



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

WELCOME to the 13th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

In this e-bulletin:

- WIPAN guest speak at UNSW **Network of Women Students Australia (NOWSA)**
- **NAIDOC** Celebration at Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre
- **SHINE for Kids** Charity after 5 Event
- **ARAFMI** NSW
- **Crime and Justice Reform Committee** "Service of the Month!!!"
- Membership

UNSW NETWORK OF WOMEN STUDENTS AUSTRALIA (NOWSA)

WIPAN were recently invited to run an information session at the 2011 NOWSA conference about WIPAN and the work that we do.

"The **NOWSA** conference runs for 5-days, giving voice to women students and allowing them to engage with personal, political, social, and cultural issues that are relevant to women. NOWSA is now an annual conference, held from year to year at different universities, and encourages networks to be developed with women from across Australia".

"NOWSA, was formed in 1987, founded on ideals of creating a grassroots, autonomous network concerned with issues that impact women and women students. NOWSA provides a platform for women's organising across universities and in the wider community through resource, skill and knowledge sharing both in conference and through web branches of the network. The network continues to shift, grow and change, but constantly places feminist agenda at the forefront. Women of all ages, sexuality, ability and experience have the opportunity to be involved".

WIPAN found the audience very intelligent, forward thinking and engaging, which made for a rich discussion around women prisoner issues. We discussed the various realities of women ex-prisoners that we work with and their choices or lack of. WIPAN would like to thank NOWSA for inviting us to be part of such an exciting and refreshing conference.

NAIDOC CELEBRATION AT SILVERWATER WOMEN'S CC

WIPAN were invited to attend the NAIDOC celebration at Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre. 'NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians'. This year's event at Silverwater was very special, a smoking ceremony by an Aboriginal Elder and welcome dance by four women prisoners kick started the celebration, the Silverwater Womens Choir sung throughout the afternoon, various people were awarded with incredible Indigenous artwork created by the Aboriginal women prisoners and we were privileged to hear one women prisoners amazing song writing skills and heartfelt dedication to her ancestors. To end the day we were all invited to enjoy a smorgasbord of international food prepared by the women prisoners, which was absolutely delicious!!

WIPAN would like to thank all of the women who put so much effort into such a wonderful celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and to Renee Van Aaken for extending an invitation to WIPAN.

SHINE FOR KIDS - CHARITY COCKTAIL EVENT

WIPAN attended the [SHINE for KIDS](#) Charity after 5 event on the 23rd of June 2011. The evening proved a huge success with funds raised going towards helping SHINE for Kids provide support to disadvantaged children experiencing parental incarceration. Corrective Services NSW donated \$5000.

SHINE for Kids provides valuable services and programs to children and their families of incarcerated parents. Children are the innocent victims of imprisonment. SHINE for Kids aim to provide support for these children in order to maintain positive family bonds, build resilience and break they cycle of intergenerational incarceration; assisting the children to reach their full potential'.

If you would like to know more or show your support to SHINE for Kids please contact them on (02) 9714 3000 or inquiries@shineforkids.org.au

ARAFMI NSW - MENTAL HEALTH CARERS

WIPAN were very excited to have Keiran Booth, the CEO of [ARAFMI NSW](#) attend our most recent monthly mentoring meeting. The mentors received a introductory session into their two day Mental Health First Aid " which highlighted various mental health issues, how to recognise them, symptoms and some basic skills on how to help someone experiencing a mental health problem or crisis.

[ARAFMI NSW](#) is a community organisation of families' carers and friends of people living with a mental illness which encourages an active membership from among all of the diverse communities of NSW, which is informed by their experiences and provides support, education and advocacy in order to help them effectively fulfil their caring role'.

ARAFMI provides support and advocacy for families and friends of people living with a mental illness or disorder. ARAFMI reaches out with friendship and understanding to all whose lives are touched by a mental health problem. Their aim is to maintain and improve existing levels of support and crisis resolution to all relatives and friends of people with a mental illness, including:

- Connect families to support services and information
- Carers in rural NSW
- Carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent
- Carers from non-English speaking backgrounds
- Young people, especially siblings and children of people living with a mental illness'.

Call ARAFMI Information & Support Line: 9332 0700 (Sydney) or 1800 655 198 (Regional)

We would like to thank Keiran for his wonderful presentation and for guiding us through the evening with compassion, humour, and stories of struggle and recovery. WIPAN would highly recommend the ARAFMI Mental Health First Aid Course

SERVICE OF THE MONTH - CJRC

WIPAN were invited to present at a lunch forum hosted by Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers and organised by [The Crime and Justice Reform Committee](#) titled:

Mental Illness Among Prisoners in NSW Gaols: Over-representation and the Experience of People with Mental Health Disorders in our Gaols

[The Crime and Justice Reform Committee](#) provides information to government, parliamentarians, political parties, the media and other interested persons or organisations concerning the efficacy and cost effectiveness of current responses to crim, and the potential for alternative approaches. Experts in the field are available for information and advice, and to meet with interested individuals and organisations'.

The committee has adopted a reform agenda that includes:

- Justice re-investment
- Sentencing law
- Enhancing diversionary processes
- Bail law
- Transparency in Corrective Services
- Parole Service
- In-prison and post-release programs
- Young people

For further information please contact [Tennille Duffy](#), Executive Officer of CJRC.

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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