

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0735

United Council for Woman Suffrage

(1894 - 1908)

Born	1 January, 1894, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	31 December, 1908, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Women's Rights Organisation

Summary

The United Council for Woman Suffrage was originally formed in Melbourne in 1894 largely due to the efforts of Annette Bear Crawford who became its foundation president and secretary. Its aims were: to coordinate and amalgamate suffrage societies and to lobby members of parliament and municipal councillors about women's suffrage; to educate the public about women's suffrage; to educate the public about women's suffrage; to educate the public about women's suffrage and to train women speakers to address meetings. Those involved included representatives from suffrage societies, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Victorian Trades Hall Council and the Vigilance Society. The Council conducted extensive lobbying during the Victorian municipal elections in 1896 and the Commonwealth Constitutional Conventional in Melbourne in 1898. The Council floundered with Bear Crawford's illness and then death in 1898. The following year, however, Vida Goldstein became its organising secretary-which in 1900 became a full-time, paid position. Goldstein allowed a broader spectrum of organisations to affiliate with the Council, considerably expanding its support base-by 1900 it had 32 member organisations. While Goldstein resigned in 1901, the Council continued as an effective co-ordinating body for the suffrage campaign, often working with Goldstein's new group, the Women's Political Association, until Victorian women's gained the vote in 1908.

Details

Archival note:

As of 2003, it appears that there is no specific collection of papers relating to the Society. Its activities were, however, extensively reported in the Melbourne press and women's journals, particularly, for the years 1900-1905, Vida Goldstein's *The Australian Woman's Sphere*.

Published resources

Book

Woman suffrage in Australia : a gift or a struggle?, Oldfield, Audrey, 1992

Votes for women : the Australian story, Lees, Kirsten., 1995

The Australian Woman's Sphere, 1900-1905

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Scott Family \(Rose Scott\) papers, 1777-1925 \[MLMSS 38/1-79\]](#)

Author Details

Jane Carey

Created 11 February 2004

Last modified 29 October 2018