.

Call for Information About Past VMWS Presidents

Please contact Dr Anne Stanaway with **any** information about past VMWS presidents. In particular, dates of office and any background biography details.

If you are uncertain of the exact details, no matter - something is better than nothing!

Contact Anne (VMWS Archivist) Ph 0431 663 467; email annemstanaway@gmail.com

Order of Australia Recognition

The Order of Australia formally recognises Australians from all walks of life who, every day, make outstanding contributions to our communities and our nation. It is one of Australia's most prestigious national honours.

Anyone can be nominated for the Order of Australia, at any time of the year. Women—particularly those working in male-dominated industries—have historically been underrepresented in the awards. If you would like to find out about the nomination rates for women from your industry or sector, have a look at this Honours Branch Final

Report. <https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/HonoursBranchReportFinalOct2016.pdf>

Do you know a woman who inspires you? A woman who makes an exceptional contribution in her field? Nominate her for the Order of Australia today:

<http://www.dpmc.gov.au/news-centre/government/nominate-inspiring-woman-order-australia-today>

If you would like to volunteer to assist in collating a nomination for a worthy medical woman, or to suggest a nominee, please contact the AFMW Secretariat at afmw@afmw.org.au

Treasurer's Report: How your subscription money is used

Dr Rosalie Cooper, VMWS Treasurer

As members of VMWS you pay an annual subscription - the amount depending on your current position as a student, recent graduate, established practicing doctor or retired doctor. We also have a category for associate members who are often foreign medical graduates seeking registration in Australia. The actual subscription fee varies among the above groups.

We pay some subscription money on to the Australian Federation of Medical Women. They in turn pay an amount per member to the Medical Women's International Association. Thus you become a member of the three groups. MWIA run a number of international conferences, liaising with the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. Opportunities to attend meetings overseas come up regularly, some with financial support for younger members. Two of our VMWS members are planning on attending the World Health Assembly in Geneva this year. This is made possible through our affiliation with both the AFMW and the MWIA.

All of our committee members and students provide their services for nothing. Most of the events and newsletter production are organised by our wonderful volunteers. Often there is a small charge to attend events to cover hire of venues etc. - most are free to members.

We run events, support our committee work, and provide six emailed newsletters to every member each year. We also offer assistance and encouragement to all members and help with any difficulties they may be having in their work. We try to provide a mentor for those who would like one, if we can find other members who wish to help in this way. Our committee members are always available to answer questions and give advice. Our Secretariat in Richmond is available in business hours to answer queries. They also manage subscriptions and provide office support.

We have links with the Australian Medical Association and other women's support groups such as the National Council of Women, as well as many feminist contacts with individual women and groups.

We seek sponsors to help pay costs and support events however we do not accept sponsorship from drug or tobacco companies.

Please send me any queries you may have and financial concerns to Rosalie Cooper: tuscanhill2@bigpond.com

Call for Volunteers: Shadow Treasurer Needed

Are you interested in joining the VMWS Committee? We are in need of a volunteer shadow Treasurer.

Our current treasurer, Dr Rosalie Cooper, is very happy to mentor anyone in this role and train them in the skills required. She has worked in the role for a number of different organisations and found it to be a rewarding experience.

Familiarity with Microsoft Excel and data collection would be useful in this position.

If you are interested please email Rosalie at tuscanhill2@bigpond.com

Women in Medicine Symposium

We have an exciting new partnership with The Private Practice, which hosts several education courses and events about practice, financial and lifestyle management for healthcare professionals. You can find more information [here](#). Of particular interest is the [Women in Medicine Symposium](#). As a member of AFMW, you have access to reduced rates for virtually all the courses on offer, e.g. the Women in Medicine Symposium, which runs from Fri 11th to Sunday 13th August, is \$990 for AFMW members compared to \$1595. We will soon be distributing brochures to each state society, although you can access all the information online. Take a look at what's on offer and I hope you can make it to one of the courses.

Links:

<https://events.theprivatepractice.com.au/event/LZY931/>

<https://events.theprivatepractice.com.au/event/EPNF7S>

5th MABEL Research Forum 2017: The Challenges of Balancing Medical Workforce Supply and Distribution

The Centre for Research Excellence in Medical Workforce Dynamics, funded by the NHMRC, has now announced the presenters, chairs, and topics for discussion at the upcoming Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life Forum. Two of our VMWS Committee members, Dr Rosalie Cooper and Dr Hui Ling Yeoh, will be on the panel discussing the following important issues:

Session 1: Getting the Balance Right This session will examine the issues surrounding the predicted oversupply of

doctors and the consequences for the distribution of doctors in Australia, including the role of IMGs in rural areas.

Session 2: General Practice: Organisation and Financing in a Changing Environment Increasing practice sizes, more nurses, the role of corporates, IT, Health Care Homes, and changes in funding are signs of major structural change in the general practice sector. What impact is this having on practices and access to care by patients?

Session 3: Enabling Work-Life Balance, Health and Well-Being Oversupply compounded by maldistribution can lead to a more competitive training and working environment that increases the already significant pressures on doctors working lives and well-being, also putting patients at risk. In this context, how can doctors be best supported? Which doctors are most at risk?

Event Details:

Date: Thursday 25 May 2017

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Venue: Melbourne Business School, 200 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Cost: AU \$100.00 (including GST). Registration is essential. Includes welcome tea and coffee on arrival, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Forum web page:

<http://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/events-folder/conferences/mabel-research-forum-2017>

Enquiries: melb-conf@unimelb.edu.au +61 3 8344 2196

For more information about the Centre for Research Excellence in Medical Workforce Dynamics and the MABEL Survey, visit mabel.org.au



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Victorian Medical Women's Society Inc.

Membership Invoice 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

ABN 67 120 250 797 - Inc A0061560B

(MEMBERSHIP PERIOD IS FROM 1 JULY TO 30TH JUNE)

Membership Eligibility: Full membership is open to registered female medical practitioners (FMP); non-registered FMPs can join as an Associate member, and Student membership is open to female medical students.

(NOTE: this invoice becomes a tax receipt upon payment, please retain the top section for your records)

Full Members	Rural Members (>100km from GPO)	Senior Members	Retired Members (>65 yrs)	Student Members
1 yr \$176.00	1 yr \$77.00	1 yr \$132.00	1 yr \$132.00	1 yr \$38.50
3 yrs \$475.20	3 yrs \$207.90	3 yrs \$356.40	Associate Members	PGY1/2 Members
5 yrs \$748.00	5 yrs \$327.25	5 yrs \$561.00	6 mth \$60.00	1 yr \$100.00

Donation: \$ _____ Please advise if you wish your donation to be used for a specific purpose

Please complete and send the bottom section of this form to VMWS Inc. via email or mail.

1. PLEASE TICK WHICH TYPE OF APPLICATION YOU WISH TO REQUEST:

I am applying for new membership. Please complete the Membership Declaration and make payment

I am changing my membership category. Please complete Membership Declaration and make payment

I am renewing my membership. Only renewal payment is required.

2. MEMBERSHIP DECLARATION:

I wish to become a member of Victorian Medical Women's Society Inc., and will support the purposes of the Association and agree to comply with the Rules of the Association (www.afmw.org.au/vic/vmws-membership)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Membership Type: _____ Duration: _____

Title, First Name & Surname: _____

Alternative Surname (if applicable): _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Email for VMWS/AFMW: _____ PG year/s: _____

Email for MWIA: as above; or alt email: _____

Specialty/Area of Practice: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Car-pooling: Potential driver: Potential passenger:

NOTE: When you join VMWS you get 3 memberships for the price of one!: Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) and Medical Women's International Association (MWIA). You will automatically be subscribed to all three lists and your email address may be shared with AFMW members.

VMWS colour newsletters are distributed only by email. If a newsletter is requested by post, you will receive a black & white copy.

Refer to www.afmw.org.au/vic for our privacy policy.

4. Membership Payment Method and Amount (Please indicate ✓)

EFT to VMWS; BSB: 033 089; Act No: 297664. Include your professional name (as above).

Credit Card/PayPal: Logon to www.afmw.net.au/vic use the DONATE button, choose Pay with a card for details or use your account.

Payments by PayPal incur extra charges due to their service fees. See overleaf.

Chq to VMWS Secretariat, PO Box 252, East Melbourne, VIC 8002

Date Payment made/...../2017 Amount paid \$.....



Victorian Medical Women's Society Inc.

Subscription via PayPal: to be reviewed at the AGM 2017

Full Members	Rural Members (>100km from GPO)	Senior Members	Retired Members (>65 yrs)	Student Members
1 yr \$180	1 yr \$79	1 yr \$136	1 yr \$136	1 yr \$40
3 yrs \$487	3 yrs \$214	3 yrs \$366	Associate Members	PGY1/2 Members
5 yrs \$770	5 yrs \$337	5 yrs \$575	6 mths \$62	1 yr \$103

These are advisory until the AGM when all subscriptions may rise.
Rosalie Cooper, Treasurer VMWS.