

WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



Prayer Matters

WCTU Australia Ltd has a prayer network and they meet every 1st Tuesday of the month on zoom at 9 - 9.40 am. You are invited to join - just send your email to Joy Butler, editor. Please pray for -

WCTU Victoria and their essay competition, the luncheon in Melbourne on Sept 7, the Think Tank for WCTU Australia, the OVOM message, the many young people choosing to be sober.

Education

Many vapes contain nicotine making them addictive

Vapes can contain the same harmful chemicals found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray

Vapes can leave young people at increased risk of depression and anxiety

The nicotine in 1 vape can = 50 cigarettes. Depending on the size of the vape and nicotine strength, it can be much higher

Young people who vape are 3 times as likely to take up smoking cigarettes

Vape aerosol is not water vapour
Vaping has been linked to lung disease.

Vapes can cause long-lasting damaging effects on the brain and physical development.

Vaping is a growing concern in schools in Australia and New Zealand. READ MORE -

www.health.nsw.gov.au/vaping



News from Adelaide ...

These beautiful young women, Paige and Naomi, are serving non-alcohol drinks in Adelaide at the recent South Australian convention. Here is a report from Karen Edwards, President - "We have just celebrated our WCTU 133rd State Convention, which we are honoured to be part of, due to the many years of faithful women who have gone before us. We were delighted to have Jo Baxter from Drug Free Australia as our guest speaker. We had a group of 25 people attending. Jo spoke on a range of issues, but our visitors felt very stirred when it came to vaping, and felt that we need to pressure the Government and schools to do more. Bringing awareness and educating the community is a powerful tool, because even most of our visitors were unaware of what is actually taking place. Apply this to the community and it is clear to see that most people have no idea about the dangers and how it is being encouraged as an alternative to smoking. We some of our young ladies preparing for the day, and serving on our non- alcohol bar, promoting delicious punch recipes. Our tea room is becoming quite well known around Adelaide by word of mouth, and with our vast history there is something for everyone."





News from Kenya

Douglas Nyandora is the manager and carer of clients who come to this house of care and compassion to change their lives around. Douglas has given up high paying career opportunities to bless and help drug addicts. Recently they have had to relocate owing to the house being sold. WCTU Australia has donated to this house of blessing. Here is a description of what happens there - from Douglas.

“Turningpoint House started in 2015 when we felt from God the burden of mental illness. In 2014, research showed that 80% of Kenyans didn't have access to mental health services, and 70% of homes had at least one person suffering from drug abuse. This is 7 yrs later with close to 400 clients helped. We have a success rate of 70% compared to the market place 40%. We have treated doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, psychologists, lawyers, students and even the elderly.

“We intend to move our ministry to the next level. We aim to be accredited in 3 months, open two branches and we even have a standing invitation from the President of the Malawi Union to start a rehab there. Heaven is the limit for us. We are hoping to reach corporate organisations for consultancy services to help open psychological services departments. With God's help, we're in his vineyard. Blessings.”

Please pray and/or give to this project.

Grandparents Role - report from Victoria

Thanks to Jenny Godden, from Victoria WCTU for alerting us to Grandparents Victoria. For a full report - just ask us for a copy. Grandparents Victoria (GPV) is an organisation started in 2001. In the recent survey, 2022 ‘The Roles that Grandparents Play’, there are some significant findings to consider.

“This report presents a snap shot of the roles that grandparents played, including participation in the paid workforce, and the roles played both within the family and in the wider community. It looks at how the grandparents felt about the roles they played, as well as what current issues they felt were of most concern to their families and the wider community. This report also provides an estimation of the financial value their contribution, and what supports they felt would help them to continue their roles into the future.”

The issue of volunteers is significant for WCTU in the light of the fact that we are all volunteers and it is they who have carried the work for 136 years in Australia.

“Nationally, the proportion of Australians volunteering has declined in recent years. Between 2006-2010, approximately 34-36% of Australian adults had volunteered within the past 12 months. By 2019 this figure had declined to 29%. The circumstances of the global COVID-19 pandemic have made volunteering even more difficult, with ABS figures suggesting that in March 2021, only 21% of Australian adults volunteered with an organisation.”



Message from the President - Joy Butler



Tanja is a new friend of mine. I met her recently when she came to Australia to speak about and find funds for her project in Uganda. Tanja had grown up in Sydney in a difficult family situation. She soon turned to alcohol and drugs and lived a sad life on the streets of Sydney. Although she had a good job as a marketing and graphic design person, her life was empty and she never heard about Jesus. No one told her. She decided to take herself away from this life of dissatisfaction and went to Africa. She fell in love with it all and thought she would like to live there more permanently. She returned to Australia, did a TESOL course and went back to Africa. Soon she was in Uganda, where she felt most comfortable, and started the LITTLE BLUE SHED project in the rural area. She became a Christian (someone introduced her to Jesus), married a wonderful

man and is living her dream to bless others with the message of salvation, hope and freedom from drugs and alcohol. She wants to help WCTU and we are delighted to have her as a new member. She has skills that will bless us. See her website.....<https://www.littleblueshed.info/> Help her, help us.

Because alcohol is encouraged by our culture, we get the idea that it isn't dangerous. However, alcohol is the most potent and most toxic of the legal psychoactive drugs.

URGENT - Drug Free Australia - URGENT

Drug Free Australia is seeking to bring urgent attention to Australian and New Zealand Governments, whether Federal or State, regarding extremely important research relating to Mental Health and cannabis use. It appears that Australian public policies have moved from concern for the health and wellbeing of society - by improving and promoting good health - to pushing unnecessary drug use for profiteers while charging the tab to society-at-large. DFA believes that it is time for governments worldwide to promote research and media publicity which avoids the cherry-picked faux studies used by those wanting to legalise cannabis. Rather, the focus should be on its serious harms to mental and physical health particularly related to early use. Please share and support the

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAN HELP PREVENT THE AUSTRALIAN "LOST GENERATION DYING

All Australian Governments and community leaders need to take this evidence regarding Mental Health very seriously. The issue of cannabis-caused violence needs to be addressed.

For example, the Australian Government must consider organising several Mental Health teams working 24/7 to evaluate the mental health and wellbeing of those involved in animal cruelty, road rage, spousal abuse and child fatalities. These teams should have the authority to place these individuals into detox and rehabilitation centres for three to twelve months according to their progress. They will also need to be constantly reminded that they are very important to the Australian community's future. Here in Queensland, we have one centre available. .and a third that could be built. They could be equipped at minimum cost and run with existing staff for this mental health program.

The Australian National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 identifies cannabis as a priority substance for action, noting 20% of Australian drug and alcohol treatment services are provided to people identifying cannabis as their principal drug of concern. DFA believes that the number is higher for those under 25 years of age.

We greatly appreciate your time in responding to these extremely important matters in terms of community health, welfare and safety and would value your response early Should you require further information and/or a face-to-face meeting we would be very pleased to accommodate.

Herschel Baker, International Liaison Director, Queensland Director, Drug Free Australia
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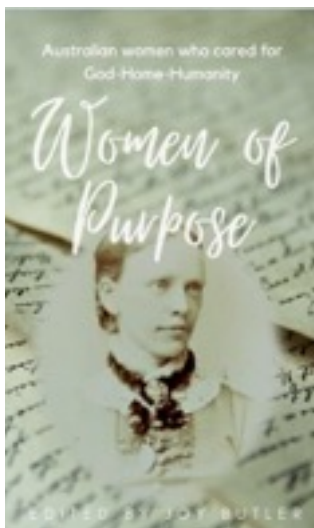
DIRECTORY

OVOM

What is OVOM? It stands for ONE VOICE, ONE MESSAGE. A group of people from all over the world, have gathered together to speak out about illicit drugs and mental health. They are concerned about the relaxing attitudes towards such drugs and want to help stop the demand and the distribution of drugs worldwide. They are addressing - Drugs and Mental Health, Prevention, Early Intervention, Law enforcement, treatment and aftercare. Representatives from Australia, Sweden, Uganda, Kenya, USA, Romania, The Netherlands are already part of this movement. We pray for many more concerned and caring country representatives to join. For more information write to The Editor.

THINK TANK

WCTU Australia Ltd is very grateful to a Think Tank of visionary younger people who has recently met via zoom to discuss the future of WCTU. They have shared their thoughts and the committee will look at their findings and prayerfully consider the direction we will take. There are certain non-negotiables with this long-established organisation and they will not be forgotten. We are still here for God, Home and Humanity. Our main focus is on smoking, alcohol, drugs - the SAD poisons. We thank BRONWYN MISON for leading this group and we look forward to great things ahead.



AUSTRALIA WCTU WOMEN

This book is still available and you can purchase it from WCTU Australia. Write to us or go online - wctu.org.au The women featured in this book have lobbied governments and helped to change or set up laws that would safeguard people from the ravages and cruelty of the SAD poisons. They have spoken at major events in churches, schools and community events. Since 1882 they have trod the streets giving the message. They have had an enormous influence for good. You will read about Anne Bergen, Dawn Giddings, Ellen Chandler, Joan Miller, Letty Walsh, Margaret Rose Martin, Millicent Harry MBE, Nola Adams, Ruth Miller and many others. You'll be inspired.

Finally ...

“Just as Jesus became a servant to us, He invites us to find rest and strength in Him so that we can become servants to others with our message. He loves us so much that He gave his life for us. And He calls us to serve sacrificially so that others can find rest for their souls free from addiction.

Lord, life can be difficult the 'workers' few and the message of temperance not a hot topic. As we struggle to stand against adversity to get the message across, help us to surrender ourselves entirely to you so that we may find rest for the journey and strength to share your love. Amen”

Margaret Ostenstad, World President

Websites www.wctu.org.au www.dfk.com.au

WRS newsletter is published four times a year - in March, June, Sept, December. Members are welcome to submit material to the editor, to be published at the editor's discretion. Letters to the editor are also welcome. Membership applications and renewals should be done via the WCTU website or sent to the National office.

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