



MEDIA RELEASE

Women's voices supported as Federal funding announced for National Women's Alliances

7 July 2021, Canberra - YWCA Australia is pleased to announce that the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) has been successful in its funding bid for a further three years and will continue to bring the voices of women and people of marginalised genders to Government as one of the six National Women's Alliances (NWA) under the Women's Leadership and Development program by the Federal Office for Women.

ERA is Australia's largest national network advocating for equality, leadership, and recognition of diversity for women and people of marginalised genders. It is a member-led network comprising 64 national-level and specialist organisations with a focus on advancing gender equality. We would like to thank all members and supporters for their contributions to our work and development over twenty years of advocacy. ERA has been auspiced and supported by YWCA Australia since its inception in 2001 and both YWCA Australia and ERA are pleased to have the opportunity to continue this successful collaboration.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge that sister Alliances, economic Security 4 Women (eS4W) and the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) have not been refunded to continue their work.

eS4W was one of the four original secretariats first funded in 2001 that later evolved into the National Women's Alliances. ERA and eS4W have worked together for more than 20 years and have enjoyed a dynamic relationship over this time. eS4W's work has been critical in advancing gender equality in Australia and includes building the case for a Federal paid parental leave scheme, ground breaking work on valuing the economic contribution of unpaid care in the Australian economy and contributions to highlighting the gendered pay gap, including their advocacy for women working in traditionally male industries. ERA will be talking to eS4w in coming weeks to determine the best ways to ensure that this important work continues over the next three years.

The Women's Services Network (WESNET) will no longer be operating the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) who, since 2010, have led a strong membership of experts and dedicated advocates during critical periods such as the development of the National Plan on Violence Against Women and Their Children. The appointment of our affiliate, YWCA Canberra to lead the National Women's Alliance work on gendered violence, is an opportunity to carry on the great work of WESNET and ERA looks forward to working closely with the National Women's Safety Alliance as the new National Plan is finalised.

ERA and YWCA Australia strongly support the Minister for Women and the Office for Women's decision to fund a new Alliance for women with disability. This is a much-needed addition to the NWA program that will bring strength and depth to the Alliance structure and provide support to the voices of women living with disability across Australia. Women With Disabilities Australia has been an ERA member for many years and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with them in their new role leading this National Women's Alliance. We also welcome the ongoing commitment from the Office for Women with confirmed funding for the National Rural Women's Coalition, Harmony Alliance and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliances and look forward to continuing our strong working relationships with them.

ERA will now consult with members, sister Alliances and the Office for Women on the program of work for the next three years. At this critical time for gender equality in Australia, it has never been more important that women and people of marginalised genders have a clear mechanism for communicating to government about the realities of their lives. ERA will strive to bring as diverse a range of voices as possible to Government, particularly on issues relating to the human rights, economic security, and health and wellbeing of women and people of marginalised genders, along with work on our international obligations, gendered poverty and women's leadership and public participation.

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For more information or media comment, please contact Helen Dalley-Fisher, ERA Secretariat and Manager on era@ywca.org.au / 0413 065 822

About YWCA Australia

YWCA Australia is an evolving intersectional feminist organisation focused on working towards a future where gender equality is a reality for young women, women and people of marginalised genders. In order to achieve this vision, we have made young women's leadership and women's housing our priority for gender equity in Australia. Please visit <https://www.ywca.org.au/> for more information.

About ERA

Equality Rights Alliance is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. We bring together 64 organisations with an interest in advancing women's equality. Please visit <https://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/> for more information.