



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

WELCOME to the 7th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

In this e-bulletin:

- Mentee Final Word of the Year
- Recruiting Mentors to Mentor Women Pre & Post Prison
- Christmas Dinner for Mentors and Mentees a Huge Success
- WIPAN HIV / HEP C Submission to HIV Australia Magazine
- DV Workshop
- Service of the Month – Enough is Enough
- Membership

MENTEE FINAL WORD OF THE YEAR

What has been the most important thing about having a mentor is *“having her to talk to and knowing that she doesn’t judge me even when I stuff up, and when I do she still wants to see me, even at my lowest....I wouldn’t have stayed in rehab as long as I did if it wasn’t for her, she gave me an outlet, with her I didn’t have to worry about what I said in case it was inappropriate, I could be myself without fear, she calms me down”*. Anon

RECRUITING MENTORS TO MENTOR WOMEN PRE & POST PRISON!!!

WIPAN are now recruiting MENTORS to mentor women pre-release and post-release.

The mentoring relationship works to mitigate the pre/post-release pressures confounded by the lack of social support upon release. Mentoring connects women prisoners and ex-prisoners to positive role models within the community and assists them to integrate into the wider community.

At WIPAN, one-on-one mentoring provides ex-prisoners with the social support, skills and direction necessary to achieve positive and lasting change.

We are looking for women who meet the following criteria:

- Over 18
- Live in any of the following areas or surrounding areas:
 - Sydney, Inner West (eg. Newtown, Liverpool, Parramatta, Fairfield, Strathfield)
 - Outer West (eg. Windsor, Penrith, Blacktown, Mt Druiett, Campbelltown)
- Must be prepared to:
 - Get Criminal Record Check
 - Meet your mentee weekly face-to-face
 - Attend a two day training workshop
 - Attend monthly mentoring meetings in one of two locations
 - Attend a Correctional Centre once a month if required
- Must be of a grounded nature, with a non-judgmental attitude and be committed to helping to create positive opportunities for fellow women.

Women of diverse cultures are encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in becoming a WIPAN mentor please complete the [Expression of Interest Form](#) and send to WIPAN. We endeavor to reply to all expressions of interest within seven working days.

For further enquiries please feel free to contact [Samantha Bamforth](#).

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR MENTORS AND MENTEES A HUGE SUCCESS!

WIPAN held our first annual Christmas dinner for our mentors and mentees at the Sherpa Kitchen in Newtown. We all enjoyed a Nepalese Banquet, Christmas gifts, great conversation and lots of laughter. Thank you to all of the WIPAN executive members who kindly funded the dinner and a special thank you to Brenda Bailey and all the staff at PIAC who so generously donated gifts for all of our women to enjoy. A special mention must be made to the mentors who have given so much of themselves over the past 7 months and to the mentees who came to the dinner, embraced the group of women as their equals and who brightened our night. It was a truly magical evening with an amazing group of women.

HIV/HEP C SUBMISSION

The [Australian Federation of Aids Organisations \(AFAO\)](#) produces the HIV Australia Magazine. AFAO has sought contributions for their upcoming edition - Crime & Punishment - exploring issues surrounding the *'criminalisation of HIV transmission, the incarceration of people who are living with HIV and broader issues related to the theme'*. WIPAN has written an article on Hepatitis C and Women in Prison and submitted the article to AFAO. Hopefully it will be published in this next edition. Either way it will be available on our website in the early year.

FAMILY VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

WIPAN recently attended a family violence workshop facilitated by [Greg Yee](#) and presented by the Leichhardt Marrickville Domestic Violence Liaison Committee. The workshop showcased Greg's learning spanning his 20 years practice as a Relationship Therapist. The presentation was focused exclusively on patriarchal domestic violence, what this 'looks' like, the tactics/abusive behaviours used by male perpetrators, the 'reactive' violence of women and the impact of this violence on children. Although the presentation was not evidenced based and only explored the notion of male perpetrators, it was an incredibly interesting day and Greg was a very engaging facilitator who has a wealth of experience in this area.

SERVICE OF THE MONTH – ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

It was WIPAN's greatest pleasure to have recently met with Ken Marslew and his staff at [ENOUGH IS ENOUGH](#) to learn about the organisation and of his work with women prisoners. *"Ken founded the anti-violence organisation in 1995, after the senseless shotgun murder of his 18 year old son, Michael in a bungled robbery at the Jannali Pizza Hut in February 1994"*. Enough is Enough provides a diverse range of programs and services to assist in the reduction of violence in our schools and in the community, supporting both victims and offenders of crime. Ken also works with men and women in prison, he runs the *'R' program for offenders which works to confronts them with the consequences of their actions, challenge their negative belief systems and offer them strategies for positive change*. The program has a strong focus on responsibility, rehabilitation and reintegration. Since meeting with Ken, WIPAN have spoken to several women prisoners and ex-prisoners who have participated in the R program whilst incarcerated and the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. The women expressed that the R program had a very powerful and positive message and that Ken himself was an incredibly genuine and engaging facilitator.

MEMBERSHIPS

WIPAN's memberships continue to grow, which is a positive and encouraging sign of the continued community support of WIPAN and what we are trying to achieve. We encourage anyone who is interested in supporting women in prison or exiting prison to become a member and attend our monthly meeting to share their knowledge and experience. There are no pre-requisites for becoming a member, we welcome all women, and believe that all women, irrespective of their background, are valuable and have something of worth to share.

For prospective and to-be-renewed memberships please submit an application via our [website](#) or alternatively download a [membership form](#) and post it in with the small fee to WIPAN, PO Box

345, Broadway NSW 2007.

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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