



**Welcome to the 28th edition of Ode Cologne, WIPAN's eBulletin.**

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### **Meeting with the NSW Attorney General**

Last week WIPAN staff and Executive President met with the Hon. Brad Hazzard, Attorney General of NSW, representatives from Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) and Justice NSW. The purpose of the meeting was to establish clearer dialogue between WIPAN and the Attorney General of NSW regarding the current program funding and future plans for an evaluation of the success of the WIPAN Mentoring program. Whilst funding for our Mentoring Program comes from Justice NSW, CSNSW will conduct the evaluation and meetings are continuing to determine the details and arrangements.

We look forward to furthering our relationship with both departments and having a solid report that highlights the success of mentoring and the significant role WIPAN has in the transition process of women exiting custody in NSW

### **WIPAN's Western Sydney Office**

On Wednesday 18 February 2015 WIPAN officially opened the doors of its new Western Sydney office. We welcomed Bec Reidy to the role of Mentoring Coordinator for the greater Sydney area, and have hit the ground running with referrals already received and the first mentor meeting held this month. Thank you to both the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and Max Solutions for their support in making this expansion possible.

## **Corrective Services NSW Principal Advisor Women Offenders**

Corrective Services NSW Principal Advisor Women Offenders, Deidre Hyslop has retired after 22 years with the Department. WIPAN recognises Deidre's contribution and commitment to the improvement of services for women within the criminal justice system, and for helping shape our relationship with the Department. WIPAN welcomes Krista Christensen to the role of Acting Principal Advisor.

## **Mentor Training**

25 volunteer mentors were put through their paces last month in the second round of training in 12-months. The training WIPAN provides is run in partnership TAFE NSW's Outreach Program and equips WIPAN mentor with a nationally recognised qualification. Many mentors have already been 'matched' with a mentee and have begun their empowering relationship.

## **WIPAN's Strategic Planning Day**

WIPAN held its second Strategic Planning Day since its inaugural session in 2013, on Saturday 21 March. WIPAN's members, executive board and staff came together to define the organisations' direction moving into 2016 and worked on establishing a framework for funding.

## **Nutrimetics Donation to Women in Prison**

Imelda Roche AO, the entrepreneur behind Australian company Nutrimetics, has generously donated skin-care products to WIPAN for distribution directly to women in prison through Silverwater Correctional Complex. This fantastic opportunity would not have been possible without the introduction from long-time WIPAN supporter The Hon. Catherine Cusack.

## **Service of the Month: MERIT - Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment**

MERIT is a program available in most Local Courts in New South Wales that provides the opportunity for adult defendants with substance abuse problems to work, on a voluntary basis, towards rehabilitation as part of the bail process.

A number of mentees in the WIPAN Mentoring Program were referred by MERIT caseworkers with the acknowledgement that the Mentoring Program supports healthy community engagement.

For more of the details on the MERIT program, see their [website](#).

## **The NSW State Election Edition - Just US**

Justice Action's publication [Just US](#) has been distributed to prisons and hospitals

across NSW. The special NSW State Election edition features a table of how the political parties compare in areas of significance to inmates and patients and for the first time Corrective Services NSW supplied material directly for inclusion.

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## CONTACT WIPAN

For further information about WIPAN including our executive board, general members, our funding bodies, strategic plan or WIPAN's vision & aims, please contact us.

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

PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007

(02) 8011 0699



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