

<b>ACTIONS TAKEN ON RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE BPW AUSTRALIA 32<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE OCTOBER 2002</b>
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**3 YEAR TERMS**

IT WAS AGREED BY MAJORITY THAT

- the timing of Federation and Division Conferences be such that none is held in the same year as the BPW International Congress or each other, and that there be therefore a three year rotation in keeping with the BPW International Congress;
- the Conferences to be held in 2003 be Division Conferences, followed in 2004 by Federation Conference, and thereafter at three year intervals for each level.

**ACTION**

*This will be effected by the next BPW Council.*

**WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

IT WAS AGREED BY MAJORITY THAT BPW AUSTRALIA

- implements a national program for the recognition of BPW Woman of the Year on a similar basis to the YBPW program, adapted as necessary.

**ACTION**

*This has been taken up by Division Presidents.*

**CEDAW**

IT WAS AGREED BY MAJORITY THAT BPW AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

- take such action as required to further influence the Australian Government to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

**ACTION**

*A letter to the Federal Government has been drafted by the VPEP, and a version prepared for Divisions to forward at their discretion. See attached.*

**UNPAID WORK**

IT WAS AGREED BY MAJORITY THAT BPW AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

- lobby the Australian Government to fully cost and include in the Federal Government's policy and decision-making processes the unpaid work undertaken by the Australian population, which work is already measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**ACTION**

*A letter to the Federal Government has been drafted by the VPEP. See attached.*

**MIDWIVES**

IT WAS AGREED BY MAJORITY THAT BPW AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

- lobby the Federal Government to implement changes to ensure an ongoing supply of well-trained midwives across Australia; and
- encourage Divisions to lobby their respective State and Territory Governments to the same end.

**ACTION**

*A letter to the Federal Government has been drafted by the VPEP. See attached.*

## **ASYLUM SEEKERS**

IT WAS AGREED BY MAJORITY THAT BPW AUSTRALIA COUNCIL urges the Federal Government of Australia to adopt a policy whereby:

- the first interview of women seeking asylum is, wherever possible, conducted by female officers of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, and that all officers conducting such interviews are briefed to take into account the gender specific issues and cultural sensitivities of the matters to be discussed, such as torture, rape and others forms of assault;
- women asylum seekers and their immediate families are not held in detention for more than three months;
- that after such three month period women asylum seekers and their families are housed in the community and have access to appropriate training and development and to counselling and professional services, particularly education for children; and
- the so-called "Pacific solution" be discontinued.

### **ACTION**

*A letter to the Federal Government is being drafted by the VPEP.*