

WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK

We invite you to help transform the lives of women and girls affected by the criminal justice system.

SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS 2017/2018

An initiative proudly brought to you
by the Women in Prison Advocacy Network



WJN

WJN Vice President, Nicki Petrou,
Presenting at the Rebranding and
Prospectus Launch, 2 March 2017



WELCOME TO THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to support the Mentoring Program of the Women's Justice Network (WJN).

For almost ten years WJN has been known for running a unique and highly successful Mentoring Program in NSW that supports women in prison and affected by the criminal justice system.

Our core purpose is to provide gender-responsive mentoring to women and girls that need support in negotiating the obstacles inherent in the process of transitioning back into the community and avoiding re-offending. More recently we have also implemented a youth-led mentoring program for vulnerable and disadvantaged girls and young women aged 14-18 years. This program aims to mentor girls who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Unfortunately, the Women's Justice Network has a modest budget that limits our ability to respond to the growth in the numbers of women and girls requiring our assistance. These women and girls/clients/mentees are disproportionately Indigenous, have limited education and experience social and economic disadvantage and health-related issues. Many are mothers are survivors of abuse and trauma, affected by addiction, and homelessness.

Your sponsorship helps make a difference! Since launching this Prospectus in March 2017, we have been able to provide mentoring support to 10 extra women. We are truly thankful to the generosity of our sponsors so far. Your sponsorship, will enable us to reduce our waiting list further, to provide essential support to women in need and to strengthen our new youth program for girls who do not have access to social support they need.

We thank you for taking the time to read our Prospectus and welcome the interest of organisations and individuals wishing to support women and girls going through our Mentoring Programs.

We look forward to the opportunity of reaching our goals with you. Our present priorities are to reduce our waiting list and to fortify our work with young women in need.

Yours sincerely

President

Women's Justice Network



WJN Board and Staff at Rebranding and Prospectus Launch, 2 March 2017

"I support my Mentee and the network supports me. We are all women with one common goal and that is to empower each other." Mentor



WHY SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK?

Everyone deserves to have a second chance, to be given opportunities to make better choices and to contribute productively to their community.

Women in NSW are being incarcerated at an unprecedented rate. The number of women in prison has more than doubled in the last decade. The entire system is under stress, significantly affecting access to support programs for women and their families. These high rates are not just numbers. They are real women who often come from deeply disadvantaged backgrounds and who have endured sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse.

There are many complex reasons behind these figures. The emotional, social and economic costs for mothers, children, families and the community are enormous.

The positive news is that over 90% of women who fully participate in our award-winning Mentoring Program remain out of prison. During their mentoring relationship they reconnect with family, engage in education and/or

employment and effectively deal with unresolved trauma and addiction. They also positively connect with others such as their Mentor who offers guidance and support through the difficult first steps. This allows women to build themselves a brighter future; one that will contribute to them never returning to custody.

- 61% of women in prison are mothers.
- One-third of women in prison were placed in state care as children.
- Almost 50% of women return to prison within two years of release.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK

The Women's Justice Network is brought to you by the Women in Prison Advocacy Network (WIPAN).

WIPAN was founded in 2008 and is the only community organisation in NSW advancing the prospects and wellbeing of women and girls affected by the criminal justice system. It systemically advocates making the criminal justice system fairer and delivers an evidence-based Mentoring Program to improve the lives of the individuals on the program. WIPAN works closely with key stakeholders such as Corrective Services and the

Department of Family and Community Services for the betterment of our clients. Being a charity volunteer-based organisation, very limited government funding is received and the organisation relies heavily on in-kind donations and philanthropic support to continue our work. On 2 March, 2017 WIPAN proudly became the Women's Justice Network (WJN) to reflect the diversity of the work that we conduct.

The Women's Justice Network provides gender specific strategies that acknowledge and respond to the social factors shaping women's lives.

"People judge me. I feel it each and every day. WIPAN don't." Mentee

SOME FACTS ABOUT WOMEN IN PRISON

32.8% OF WOMEN IN PRISON ARE INDIGENOUS. OF THIS POPULATION, 80% ARE MOTHERS.

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF WOMEN IN PRISON ARE SENTENCED FOR MINOR OFFENCES AND SERVE LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. MANY SERVE LENGTHY PERIODS ON REMAND WHILST AWAITING TRIAL MAKING THEM INELIGIBLE FOR REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS.

THE AVERAGE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN PRISON IS YEAR 9.

27% OF WOMEN IN PRISON HAVE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE.

YOUTH AT RISK OF INCARCERATION EXPERIENCE HIGH LEVELS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MENTAL-HEALTH, SELF-HARM, SEXUAL EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE.

THE MENTORING PROGRAM

WJN recruits, interviews and trains volunteers to mentor women being released from prison. The Mentoring Program is a practical, strengths-based model that aims to encourage autonomy, support community integration and promote overall wellbeing. This provides a crucial support system that helps women to break the cycle of reoffending.

Corrective Services NSW reports that the two greatest predictors of reoffending are homelessness and social isolation. The first 12 to 24 months after release are critical to a person's successful reintegration into the

community. WJN successfully tackles these complex issues by providing women with access to the Mentoring Program for at least 12 months and simultaneous access to our own housing support worker.

The program is highly adaptable and addresses Mentee's individual needs. Mentees report that the program has been central to their success in not reoffending. It has assisted women to make considerable life changes, such as leaving abusive relationships, abstaining from alcohol and/or drugs, addressing mental health issues, cutting ties with negative influences and shifting their focus into employment, education and family restoration.

A wonderful part of this success is the care that WJN invests in recruiting Mentors. We are renowned for continually selecting amazingly committed women from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, with a wide range of skills and interests who share a common passion to support women in desperate need.

The Women's Justice Network, is pleased about our new youth initiative, the Youth Mentoring Project. This newly established programme aims to support young women and girls at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Adolescence is a complicated period for any young person. However, when factors related to parental substance abuse, parental separation, learning difficulties, academic failure, trauma, mental health and socio-economic disadvantage are involved, young women and girls can engage in risk taking behaviours.

Mentoring can provide young women and girls with the coping mechanisms, new skills, confidence, and direction to assist them in overcoming various issues, allowing them to understand healthy relationships and boundaries, become contributing members of the community and avoid incarceration.



Checking in with staff: Mentor, Robyn with Mentee, Kate. Kate had been out of prison just four days and was seeking support and advice relating to her health condition. The staff and her Mentor were helping Kate research the latest treatments available.

The WJN establishes a one-on-one relationship between a Mentor and a Mentee through a specialised matching process. No two mentoring relationships are alike. One common factor with all mentoring relationships is that it takes a client-centred approach. The focus is on supporting Mentees to find and implement their own solutions to issues shaping their lives, whilst enhancing their access to much needed social support and networks. It also assists a Mentee to gain the necessary skills, confidence and direction to overcome life obstacles. For this reason,

Mentees often refer to their Mentors as their 'guide', 'role model' and 'go-to person'. Upon completion, 100% of Mentees said the Mentoring Program helped change her life and equip her with new skills to stay out of prison. Below are just a few Mentee triumphs this year. We are extremely proud and inspired by our ever so strong and resilient program participants.

Current funding allows for just 50 triumphs per year for our adult program. With greater financial support the positive life changes are endless.



Obtained a driver's license



Accepted into university



Completed an online course whilst on home detention.



A healthy little boy is born. He is the first of five children with no state intervention.

MENTEE TESTIMONY

Vanessa* joined the Mentoring Program when she was 27 years old and recently released from prison. She wanted to share 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 parents were addicts. They raised 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 and partied. 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 for losing them.

When I met WJN, I had just given birth to my fourth child. 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 because of my stupidity. That's why I decided to give mentoring a go. This sounds silly but there was an instant click with my Mentor. She was clean and didn't break the law yet she was one of the coolest people I had ever met. She understood everything I had been through

and I knew exactly what I still had ahead of me. She made me see I was an adult now and I had responsibilities. Each week we would stuff our faces with food, talk and laugh for hours and she would even come to my legal appointments and court dates with me.

Having her beside me gave me strength and allowed me to understand what exactly was going on. All of a sudden, my depression lifted. Life was no longer a non-stop nightmare. Now two years on, I still have my little girl and I see my older 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 WJN. This time around, I will be the Mentor."



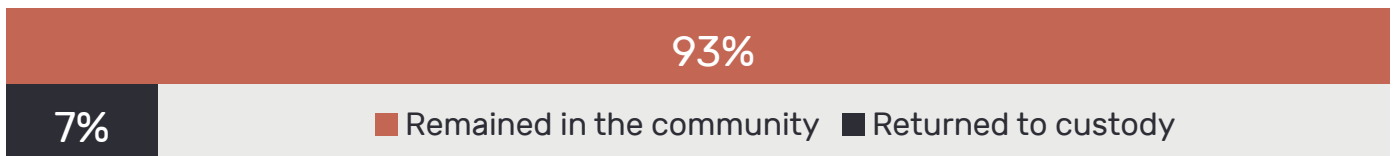
"The verdict is in... I'm staying with Mummy!"

WHY MENTORING WORKS...

Experience has told us that when you combine authentic advocacy with quality mentoring a woman feels supported and empowered at the same time.

REDUCING RECIDIVISM...

During the course of a woman's mentoring relationship the vast majority do not reoffend and/or return to custody.



REDUCING SIGNIFICANT COSTS TO THE COMMUNITY...

Upon completion, 100% of Mentees said the Mentoring Program helped change her life and equip her with new skills to stay out of prison.

The cost of incarcerating someone each year in Australia far exceeds the cost of the Mentoring Program. There is also insufficient current investment in alternative community-based programs.

AS AT FEBRUARY 2017	NSW CORRECTIONAL CENTRE (Direct individual costs only)	WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK (Costs of mentoring only)
Per woman per day	\$189.00	\$16.80
Per woman per annum	\$68,985.00	\$6,132.00
50 women per day	\$5,670.00	\$840.00
50 women per annum	\$2,069,550.00	\$306,600.00

Upon referral, over 90% of Mentees say they have "one or no one" in their life they can rely on.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK?

In addition to its highly successful Mentoring Program, WJN works to raise awareness of and combat the cultural, social, economic and political inequalities that exist for criminalised women. This is done through extensive advocacy work and research on the effects of incarceration and the actual outcomes of imprisonment.

How can you help?

We invite you or your organisation to sponsor women and girls requiring immediate access to our life changing Mentoring Programs. As a sponsor, you can stop a woman or a group of women or girls from being placed on our waiting list due to program capacity.

There are almost 1,000 women in prison in NSW. We know we can and should support more than just 50.

We rely on generous corporates, families and individuals to support our work and increase our program capacity. What can you invest today to help change someone's life tomorrow and make a positive difference?

Your change today will change her tomorrow.

Sponsorship options...

\$6,000 per annum will fund one woman or girl through the Mentoring Program.

\$10,000 per annum will fund two women or girls through the Mentoring Program.

\$16,800 per annum will fund three women or girls through the Mentoring Program.

\$24,500 per annum will fund five women or girls through the Mentoring Program.

\$46,000 per annum will fund ten women or girls through the Mentoring Program.

All sponsorship packages will include the coordination of safe and affordable housing and the creation of pathways to education and employment, both of which will be co-ordinated by our staff in collaboration with the appointed Mentor.

All packages also include sourcing and matching a Mentee with a Mentor, facilitated Mentor training and ongoing support and supervision of all parties involved.

Benefits to you as a sponsor...

- You will make a tangible and measureable difference to a woman's life.
- You will be part of establishing a permanent mentoring program for vulnerable women and girls.
- You will be provided with regular e-bulletins as to the progress of the program participants.
- Name and logo recognition on Women's Justice Network website, newsletters and sponsorship material if desired.
- An invitation to our annual breakfast and regular roundtables to discuss WJNs work and advocacy agenda.
- All sponsorships are fully tax deductible.
- All sponsorship donations will be used for the Mentoring Program and for the benefit of the Mentees through the advocacy, education and support work undertaken by WJN.
- WJN's CEO, staff and/or its Board of Management and volunteers are available to deliver information sessions to your employees or stakeholders.

Other ways to help...

Please contact us if you are interested in providing assistance in some other form. We are able to create customised sponsorship packages tailored to your specific needs. We welcome workplace giving programs and new volunteers.

We are always keen to develop partnerships to help raise awareness of the issues faced by women affected by the criminal justice system and to develop innovative ways to advance our work.

For further information on how to best sponsor a Mentee/s or how you can make a donation of any amount, please contact our office on **02 8011 0694** or email admin@wjn.net.au

“It’s so easy to get caught up in a cycle yet it’s so hard to break free. This is the first time in my life I can honestly say I have made myself proud. Thank you WIPAN for helping me.” Mentee





WJN Volunteers at the Rebranding and Prospectus Launch, 2 March 2017



WJN's Ann Petrou and Sarah Avery at the Rebranding and Prospectus Launch, 2 March 2017



Aly and Courtney, WJN Mentee and Mentor presenting at the Rebranding and Prospectus Launch, 2 March 2017

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