



Ode Cologne  
The news journal of WIPAN



E-bulletin Volume#2 Issue 20

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

Welcome to the 20th edition of the WIPAN enews bulletin.

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### The Voices of WIPAN Launch

You are invited to our launch, The Voices of WIPAN. Hosted by the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, WIPAN will be officially launching three separate projects; our discussion paper, "Dreaming of a Safe Home: Consumer & Community Workers Perspectives on Housing & Support Needs of Women Leaving Prison in NSW", the report on the WIPAN Mentoring Pilot Program and our DVD, titled "Through the Tunnel and See the Light". It is being held from 10am to 12pm, Wednesday 19 September, 2012 at the Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. We look forward to seeing you there.

WIPAN invites you to the launch of  
**The Voices of WIPAN**

This event is to officially launch:

- » The WIPAN discussion paper – "Dreaming of a Safe Home: Consumer and Community Worker's Perspectives on Housing and Support Needs of Women Leaving Prison in NSW"
- » The WIPAN Mentoring Pilot Project Report
- » The WIPAN DVD – "Through the Tunnel and See the Light"

**Event:** The Voices of WIPAN Launch – Hosted by The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC  
**Date:** Wednesday, 19 September 2012  
**Time:** 10am to 12pm  
**Place:** The Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney  
*Light refreshments provided.*

RSVP by 11 September 2012 to 02 8011 0692 or <[admin@wipan.net.au](mailto:admin@wipan.net.au)>

**WIPAN has moved!!**

It is with fondness we remember where WIPAN took our first steps in a noisy office in the basement of the Trades Hall building, prone to mini floods, and other water features, exposed cabling, plumbing and no ceiling. We have now moved up in the world and the building to our fancy new office in the Labour Council building on Level 6, Suite 4, 377 Sussex St, Sydney. All other details will remain the same. Feel free to pop in, say hi over a cup of tea and check out our new office - complete with ceiling and a view.

### **The City2surf - Please support WIPAN**

There are only two weeks to go before tens of thousands of people run from Hyde Park to Bondi Beach for the famous 14 Km City2Surf. While we have fun training for the big run, there is also a serious side to the event. We are aiming to fundraise \$8,000 of desperately needed funds to continue the successful but unfunded WIPAN mentoring program. So far we've raised \$1875. Help us reach our goal by sponsoring a WIPAN team member. Your donation is tax deductible and very much appreciated. Please [click here](#) for donations.

### **NAIDOC week**

WIPAN was invited to attend NAIDOC celebrations at Silverwater Womens Correctional Centre. Three representatives from WIPAN went along and enjoyed the smoking ceremony performed by Aboriginal elders and women prisoners. A delicious BBQ lunch was cooked by the women and enjoyed by all attendees. A special thank you to Renee Van Aaken and Gary Bolger for allowing WIPAN to attend.

### **Hyde Park Barracks**

WIPAN organised our first outing with mentors and mentees to the Hyde Park Barracks. "The Barracks" were built in 1819 to house, clothe and feed convict men and boys. After 1848 the main dormitory held newly arrived female immigrants, often orphaned and destitute young girls from Ireland. A main issue for the majority of the women WIPAN work with is housing. The barracks mirrors many of the issues that women from the 19th century, and women today, continue to face. We had a small group of staff, mentors and mentees who were given a fantastic special tour by Barracks guide Darby Carr who drew links between historical and current human rights issues in Australian criminal justice systems. WIPAN thanks the Hyde Park Barracks for their gracious in-kind tour.

### **Work Development Orders - SDRO**

WIPAN is a registered organisation for Work and Development Orders established by the State Debt Recovery Office, [SDRO]. Work and Development Orders allow eligible people who have a mental illness, intellectual disability or cognitive impairment; are homeless; have a serious addiction to drugs, alcohol or volatile substances or who are experiencing acute economic hardship to satisfy their fines or debt by non-monetary means through unpaid work with an approved organisation or by undertaking certain courses or treatment.

A Work and Development Order may only be considered if an application is supported by an approved organisation or, in the case of medical/mental health treatment, an enrolled health practitioner qualified to provide that treatment.

If you or someone you know has outstanding debt with the SDRO which is not able to be met, there may be an option through this scheme to pay off the debt and acquire skills in the process while also contributing to social capital and community strength. For more information [click here](#).

### **Volunteer Profile - Julie Zezovska**

Julie first heard about WIPAN in her penology class at UNSW where WIPAN director Kat Armstrong delivered a presentation. Julie's strong interest ... has continued in her Masters Criminology and Criminal Justice where she sought an internship in the busy office of Justice Action. But when WIPAN asked the team of interns if anyone was interested going down stairs and helping out, Julie jumped at the chance and we hit the jack-pot. Working one day a week since April, Julie has churned out written submissions to government on victims compensation, the NSW law reform review on sentencing, has researched a literature review on women in prison and domestic violence, and a statement to corrective services on the reduced capacity of correctional centers to offer education to women in custody and the financial burden women incur for pursuing education whilst in prison. Julie said she's enjoyed the hands on experience of the WIPAN office and we here at WIPAN love having her and her bright skills that have contributed greatly to the output of our policy program. Thank you Julie, we are so wonderfully

fortunate to have you as part of the team.

### **WIPAN in the Media**

The City News has published an article following an interview with Kat Armstrong on the ongoing funding issue for WIPAN. To read the full article [click here](#).

Kat continued her media work with an interview on the Monday Drive Show on the East Side Radio Station.

### **WIPAN membership**

The WIPAN annual membership has expired but some 70% of our members have already renewed their membership. Thank you to all our continuing members for your support of WIPAN and strengthening our mandate to advocate for change and social justice. For those members who need to renew your membership, please [click here](#).

### **Service of the month**

The NSW Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) - Mental Health Inc. NSW CAG is the statewide, non-government peak body that represents people who use mental health services (mental health consumers) to all levels of the NSW Government. In this way NSW CAG acts as a bridge between mental health consumers and the government. An essential part of their role is to encourage mental health consumers to provide input into decision making at all levels concerning the way mental health services are provided. They gather information and lobby the decision makers about issues relevant to the mental health system. They seek to influence legislation and policy introduced by the government where it affects the lives of mental health consumers. NSW CAG also keeps people informed of what is happening in the state through their Networks. NSW CAG does not offer individual advice but advises the State Government; in order to influence the decisions which will impact on your experience of using mental health services. We gather information through our interactive website, committees, consumer groups, forums and research about consumers' experiences of mental health services, the improvements they would like to see and what they expect from government. This helps produce the evidence we need to lobby for changes to legislation and policy.

### **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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