



W P F Alert

December 2016

Season's Greetings: Faiths at this time of year shine forth the vision of a world in which people treat each other as they would be treated. No matter which Herod threatens, let us too give the gift of hope where there are shadows.

We have now passed the 7.3 billion mark. Climate change is a stormy reality. Women who have access to birth control methods can stabilise nurturing communities and environmental pressures. Women's Plans addresses that most fundamental need, access to contraception. Couples' management of fertility is key to the human family's well-being. We in Australia can encourage humanitarian outreach through sharing with our overseas neighbours.

Farewell

The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO

Our beloved Patron is retiring, as she has increasingly retired to Queensland after her service as Governor-General. The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO has brought great benefit to Women's Plans Foundation, eloquently making the case for family planning and aiding our efforts, with, in her words, "support and encouragement for the vitally important work that Women's Plans does promoting and protecting human rights, through women's education in family planning and empowering women." We have been fortunate to have her endorsement as Patron, and appreciate the recognition this has given to our work and aims.

Dr. Eleanor Freedman

At this AGM we thank retiring Director Dr. Eleanor Freedman for the seven years of her very valuable contribution. Ellie's specialist medical knowledge has added greatly to our understanding of family planning in the context of aid programs. Ellie has presented for our fundraising and educational events, contributed to our Roundtable and publications, and served as Treasurer for a period.

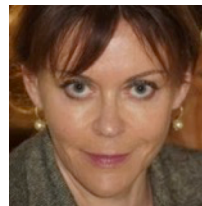
Events in 2017

16 February: Cocktail Party, 6-8pm at Australian Galleries, Paddington

6 April: Bridge Day at Hunter's Hill waterfront home

April / May: Joint event with Australian Conservation Foundation, Hunters Hill.

Welcome



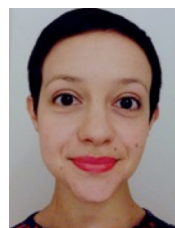
Dr. Lina Safro

Lina Safro has multiple qualifications, as a GP, in rural and remote medicine, medical education and research. Currently Lina is Women's Health Doctor and Medical Education

Coordinator at Family Planning NSW and Visiting Medical Officer on-call work in Sexual Assault at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Lina is highly regarded in the health network, adds greatly to our understanding of family planning needs and is dynamic in advocacy.

Anya Poukchanski

Anya Poukchanski has a masters of Law, Columbia University as well as Australian qualifications and academic prizes. Anya currently is a lawyer in the Office of the Australian Government Solicitor, working on Australian Competition and Consumer



and Australian Taxation Commissioner litigation, preparing advice for regulatory bodies. Anya has been a valued volunteer for five years, contributing varied talents. She brings enthusiasm, youth advocacy and research capacity

as well as her legal expertise in a rising career.

Would you like to volunteer your networking skills? Facebook, event skills welcome!

Listen, Learn, Love

Family Planning: The Next Generation, was mounted by FP NSW in November as part of its celebration of its 90th year. The Conference offered breadth and depth, spanning the latest developments in contraceptive research on what women and men want, to male reproductive problems and why a pill for men is not on the market, through adoption, abortion and the application of Catholic doctrine to sex matters. The focus was on the future.

Catholics for Choice President Jon O'Brien differentiated between continued prohibition of contraception by the Catholic hierarchy by Vatican bishops, and the teaching of the Catholic Church of the primacy of conscience. A former priest, Jon O'Brien instanced the disastrous effect on the poor and most vulnerable of the ban on contraception and condemnation of abortion; those with money can obtain any service. Pressure on governments traps the poor as in the Philippines, when after fifteen years of effort a Bill was passed legalising contraception, it is still kept in limbo under legal challenges. Infallibility, Jon O'Brien explained, has directives on only three matters of faith and doctrine, and not one of these relates to a necessity for the sex act to be open to conception. With most Catholics using family planning methods where they have access, Jon O'Brien suggested that the bishops should listen to the people who have living relationships and learn. Celibacy and abstinence beget problems, and social justice demands respect for others in a community of believers. People should not have to choose between faith and freedom within a tradition of social justice and the primacy of conscience.

Male reproductive health: Secrets, Sex and Society was another racy talk looking to the future. Prof Robert MacLachlan of Monash University described contraceptives for men as a niche market in pharmaceutical economic terms. He told of a study which was developing well, with a hormonal combination of progesterone and testosterone. A small number of men reported suffering depression and funding bodies withdrew because of investment risk. Studies with placebo control are expensive, and there is no certainty that men would purchase an eventual product. There was an ironic laugh in the audience when comparison was made to the much greater side effects in women of hormonal contraceptives. Even though there are many men willing to take their turn in family planning responsibility, profitability is not yet assured

An Anglican Parish initiative in Hunter's Hill

On October 8th a new venture was created by Rev. Kimberly Sawyer. The Assistant Minister's residence was opened for a high tea, attracting guests with her suggestion that each person bring someone from another generation. I was fortunate to be asked to present the work of Women's Plans Foundation's overseas aid as a natural outflow of my faith. The audience ranged in age from nine to nearly ninety. Jesus is a figure reminding us to care, and to share. Every week we respond "for we all share in the one bread". Yes, we mostly love our neighbours. How far does neighbourhood extend?

My mother volunteered with Planned Parenthood because she believed that every child should be a wanted child. When I was 16, she gave me a choice one day. I could help clean the house or I could go the Planned Parenthood clinic and answer the phone for the nurses. Easy choice. One phone call I still remember: a woman said she was afraid of having a tenth child, after she cut up her device after a fight with her husband. She couldn't look after the nine children they already had, and she couldn't face another. She needed a way of relating to her husband without starting another baby.

When I had my two babies I felt I was at the centre of meaning in the universe, love a glorious explosion. The births of my grandchildren brought the same joy. So the people I need to share with are women in poor countries who want to have more babies than they can care for. In countries near Australia there are people in poverty with not enough food, not enough schools, and no way of choosing when it is too soon to have a baby or decide you have enough.

We look at the world around us and worry what there will be for our children to share. Women's Plans' way is to bring access to family planning to the millions of women now bearing children they cannot feed, educate or socialise. Women want more for their children, not more children. Spacing babies improves everyone's survival rate. This is exciting work, as women's lives are transformed, and whole societies benefit from women's full inclusion. Even in parts of Australia, some churches still hold that women are different, subordinate to men, so even here we need to stand by women and work so that others can recognise women's capacity to do at least as much as men at least as well. In this initiative, parishioners, families and friends may share interest and support each others' ventures. Our lives resonate when we reach out and share with others.

WPF Australian Chamber Orchestra Soiree



Most fortunately at last year's Bridge Day, bridge player and music lover Ian Lansdown offered to donate a string quartet concert to Women's Plans for a fundraising event. This was the heart of a beautiful evening. A quartet from the Australian Chamber Orchestra in photo above -- Aiko Goto on violin, Nicole Divall on viola, Melissa Barnard on cello and Liisa Pallandi on violin – gave a delicate and sprightly concert at Conrad and Alice Oppen's Hunter's Hill home in early October. The intimacy of a group of some 80 people added to the sense of specialness and connection with the musicians. Guests enjoyed mingling with the musicians in the garden in the twilight of a balmy evening before and after the performance.



Many thanks to Ian Lansdown for his generous sponsorship of the evening, and to the musicians and the ACO for our superb string quartet experience.



[Photos: top right, Trish Bell and Deirdre Burns; middle, Ian and Sue Ernst, Anni Macdougall; bottom from left, Rob Minton, Lois Knight, Conrad Oppen, Margaret Minton; Gloria Jenkyn, Jenny Hall, Vincie Walquest, John Hall.]



Blink at this information bite:

Built-up areas on the Earth have increased by 2.5 times since 1975.... Over the past 40 years, the population of Africa tripled and the built-up area quadrupled. During that same period, the population of Europe remained stable, while the built-up area doubled.

Much of the expansion in population and built-up areas has taken place in locations that are at risk to natural disasters. For example, the world urban population of coastal areas has doubled over the last 40 years, from 45 to 88 million people. [from the European Commission's science and knowledge service, flagged by Sustainable Population Australia]

Pssst Is this a secret kept from Donald Trump?

What would he do if he knew? What will we do?

[from UNFPA] The world is facing a crisis in funding for international family planning programmes, which are essential to supporting the rights and health of women everywhere. UNFPA Supplies, the largest global programme for family planning and the world's largest provider of donated contraceptives, currently has a funding gap of about \$850 million.

These funds are needed to meet the growing demand for contraceptives from 2016 to 2020. Without this support, by 2020, there could be an additional:

- 80 million unintended pregnancies,
- 31 million abortions (25 million of which would be unsafe)
- 225,000 maternal deaths and
- 1.3 million newborn deaths.

Women, families and health-care systems could face additional costs totalling \$4 billion.

Calling all economists to explain the concept of prevention to the elect(ed).

*Women's Plans Foundation is a charitable trust,
raising funds for the integration of a family planning component
in accredited overseas programs.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Women's Plans Foundation enables access to contraception in areas of need in the Asia Pacific region. Four non-government organisations further family planning outreach in varied programs. Through Marie Stopes Australia, we contribute to outreach programs in Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, funding service providers for free reproductive health services; MSIA estimates in PNG this will reach 1,500 clients, preventing unintended pregnancies. Through CARE Australia, we provide inclusion of family planning understanding in Timor Leste, in 43 hamlets' Mothers' Groups. Through ChildFund Australia, we contribute for inclusion of family planning as a part of integrated outreach health services targeting 20,000 people in PNG. Through Save the Children Australia's partnership with the Lao Ministry of Health, we contribute to training and mentoring of health staff, delivering nearly 50,000 family planning services.

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Or to be removed from our mailing list?

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