

MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Dear all, it is that time of year when the festive season starts and club activities slow down but I am hoping that clubs do not forget that the reporting date for clubs this year is 31 December. You will remember that the report needs to cover the club actions and projects for the period 1.9.17 to 31.12.18

There are fewer significant UN International Days now that 10 December, Human Rights Day has passed. Some clubs' activities are listed below. We do need to remember to donate to the International President's Appeal and President Anusha's "Soroptimist Makmur Indonesia" Appeal launched to assist the disasters in Indonesia.

Another activity coming up is CSW 63 with dates of 11-22 March 2019 and I have been delighted to have a number of applications for the SISWP CSW scholarship to fund one member to attend the first week of CSW63(Commission for the Status of Women). There have been applications from several countries in our federation.

For those who miss out on the scholarship, webinars will be available in January. Also there are a number of self-funded places for SISWP members because, we as a Federation are accredited with ECOSOC(Economic and Social Council). Attendance is a marvellous experience and reinforces the internationality of our organisation, the issues rampant in many countries and we meet like-minded women from some of the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in our own countries that work towards similar goals. Contacts made during this forum can be easily renewed either in our home countries, at conventions or via facebook etc Countries voluntarily report on their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some of the countries of our Federation have already reported. China and Samoa reported in 2016, Indonesia, Malaysia, PNG and Thailand reported in 2017, Australia and Singapore reported in 2018. Cambodia, Fiji, perhaps again Indonesia, Mongolia and New Zealand are scheduled to report in 2019. To view these reports visit the [sustainable development website](#).

Christmas Greetings
from the
SWP Programme Team



Before I finish this message I would like to wish all members a happy and peaceful festive season and hope 2019 is a fruitful year for you all. Enjoy reading of club activities over the 16 Days of Activism.

Catherine Evans

SWP Programme Director 2018-2010

Advocacy Work

What are priorities in your country? What are clubs doing in advocacy?

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function, and this month the programme team is pleased to once again be able to report on Soroptimist Advocacy work.

SI Griffith (Australia). A local crisis accommodation provider requested the help of SI Griffith to provide crisis accommodation for a young Indian woman and her child. The woman had left a violent situation and had no support or a work visa. SI Griffith agreed to assist, as well as providing ongoing emotional and social support and monetary assistance. SI Griffith approached the Red Cross, to advocate on the woman's behalf to enable her to access SRSS payments and apply and be issued with a visa which would allow her to work. These actions were designed to provide economic assistance to the woman, who had no means of support. SI Griffith are pleased to announce that their advocacy work was successful and the woman is now able to access SRSS payments and with a work visa seek employment.

Australian rural sectors rely heavily on seasonal workers, these workers are often Backpackers or people from the pacific nations working here under the several types of working visas. Some Australian Soroptimist clubs have been active in advocating for improved legislation, working conditions, rights of the worker, improved wages and their personal safety.

SI Adelaide, SI Torrens, SI Griffiths, SI Fremantle, are just some of the clubs who have been active in writing letters to politicians, these letters called for a series of demands, including an amendment

to existing bills. The Requests to politicians to review the Special Agricultural Workers Visa as this visa has few measures in place to ensure the safety of workers. Letters suggesting that the Seasonal Workers Visa would be preferable. Also SI Griffith has been donating food to Seasonal workers and their families. If there are any other SI Australia clubs who would like to advocate to improve conditions and ensure the safety of these workers who are essential to our farmers. Please contact any of the above clubs for advice

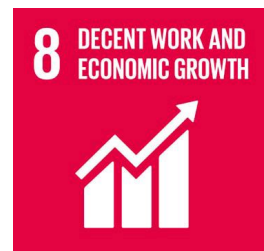
Tell us what your club is doing to Advocate on behalf of women. Send us the information or complete a Advocacy Programme Report.

UN SDG Work

SDG - 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

This month SDG 8 targets have been showcased. SI Australian clubs in their advocacy work have taken action under SDG 8 - Target 8.8. Remember to refer to SDG's and targets when advocating.



8.1- Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

8.2- Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

8.3- Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.4- Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

8.5- By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.6- By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8.7- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

8.8- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

8.9- By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and

promotes local culture and products

8.10- Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8.a- Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

8.b- By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

SWP Programme Reporting News

Reporting on club and region programme activities is an important function in the life of a Soroptimist Club. You are required to report on all work undertaken as a club; project, advocacy, scholarships, donations and activities. Projects submitted for reporting are as follows:

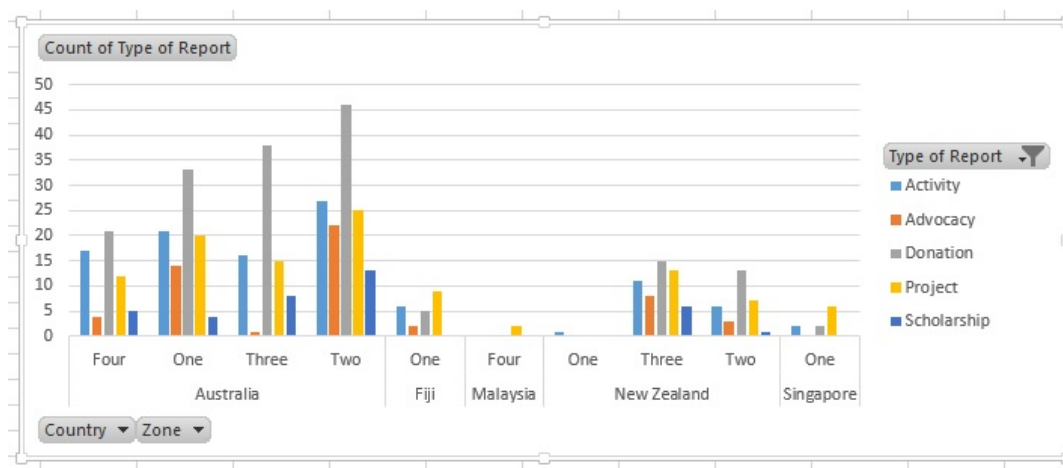
- Australia has submitted 362 reports
- New Zealand has submitted 84 reports
- Singapore has submitted 10 reports
- Fiji has submitted 5 reports
- Malaysia has submitted 2 reports

SWP has 12 countries in the Federation, but so far for 2018 the Programme team have only received reports from 5 countries.

So come on, the team wants to see reports from all clubs in all countries.

Keep up the good work and tell us about your projects. SISWP Programme team needs to be able to keep telling the world what a great job you are doing.

To submit reports, [follow this link](#)



This chart shows the reports received by Country and Zone, with a breakdown by type of report.

Programme Reminders

CSW 63

Whilst the application to nominate for a fully funded scholarship to CSW 63 has closed, there is still time to nominate for a self funded delegate position to CSW 63. Contact Programme Director Catherine Evans for more details.

Club, Region and Country Annual Reporting.

Clubs are reminded that their annual reporting is due by the end of December 2018

Regions are reminded that they will need to complete their annual returns by the end of January 2019.

Countires which are not part of a Region will need to complete their annual returns by the end of January 2019.

All forms can be downloaded from the SISWP website downloads area; [Downloads / Programme Information / Programme Forms](#)

Soroptimist International President's Appeal - Women, Water and Leadership

December 10 (Human Rights Day), marks the start of the International President's Appeal, which apart from the attendance at the Commission on the Status of Women, is the only occasion on which the 4 Federations are united in action. Soroptimists are asked to make some small personal sacrifice and donate the money saved to a project chosen by the President of Soroptimist International. Clubs are also encouraged to conduct special fund raising for the Appeal. Members are able to donate to the appeal via their clubs, regions or a direct deposit to Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific, Westpac Bank, BSB 032007 Acct No 364444, please make sure you indicate your name or club name or region name and the project you are donating to.

[Read all about the latest news](#), especially the work in Long Tanyit in the Belaga District of Sarawak is one of two locations in Malaysia to be supported by the SI President's Appeal, 'Women, Water & Leadership'. This progressive project is spearheaded by Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia (SIROM), and the Penan villagers are heavily involved in the leadership and management of the project – their vested interest helping to ensure its ongoing sustainability. Your donation is assisting our own Federation.

SISWP President's Special Appeal: “Soroptimist Makmur Indonesia” Tsunami & Earthquakes Appeal.



SISWP President's Special Appeal: "[Soroptimist Makmur Indonesia](#)" Tsunami and Earthquakes Appeal has been created to assist women, girls and families to stay safe and begin to rebuild their lives after the devastating effects of the Tsunami and Earthquakes which affected Indonesia in September 2018. Members of Indonesia recently flew into Palu, to deliver 200 emergency kits to villages. There is much work to be done, and your continued donations to this appeal is needed.

Human Rights Awards



2018 Australian Human Rights Award Winners - The Honourable Justice Peter McClellan AM and Chrissie Foster have won the prestigious 2018 Human Rights Medal for their enormous contribution to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Chrissie Foster has long campaigned for justice for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and Justice McClellan led the five-year Royal Commission.

Accepting the Medal at today's ceremony in Sydney, Chrissie Foster thanks her family and friends, past and present.

"This Awards is for Emma, Katie, Aimee and Anthony and for all children who have suffered from this insidious crime."

Justice McClellan who led the Royal Commission for five years, spoke of his admiration for Chrissie, describing her as his "heroine" and acknowledging the five other Commissioners.

"This was a whole of community problem and there must be a whole of community response. The work we did, was only about 10% of children who have been abused. The other 90% are children abused within their families.

"It must reinforce all of our replies, to protect children in institutions, but in the whole of society. We must to all we can to protect children.... And stop it from happening again," said Justice McClellan.

The President of the UN General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, is delighted to announce the 2018 winners of the prestigious United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights. They are:

- **Ms. Rebeca Gyumi – activist for the rights of women and girls (Tanzania)**
- **Ms. Asma Jahangir (posthumously) – human rights lawyer (Pakistan)**
- **Ms. Joênia Wapichana (Joênia Batista de Carvalho) – activist for the rights of indigenous communities (Brazil)**
- **Front Line Defenders – organization advocating and working for the protection of human rights defenders (Ireland)**

The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given to individuals and organizations in recognition of outstanding achievement in human rights.

Around the Federation

The 16 Days of Activism campaign has ended. The programme team hope that the toolkit and social media information was useful to your campaigns. Each of the 16 days were devoted to a theme, the team is grateful to all who contributed to the campaign. President Anusha Santhirasthipam's [message](#), Programme Director [Catherine Evans](#), Programme Coordinator [Jennie Van Driel](#), [IPP Theresa Lyford and Asst Programme Director Zareena Ba](#), along with our special guest bloggers, "[Stepping on the Gas](#)": **Keeping Transport Safe for Women - By Dr Theresa W. Devasahayam**, and **Financial Abuse** By **Dr Katherine Hunt**. The programme team urges you to visit the SISWP website and catch up on any articles you may have missed. Around the Federation this month also takes the time to showcase what clubs did in their communities to advocate for an END to gender violence.



SISWP President Anusha Santhirasthipam's message to Soroptimist sisters. Today, we stand at a tipping point! 1 in 3 women experience violence in their lifetime across all social and economic status, class, race, religion, country or age groups. That's one too many and we all have known victims. It's time to break the silence, to burst the bubble of shame and guilt, to remove those institutional barriers that discourage women and girls from reporting and seeking legal remedies, to end the myths and stereotypes that perpetuate cultural and societal norms whenever a woman or girl is a victim of violence.

Use the Read More button to read this and all the articles posted to the SISWP website over the 16 days.

[Read More](#)

Three clubs SI Griffith, SI Mackay and SI Beenleigh all came up with a similar themes. Each of the clubs held a campaign where they had posters designed and placed in strategic places in their retail shopping district. SI Beenleigh also held a candlelight vigil.



SI Griffith campaign focused on the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" theme. Large posters were designed and placed in the largest shopping centre and the Library. On these posters were striking graphics, a lot of information about domestic violence in our community and how help could be obtained. The shopping centre display also featured a huge shoe. The Library display also featured shoes hanging in the windows. Information was handed out by Soroptimists when the display was launched. The 50 White Ribbon Street Banners SI Griffith bought last year were put up by Griffith City Council in the main street and our large "Say NO to Violence Against Women" banner was put up outside the Council Chambers. These were displayed during the 16 Days of Activism. Publicity for this display was good with an article and photos in the local paper when the displays were launched and excellent coverage on facebook. Feedback from the public has been very positive.



SI Mackay's campaign Walk the Talk Mackay - created posters with positive messages promoting respect to help end violence. Each sign has a different message on ways to show respect. The signs are designed to create conversation from 25 November through to 10 December. The club ran a very good social media campaign around this theme, showcasing many business who supported their campaign. [Take the time to view their video](#)



SI Beenleigh's campaign - "Orange Beenleigh - 16 Days to End Gender Violence", there were 3 large vinyl banners 2m x 1m , announcing the Orange Beenleigh campaign to End violence against women and children. They also had a "Ask yourself what can I do to change attitudes to END violence against women and children". These vinyl banners were place in the Town Square, the High School fence and at a prominent round about entry to the town. Along with this 200 A3 size posters were created and members went to every commercial and retail business to request that they place these in their windows for the 16 days, a Candlelight vigil was also held on the 29th of November, where members and public where given orange vests to wear.



SI Lae presented an educational movie which was attended by children between the age of 15 years to 19 years to mark Human Rights day. The feedback received after the presentation was very positive, where one young boy saw the importance of looking after his sisters, another commenting on the importance of encouraging girls to stay in school and complete their education. Good to see change of mind set in young boys.



Many clubs participated in Walk the Talk campaigns, either their own, or joining forces with White Ribbon. Clubs such as SI Bangsar, Ramu, Brisbane Water, Helena, North Shore, and the clubs in Mongolia, braved either the hot, cold, or wet to advocate for Change.



If clubs were not walking the talk, they were talking the talk. Clubs such as Kota Kinabalu, Barossa Valley and Phnom Penh, Bangsar held rallies, functions, dinners, invited guest speakers. Phnom Penh held a rally at the university. Ladies you advocated with style, compassion and dedication calling and end to Violence in all forms.



Amongst all this talk of violence, knowing we can retreat to a peaceful place, take time for that mindful moment, to recompose and face the world again. Several clubs in Western Australia have participated in the Purple Bench Campaign, initiated in Canada in 2015. "Whether it's domestic violence, whether it's suicide, whether it's depression, the more it's talked about in the community the more people are aware there is help out there", and that's what we're trying to do with the purple bench project. SI Albany and Karratha and District have petitioned their local councils and have dedicated a Soroptimist purple bench. Well done ladies.

This is the last eSPAN for 2018, on behalf of the Programme Team, Communications Team and Headquarters Staff, who assist with the monthly publication of eSPAN, we would like thank you the members and clubs for your dedication to improving the lives of women and girls, every day. Your stories make great reading, and provide inspiration to other clubs on how they can continue the fight. The

key is Education and Empowerment which enables their growth. Have a safe and happy holiday season and to all members who do celebrate this festive season - Happy Christmas.



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Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen.

Here you can access all previous copies of eSPAN Newsletters Archived. Or if you are already logged in [Click Here](#)

Educate, Empower, Enable





Copy for the February 2019 eSPAN edition is required by 20th January 2019 to
swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org

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