



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

WELCOME to the 11th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

In this e-bulletin:

- NESB DV Networking Meeting - DIAC Violence Contact Officers
- Domestic & Family Violence - Negotiating the Family Law System
- Western Sydney Mentors
- Book Donations - Over 1000 books!!!
- Service of the Month - Connections Justice Health
- Membership

### **NESB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEETING - FAMILY VIOLENCE PROVISIONS**

WIPAN recently attended a special edition of the NESB domestic violence networking meeting. Two DIAC Family Violence Contact Officers (FVCOs) for NSW presented to the audience a general overview of the provisions, definitions, eligibility, acceptable evidence, assessment, referrals, issues of processing times, security checks and other decision making questions.

*"The Family Violence Provisions (FVP) of A Australia's migration program allow certain people applying for permanent residence in Australia to continue with their application after the breakdown of their married or de facto relationship, if they or a member of their family unit have experienced family violence by their partner"*

*"The FVP were introduced in response to community concerns that some partners might remain in an abusive relationship because they believe they may be forced to leave Australia if they end the relationship"*

The information session was very interesting. For further information go to [www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/38domestic.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/38domestic.htm)

### **DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE - NEGOTIATING THE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM**

WIPAN attended the recent forum Domestic & Family Violence Negotiating the Family Law System, organised by the Inner City Domestic Violence Action Group. The forum was a local service provider's response to women experiencing domestic and family violence. Many guest speakers and audience members participated in an open discussion aimed at improving service delivery for women, particularly Aboriginal, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds and sexualities.

Presentations covered the following issues relating to women's experiences of the Family Law system

- What is Domestic and Family Violence?
- Getting an Apprehended Violence Order
- Family Court process, including Family Dispute Resolution
- Family Law issues for Aboriginal & CALD women
- Panel Discussion

Assisting clients experiencing domestic violence can be very difficult, particularly witnessing the

distress of the client. Having the correct information to provide to clients only works to make the process as easy as possible for the client. As such, I found this event to be very well structured, it gave a clear overview of the DV processes from beginning to end and I left feeling as though I had a better understanding of how the system works. Thank you to the Inner City Domestic Violence Action Group and guest speakers for a very informative session.

### **WESTERN SYDNEY MENTORS**

WIPAN mentoring program is now operating in Western Sydney. We have a wonderful group of mentors eagerly waiting to be matched with women exiting prison. We service the Blacktown, St Marys, and Penrith areas. Mentoring works to provide social and emotional support to women ex-prisoners whilst they are transitioning back into the community. If you are aware of any woman exiting prison who may benefit from a mentor, please contact Samantha on 0415 454 770.

### **SERVICE OF THE MONTH - CONNECTIONS - JUSTICE HEALTH**

NSW Justice Health operates Connections the program. The Connections project aims to improve continuity of care for adult prisoners with histories of problematic drug use who are being released in to the community.

The program offers intensive case management for prisoners through their transition back in to the community. Connections take referrals from services and prisoners whilst they are still in custody. The Connections workers will carry out an assessment in custody and work with them to develop a case plan for their release. They will then work with the person intensively for up to four weeks post release and will help them to deal with all manner of practical issues.

The Connections program is a vital service in our community. The connections workers are highly skilled in all areas of drug and alcohol and provide a service that is first rate. For further information about the Connections Project please contact [www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au)

### **OVER 1000 BOOKS DONATED TO WOMENS PRISONS!!!!**

WIPAN would like to sincerely thank all of the women who have generously donated books to our organisation. We have delivered over 1000 books to Emu Plains and Dillwynia correctional centres. We have many extremely grateful women prisoners who are avid readers who greatly appreciate the generosity of these donations. We would also like to pass on the sentiments of the centre managers Ms Shari Martin and Mr Craig Osland whom have expressed their gratefulness to be receiving the books for the women's prisons libraries.

WIPAN will continue to deliver these much-needed resources to women in prison. If you have any books that you would like to donate please contact Samantha on 0415 454 770 to arrange collection or delivery.

### **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.

Street Address:  
Trades Hall Building,  
Lower Ground Floor, Suite B1,  
4 Goulburn St, Sydney NSW 2000

Postal Address:  
PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007

Telephone: 02 8011 0699  
Mobile: 0415 454 770  
Fax: 02 8011 0690  
Email: [info@wipan.net.au](mailto:info@wipan.net.au)  
Website: [www.wipan.net.au](http://www.wipan.net.au)

[JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP](#)

[FOLLOW US ON TWITTER](#)

To view this newsletter online, please click [here](#).  
To [remove](#) yourself from this subscription, please click [here](#).

Copyright (C) 2011 \*WIPAN\* All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend