



Ode Cologne
The news journal of WIPAN



E-bulletin Volume#2 Issue 16

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

WELCOME to the 16th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

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WHITE RIBBON DAY - 25 November

WIPAN wholeheartedly supports [White Ribbon Day](#) and the Australian Governments efforts to raise community awareness of domestic violence and its effects on women's health and well-being. 70% of prisoners reported they had been either sexually assaulted or victims of domestic violence prior to coming into custody ([Justice Health Survey](#))

- 69% of female prisoners reported at least one violent relationship 35% reported that they had been subject two or more violent relationships (Butler & Milner 2003)
- A survey of Aboriginal women in prison 80% of women reported being victims of domestic violence (Lawrie 2002)
- 60% women / 37% men reported a sexual assault before 16 y/o
- 30% of women / 10% men reported a sexual assault before 10 y/o
- Nearly 8 out of 10 women report being sexually assaulted as adults
- In a survey of Aboriginal women found that 70% of women surveyed reported being victims of child sexual assault (Lawrie 2002)

What is White Ribbon?

White Ribbon is an organisation that is working to prevent the most common and pervasive form of male violence - that towards women. All forms of violence are unacceptable. White Ribbon believes the prevention of violence against women will change society for the better. White Ribbon believes in the capacity of the individual to change and to encourage change in others. It believes that our generation can and must work towards stopping violence against women. Through primary prevention initiatives and an annual campaign, White Ribbon works to change the attitudes and behaviours that lead to men's violence against women.

Wipan would also like to remind people that December 3rd is [International Day of People with Disability](#). International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) is a United Nations sanctioned day that aims to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being. The day also seeks to increase awareness of the benefits of the integration of people with disability in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. WIPAN acknowledge and support all women in the criminal justice system who have a disability.

In addition, on December 10th it is [International Human Rights Day](#). This is the anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations (UN) of the Universal Declaration of [Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#). The UDHR sets out a certain set of rights that are the basic and minimum set of human rights for all citizens.

WIPAN will continue to advance the human rights, prospects and well being of women in the criminal justice system.

WIPAN - MENTOR/MENTEE XMAS PARTY

WIPAN looks forward to celebrating the achievements of 2011 and toasting the promise of 2012 with our mentors and mentees at the WIPAN xmas party - being held in Newtown on Tuesday evening 13th December from 6:30pm. Gifts and dinner will start what promises to be a great evening for mentors and mentees to get together, catch up with old friends or meet new ones. Please make sure you [RSVP](#) if you haven't already!

CHANGES FOR WIPAN STAFF

WIPAN members and mentors would like to warmly wish Samantha Bamforth the best of luck now that she has completed her 12 month contract with WIPAN. Over the past two years, Samantha Bamforth was the sole paid worker with WIPAN, working as both the Policy Project Coordinator as well as the Mentoring Project Coordinator. In this time, Sam established the WIPAN mentoring project and worked on various policy projects. Thank you Sam, good luck and all the best from WIPAN.

Welcome Ruth & Tara

WIPAN has recruited two new staff, [Tara Williams](#) is our new Mentoring Project Coordinator and [Ruth Bearpark](#) is WIPAN's Policy Project Coordinator.

Ruth is a qualified community educator, skilled policy writer and advocate with over 13 years experience working predominantly with women, injecting drug users and sex workers in wide ranging roles in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Ruth works within a community development framework to advance social justice and inclusion by fostering enabling environments and supporting the self-determination of marginalized groups.

Tara comes from a social work background and has a history working within the criminal justice system supporting and facilitating people's release from custody into the community. Tara is experienced in providing case management and counseling services to people facing multiple barriers, both in Australia, and internationally, in America and Tanzania. Tara works from a strengths-based solution focused framework, focusing on peoples resilience and individual capacities to determine their own full potential and well-being.

Both Tara and Ruth have spent years in various capacities as volunteers both in Australia and internationally, demonstrating a lived commitment to the principles of volunteerism and engaging in a global movement toward social justice and women's rights. WIPAN welcomes their commitment to the essential volunteering nature of our organization and the advancement of WIPAN'S aims.

NO EXIT INTO HOMELESSNESS - Update on Policy Discussion Paper

WIPAN has received submissions and comment from the community sector into the development of the current "No Exit Into Homelessness - still a Dream" project. The opportunity for submissions and comments from the sector closed on 25th November. Analysis of discussion is currently underway and WIPAN thanks all those who contributed to this discussion through their submissions. The discussion report and recommendations are being drafted over the next two months. Further consultation is planned for the new year.

SERVICE OF THE MONTH - OUTREACH PETERSHAM TAFE

Geographic or social isolation, cultural factors, disabilities, language, financial hardship - whatever the barriers to education people face in their day-to-day life, the TAFE Outreach coordinators are there to help.

The TAFE outreach coordinators talk with communities, government and industry to determine the location, length, time and type of course you might need. Programs may combine parts from different courses and are usually run for groups in local community centres.

Each [TAFE](#) college also offers students a range of other [support services](#).

Contacts

Petersham College (02) 9335 2548 Randwick College (02) 9469 8591 St George College (02) 9598 6371	Sutherland College (02) 9710 5004 Ultimo College (02) 9217 5005
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WIPAN OFFICE HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR PERIOD

The WIPAN office will close at midday on Friday 23rd December 2011 and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

**WIPAN wish you a very happy and safe festive season
and look forward to working with you in 2012.**

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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