



Ode Cologne
The news journal of WIPAN



E-bulletin Volume#2 Issue 14

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

WELCOME to the 14th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

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WIPAN Consultation Paper NO EXIT INTO HOMELESSNESS STILL A DREAM?

WIPAN is seeking involvement in a consultation about women exiting prison and housing.

WIPAN has produced a Discussion Paper that outlines the issues women face in finding suitable housing when they exit prison. The paper is attached or can be downloaded from the following link:

http://www.wipan.net.au/publications/WIPAN_Housing_Discussion_Paper.pdf

The aim of the paper is to generate discussion, primarily between consumers and the community service sector. It is also an opportunity for women leaving prison to identify their needs and to share these with the community service sector.

The issue of housing was chosen as a result of WIPANs experience working with women through our Mentoring Program. Appropriate housing with support to maintain a tenancy was found to be an essential foundation for women to make progress in other areas of their lives and to reduce their risk of returning to prison.

The consultation with consumers and the community sector will occur until early December 2011. WIPAN will consolidate the information gathered into a final report and recommendations for release early in 2012. It is hoped the final report will be a useful tool for the sector to inform their planning for new services and help develop their capacity to service the needs of women leaving prison.

Deadline for comments and/or submissions is 25 November 2011.

Details of how and where to submit your comments etc are in the discussion paper, alternatively you can email [WIPAN](#). Please pass onto appropriate networks.

Self-Help Guide for Women Prisoners REVISED, REPRINTED & READY!!!

WIPAN have worked tirelessly over the past 10 months with Corrective Services NSW Principal Advisors, in what has been a very thorough and technical revision of our 2nd edition of the [Self-Help Guide for Women Prisoners in NSW](#).

The revision proved to be a very time consuming and arduous collaborative task, and as a result is a greatly improved edition. Consequently WIPAN have the full support of CSNSW to distribute the much needed guide to all womens correctional facilities across NSW.

We would like to extend our gratitude to CSNSW for working with us towards developing the guide to such a high standard and providing WIPAN the opportunity to internally distribute the guide to women in need. WIPAN are pleased that this valuable resource will now go directly to those women who need it most. If you or your organisation would like to receive copies of the SHG please contact Samantha on 0415 454 770 or [email](#).

WIPAN Bids Farewell to A Founding Executive Member Cathy Saunders

WIPAN says a sad goodbye to a most valued executive committee member Cathy Saunders. Cathy was a founding member of WIPAN being one of the first elected members onto the WIPAN Executive Committee board. Since 2007 Cathy has made numerous invaluable contributions to the development and organisational management of WIPAN. Cathy was particularly instrumental in the development of the WIPAN mentoring program, using her management experience from the StAMP mentoring program to offer resources, ongoing guidance and support to our Programs Coordinator.

Cathy elected to resign from the Executive Committee after announcing that her increasing commitment to her fulltime position as Community Restorative Centres Human Resources Manager required her time and focus. Fortunately Cathy is electing to stay on as a general member with WIPAN.

WIPAN will miss Cathys vivacious personality, charm, intelligence and passion. We wish her all the best in her newly appointed position at [CRC](#) and thank her enormously for her unwavering support of WIPAN.

2 Exciting Positions at WIPAN

WIPAN is seeking 2 enthusiastic women with a passion and commitment to women's issues, especially that relating to the criminal justice system.

- [**WIPAN PROJECT COORDINATOR- POLICY, FUNDING & LIAISON
- 21 hrs per week \(12 months with possible extension\)**](#)
- [**WIPAN PROJECT COORDINATOR- MENTORING
- 21 hrs per week \(12 months with possible extension\)**](#)

Being a woman is a genuine qualification under Section 31 of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act. CALD and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women with the required skills are encouraged to apply.

All candidates will be required to undergo a criminal records check, the results of which will not necessarily preclude them from employment.

For enquiries or job descriptions and selection criteria, please contact Kat Armstrong on: 0428 312 035 (during business hours Mon-Fri) or <mailto:info@wipan.net.au>

Salary: SACS Award Grade 5/1 (Part-Time rate) with Superannuation.

**Applications close on 14 October 2011
Expected start: 14 November 2011**

WIPANs Newest Executive Committee Members!

WIPAN would like to extend a very warm welcome to our two newest executive committee members Vickie Roach and Lorraine Orfanidis.

Vickie, an aboriginal woman with lived experience, has a Masters of Arts in Writing and is currently a PhD Candidate with Swinburne University of Technology. Vickie has worked as an oral historian with the Koori Heritage Trust and up until 2010, worked for the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service. More recently Vickie was employed as an Indigenous Researcher with the Perinatal and Reproductive Epidemiology Research Unit with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of NSW. Vickie was the plaintiff in the 2007 High Court challenge that allowed prisoners serving sentences 3 years or less to vote, and is a joint winner of the Tim McCoy Human Rights Award 2007.

Lorraine who has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Social Inquiry) is currently working in administration at UNSW. She is passionate about social justice issues and improving the status of all women, particularly women in the prisons and other transitional environments. Lorraine is currently a member of Zonta International and a member of UN for Women. Lorraine has been

involved in the Management Committee of the Parramatta Transitional Centre, Theba (Newtown), the Anti Slavery Project at University of Technology, Fitted for Work, and is the former President of Zonta Club of Sydney.

We are very pleased to welcome such wonderfully passionate and intelligent women onto the board and look forward to their positive contributions to WIPAN in the future.

WIPAN Annual General Meeting for 2011

We would like to announce that the WIPAN 2011 Annual General Meeting will be held on the 26th of October at NCOSS. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. Details are as follows:

WIPAN AGM
5:30 to 7:00 pm
26TH October 2011
NCOSS
66 Albion Street
Surry Hills, NSW

SERVICE OF THE MONTH GUTHRIE HOUSE

Guthrie House is a community based residential rehabilitation and transition service for women who are involved in the NSW criminal justice system. The program is typically three months in length and provides the following services:

- Residential accommodation for women with children;
- Twenty-four hour support and supervision;
- Welfare support services including case management;
- Drug and alcohol assessment and counselling;
- Group work and living skills training;
- Information and education sessions;
- Recreational outings;
- Court reports and reports for DOCS case conferences;
- Assistance with appropriate post-discharge accommodation.

WIPAN have a very close and positive working relationship with Guthrie House who provide many a referral to the WIPAN mentoring program. Guthrie staff have proven time and time again to be a wonderful and supportive team who work tirelessly to assist women transitioning back into the community. If you would like to learn more about Guthrie House please visit <http://guthriehouse.com> or call (02)9564 5977 to talk to one of the friendly staff members.

Important Changes to SDRO Work and Development Orders

As a participant of the State Debt Recovery Offices **SDRO** Work and Development Order pilot and evaluation, WIPAN are pleased to echo the pleasing news from the Attorney General & Justice department that the NSW Government has decided to make the Work and Development Order (WDO) scheme permanent.

Additionally, the legislative amendments pertaining to the expansion of the WDO eligibility criteria, has been expanded to include people who have a serious addiction to drugs, alcohol or volatile substances. The WDO scheme is now open to people experiencing the following;

- Homelessness,
- Intellectual disability,
- Cognitive impairment
- Mental illness;
- Acute economic hardship
- Drug, alcohol or volatile substance addiction

For an updated list of organisations that are able to support a WDO placement please [click here](#)

Annual WIPAN Membership Subscription Renewal Due

All 2011-2012 memberships are now due for renewal (August/September annually).

Among other activities, your membership fee goes towards the training and catering for our mentors monthly meetings. Without it WIPAN could not achieve the excellent mentoring results with the women being released from prison. WIPAN has no recurrent funding and therefore rely heavily on the good will of its members and the community.

Please click for a renewal membership form that also constitutes as an invoice once paid.

Could members please complete this form and send together with the fee to WIPAN at your very earliest convenience.

If you would prefer to submit your renewal online, please visit the membership page on our website www.wipan.net.au/membership.html and then do an EFT transfer to the WIPAN bank Account. Please remember to write your name as the reference if making payment via an EFT.

BSB No: 082-024
A/C No: 82 24343 69
A/C Name: WIPAN
Bank: National Aust Bank

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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