

To become a MEMBER

Membership of WIPAN is open to anyone interested in positive social change for women affected by the criminal justice system in NSW.

You can complete a membership form online and/or download a membership form from the wipan website

www.wipan.net.au

WIPAN Membership Fees:

FREE for women affected by the criminal justice system
\$10 Concession \$50 Individuals \$80 Organisation

Membership Includes;

- Regular E-Bulletins
- A platform to contribute to positive social change
- Attendance at WIPAN meetings
- Potential to volunteer

Membership fees or any donations to WIPAN can be made via Cheque, Money Order or Bank Direct Debit
Please contact WIPAN for details.
PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007. T: (02) 8011 0699
(Please note all donations are fully tax deductible)

Other Valuable Contacts:

Link2Home 1800 152 152

Centrelink 13 28 50

Lifeline 13 11 14

Mental Health Line 1800 011 511

Alcohol and Drug Information Line 02 9361 8000

Hepatitis Infoline 1800 803 990

Legal Aid NSW 02 9219 5000

Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) 1800 765 767

Women's Legal Service NSW 02 9749 5533

Wirringa Baiya Women's Legal Centre 1800 686 587

Prisoner's Aid NSW 02 9281 7582

Public Interest Advocacy Centre 02 8898 6500

Tenant's Union of NSW 1800 251 101 or 02 8117 3750

People with Disability 02 9319 6622

SHINE for Kids 02 9714 3000

Enough is Enough Anti-Violence 02 9542 4029



"I had a Mentor for 13 months. In that time, I have set up my own home, finished my parole period, and am now leading a positive, independent life."

39 year old Mentee

CONTACT
WIPAN

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www.wipan.net.au

mentoring@wipan.net.au

MENTORING
for WOMEN
affected by the
criminal justice system

Why do I need a MENTOR?

- Mentoring can provide the positive guidance and support needed during 'tough times'
- Mentoring provides an opportunity to create a deep and respectful relationship
- Reconnecting with the community can be very challenging and mentoring can make a real difference
- Mentoring can help the Mentee's personal growth and sense of achievement. It can also be enormously rewarding for the Mentor
- Mentoring can provide the skills to live a life free from crime

How can having a MENTOR help me?

- You will have regular contact with a Mentor who will listen and support you
- You can confidentially share your needs without being judged
- You will learn new skills that will assist you to stay out of prison
- You will get help to find local services and to attend appointments



Can I have a MENTOR?

YES! You can have a Mentor if you are:

- A woman who is over 18 years old
- Have been affected by the criminal justice system
- Living in CBD, Inner West or Western Sydney

We accept ALL women, including women who are:

- ❖ Aboriginal ❖ Torres Strait Islander
- ❖ Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- ❖ Women with Disabilities ❖ Lesbian & Transgender
- ❖ Mothers & Expectant Mothers
- ❖ Women with AOD and/or Mental Health Issues

What is my commitment as a MENTEE?

You are required to meet face-to-face regularly with your Mentor at a time that suits you both, usually weekly.

So then how do I get a Mentor?

It is very simple. Just contact WIPAN via phone, email or website (see back). If you are unable to call, simply ask to be referred by another service.

What is MENTORING?

Mentoring is the relationship between two individuals
– the Mentor and Mentee.

The Mentor voluntarily provides the Mentee with non-judgmental practical and emotional support at a time of significant transition in the Mentee's life.

All WIPAN Mentors and Mentees are women.

Each mentoring relationship is different and is guided by the interests and differences of the Mentee and Mentor.

Who are WIPAN?

WIPAN is a grassroots organisation run by a united group of women, including those with lived experience, dedicated to advancing the well-being and prospects of women affected by the criminal justice system.

WIPAN addresses the issues facing criminalised women through advocacy to make criminal justice systems fairer and on an individual level by mentoring.

Vanessa* joined the Mentoring Program when she was 27 years old and recently released from prison.

This is her story.

I have never been one to play the victim, but it's fair to say I wasn't dealt the best hand in life. My mum and dad were addicts. They tried to raise us as best as they could, but like many Indigenous families, we struggled more than most people could imagine. My dad killed himself when I was 17. My mum was in prison. I set out to find a place where I belonged. I met a group of locals who took drugs, partied and broke the law to feed their habits. It was new and exciting, and I loved the escape. Very quickly, this exciting life became hell. I was addicted to Ice and always getting arrested. I have been to prison five times and I have four children. I lost custody of my first three children. I beat myself up every day and night for losing them. When I met WIPAN, I had just given birth to my fourth child and was on the Drug Court Program. I had no faith in myself and was struggling to stay clean but I knew I couldn't bear to lose another child to the system. That's why I decided to give mentoring a go. I was matched to my Mentor pretty much straight away. This sounds stupid but there was an instant click. I had never had a normal female friend before. My Mentor was clean and didn't break the law, but she was one of the coolest people I had ever met. She understood everything I had gone through and knew exactly what I still had ahead of me. Not once did she ever pity me. I hate pity! Instead, she made me see I was an adult now and I had responsibilities. The past was in the past, and we made a deal that we would only talk about the future. We would meet up, stuff our faces with food, play with my little baby, and she would even come to Drug Court with me and sit in the gallery sometimes. All of a sudden, my depression left me. Life was no longer a nightmare. Now, two years on, I still have my little girl with me and I see my other children once a month. I no longer feel that I need drugs. I no longer feel that I need to put up with a man treating me like crap.

In a few years time, I will contact WIPAN again. This time around, I'll be the Mentor."

*Vanessa- not her real name.