



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

WELCOME to the 8th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

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### **WIPAN MENTORING PROGRAM EXPANDING INTO WESTERN SYDNEY!**

Due to high demand, WIPAN are pleased to announce that we are expanding our mentoring program out to Western Sydney and will therefore be servicing Liverpool, Parramatta, Fairfield, Strathfield, Windsor, Penrith, Blacktown, Mt Druiitt, Campbelltown and surrounding areas.

Consequently, we have been busily interviewing a large group of women volunteers from the community. These mentors will be trained and available for mentoring by the 20th of March 2011.

WIPAN endeavour to support as many women ex-prisoners as possible with particular focus on those who find them selves isolated or in need of practical and/or emotional support. If you are aware of any women who are soon to be exiting prison, transitional centres, COSPS or any that have recently exited prison and would benefit from a mentor please refer them to WIPAN on (02) 8011 0692 or 0415 454 770.

### **NSW LAW REFORM COMMISSION ROUND TABLE**

The NSW Law Reform Commission recently circulated a consultation paper regarding Penalty notices addressing issues relating to the monitoring and overseeing of the penalty notice system, the determination of penalty notice offences, penalty notice amounts, issuing and enforcing penalty notices, the impact on children and young people, the impact on vulnerable groups, and criminal infringement notices.

WIPAN attended the round table discussion to speak on behalf of women in the criminal justice system. WIPAN have since submitted a paper to the Law Reform Commission outlining the difficulties that arise for women prisoners post-release and the impact that penalty notices and debt have on their ability to successfully reintegrate into the community. WIPAN maintain that prisoner debt is a contributing factor of recidivism and as such are supportive of an alternative method of addressing prisoner debt that also serves to uphold prisoner accountability.

The submission will be available on our website in the coming months.

### **GOOD PRACTICE IN WOMEN'S PRISON: A literature review**

In this paper, the literature concerning examples of good practice in women's prison systems in

Australia is reviewed. Key international developments are also considered, although it is acknowledged that the potential for transfer of such models may at times be limited.

#### *Abstract:*

Good prison practices are essential for the wellbeing of prisoners and the wider community. Not only do they provide assistance to one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups within society, but they also benefit the wider community by providing adequate support and services to a group of people who will ultimately return to the community. The purposes of incarceration not only include retribution, punishment, deterrence and incapacitation, but also rehabilitation. In order for a prison to achieve this, it is essential to have prison practice models that support reintegration, facilitate personal development and reduce recidivism rates.

[\(Download paper\)](#)

### **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH OFFICIAL OFFICE OPENING**

WIPAN were very pleased to have attended the **Enough is Enough** office opening on the 31st of January 2011. The Premier, Hon Kristina Keneally MP, who was incredibly gracious in her address to Ken Marslew and his team, officially opened the office. Ken and his team were wonderfully attentive hosts of what was a very relaxed and friendly event, Ken personally introduced the Premier to each and every person in attendance, a gesture WIPAN found to be most humbling. Enough is Enough unveiled the graffiti artwork representative of the **Michael Marslew Peace Foundation**, a foundation that works to *"to promote practical peace strategies amongst young people, giving them the responsibility to deal the level of violence in today's society"*.

### **SEEKING A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE**

WIPAN are currently seeking to broaden our networks with alliances or networks that address issues of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. As an organisation that services women with historical DV & SA issues WIPAN are seeking to link in with any existing alliances or networks that meet regularly within the Sydney City or Inner West area. If you can provide us with any information regarding this request please contact WIPAN.

### **SELF HELP GUIDE FOR WOMEN PRISONERS UPDATE**

For those organisations interested in obtaining a copy of our recently published Self Help Guide for Women Prisoners, we are currently in the process of updating it as all of the dialling codes for the internal telephone system have been changed by Corrective Services since our first edition was published in October 2010. We envision that the second edition will be available at the end of March 2011. If you would like to secure your copies of the publication please contact WIPAN.

### **ELSPETH CAMERON – BOOK DONATIONS**

We would like to thank Elspeth Cameron for her generous donation of books that will be circulated amongst women's prisons throughout NSW. Elspeth is very passionate about books and wants to ensure that there is a variety of literature available for women who are incarcerated. As such Elspeth donated an entire carload of books to WIPAN to pass on to women in prison. Thank you kindly Elspeth for your incredibly generous and thoughtful donation.

If you would like to donate books to women in prison, please contact WIPAN.

### **SERVICE OF THE MONTH – ZONTA**

WIPAN was recently invited to give a presentation to the [Zonta Intl, Sydney District 24](#). The presentation was warmly received and members were very interested in the work of WIPAN.

Zonta International is a world wide organisation of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women through service and advocacy. Originally included in District 16 (now located in New Zealand), Australia has been part of Zonta International since 1966 and has grown to be home now to three Zonta International Districts. Together they incorporate 110 Zonta Clubs that are spread right across all States and Territories. Each Club contributes to the service projects and advocacy initiatives by which we advance the status of women and girls everywhere. Clubs welcome support from and involvement with a wide variety of people and groups in their local communities.

Working in NSW & the ACT to advance the human status of women everywhere [District 24](#) is

part of Zonta International - with members who voluntarily apply their time and talents to working locally and globally, on a variety of service projects and advocacy initiatives to advance the economic, professional, educational, health, legal and political status of women.

Thank you to Lorraine Orfanidis, a member of wipan and our media committee for inviting wipan to meet and present to Zonta International.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

WIPAN needs to increase it's memberships.

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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