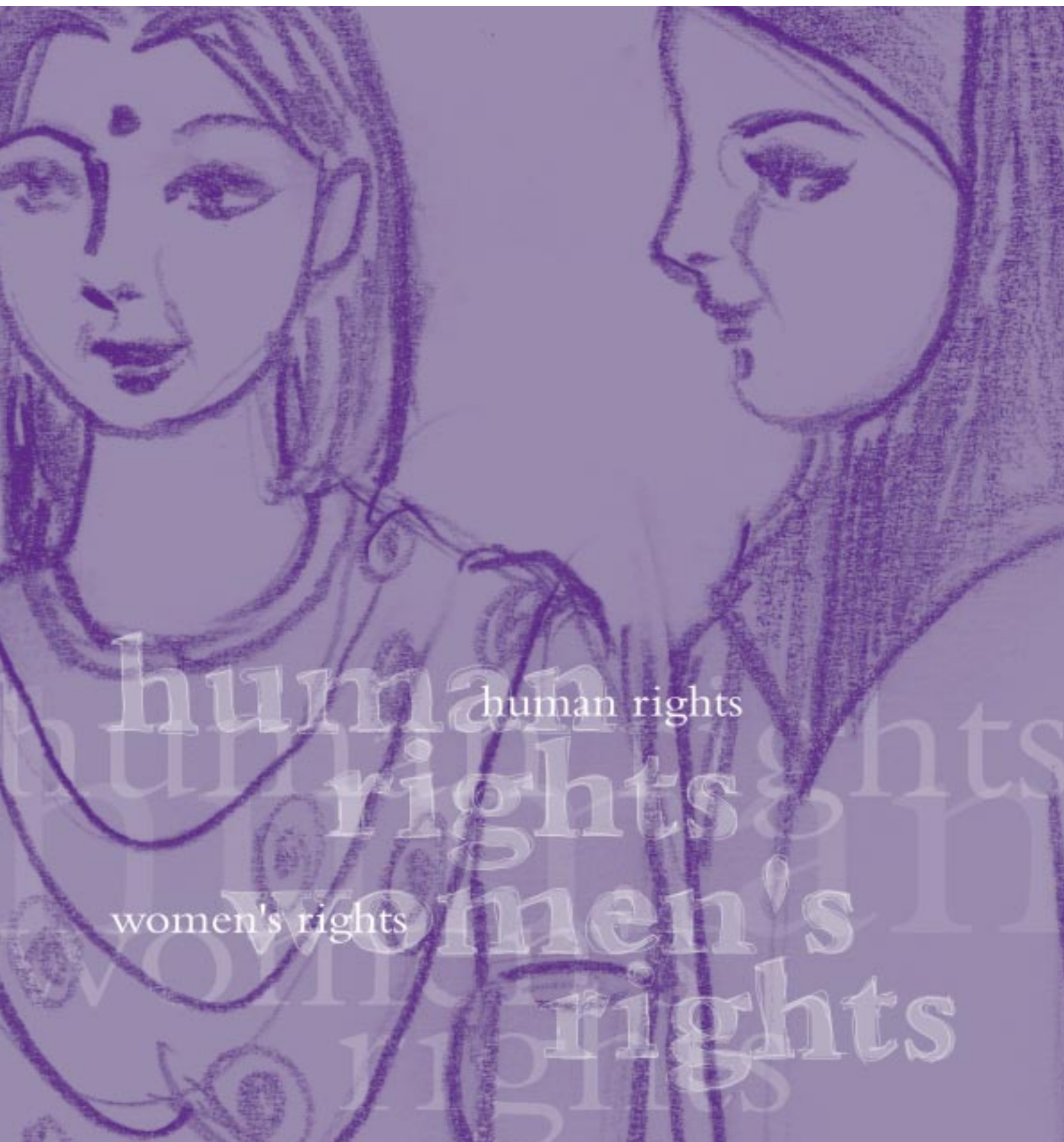


THE **NEWSLETTER** OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN

women *space*

in partnership with THE PREMIER'S COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

issue 18 ♦ July 2002



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Department for Women

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Social justice is fundamental to healthy and safe communities.

The New South Wales Social Justice Strategy is based on four interrelated principles: access, equity, rights and participation. One of these principles, *rights*, is the theme of this issue of *Womenspace*.

The current purpose of the Department for Women is to develop a strategic agenda focusing on women's access to and participation

in all aspects of society, particularly economic development. There is a strong emphasis on building strategic partnerships and communities.

Working with the whole of government, business and community, the Department's objectives reflect the issues that women in NSW have identified as important. They also incorporate the NSW Government Action Plan for Women 2000–2002, which aims for social justice, a sustainable environment, economic development and fiscal responsibility.

One of our most exciting projects for this year is the Women on Wheels tour. Following on the success of the first Women on Wheels tour, communities in the North Coast, New England and the Northern Tablelands region will

benefit from this second whistle-stop tour by a team of government and non-government agencies.

The Women on Wheels tour engages women directly, highlighting common and underlying issues and problems those women encounter in their daily lives. This unique initiative is designed to bring information and increased access to government and community services to women and their families in regional NSW.

Please enjoy this edition of *Womenspace* and find out more about various aspects of women's lives.



Robyn Henderson
Director-General



Women refugees share their stories

YWCA's International Women's Day Lunch

The plight of refugee women was the focus of the YWCA's International Women's Day lunch this year.

The Mothers, Daughters, Mentors and Friends lunch held on 8 March was an absolute sell-out. It included presentations by three wonderful and brave women—Sabina Van Der Linden, Elizabeth Michaels and Adina Nozica—who spoke about their very different experiences of arriving in Australia as refugees.

While each story was unique, common threads ran through, such as the importance of learning English as quickly as possible and the support of other women. The women also spoke about the overwhelming sense of freedom they experienced arriving in a country where they had the same human rights as everyone else.

Sabina arrived newly married and pregnant in 1952, having fled Europe and the devastating effects of the Holocaust on her own family. Adina applied to come to Australia in the mid-1990s with her family after they

lost everything in the Bosnian conflict.

Elizabeth, from Southern Sudan, has only been in Australia for eighteen months and does not yet speak English fluently. She came with seven of her nine children. Following the civil war she left her husband and her home in Southern Sudan. One of her sons is safely in Cairo, but she is uncertain as to the whereabouts of another son. Linda Zaki from the Blacktown Migrant Resources Centre, which

helping many refugee women like Elizabeth, translated for her.

Kiri Hata, Chair of the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women, spoke of the many practical ways people can support and help refugees settle into their new lives in Australia.

The YWCA is the largest women's organisation in the world and has a long history of working with refugees. It understands the complexity of the issues surrounding the protection and placement of refugees and asylum seekers and the need for sensible and humane processes.

For more information contact Helen McDonald, YWCA Social Justice Convenor on 02 9285 6223. Email: helen@ywca-sydney.com.au



Three wonderful and brave women who arrived in Australia as refugees. From left to right: Sabina Van Der Linden, Elizabeth Michaels and Adina Nozica.

IWDREPORT IWDREPORT

IWDREPORT IWDREPORT

THE 2002 UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

What is UNIFEM? It is the United Nations Development Fund for Women—the only women's fund in the United Nations that is dedicated solely to the support of women and their children.

UNIFEM celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March each year, as it signifies the achievements of women in developing countries. Funds raised in 2002 went directly into programs to promote women's leadership for peace building and gender justice.

UNIFEM hosts a series of breakfasts around NSW to celebrate International Women's Day. The Department for Women provides women in NSW with information about the breakfasts and many

other events that are planned for International Women's Day. The Department has supported the Sydney and Parramatta breakfasts for several years, and the Minister for Women regularly attends and addresses the audience.

Women from the public and private sector and community groups all attend the UNIFEM breakfasts in different locations around the State. Young women attend with school friends to learn more about the status of women.

The speaker at this year's Sydney breakfast was Suzette Mitchell, formerly an External Relations Specialist with UNIFEM and recently returned from working with UNIFEM in New York. Suzette gave an up-front account of the situation for young women in Vietnam who are confronted by acts of slavery and violence.

In 2002 the Department took on an active partnership role with the UNIFEM IWD Breakfast Organising Committee. This was a great opportunity for us to work more closely with a non-government organisation and provide real assistance. We look forward to working in partnership with UNIFEM again next year in celebrating International Women's Day.

Amanda J. Garland
Project Manager, Events



From left to right: 1. Suzette Mitchell and Robyn Henderson, Director-General of the Department for Women. 2 & 3. Young women from NSW schools.

NEW on the Women's Gateway



We are pleased to announce that there is a new 'jobs' section on the Women's Gateway. Find vacancies, online resources (such as help with writing resumes) and information about non-traditional occupations for women.

Check it out at
www.womens.gateway.nsw.gov.au

Would you like copies of our new postcard (pictured left)? Send one to a friend, stick one up on your wall, and get online! Phone the Women's Information and Referral Service FREECALL™ number 1800 817 227 (or TTY 1800 673 304 if you are hearing or speech impaired).

NEW MEMBERS



Maha Kraeym-Abdo

Bee Koh

Maha Kraeym-Abdo

Maha has been involved in the Social Welfare field for more than a decade. She is the coordinator of the United Muslim Women's Association, coordinating programs and activities for the Muslim women across NSW.

Maha is often called upon to provide mediation within the Muslim community. She works closely with women on issues surrounding domestic violence and is particularly interested in supporting young women in leadership roles.

Maha has represented the Muslim community on many ministerial and departmental advisory committees, including for the Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Discrimination Board, the Department of Community Services and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Bee Koh

Bee has been actively involved in the Chinese community for over a decade. She has extensive involvement in community issues, especially those relating to women from migrant backgrounds. She is currently the General Manager for Chinese Australian Services Society Co-op Ltd.

Bee is proficient in English, Chinese, Cantonese, Hokkien, Teochew and Hainanese. She is an active member of a number of community associations and is President of the Australian Longyan Association.

PROFILES

Women's Information and Referral Service

The Women's Information and Referral Service provides a free and confidential telephone and electronic mail service to NSW women and their families.

The service is provided in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Malay, Tagalog, Hindi, Gujarati, Malayalam, French, Spanish, Greek, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Hungarian. A departmental Serbian speaker can also communicate in Croatian. Aboriginal officers and interpreting services are available on request.

Our database contains information about more than 4000 services and is frequently updated to offer up to date information and accurate referrals to

callers. Details about most of these services are also accessible online via the Women's Gateway at www.womens.gateway.nsw.gov.au.

Statistics show that callers approach us about a wide range of issues, including family law, health, violence against women and children, housing and employment/income matters. From January to the end of May this year a total of 5347 referrals were made. The majority of these related to legal matters (including separation and other family issues), followed by support services, accommodation, reproductive health and crime. Most of the crime referrals dealt with domestic violence issues. Approximately half of the accommodation referrals were to

emergency accommodation services, which usually provide services to callers escaping domestic violence.



Our poster, brochure and magnetic card (listing 24-hour services) have been recently updated and reprinted. Ring the Women's Information and Referral Service on 1800 817 227 for copies.

The Women's Information and Referral Service is advertised in all major telephone directories. Call us Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on our statewide free call number, 1800 817 227 or TTY 1800 673 304 (for those who are hearing and speech impaired).

Premier's Council for Women to hold regional meetings around the State

The Premier's Council for Women will hold their regular meetings in five regional centres around NSW in 2002.

The meetings will be combined with activities for local women, girls in schools and women representatives from local business and community organisations.

The purpose of these meetings is to support and promote women's participation in their local communities and report to the Premier on issues of concern raised by women in the regions.

The meeting dates are:

31 May and 1 June	Shoalhaven
28 and 29 June	Tweed Heads
9 and 10 August	Queanbeyan
20 and 21 September	Cobar
1 and 2 November	Maitland

The Shoalhaven visit

The Premier's Council for Women visited the Shoalhaven region on 31 May and 1 June and held their regular meeting in Nowra on 31 May. Members also arranged various other activities in the region.

Leading the Way forum for high school girls

On 31 May members met with 24 female students, including eight Aboriginal students, from three high schools in the region—Nowra High School, Shoalhaven High School and Bomaderry High School. The girls were from Years 8 to 12. The small group discussion format provided an opportunity for all of the students to

be involved and gave the Premier's Council for Women members the opportunity to speak directly with local young women.

Professional and business women's dinner

Approximately 50 women from the Shoalhaven region, including 10 Aboriginal women, attended a dinner with members of the Premier's Council for Women on 1 June. After her formal speech, Robyn Henderson, the Director-General of the Department for Women, invited the women in the audience to participate by describing their personal experiences of living in the Shoalhaven region.

The dinner provided the Premier's Council for Women members with the opportunity to hear about issues

that concern professional and business women in the region. Local business women were also encouraged to nominate for boards and committees and were given nomination forms for the Women's Register, a Premier's Department initiative.

Celebrating a Centenary of Suffrage

Also on 1 June, the Premier's Council for Women hosted a reception celebrating the contribution made by women in the Shoalhaven to the public life of their community. The local member's wife attended and the Mayor addressed the audience of approximately 50 women. A local a cappella group, Trilogy, and a local bush poet, Dawn de Ramirez provided entertainment. The reception brought together women from a wide range of backgrounds to celebrate their achievements.



A poem by
Dawn de Ramirez

No time

We smile at one another
across the crowded room,
a quick, bright smile of liking,
of friendship that's assumed.
She's busy as she moves away,
I'm busy as I go.
I have my job and family,
she has the same, I know.
She's everything that I admire,
I'd like to tell her so,
but she's too busy in her world,
and I'm the same in mine.
I know we would have been friends,
if only there was time.

Dawn de Ramirez recited her poems at the reception.



PCW member Neita Scott (bottom left) with local high school students.

ADVANCES IN PAY EQUITY

The NSW Industrial Relations Commission recognised in a recent decision that the work of library and information workers had historically been undervalued on a gender basis.

As a result of the decision, made on 28 March 2002, substantial increases (an average of 16 per cent) were awarded.

The value of the work of library and information professions was recognised as comparable to other professions, including scientific officers, psychologists, and lawyers. The professional associations were recognised as the key authorities regarding qualification levels and work standards for the profession. Relationships between the profession and technician occupations also were considered.

The key issue was how best to describe and assess the value of

work. Real concerns were raised about job evaluation. The Commission said that job descriptions in the award were a better way of defining and grading work.

The value of the work is always the key pay equity issue. The reasoning and evidence in this case are relevant wherever and however the value of work is being assessed, whether under industrial legislation, equal pay legislation, enterprise bargaining or awards. The decision potentially has very wide applicability.

The principle clarifies and addresses some of the main stumbling blocks in equal remuneration cases around the world. For example:

- The principle is not limited to female dominated workplaces defined by a specified proportion of women in the workforce.
- There is no requirement to prove sex-related pay disparity is caused

by discrimination. What is required is to establish that there is gender-related undervaluation.

- There is no requirement to establish the value of work by using a single comparator.
- Claims are not confined to one employer.

A claim has now been lodged by the Australian Services Union in the Australian Industrial Relations Commission for child care workers in community and government centres in Victoria, referencing the NSW Pay Equity Inquiry findings that the child care workers' work had been substantially undervalued and underpaid. The claim seeks recognition of the professional nature of the work. The claim is proceeding in the context of recurrent shortages of child care workers.

Philippa Hall
Deputy Director-General

NAIDOC 2002 RECOGNITION, RIGHTS AND REFORM

NAIDOC Week is an event of national importance for all Australians.

It is a celebration by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders of their survival. It is also a celebration of the uniqueness of their traditions and cultures and recognition of the on-going fight for justice and equality for their peoples.

Each year the NAIDOC theme represents an issue that is important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The 2002 National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations commemorated the 10th Anniversary of the historic high court decision in Mabo that finally

overturned the legal doctrine of 'Terra Nullius', meaning 'land belonging to no-one'.

Sydney was the national focus for this year's celebrations from 7 to 12 July. The National NAIDOC Awards Ball was held there on 12 July 2002. The Department for Women celebrated NAIDOC Week on 10 July at an afternoon organised by its Aboriginal staff members. It was a great afternoon of 'deadly performers, dancers, fun events and a great opportunity to share yarns'.

For more information about NAIDOC Week, including the 2002 celebrations and the history of NAIDOC, have a look at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission's website at www.atsic.gov.au.



RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week was on from 27 May to 3 June 2002—the seventh time since it was initiated in 1996. This year's theme was 'Reconciliation: Walking the Talk'. The week was marked again this year by hundreds of community events around the country. The wide range of community initiated activities at a local level has always been National Reconciliation Week's great strength.

If you'd like more information about National Reconciliation Week see the website at www.reconciliationaustralia.org.

Mudgin-Gal Recognition of Aboriginal Women Awards

Women win recognition

This was the heading on a full-page article in the *Koori Mail* written by Sydney correspondent Jodie Patterson.

The story covered '...a most important occasion which is long overdue'. That is how Malera-Bandjalan Elder Margherita Bruce described the Inaugural Mudgin-Gal Recognition of Aboriginal Women Awards Ceremony held on 8 March (International Women's Day). 'We need to recognise what our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, women of our extended

family and friends within our communities contribute', she said.

The awards ceremony was a combined initiative of the Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation Women's Centre, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the NSW Department for Women. A Department for Women Community Worker Award was presented to Dixie Gordon for her strong commitment to supporting young people in her local community at Waterloo. She is a Gurang Gurang woman, a mother and a grandmother and she works at Wullamulla Family Support Service in Woolloomooloo.

Amanda Garland, Events Manager at the Department for Women said, 'There aren't many occasions that celebrate the work that Aboriginal women do in the community. This awards night is really the first occasion...it's a true celebration and that's really what International Women's Day is all about'.

Funds raised at the awards night will go towards supporting the work of the Mudgin-Gal crisis centres for women. There are plans to extend the awards to include the whole of NSW in 2003. For further information call Mudgin-Gal on 02 9319 2613.

This article contains information reproduced from the Koori Mail, the fortnightly national indigenous newspaper, Edition 272, Wednesday, 20 March 2002.

Photos from left to right: 1. Award winners, Karla King, Melva Kennedy, Brianne Gordon (accepting the award for her mother Dixie Gordon), Lois Birk, Ann Briggs and Cleonie Quayle. 2. Rowena Lawrie (Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council) and Rhea Stephenson (Department for Women). 3. Margherita Bruce lights a memorial candle to aboriginal women. 4. Leah Purcell. 5. A family representing four generations of women (left to right) Aimee Simon, Donna Ingram, Kath Ingram and Muriel Hamilton.



Women on Wheels 2

The Women on Wheels (WOW) project has brought government agencies and non-government organisations to the doorstep of regional and rural women for the second time.

In 2001 the Department for Women and the Premier's Council for Women designed this innovative program and visited 23 towns in western NSW.

We took WOW around the State again this year! Between 24 June and 6 July WOW targeted the North Coast, New England and Northern Tablelands regions. Once again, a bus provided by the State Transit Authority provided a focal point for the project and a means of transport.

A team of women from the Department for Women and the

Premier's Council for Women visited towns, hosted events and exchanged information with women in regional areas. Other government agencies and community organisations contributed by sending representatives, organising meetings and workshops and providing information.

WOW 2 was a great success and we'll have complete report on it in the next edition of *Womenspace*, which is due out in November. Be sure to get your copy. Send us your contact details if you are not already on our mailing list. Phone 1800 817 227 or fax your details to 02 9287 1823. You can also check our website at www.women.nsw.gov.au for photos and information about WOW 2.

Our Partners

State Transit Authority	Department of Community Relations
Legal Aid	Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
NSW Agriculture	Asthma NSW
Rural Women's Network	Breastscreen
Premier's Department Heritage Centre	FPA Health
ICAC	Girl Guides
Public Trustee	Heart Foundation
Department of Sport and Recreation	NSW Cancer Council
NSW Police	Older Women's Network
Department of Aboriginal Affairs	
Office of Information Technology	
NSW Fire Brigade	



Meeting with peak women's organisations and other groups

Understanding the issues for women is a priority for the Department for Women.

Meeting with peak women's organisations and other women's groups is an opportunity to gather this knowledge. The Department's quarterly meetings with women's groups are informative, networking sessions that allow the exchange of information on government programs. They also provide the opportunity to learn what is happening for women on the ground.

The meetings usually attract about 35 women representing a collective

group of around 75 organisations, including Guides NSW, the National Council for Women, the Country Women's Association, the Muslim Women's Association and the National Council of Jewish Women to name a few. The Department for Women facilitates discussion topics, although participants are invited to submit requests for topic areas.

The meetings provide a platform to share knowledge and build partnerships with organisations working in the community. The Department is exploring opportunities to support the work being done and to assist



The Muslim Women's Association recently published their *Future Directions 2002-2007*.

women's groups achieve their goals. As a result, we have partnered with several groups and continue to explore other capacity building options.

Barbara Mofid
Events Project Officer

\$1000 Design Competition Celebrating a centenary of women's suffrage.

The NSW Department for Women is offering an award of \$1000 to the winner of this competition to design an image representing women's suffrage— one hundred years since women gained the vote.

The winning image will be reproduced in a range of material published by the Department, including the cover of the 2002 Annual Report.

Entries should be:

- original black and white artwork on paper
- no larger than 297 x 210 mm (A4 size)

For further information contact Sue Gorst on 02 9287 1919 or Kathleen Phelps on 02 9287 1820.

Deliver to:

DESIGN COMPETITION, Department for Women
Level 4, 181 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000
Attention: Sue Gorst, Director, Strategic Partnerships.

(Include your name and all contact details with your entry.)

Closing date: 16 August 2002

The winner will be announced at the NSW Parliamentary celebrations in August 2002. The decision of the judging panel will be final and no correspondence entered into.

Eleven TIPS on Getting More Efficiency Out of WOMEN EMPLOYEES

Following are a couple of tips from this guide written for male supervisors of women working in banks during World War II.

Give the female employee a definite daylong schedule of duties so that they will keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Numerous properties say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them,

but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.

Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.

Banker Magazine, July 1943

From soccer to self-determination

LESSONS FROM KENYA

It was 17 year-old Kenyan Beldine Lilian Achieng who stole the hearts and imaginations of the 550 delegates from 97 countries attending the World Conference on Women in Sport held in Canada in May this year.

Her story, which begins with a soccer ball made out of scraps from the local tip, poignantly demonstrated a key theme of the conference—that sport can change the lives of individuals, communities and even nations.

Beldine and her friends hailed from extreme poverty in Mathare, one of Kenya's most sprawling slums situated right near a garbage tip. Sewerage services and water supply are non-existent, let alone infrastructure or equipment for sport. Not to be deterred from their goal of starting a football competition, the young people created soccer balls from old plastic bags and string salvaged from the tip. The 'soccer balls' were soon so popular among neighbouring communities they were able to produce and sell them. Income generated was put back into community initiatives.

The football competition evolved into a grass roots, community development project that provides girls and boys with opportunities to play sport in exchange for community health and education services. Run completely by youth, the program builds self-esteem, creates a sense of personal and social responsibility and volunteerism and develops leadership skills in some of the most underprivileged children in the world.

Jeanette Webb represented the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation at the conference. 'What struck me,' she said, 'was that this amazing project came out of what we would consider to be very dire circumstances. It has enabled young people to be involved in healthy activity, build confidence and self esteem, have some self-determination and provide gainful employment. It left conference

delegates believing that with imagination and persistence, anything is possible'.

Jeannette was able to showcase some of the Department's initiatives at the conference and learned that on a world stage, the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation stood out for its innovative programs.

Jeanette was also able to bring back information and ideas that are relevant to sport and recreation in NSW, such as reducing harassment and abuse in sport. Jeanette said the challenge now is to keep NSW at the forefront of development for women in sport.

For further information visit the website www.iwg-gti.org and download the 'Montreal tool kit' from the Canada 2002 site with tips on how to make sport fairer for girls and women, or email Jeanette on jwebb@dsr.nsw.gov.au.

Training for 23 women sports administrators

Sports administration in the North West and North Coast of NSW will be enhanced following the awarding of scholarships to 23 women. The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Morris Iemma, said that the \$100,000 scholarship program is to boost the number of women in leadership and decision making in sport and recreation.

For more information about the scholarship program visit www.dsr.nsw.gov.au or phone 13 13 02.

Multilingual Sexual Assault Information Project

NSW Health's Education Centre Against Violence has been working with culturally diverse communities for several years to develop accessible and culturally appropriate publications about sexual assault in community languages.

The project has involved working in close collaboration with individuals and groups from particular communities to develop culturally appropriate ways of conveying essential information.

As a result, a range of booklets has been produced that provide information about the nature of sexual assault and the services that are available to assist

victims, counselling, interpreter access and the role of the police.

The booklets are available in ten languages, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Khmer, Arabic and a bi-lingual booklet in Hindi/Punjabi.

The Centre is currently conducting focus groups in several of the target

group languages to assess the impact of the booklets.

If you would like copies of the booklets, are interested in participating in a focus group or have any other feedback in relation to the booklets, please contact Sarah Stewart at the Education Centre Against Violence on 02 9840 3737.

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence



In November 1997 all heads of government endorsed Partnerships Against Domestic Violence (PADV).

They agreed to work together towards the common goal of preventing domestic violence across Australia.

PADV is concerned with building a strategic collaboration between the Commonwealth, states and territories to test new ways of addressing domestic violence, enhance and share knowledge and develop and document good practice in preventing and responding to domestic violence.

During the first phase of the initiative the partners worked towards these goals by conducting a wide range of model and pilot projects designed to stimulate new developments and enhance existing projects. One NSW project funded in 1999–2000 was the Broken Hill and Menindee Rural Crisis Intervention Project,

Community Solutions to Aboriginal Family Violence. (The report was published by the Department for Women and is available on our website at www.women.nsw.gov.au.)

A task force was formed with representatives from the Commonwealth, states and territories to set directions and allocate funding. NSW is represented on the task force by Robyn Henderson, Director-General of the Department for Women, and Gaby Marcus, the Manager of the Violence Against Women Specialist Unit, Attorney General's Department.

A clear theoretical framework for action was developed and the PADV initiative is moving towards practice that is firmly grounded in evidence. All projects now have a strong and consistent evaluative component.

A comprehensive national evaluation of the initiative's first phase has recently been completed. It is

expected the final report of this evaluation will be available after July 2002. The evaluation has informed the development of the second phase. Phase Two will work across three areas:

- safe communities
- coordinated and collaborative policy and strategy delivery
- commitment to evidence-based outcomes.

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence is more than the outcomes of its projects. Its influence and the expertise, collaboration and knowledge it has built have both helped to shape, and benefited from, action and expertise at state and territory levels.

Zoe Petridis, Policy Officer

For more information about Partnerships Against Domestic Violence see the Office of the Status of Women's website at www.osw.dpmc.gov.au.

YWCA Celebrate Your Body Lunch

The Department for Women supports the activities of women's groups in many ways.

An example of this is our support for the YWCA Health and Wellbeing Luncheons.

The YWCA's Celebrate Your Body Lunch was held on Friday, 10 May 2002. Rachael Oakes-Ash, writer, presenter and entertainer addressed the lunch. Rachel used humour to explore the topic of body image, disordered eating and female

competition in what was a wonderful event.

The Department sponsored a table at the lunch and invited four students from Condell Park High School to attend. The young women enjoyed the lunch and found it provided a positive message about body image, an issue that is often a devastating for them. We would like to acknowledge the work of Pam Buchanan from Condell Park High School for arranging for the students to join us at the lunch.



There will be four YWCA Health and Wellbeing Luncheons and the Department will sponsor a table at each event and invite young women from various schools to attend.

**Barbara Mofid
Events Project Officer**

2002 Women's Grants Program

The NSW Women's Grants Program annually funds projects that contribute to the Government's social justice objectives of equity, access, rights and participation.

Grants are available to non-government organisations or groups in NSW undertaking projects that will benefit women in NSW.

The 2002 Women's Grants Program was announced in the Sydney Morning Herald, the Koori Mail and The Land newspapers on Saturday, 15 June. The response has been very good so far, with many requests for applications and large numbers of

applications being downloaded from our website.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 26 July 2002.

Partnership Projects

Expressions of interest for the Partnership Projects component of the Women's Grants Program will be advertised on 3 August 2002, with applications closing on 30 August 2002.

Check our website at www.women.nsw.gov.au for more information about the 2002 Women's Grants Program, or ring our FREECALL™ number, 1800 817 227 (TTY 1800 673 304 for those who are hearing or speech impaired).

Young women challenge CULTURAL BARRIERS

Young women will learn to overcome cultural obstacles, tackle community issues and approach life with the personal power to succeed with the aid of a new kit launched on 1 May 2002 by the Minister for Women, the Hon Faye Lo Po'.

The kit, titled *Girl Power: Social Action and Access Project*, was developed by the St George Youth Workers' Network Inc whose project received funding through the Department for Women's annual Women's Grants Program.

The project united community groups, local services and businesses working with young women from unemployment, youth services and schools, including Georges River College, Penshurst Girls High, Kingsgrove High and Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre.

'Young women from culturally diverse backgrounds often face unique problems, including conflicting cultural beliefs, communication difficulties and being different to their peers', the Minister said.

'With the help of the kit, these young women will be trained in social action skills, including letter writing, developing a campaign, communication and negotiation strategies. This resource kit is an important and culturally appropriate resource that will benefit young women who would not otherwise have access to information and services.'

The kit is aimed at young women aged 13 to 18 years from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, their families, relevant youth orientated services and other mainstream services in the St George area.

For more information about the Women's Grants Program contact the Grants Project Officer on 02 9287 1932 or 02 9287 1928.

Each year the Women's Grants Program provides the opportunity to work with the Department for Women on special partnership projects.

(Information about the 2002 Partnership Projects appears at left.)

In 1999 funding was provided to the UTS Shopfront to develop a framework for sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development for women in remote and regional communities. UTS Shopfront worked through a collaborative community development process with women in three NSW communities—Dareton on the Murray in the south-west, Nowra and Ulladulla in the Shoalhaven and Miller in south-west Sydney.



The project report, *Women, Partnerships and Sustainable Development*, was formally launched by the Director-

General of the Department for Women, Robyn Henderson, on 29 April at the State Library of NSW. Jeannie Martin, the principal researcher, and Pauline O'Loughlin from UTS Shopfront spoke about their experiences of working in the partnership.

The Department for Women and UTS Shopfront would like to acknowledge and thank all the women in each of the three communities that supported and encouraged our endeavours. You provided constant inspiration to this project.

Acknowledgments, Women, Partnerships and Sustainable Development

For more information about the project, contact Annie Pfingst at the Department for Women (telephone 02 9287 1906). The report is available on the Department for Women's website at www.women.nsw.gov.au.

Women's Calendar

This calendar includes a range of events, conferences and seminars of interest to the women of NSW.

25-26 July

14th Women, Management and Employment Relations

Conference, Sheraton On the Park, Sydney, NSW. The Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence MP, Shadow Minister for the Status of Women, will present the keynote address at dinner on Thursday, 25 July. International speakers include The Hon Laila Harré, Minister of Woman's and Youth Affairs, New Zealand and Julie Mellor, Chair, Equal Opportunities Commission, United Kingdom. For further information contact Pam Morpeth on 02 9850 8985 (email: pam.morpeth@gsm.mq.edu.au).

15 August

Jessie Street National Women's Library Lunch-Hour Talk, Lady Mayoress' Rooms, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, George Street, Sydney NSW, 12 noon to 1.30 p.m. The speaker is Jennifer Sanders, the Deputy Director of the Powerhouse Museum. She will speak about the museum's clothing collection.

To book contact Shirley on 02 9876 3927 (email shirleyjones@ozemail.com.au) or phone the library on 02 9265 9486.

27 September

Bourke Women's Gathering 2002, Bourke, NSW. There will be a series of workshops covering issues such as budgeting, parenting, financial and business success and self-defence. The Rural Women's Network will run a workshop and there will be presentations about the Aboriginal history of Bourke. For further information contact Sharon Knight on 02 6872 3255 or see the Rural Women's Network website at www.agric.nsw.gov.au.

20-23 October

Women and Policing Globally – International Conference. The 3rd conference in the Australasian Women and Policing series and the 40th annual International Association of Women Police conference will provide an interactive forum to examine and share models of policing

from around the world. Further information is available from the Conference Coordinators on 02 6292 9000 (email confco@austarmetro.com.au).

2 November

Gay Games VI, participants will include 14,000 athletes, 3000 cultural participants and 25,000 overseas visitors. The Gay Games is committed to equal opportunity and this year aims to achieve a 50 per cent participation rate for women. The motto is 'inclusion, participation and personal best'. Further information is available from the website at www.sydney2002.org.au or phone 02 9235 7000.

Please submit your organisation's event details to Carolyn Inman before 30 September 2002 for inclusion in the next edition of *Womenspace*.

Telephone 02 9287 1934,
fax 02 9287 1823 or email
carolyn.inman@women.nsw.gov.au.

FIND MORE EVENTS LISTED ONLINE
www.womens.gateway.nsw.gov.au

III World Congress on Rural Women

The First International Conference on Women in Agriculture was held in Melbourne, Victoria in 1994 and the second in Washington, DC in 1998. The third conference will be held in Madrid, Spain in early October 2002. The program in Spain will build on the successes of the first two

conferences and focus on current and relevant issues of importance to Australia.

Would you like to attend the conference as part of an organised international group? There will be a range of cultural, heritage and industry specific programs that will complement the conference and address agribusiness opportunities in Europe. Each tour will be around 7 to 8 days.

To register your interest contact:

Agritours Australia
PO Box 814
Armidale NSW 2350
Phone 1800 136 003
Fax: 02 6772 2244
Email: tmithcell@agritours.com.au
Website: www.agritours.com.au

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