



Advancing the human rights of women caught up in the criminal justice system.

WELCOME to the 10th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

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SYDNEY MYER FOUNDATION FUND WIPAN

WIPAN are sincerely grateful to the Sidney Myer Foundation for generously funding the on-road costs of our work vehicle. The vehicle has been crucial to the success of our program to date and will continue to be. WIPAN rely heavily on the capacity to travel frequently and across long distances. In doing so, WIPAN, have been able to visit correctional centres across NSW, train our mentors, facilitate monthly mentoring meetings, network with organisations and meet the women ex-prisoners/prisoners we service. Thank you Sidney Myer Foundation!

CHINESE DELEGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AFFAIRS VISITS WIPAN

WIPAN recently had the pleasure of being visited by the Chinese Delegation from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, China, as part of a nine day China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program. WIPAN were one of a small number of organisations selected to speak with the delegation members and were asked to address the NGO's and Vulnerable Citizens component of the Study Visit. Other organisations visited as part of the nine day program were New South Wales Council of Social Services (NCOSS), Mental Health Coordinating Council Intellectual Disability Rights Service, Warringa Baiya and Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (NSW).

The China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation program, (HRTC), represents the commitment of the two Governments to work towards improvements in the administration, promotion and protection of human rights and enhance the legal system in China. Individual activities focus on practical measures to achieve these ends. This approach is preferable to the alternative, public condemnation of China, which is often counter-productive. The entire program is fundamentally underpinned by the view that by working together and by exchanging views and approaches, the most effective elements of human rights protection, promotion and administration will develop and prosper"

WIPAN MEETS WITH OUR NEW MINISTER FOR WOMEN NSW

WIPAN would like to congratulate Pru Goward on being appointed the new Minister for Women. We recently held a meeting with Ms Goward to introduce WIPAN and the work that we do. Ms Goward was very engaging and the meeting proved informative. The continued support that WIPAN receive from the Office for Womens Policy, in light of the change of Government, is demonstrative of their steadfast commitment to addressing the needs of severely disadvantaged women across NSW.

MENTOR TRAINING CONCLUDED

WIPAN have completed our second round of mentor training, increasing our pool of mentors to 38 and expanding our service area out into the greater Sydney region. Training covered, amongst others things, looking closely at what mentoring is, the boundaries around the role of mentoring, how the criminal justice system operates, client demographics, complex issues (sexual assault, domestic violence, AOD etc), team building, values, role playing, international mentoring practices and WIPAN policy & procedures.

Once again we have attracted a group of women who are of an impeccable standard, and who are genuine, warm hearted and passionate. It is with great pleasure that we invite this wonderful group of women into the WIPAN mentoring family.

WIPAN would like to offer our sincere gratitude to Felicity Oswell, from TAFE Outreach Petersham, and Susan Knights, retired UTS Lecturer and authority in mentoring, for co-facilitating the training and for their expertise, optimism, commitment and positive regard toward all of our trainee mentors.

Our mentors are now available for mentoring within the community. If you are interested in having a mentor, or know of anyone who is, please contact Samantha on 0415 454 770.

SERVICE OF THE MONTH – KATHLEEN YORK HOUSE

“Kathleen York House supports women to overcome substance dependence and to reduce its harmful impacts on their lives, and the lives of their children, families and on the community”.

“KYH accommodates up to seven residents and children in our historic house in Sydney's inner west. They provide an intensive long term therapeutic program, with active links to the local community. Their Transition and Aftercare programs support women as they step back into the community and recommence independent living”.

“KYH supports women who are seeking abstinence based treatment after a long history of harmful substance dependence. They admit women over 21, without children or with children under 12. Many of their clients have also been diagnosed with mental health disorders. Each potential client will need to be at least seven days abstinent and at no risk of withdrawal symptoms upon admission. They are unable to admit women on methadone or buprenorphine”.

WIPAN have personally had the pleasure of learning a great deal about Kathleen York House via a mutual client. What we have come to know is that the service provided is outstanding, the staff are incredibly well-informed and engaging and the premises is warm, spacious and homely. We would also like to thank Victoria from KYH for attending our recent monthly mentoring meeting as a guest speaker to inform us all about the facts and challenges surrounding addiction and pathways in and out of addiction. It was an extremely interesting information session that left us all with a very sound understanding of what addiction is.

WIPAN MEMBERSHIPS

WIPAN encourage any person interested in supporting women in prison or exiting prison to become a member of WIPAN and attend our monthly meeting to share their knowledge and experience. There are no pre-requisites for becoming a member, we welcome all women, and believe that all women, irrespective of their background, have something of great worth to share.

For prospective and to-be-renewed memberships please submit an application via our [website](#) or alternatively download a [membership form](#) and post it in with the small fee to WIPAN, PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007.

CONTACT WIPAN

For further information about WIPAN including our executive members, general members, our funding bodies, strategic plan or WIPAN's vision & aims, please contact us.

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