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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



Welcome to the July 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Hello and welcome to the July edition of eSPAN with updates of what has been happening during the month and proposed happenings. First with some great news for Fiji who have 'secured an historic \$52.5 million investment from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for a major climate project implementation by FAO, the Government of Fiji and Partners. Using a ridge to ridge approach and Partners will work to restore forest landscape upstream, protect coastal ecosystems downstream, and strengthen rural livelihoods for 197,000 people directly and a further 150,000 indirectly. The action will help to build a more resilient, sustainable and food secure Fiji.

The Programme team are currently organising data base and reporting training for the Federation. There will be Federation wide training on September 27th 12:00pm AEST. Training is also being arranged for Fiji. Countries and regions are always welcome to approach the programme team for additional training with a more localised focus.

The Best Practice critique is currently being reviewed by the Programme team in preparation for when clubs submit their best practice projects/advocacy reports. We will be having a webinar on how to submit a Best Practice Report application after the review is completed.

SI Nelson Club each year present an incredible number of scholarships to women and girls to help them complete their educational pursuits. In 2026 over \$20,000 was distributed to students enrolled in tertiary, academic and vocational courses. Well done SI Nelson. See their photo in 'Around the Federation' section.

Global Impact Chair Bertha, SI Director of Advocacy requested for Federations to provide projects relating to violence against women and girls beyond the 16 Days of Activism in November. She advised the UN Women had requested this information along with some light level information on each project.

Our next Federation Campaign "Day of the Girl Child" whose SI theme is 'Educated Girls. Empowered Futures'. Public Speaking Competition will co-inside with Day of the Girl Child. See below for further information.

Convenors are constantly working on strategies to help clubs attract new members and retain current membership. The Communication team have put together a survey for members to complete and submit. The aim is find out how, you the member, feel about the issues provided in the survey. Please see below link for the survey.

Also below is Registration to the 2026 Health Series in New Zealand. The Knowledge Exchange by SISEAP Sisters Online in support of President Anthea's Campaign 'Her Health Our Wealth'.

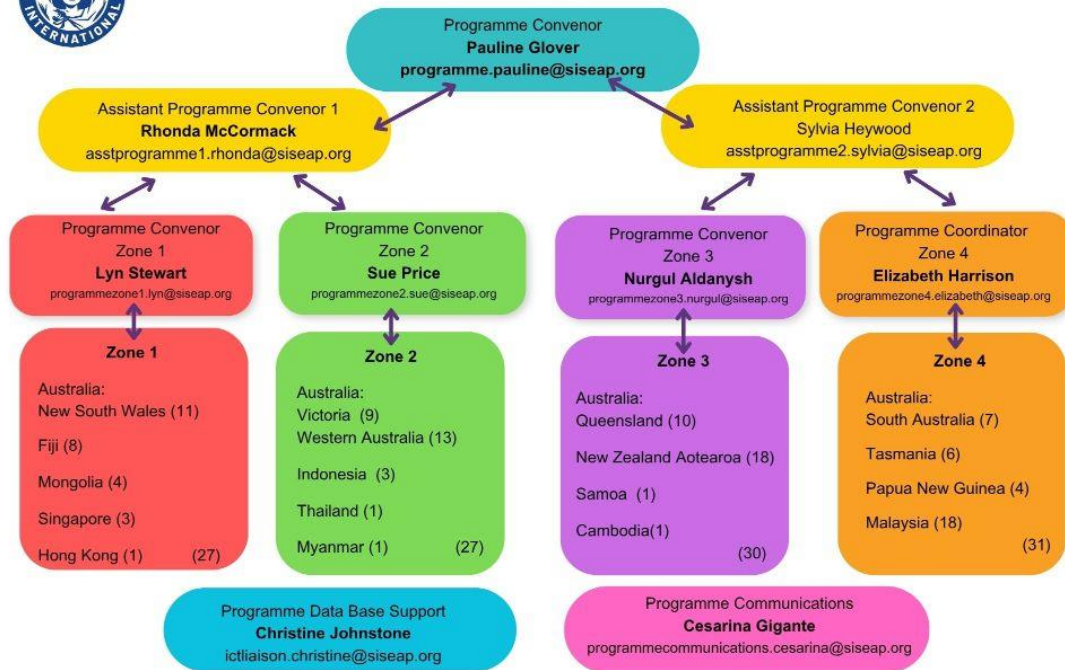
On linkedin an important announcement from Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations on how AI is impacting our children's learning, their friendships and how they view the world. He stated *'We are already seeing the costs with children being deceived by machines posing as friends; children being steered towards self-harm and children violated by abuse images made at the touch of a button. He stated no child should be a guinea pig for unregulated AI and that is why he is calling for a SI Child Safety Pledge built on three principles. Prove it is safe through child specific safety testing and independent oversight. Zero tolerance for sexual abuse to prevent AI generated sexual images of children and every company must detect, report and remove the images. Never leave a child in crisis alone when they have shown signs of distress the system must stop and connect them to a real human.. When a child is harmed, the answer must never be "the algorithm did it'.*

Pauline Glover,
Programme Convenor 2026-2028
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PROGRAMME WEBSITE PAGE



SISEAP PROGRAMME TEAM and ZONES for 2026-2028



Do you know what zone your club is in? Take a look and then reach out to your zone coordinator for assistance if required. or [download a pdf of the zones.](#)



Member Survey 2026



SISEAP Member Survey

SISEAP is reviewing how we can better support members and clubs across our Federation. This short survey will help us understand our members' priorities in three areas:

- Membership recruitment and retention
- How members prefer to receive information
- The types of programmes, projects and support that members value most

Your feedback will help shape future membership, communication and programme priorities across SISEAP.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

ADVOCACY WORK

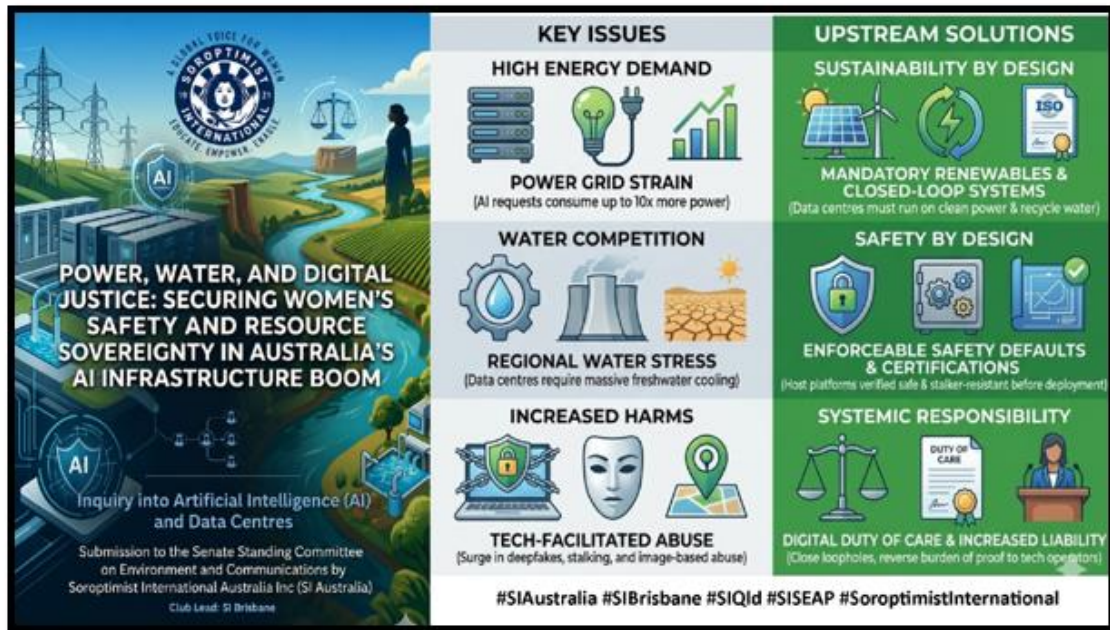
Advocacy

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific, is a global voice for women, advocating for human rights and gender equality. Soroptimists seek not only to advocate on behalf of the victims of social inequalities and human rights abuses and upholding the SDGs but also to address the social, environmental and economic factors that are root causes.

Advocacy are actions intended to influence selected people, governments, private companies or other institutions in order to achieve a desired policy, practice or political change that will benefit particular groups. It ensures that marginalized or vulnerable voices are heard in decision-making.

Soroptimist International have a series of position papers "[Where we Stand](#)", these papers explain the organisations' stance on various issues that affect the lives of women and girls. View [HERE](#).

SISEAP members also have access to the 7 Day advocacy Guide, which can be viewed [HERE](#).



Power, Water and Digital Justice: SI Australia Takes Women's Voices to the Senate

Soroptimist International Australia Inc (SI Australia) has lodged a national submission to the Senate Inquiry into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Centres, ensuring women's safety, environmental sustainability and regional equity are part of Australia's digital future. Led by SI Brisbane on behalf of SI Australia, the submission—Power, Water and Digital Justice: Securing Women's Safety and Resource Sovereignty in Australia's AI Infrastructure Boom—represents more than 180 hours of advocacy, policy analysis and technical drafting.

While data centres may appear far removed from Soroptimist advocacy, the infrastructure powering AI has profound implications for women and girls. These facilities consume vast amounts of electricity and water while supporting technologies increasingly linked to deepfakes, image-based abuse, voice cloning and technology-facilitated coercive control.

Our submission challenges the assumption that digital infrastructure is neutral. It argues that the environmental and social costs of AI are too often shifted onto communities—particularly women, regional areas and First Nations communities—while the economic benefits flow elsewhere.

SI Australia is calling for:

- Sustainability by Design through stronger renewable energy and responsible water management standards for data centres
- Safety by Design and a Digital Duty of Care, requiring developers and operators to demonstrate that AI systems are safe before deployment

- Regional Equity and Indigenous Data Sovereignty, ensuring rural, remote and First Nations communities are protected and included in Australia's digital transition; and
- Investment in community safety, including support for digital literacy and responses to technology-facilitated abuse.

This advocacy aligns with Soroptimist objectives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality, clean water, sustainable infrastructure, climate action and strong institutions.

The Senate Inquiry is due to report in November 2026. SI Australia will continue engaging with decision-makers to ensure that innovation does not come at the expense of people or the planet.

As we shape Australia's digital future, our message is clear: safety and sustainability must be the default settings—not afterthoughts.

We must protect our communities: by law, by data, and by design.

The 62nd regular session of the Human Rights Council was held recently read about the Resolutions, decisions and President's statements. Read more [HERE](#). Read about the Australian Human Rights Commission Social Justice Report 2025 [HERE](#).

FEDERATION PROJECTS



Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026

Thank you to countries and regions that have advised that they would be participating. We look forward to listening to the speeches of our upcoming and inspiring leaders and change makers.

Theme

"The Power of My Voice" encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. It also gives Soroptimists the opportunity to hear for themselves the thoughts and aspirations of these leaders of the future. The finals this year will coincide with the International Day of the Girl Child Sunday the **11th October Federation wide presentation** **11:30am** **AEST.**

Heats and sending of finalist information to Federation is tbe completed by the **8th September 2026.**

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION INFORMATION



Brilliant Futures Fund

Round 13 now open.
Applications due the 15th of August.

Round 12 announcement to be made
shortly.

Our Federation Project, the Brilliant Futures Fund (2021–2026), is at the heart of our mission to educate, empower, and enable.

Investing in this fund is a direct investment in the collective power of Soroptimists to fundamentally improve the lives of women and girls across the South East Asia Pacific region.

Programme Team process has been reviewed. The timeline is as follows:

1. Applications received by due date
2. Approving Panel - 2 weeks to confer
3. Clarification period- two weeks, if required, to seek clarification from nominating clubs
4. Nomination sent to board for approval
5. Announcement made

[APPLY HERE](#)

[READ HOW BFF PROJECTS HAVE CHANGED LIVES](#)

PROJECTS & APPEALS

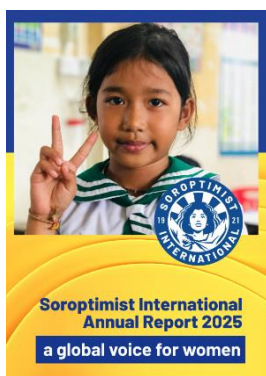
Learn more about the projects and appeals and to make a Donation please click on the image. SISEAP values and encourages you to support our projects and appeals, your donation DOES make a huge difference to the lives of women and girls.



[DONATE HERE](#)



FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



SI 2025 Annual Report

Read the Soroptimist International 2025 Annual report [HERE](#).

The report is available in Flip book and PDF formats.

The **AI for Good Global Summit 2026** took place on July 7-10 in Geneva. The summit is the UN platform focused on applying artificial intelligence to accelerate the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SI representatives attended the summit.

Blogs:

Is it Artificial or Real? The Gen-Alfa Perspective by Alice Paola Pomè -2010 marked the birth of Generation Alpha — the first generation raised inside an AI ecosystem. While those with access to technology are needing to anxiously question what can be trusted as real, others remain on the wrong side of a widening digital divide, excluded from opportunities that should belong to everyone. Read more [HERE](#).

Technology as a Third Path: Opening Doors Through AI Literacy by Eliette Thurn -AI and tech, built thoughtfully, can dismantle old injustices instead of repeating them. Read more [HERE](#).

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Database Training

27th September 12:00 pm AEST. Further information and the link will be provided closer to the date.



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

A Collaborative Initiative Between SI Bangsar and Asia Pacific University Beach Clean Up Day

In conjunction with the World Environment Month 2026, a collaborative initiative between SICB and Asia Pacific University (APU), we have lined up a series of events for the month.



The Project Title: Sustainable Eco Action through Campus and Community, will be carried out from 8 June 2026 – 5 July 2026.

Here is the Week 2 activity:

🌍♻️ ****Morib Beach Cleanup 2026: From Awareness to Action****

On 20 June 2026, 32 APU students joined 8 representatives from SICB, APU, GPS, and MPKL for a meaningful beach cleanup at Pantai Kelanang, Banting, Selangor.

The day began with a briefing on beach cleanup procedures, safety guidelines, and environmental responsibility, followed by a warm-up session. Volunteers were then divided into groups and equipped with separate bags for recyclables and general waste.

In just one hour, the volunteers successfully collected and segregated approximately *70 kg of waste*, helping to restore the beauty of the beach while raising awareness about environmental stewardship.

The activity concluded with a reflection session, appreciation to all participants, group photographs, and lunch before returning to APU.

This initiative demonstrates how collective action can make a real difference in protecting our environment. Our heartfelt thank you to all volunteers and partners who contributed to the success of this event.



The 2026 Knowledge Exchange Health Series

SISEAP Sisters Online offers a webinar series exploring diverse topics. In support of SI President Renata's theme of "Her Health Our Future", and SISEAP President Anthea's campaign "Her Health Our Wealth", the following webinars explore health.

1. SIANZ National Project: Heal the Teal: Reduce the Impact of Ovarian Cancer. Presenter Yvonne Simpson QSM will explore the successes and challenges with planning, monitoring and reporting that helped earn this project a Best Practice Award 2026. **Sunday 9 August. 2pm AEST.**
2. K9 Medical Detection: Pauline Blomfield, CE K9MD, will share the cutting edge and unique research and training they are doing with dogs to detect the early stages of Ovarian Cancer. **Sunday 13 September at 2pm AEST.**
3. An Introduction to Brain Health supporting Mental Wellbeing with Karyn Chalk, Director of Changing Ways, Brain Health Coach and Trainer, Positive Neuroplasticity Trainer and Havening Techniques Practitioner. **Sunday 11 October, 2pm AEST.**
4. "Listen to Women's Pain – Endometriosis Matters". Jacqui McLachlan, President SI NSW will share the SI New South Wales region project which actively campaigns for endometriosis awareness and advocacy. **Sunday 8 November 2pm AEST .**

Notes: Duration is about one hour, times are for Australia EST, these are open sessions - please share with your friends, family and colleagues. There is no cost. Register for as many as you wish to attend. Not all sessions will be recorded.

Register with this form and you will be contacted with the link to join the webinar closer to the date.

Contact us at sisistersonline@siseap.org for further information.

REGISTER HERE



Western Australia: The Floor is Yours

This is the ninth year that WA Soroptimists have supported the Floor is Yours public speaking competition for women enrolled at either University or TAFE.

An organising committee with members from SI Rockingham, SI South Perth, SI Bunbury, SI On The Terrace, SI Maylands Peninsula, SI Perth, SI Fremantle was formed and took on the task of running a heat at one of the campuses. The winner of each of these heats then represented their University or TAFE in a grand final. This year we had 60 applications and held 6 heats before our grand final on the 20th of June. The winner this year was Grace Skeggs who spoke on the topic Technology is never Neutral: Do Digital Systems Empower or Exclude Women? Her speech was titled "If technology is the future, whose future are we building?"

The grand final also provided an opportunity for WA Soroptimists to showcase some of their projects and hopefully inspire some of the women participating to consider joining us. SI Fremantle has two mother/daughter memberships achieved through previous year's competitions and we are hoping this trend might continue.

This year we will once again be able to take our finalists along to WA Parliament House, where they will have the opportunity to meet with our supporting female members of parliament over lunch.

We received a great write up in a local Fremantle news service, read [HERE](#)

Grace Skeggs Winner



SI Nelson Scholarships

SI Nelson has a separate Nelson SOROPTIMIST Education Trust which supports women tertiary students in the Nelson Marlborough region. We hire academic regalia to high schools and the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) and these proceeds are given as scholarships. Financial hardship is one of the most important criteria for selection. We were gifted the regalia from the Nelson Federation of Graduate Women for which we are extremely grateful.

In March \$21,500 was awarded in scholarships with \$20,000 coming from the net earnings of our Academic Regalia Hire, an additional \$1,000 from a donor and \$500 (part of the \$4,000 donated by the former National Council of Women, Nelson Branch). These funds were distributed to 16 students enrolled in tertiary academic and vocational courses in 2026. The average age was 34 years, ranging from 18 to 58 years. Five of the 16 students are enrolled at NMIT this year, 6 are studying on-line and 5 are attending other NZ Universities.

Recently NMIT held a scholarship presentation evening where we were able to present certificates to 4 of our winners.

Celebrating World Environment day

Recently a number of SI Nelson members walked along the cities walkways collecting rubbish from Anzac Park to the Marina where we could have a coffee. We ended up with a strange collection including 2 shopping trolleys, child's bike, cycle wheel, cans, bottles, plastic and the usual rubbish thrown into bushes. Very successful clean-up and a nice social time as well.



SI South Perth

Essential, comfort and therapy items for Children in out of Home Care

Sunshine packs are created for children and delivered to Child Protection offices, out-of-home care organisations, and crisis accommodation organisations across WA. They are given to children at the time of entering care. Each pack contains new essentials, comfort items and creative therapy items appropriate to age and gender. We donated \$1000 for the purchase of items and 25 of our members helped with packing on three occasions.



SI Ulaanbaatar trains young students “Water – a precious gem”.

Water is a matter of survival and economic stability for Mongolia. In observance of World Water Day 2026 the "Water - A Precious Gem" training was successfully organized for 153 fourth-grade students of the 32nd Secondary School in Ulaanbaatar. The training provided students with essential knowledge on the definition of water, its physical states, and its various forms in nature. Furthermore, the sessions covered the current status of water resources in Mongolia and globally, while providing practical information on how to conserve water in daily life.

PROGRAMME ASSETS

**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC
ANNUAL REPORT**



DID YOU KNOW?

Programme Members Page

Have you explored the updated Programme Members website page? All the information you will need is contained here.

Click the image below to access the page

Quick Links

There are now dedicated articles to assist members in all aspects of programme. Use the quick links to quickly jump to the page.

Programme
Reporting
Database



Programme
Downloads



Brilliant
Futures
Fund



CSW
Information



Programme
Committee



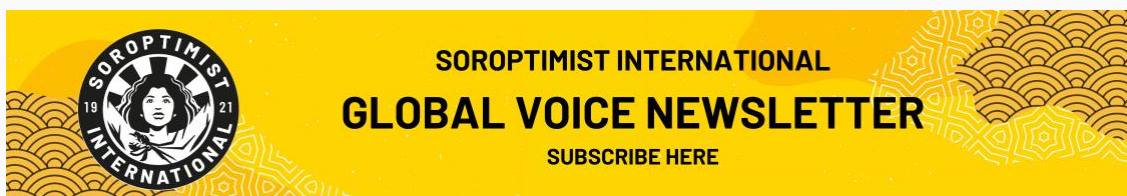
Best
Practice
Awards



Goals &
Objectives



SISEAP will be publishing a quarterly calendar, to view important dates for action and events, which can be viewed [HERE](#). The calendar is viewable from the front page of the SISEAP website, under the EVENTS tab.



SI

Global

Newsletter

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SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Help us empower women and girls across the South East Asia Pacific region. Your contribution drives real, lasting change.

 **Donate to SISEAP**

Have a story or update to share?

Email your submissions for the next eSPAN edition to
programmecommunications.cesarina@siseap.org.

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