



Ode Cologne
The news journal of WIPAN



E-bulletin Volume#2 Issue 18

Advancing the well-being and prospects of women in the criminal justice system.

Welcome to the 18th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin.

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WIPAN Meets the Attorney General

WIPAN has been seeking a meeting with the state attorney general for most of 2011 in order to present WIPAN's proposal for recurrent core funding. It was the Shadow Attorney General who supported WIPAN by formally posing a question in parliament asking why the attorney general will not meet with groups working in his portfolio. That week, WIPAN finally secured a 25min meeting with the state Attorney General, Hon Greg Smith.

The minister arrived with two senior policy advisors, he was late to the meeting and early to leave. He smiled benevolently and sympathised with our cause and told us he has no authority to approve new funds to community groups. As he left, he wished us luck with our good work "saving womens lives". The policy advisors stayed to continue advising strategies and approaches to the Director Attorney General who has granted us a 25-minute meeting scheduled in May.

Recruiting new mentors WIPAN

We are gearing up for another round of mentor training after a fantastic and overwhelming response to our recruitment drive. We had nearly 50 women respond, and received around 34 expressions of interest. It was a strong field with all respondents offering diverse and valuable qualities to contribute to the program. Sadly, our training capacity is limited to 20 places and through extensive interviewing we have been able to find the 20 women who will go on to become the new generation of WIPAN mentors. Training commences on Saturday 12th May.

WaM - Women and Mentoring - The Evaluation (VIC)

An evaluation of a 2 year pilot mentoring program for women at the point of contact with the justice system, who resided in a particular area of Melbourne was launched by the Hon. Marilyn Warren AC, Chief Justice of Victoria on 26 March 2012 in Melbourne.

WAM "WomenAndMentoring" is an innovative community based early intervention crime prevention program for women, established by The Wellington Collingwood Inc, based in Melbourne, Victoria. The WAM two year pilot has recently come to an end with a very positive independent [evaluation](#) which was launched by the Hon Marilyn Warren AC, Chief Justice of Victoria at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood on March 26, 2012.

Grant Approval

The new mentor training is made possible through the Streetsmart grant recently awarded to

WIPAN to fund the training costs. All catering, and training materials which would otherwise be paid from board member donations are now gratefully funded by streetsmart grants.

Become a WIPAN member and make a difference!

WIPAN members contribute to innovative and effective work in human rights, social inclusion, advocacy and support. By becoming a member, individuals and organisations demonstrate their passion and support for the work of WIPAN, for the women embroiled in the criminal justice system and for their families.

We are grateful to our members for their financial support, participation in research, volunteering, attending WIPAN events, raising WIPAN's profile throughout the broader community and providing us with valuable feedback on our services and campaigns.

You can become a voting member of WIPAN and be involved in determining the future direction of WIPAN while supporting our communities.

WIPAN membership is free for women in prison, ex-prisoners and people living with financial hardship.

To register your membership and actively support and participate in the work of WIPAN click on this link www.wipan.net.au/membership

WIPAN on Facebook and Twitter

Our Facebook page has quadrupled its fan base in the last 3 months! This wasn't hard considering we only had 30 fans to start with! We need to raise WIPANs online profile especially in social media. We feel that increasing our fanbase will go some way in demonstrating the broad support of WIPAN's work and contribute greatly to our campaign to state government to fund the support and advocacy programs for women in the criminal justice system.

Click here to like our page www.facebook.com/WIPANOz To be super supportive, please encourage your Facebook friends to do the same.

WIPANs twitter account is slowly gaining momentum too. Click here to start following WIPAN on twitter www.twitter.com/#!/wipanoz

International Womens Day

On the 8th March the world celebrates International Womens Day. This year, WIPAN joined other groups to march from Sydney Town Hall down George st to first Settlers Park at Circular Quay. Womens groups laid out their promotional material on blankets and enjoyed a warm sunny day as we listened to speeches from inspiring young women participating in the advancement of women's rights in Australia.

Service of the month StreetSmart

StreetSmart tackles homelessness at the grassroots and are a unique bridge between the community and small, 'hard to reach' agencies and projects that assist people experiencing homelessness or at risk.

StreetSmart support critical services and emergency aid as well as projects that promote social inclusion, empowerment and sustainable change for people who are homeless. When money is raised from the public, **100 per cent** of donations are distributed in the form of grants.

StreetSmart run the innovative Dine Smart program. For the six weeks in the lead-up to Christmas, StreetSmart partners with restaurants to ask diners to make a small donation to StreetSmart on their bill. Every table is asked to add \$2 or more to their bill, not even the price of a coffee or mineral water. It's a simple idea that adds up to a big impact on the lives of people who are homeless.

So when you are planning a night out think about taking a simple action and book at a StreetSmart participating restaurant. While you are there encourage your fellow diners to dig deep and leave your donation on your bill. Be it meeting up with friends, family or an office or business function we need you to get involved.

Tippling: Please remember that your donation should not replace any tip you would usually leave, we want you to consider any donation over and above your tip and support the staff and restaurants who are supporting us.

100% of your donation goes to work: StreetSmart operational expenses are funded through

sponsorship partners allowing us to guarantee to the community that 100% of your donations are distributed directly to charity recipients.

To date StreetSmart have raised and distributed over \$2,024,542 to 491 grassroots projects.

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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