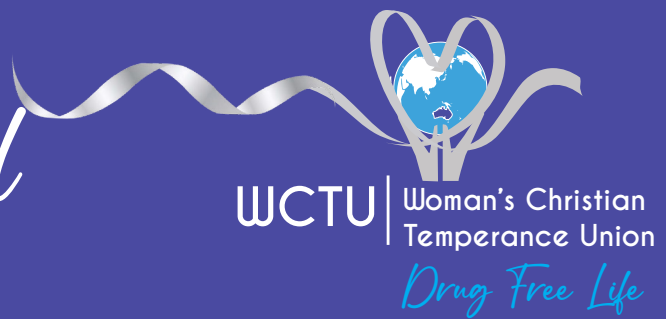


White Ribbon Signal



Message from the President

Dear friends/members of WCTU

We have arrived at the middle of the year and it's winter in Australia. The rain showers won't stop in Eastern Australia as I write this and there are showers of blessing too. The blessings are falling in West Australia and we are all excited. Three sisters, Karen, Suzanne and Jayne are the power behind this movement. Two sisters live in South Australia the other in West Australia and together they are a team of committed Christian praying women. WCTU is reviving in three states - West Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory because of these women and their team. Read about it in this issue and keep praying for them.

The growth of legal cannabis continues to trouble the world and we must speak up where we can. Fortunately we have experts like Gary Christian and Doctor Stuart Reece who together have provided a wealth of information and data, based on current research, which can inform us well. Check out the resources provided in this edition of WRS.

Our website has been updated and we urge you to check it out, use what is provided and spread the WCTU message. Visit: www.wctu.org.au

The Word of God says - 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3.

Bless you all with courage, persistence and perseverance.

JOY BUTLER and
WCTU Australia team

42nd World Convention - 19-23 August 2025

Much planning is in place now and soon this exciting convention will take place in Chicago, USA. Ten WCTU members from Australia and NZ will attend and we expect great fellowship, friendship and renewed passion for the temperance cause to result from this gathering. Members will gather from all over the world and the keynote speaker will be Profesora Bertha K Madras. The theme is 'Fulfilling our Mission' and the theme song will be 'You Raise Me Up'. A special feature will be a visit to Frances Willard's home, 'Rest Cottage', now a WCTU museum, at Evanston, Illinois. Frances was the outstanding early president of the World WCTU. Please pray for this momentous meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WAKE UP - DRUG FREE IS THE KEY

WCTU attended this insightful and inspiring Conference, which took place in Eindhoven, Holland in March.



New Study Links Cannabis and Dementia by Lisa O'Mary



Meet the ladies from South Australia and Western Australia



Excellent/Important Videos about Cannabis - from Doctor Stuart Reece.

Dr Reece is an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia.

Official publication of WCTU Australia - promoting a drug free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and community

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PRAYER MATTERS

For the Christian, praying is supposed to be like breathing, easier to do than to not do. We pray for a variety of reasons. Prayer is a form of serving God (Luke 2:36-38) and obeying Him and we pray for one another. Looking at the past history of the WCTU we see it was bathed in prayer and mighty outcomes happened. Prayer Matters today, so let us not grow weary but take our prayers to The Lord for the WCTU.

Please pray for:

- Our Nation
- Our work in areas of Drugs, Alcohol and Vaping
- World Convention - For all members and speakers for divine inspiration as they contemplate and face the times ahead, for fellowship and unity, for protection for all air travel and transport
- Northern Territory - the ongoing contacts in new areas, indigenous areas to be opened to the WCTU and asking for the Lord's wisdom in these areas, Alice Springs bus advertising, the awareness of FAS to gain momentum
- Children's Director for Australia WCTU (important on-going prayer request)
- WCTU West Australia. Jayne Critchon is Field Officer and new members are joining
- We would love to see all our current members as well as new, join us on our zoom prayer meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month, 9.00 am South Australian time. Please email Sue Langberg VP National - slangberg@internode.on.net

International Conventions

WCTU Australia was honoured to have a presence at the OVOM 'Wake-Up Drug Free is the Key' convention 2025. There was a world mix of passionate people.

The main purpose was to build awareness of Protecting the Child from Illicit Drug Use and securing a Drug-Free Society.

There was a great line up of scientists, parents, former users, physicians, human rights lawyers, youth and community leaders united for this transformative event.



This gathering served as a dynamic platform where professionals and grassroots communities could connect, exchange powerful insights, and pinpoint the critical strategies.

Tanja Curcic presented on the important work that WCTU has been involved in since the 1800's. It still continues to build awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, particularly to children and youth. Learn more about OVOM (One Voice One Message) Visit: www.ovom.org



GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DRUG USE PREVENTION
3,030 ORGANIZATIONS IN 165 COUNTRIES

Resolution on Prevention adopted by Member States



Several demands of the Oviedo Declaration were heard during the 68th United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held March 10-14. After intense negotiations, the Member States adopted the Resolution 'Promoting comprehensive, scientific evidence-based and multisectoral national systems of drug use prevention for children and adolescents'. Visit www.wctu.org.au/conventions for the full report.

WCTU Pocket Size Brochures

'Alcohol & Family' tells about who we are and why we are here. It addresses these topics - statistics of DV in Australia; how alcohol drinking affects families; how parents' drinking affects their children; the effect of alcohol on spouses and partners; alcohol and domestic abuse. It reminds us that 'the adolescent brain is actively developing until about age 25, making it particularly vulnerable to the effects of substance use.'

For a supply of these to share in your community, church or group, just ask us - send an email to preswctuaustralia@gmail.com



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Kate Sheppard National Memorial to Women's Suffrage Oxford Terrace, Christchurch is now a Category one Heritage NZ Memorial.

The Bronze panel was created in 1993 to commemorate 100 years since New Zealand women gained the right to vote in general elections. The first country in the world to achieve this milestone. Kate Sheppard is in the centre with other suffrage campaigners either side.



"Kate Sheppard was the NZWCTU Franchise and Legislative Department's Superintendent, at the time. She remains the Union's most prominent and influential member."

Reported By: Judy McNulty - President New Zealand

News from South Australia

We give thanks to the Lord for His answers to prayer. We always pray for the expansion of WCTU and we are pleased to say, West Australia reopened, after its closure in 2018. A few of us from South Australia recently traveled to Perth to meet with WA Field Officer Jayne Crichton. We met with others and prayed. New members Alisha Kernich, Melissa Wright, Lily Carney and Jill Walker and shared their concerns for the community. We welcomed former members who have rejoined. Jayne is now hosting a regular prayer meeting for WA. Old wells are being re-dug!

We also enjoyed a tour with local Councillor Mike Crichton (Jayne's husband) of 'The Crew' in Rockingham. This is a community centre for struggling people. Mike is the manager of this worthy cause. They provide shelter, clothing, bedding, food hampers, hot meals and soup. This is in the op-shop and it's all free.

As we toured through this facility I reflected on the WCTU departments over the years, where they provided all of the above and so much more. We pray we can do this once again, or support where we can.

Reported by: Karen Edwards - President S.A.



Left-Alisha Kernich WA, Naomi Frylink SA, Karen Edwards SA, Sue Langberg SA, Jayne Crichton WA, Melissa Wright WA, Lily Carney WA.

News from Victoria

On May 26 at 11.30 there will be LUNCHEON in Melbourne with a great line-up of speakers. Dawn Stark - Drug Education Programme expert will talk about her amazing and up-to-date programmes in Victoria. This Drug-Ed work has continued in Victoria for the past 50 years!

Kerryn Redpath, the author of 'Out of the Darkness', which is her own story of how she was led out of drug addiction and terrible sickness, will speak. She has been sharing her story in schools for the past 10 years.

Shane Varcoe, from Dalgarno Institute, is the dynamic and enthusiastic speaker who aims to educate, empower and equip youth to make informed, healthy decisions about substance abuse. The Dalgarno Institute's mission is to combat the narrative propagated by the culture shaping media that normalises drugs and alcohol use. We hope and pray that many will come to this luncheon and be convinced and blessed.

Reported By: Anne Bergen - President Victoria

New Study Links Cannabis and Dementia

April 21, 2025 - Add cannabis to the list of things now linked to a heightened risk of dementia.



Cannabis users who visited the emergency room or were hospitalized were up to four times as likely as people in the general population to be diagnosed with dementia within five years, according to a large new study based on data from more than 6 million Canadians.

What the Study Found - The most well-known biological feature of dementia is the presence of brain plaques that kill neurons. Age is the biggest risk factor, but strong links have also been made to things like high blood pressure, diabetes, poor diet, heart and sleep problems, and lack of physical activity.

Published in JAMA Neurology, the study found that: Cannabis users who went to the ER were 23% more likely to be diagnosed with dementia within five years, compared with nonusers who also went to the ER. Among hospital patients, those who used cannabis had a 72% greater risk of dementia within five years, compared with cannabis abstainers.

The rate of people seeking ER or hospital care with documented cannabis use skyrocketed between 2008 and 2021, increasing five-fold. The rate among people ages 65 and older increased nearly 27-fold.

Written by: Lisa O'Mary

White Ribbon Signal

Excellent/ Important Videos about Cannabis - from Doctor Stuart Reece

Dr Reece is an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia, who has worked in Brisbane since 1991. He has more than 115 papers in peer reviewed medical and scientific literature.



The videos range from 20 minutes up to an hour in length each and are a detailed and patient explanation of these world-shattering population studies on cannabis.

1. Cannabis and Autism - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8bDLzEInWA>
2. Cannabis and babies born limbless <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOpy69HIEw&t=60s>
3. Cannabis and birth defects <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLQFvY-19g&t=19s>
4. Cannabis - effect on genome and epigenome <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEKdLD60TcE&t=4s>
5. Cannabis and cancers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T_RKFbkNFo
6. Cannabis and aging <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyyUG2A6RnE>
7. Cannabis summary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOHwgyOfSEQ>
8. Cannabis and hole in the heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlgOgHg4HmA>

Share this information wherever you can - this significant body of evidence needs to be known everywhere as the world goes crazy about making cannabis legal. Thanks to Doctor Reece for this thorough work and for Mr Gary Christian for helping make it available to the world.

Alcohol ads on social media target teens and young people

Young people are exposed to over 40,000 alcohol ads a year on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook. These ads can promote early and binge drinking by presenting alcohol as a fun and social activity.

In Australia, most alcohol advertising is self-regulated, meaning companies often ignore guidelines that prohibit targeting those under 25, promoting heavy drinking, or suggesting alcohol enhances mood or success. Many companies violate these rules without consequences, and 93% of teens aged 16 to 17 have seen alcohol ads on Facebook.

To protect young people, it's important to discuss how social media can misrepresent alcohol use. Ask them if they think social media accurately reflects reality and whether the information online is trustworthy.

Summarised by Rosemarie Honore



CONTACT US

NATIONAL OFFICE

wctuaustralia@gmail.com

NATIONAL PRESIDENT & WRS EDITOR

Mrs Joy Butler

preswctuaustralia@gmail.com

NATIONAL OFFICE & VICTORIA UNION

PO Box 7612

Dandenong, Victoria, 3175

drug-free@bigpond.com

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Mrs Rhona Theodore

rhona.theodore@bigpond.com

SOUTH AUSTRALIA UNION

255 Sir Donald Bradman Drive,
Cowandilla, SA, 5033

(08) 8354 4442

wctusa@wctusa.com.au

WORLD ORGANISATION SECRETARY

Mrs Anne Bergen

anne.bergen@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

TBA

childrensdepartmentwctu@gmail.com

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Tanja Curcic

getintouchwctu@gmail.com



FACEBOOK: WCTU Australia - WOW



INSTAGRAM: WCTU_australia



PINTEREST: Non-alcoholdrinks - WCTU



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