



Queensland Medical Women's Society

2025 AGM Annual Report

The Queensland Medical Women's Society is a not-profit-organisation, uniting a group of passionate and dedicated women who work together to support each other and create professional development opportunities for women in the medical workforce. Membership is open to female medical students and practitioners in Queensland.

Our Aims

- To support, and further the professional development of women in the medical workforce, including medical students
- Promote the health and wellbeing of all Australians, in particular, women and children

Our Affiliations

QMWS is affiliated with the Australian Federation of Medical Women, which is in turn affiliated with Medical Women's International Association. We have members on multiple national and local advocacy groups, particularly those related to women's health.

2024 Executive and Committee Members

EXECUTIVE	
President	Jennifer Schafer
Vice President	Ira Van Der Steenstraten
Secretary	Daphne Wang
Treasurer	Kathryn Mainstone
AFMW	
Team lead	Jennifer Schafer
Member	Emmily Bueno De Mesquita
Digital communications	
Lead	Natasha Abeysekera
Members	Ashwini Jaishankar
	Samantha Ahmed
	Brenda Ngo
	Saaini Sivakumaran
Sponsorship	Lydia Pitcher
Members	Daniella Bradshaw
	Serena Chern
Events	
Lead	Sumaiya Sayed
Members	Chloe Hang
	Udani Liyanage
	Irene Jacob
	Donya Sabet
	Mira Prashar
	Wisalya Wijesinghe
	Megha Kadian
	Anoushka Kothari

QMWS Activities and Events in 2024

Dinner meetings:

1. **'Connection - the key to better care in a system under pressure'**

- **Associate Professor Catherine McDougall,**
- Chief Medical Officer of Queensland Health



2. **'Perinatal mental health in a changing world:**

You are the bow from which your children as living arrows are sent forth' Kahlil Gibran (The Prophet)'

- **Dr. Susan Roberts**
- Perinatal psychiatrist at Gold Coast University Hospital.



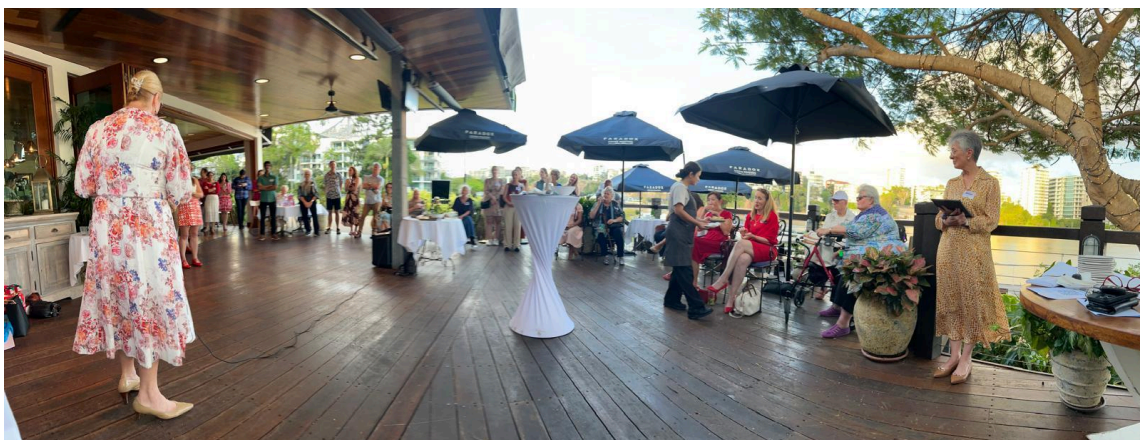
3. **Medical Women: Balancing Career and Fertility'**

- **Dr Clare Boothroyd**
- Internal medicine (Endocrinology), Obstetrics and Gynaecology, & subspecialty Certificate of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (CREI)



4. **Christmas celebration**

- This year's event was held at the beautiful Medley, a riverside venue that offers a perfect blend of elegance and charm, providing the ideal backdrop for our end-of-year celebration.



Mentor Mixers:

1. 'Mentoring with a View'

- The first of our mentor mixers was held at Lovewell Cafe, located at a picturesque lookout at Mount Gravatt.

2. 'Sunset Tea Mentor Mixer'

- Our 'Sunset Tea' was held at the Collective in Palm Beach.



During the mixers, mentees had the opportunity for meaningful one-on-one discussions with all the mentors as they rotated around the tables during the events. These conversations provided valuable insights into career paths, balancing professional and personal lives, research opportunities, and concerns for students and early career doctors.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from our mentees highlighted the importance of these mixers. As medicine can be a difficult career to navigate, our mentor mixers hope to foster strong connections between mentors and mentees.

2024 NCWQ Bursary Presentation and President's Lunch:

The 2024 NCWQ Bursary Presentation and President's Lunch was more than just an award ceremony; it was a celebration of inspiration, empowerment, and the collective strength of women. The stories and achievements of the bursary recipients left a lasting impact on everyone in attendance, reaffirming the importance of supporting and nurturing future leaders.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2024 QMWS Bursaries. We would like to express our gratitude to the NCWQ and sponsors: AMA Queensland and Mater Health.

2024 NCWQ Bursary recipients are:

- Anna Duan – QMWS Bursary
- Ava Allen – QMWS & AMA Queensland Professor Tess Cramond Memorial bursary
- Clancy Morgan – QMWS Mater Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bursary



Presidents' Chats:

Dr Helena Franco

Congratulations to Dr Helena Franco for being selected for the 2025 Orthopaedic Surgery training program! A previous QMWS committee member and guest speaker, Helena has won a NCWQ bursary and several scholarships to help complete a Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery at Harvard Medical School. And if that is not enough, she has also been named on the Forbes 30 under 30 for Healthcare list.



Udani Liyanage

Udani Liyanage, a final-year medical student at Bond University with a strong passion for healthcare, research, and community service. Udani is an active member of our QMWS committee as our Student Representative Coordinator and she is the organiser of our very successful mentor mixers. Whilst studying, Udani has co-founded The Noble Dawn Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that makes a positive impact with very diverse projects in Sri Lanka.

Dr Catherine Jones

Professor Jones practises general radiology with a strong interest in cardiothoracic imaging, including occupational lung disease imaging, particularly in dust-exposed workers. She advises several governments and clinical task forces on appropriate imaging in dust disease and is Associate Professor at the School of Public and Preventive Health at Monash University.



QMWS100: Counting down to 100 years



The QMWS Centennial Working Group held its final 2024 meeting, reflecting on key progress including plans for a Dr. Lilian Cooper sculpture, archival preservation of records, and a travelling exhibition to celebrate the organisation's rich history. The group is exploring the idea of creating a QMWS Centennial Book and an accompanying unique quilt featuring 100 tiles with 100 stories. Each tile can commemorate significant milestones achieved by medical women, to celebrate the accomplishments of prominent figures from the past and highlight current medical women who are shaping the future of medicine. With heartfelt gratitude to members and supporters, the group looks ahead to 2025 to continue preparations for a momentous centennial celebration in 2029.

Mother's Day Classic



The Queensland Medical Women's Society was excited to have a team in this year's Mother's Day Classic. At the Mother's Day Classic, we walk or run to raise funds for breast and ovarian cancer research. Fundraising for cancer research plays a pivotal role in advancing scientific discoveries, developing innovative treatments, and ultimately improving the lives of individuals affected by cancer.

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Secretary	Daphne Wang
Treasurer	Chloe Hang
EVENTS	
Team Lead	Sumaiya Sayed
Shadow Lead	Donya Sabet
Members	Udani Liyanage
	Mira Prashar
	Wisalya Wijesinghe
	Megha Kadian
	Anoushka Kothari
	Yamini Dave (Student)
	Khwahish Munjal (Student)
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS	
Team Lead	Natasha Abeysekera
Members	Brenda Ngo
	Saaini Sivakumaran
	Namitha Jacob (Student)
SPONSORSHIPS & BURSARIES	
Bursaries & QMWS100 Lead	Lydia Pitcher
Sponsorship Lead	Jane Draper
Members	Kathryn Mainstone
	Serena Chern
	Wisalya Wijesinghe
AFMW	
Team lead	Jennifer Schafer
Member	Ira van der Steenstraten

SPONSORS

As a not for profit organisation, our goals are achieved through collaboration with our sponsors, advocates and colleagues.

QMWS would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for their support:

- Avant
- AMA Queensland
- I-MED Radiology
- Mater Hospital
- MIPS
- Queensland X-Ray
- University of Queensland, Faculty of Medicine
- Wesley Hospital

QMWS also sincerely thanks the many individuals and organisations who contributed to our work in 2024 - particularly our volunteer committee members. We genuinely appreciate your support.