

## MEDIA RELEASE

# MANY HEARTS, ONE VOICE

*The story of the War Widows' Guild in Western Australia*

by **MELINDA TOGNINI**

with a foreword by

the Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO

### ABOUT THE BOOK

When WWII ended, the men who fought and died were not forgotten – but what of their wives and families? For the War Widows' Guild the fight for rights and recognition had just begun.

Together they fought for recognition and for public expression of their loss, for subsidised aged-nursing care and affordable housing. Together they fought to have their pensions recognised as compensation for their husbands' lives. Together they overcame poverty, social isolation and invisibility. This is the story of a courageous group of women who made a difference to the lives of Australia's war widows of yesterday and today.

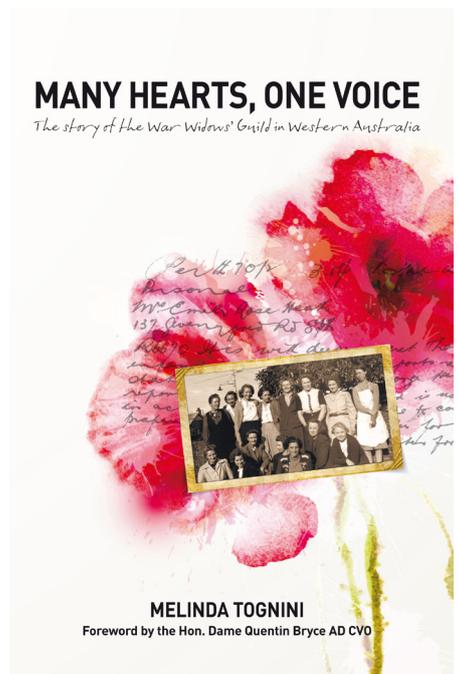
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melinda Tognini has always been a scribbler of stories, and cannot imagine a life without words. But she has also worked as a pharmacy assistant, youth worker, chaplain and teacher. She completed a Master of Arts in writing and her feature articles, travel writing and personal essays have appeared in magazines and anthologies in Australia and the US. Melinda is passionate about telling 'invisible' stories – those stories absent from or sidelined in the dominant narratives of our history – and empowering others to find their voice. After growing up surrounded by the bush, bauxite and beaches of North East Arnhem Land, she now resides in Perth with her husband and two children.



### NOTES

- These are important war and post-war stories, rarely told or acknowledged.
- Melinda worked closely with the War Widows Guild in Western Australia when researching the book.
- The book includes 100 black-and-white photographs of people, events and documents.



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