



Welcome to the 21st edition of the WIPAN enews bulletin.

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The Voice of WIPAN - loud and clear at Parliament House

"The Voices of WIPAN" launch, held at Parliament House on the 19th September and hosted by the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC was a great success.

With a strong speech that encapsulated the genesis, purpose and journey of WIPAN Cassandra Goldie (CEO Australian Council for Social Services, ACOSS) officially launched the discussion paper "Safe Home: Consumer & Community Workers Perspectives on Housing & Support Needs of Women Leaving Prison in NSW". To hear her speech, click on link below www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm0DuOZEYcg

Barbie Fusitu'a, a long time WIPAN mentor and leader of the community delivered a moving speech to launch the report on the WIPAN Mentoring Pilot Program. Lynda Rich who has been involved in our mentoring program and participated in various WIPAN projects, including the new WIPAN DVD, titled "Through the Tunnel and See the Light" officially launched the DVD with a heartfelt story.

The audience represented a wonderfully wide spectrum of Australian society. From politicians to priests, from women engaged in the WIPAN mentoring programs to many organisations in the sector and those representing the people whom are over-represented in our prisons.

The ACVP Award Ceremony

The Australian federal government and the [Australian Institute of Criminology](#), (AIC) has recognised WIPAN's crime and violence prevention work in our community as "outstanding" and has awarded WIPAN a 2012 National Award and \$15,000 award monies.

The awards are designed to recognise community led crime prevention activities, rewarding good practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crimes in Australia. They encourage public initiatives and assist governments in identifying and developing practical projects that will reduce violence and other types of crime in the community.

The annual Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards are sponsored by the heads of Australian governments and members of the [Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management - Police](#) as a joint Australian Government, state and territory initiative.



Bottom Row: WIPAN director Kat Armstrong (4th from left) and Executive board member Marissa Sandler (1st on right) collecting the national ACVPA award for crime prevention on 1st November 2012 in Parliament House, Canberra.

WIPAN invited to the Australian Launch of Women of the World

WIPAN was honoured with an invitation from Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, to attend a lunchtime reception at Government House on Friday 9th November, with Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall to honour the mentoring of women and girls in Australia. WIPAN was most fortunate to attend this event and to personally meet and talk briefly with Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla and Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir.

The event also had Jude Kelly OBE talk about WOW - Women of the World. WOW is a global festival initiated by London's Southbank Centre that celebrates the formidable strength and inventiveness of amazing and inspirational girls and women. The festival is an opportunity for all ages and backgrounds to celebrate their achievements but to also examine the obstacles that prevent women and girls from achieving their full potential. In 2013, Southbank Centre will launch WOW in Australia, celebrating the women, past and present, that have shaped Australia's history and culture, with talks, debates, music, workshops and much more.

The WIPAN Mentor/Mentee Christmas Party

WIPAN are gearing up for the end of year celebrations with a Christmas dinner planned for WIPAN mentees, mentors and volunteers on the 29th November at the Doytao Thai restaurant in Newtown, starting at 6.30pm. Invites have been sent to all mentees, mentors and volunteers so keep the 29th free for another great end of year get-together. A very special thank you to our WIPAN Executive member, Brenda Bailey for again this year organising donations for a variety of Christmas presents to be given to our mentors, mentees' and volunteers.

Service of the Month - The Domestic Violence Line

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, you can ring the [Domestic Violence Line](#) for help on **1800 656 463** (TTY 1800 671 442).

The Domestic Violence Line is a statewide free-call number and is available 24 hours, seven days a week.

Trained caseworkers

The Domestic Violence Line provides telephone counselling, information and referrals for women and same-sex partners who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence.

Trained female caseworkers are sensitive to the needs of people who have experienced domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Line staff are aware of the special needs of Aboriginal women and women from other cultures, as well as those living in rural and remote areas.

Interpreters and TTY can be arranged where necessary to ensure that all people, regardless of their language or disability can use the service.

The service has an extensive list of contacts, people and services across NSW who can help.

Refuge referrals

The Domestic Violence Line makes referrals to women's refuges and explains what they are and what they do.

It also makes referrals to family support services, counselling, the police and courts, lawyers and hospitals. It helps with transport, emergency accommodation and other relevant support.

AVOs

Caseworkers can explain what an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) is and how to obtain one. Police intervention can be arranged where appropriate and assistance can be provided to transport women and children to a safe place.

Membership reminder for WIPAN members

Our membership is slowly growing. Another 12 people have become full members in the last quarter bringing our total membership to a record of 101 members! Remember to renew your membership annually to stay on the mailing lists and be a part of the change to make NSW a more compassionate place for women and the community as a whole. WIPAN membership renewals are due June/July every year.

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.

Street Address:
Suite 4, Level 6
377-383 Sussex Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Postal Address:
PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007

Telephone: 02 8011 0699
Mobile: 0415 454 770
Fax: 02 8011 0690
Email: info@wipan.net.au
Website: www.wipan.net.au

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