



Indigenous Women's Network and Friends

Welcome to the first edition of the Aboriginal Women's Network and friends news. We are pleased to announce, that since starting up our network only three months ago, we have reached almost 100 members and have held a successful event attracting over 100 women and their families who helped us celebrate International Women's day and the National Apology.

A big thank you goes out to all those that helped organise our Women's Day event, and to those individuals and members of parliament who contributed with organising and financing the event. In particular Nina Boydell, Wendy Watson (Amnesty International) Ben Wyatt MP, Shelley Archer MLC and Giz Watson MLC. Kathleen Toomath, Colleen Hayward, Carol Dowling, Gail Beck, Hannah McGlade, Jeremy Garlett, Helen Bishop, Vickie Hovane and Ros Harley and our wonderful dancers Justina Truscott; Kwarbah Djookian Dance Group, Donna Atkins Guitar Performance and many others.

What are we all about?

For those of you who don't know about our group, we are State wide Women's email and discussion network, formed to promote a strong and positive voice for all Aboriginal Women through pursuing recognition of their key roles in the community, by networking and forging links between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women across WA. Our structure is a small organising group supported by an extensive email network of more than a 100 women from different backgrounds, professions and regions.

Key themes

While we have only had a small number of meetings so far, we have discussed the key issues of Aboriginal Women and the Justice system and whether or not there is a need for a dedicated Aboriginal Women's legal service, Aboriginal women's political voices at a local and State Government level, the role of Aboriginal women in addressing sexual abuse in communities, and lastly assisting Aboriginal Women in remote communities.

What we need from you!

We need more Aboriginal and non-aboriginal women for our Perth organising committee, which meets once a month to discuss and develop ideas about what the network will do. Also we would like women in regional areas to set up smaller networks even if just via email to strengthen our ability to support Aboriginal women outside of Perth. Finally we need ideas from all women on this network about how we promote a strong voice for Aboriginal women.

To join the network email:

aboriginalwomensnetwork@hotmail.com

While currently our focus has been activities held in the Perth CBD we are encouraging Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women in remote and rural areas to join our network and hold regional meetings.



Woman in Feature/Community Leader

Born in Derby, Natalie Davey grew up in Bunuba country near Fitzroy Crossing in the north of WA but also claims Walmajarri on her grandfather's side. She holds a Bachelor of Business from Notre Dame University and manages the sales and administration areas of Magabala Books.

Natalie has been working with Magabala books as head of administrations and sales since 2005, and still loving it. A not for profit Indigenous publishing house located in Broome WA, Magabala is a one of a kind organisation. In over 20 years of publishing and releasing over 100 titles.

"I see Magabala Books being of great importance to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander people of Australia by providing a medium in which their stories can be preserved for future generations and the wider community. The books are unique and worth the investment. The company has invested so much into me too, always giving me the opportunity to better my skills."

She has participated in a number of leadership programs including Youth Challenge Australia, completing two months' volunteer work overseas, and more recently, she was selected to participate in the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program in Perth. Natalie is also a panel member of YCulture which provides start-up funding for arts projects initiated by young people. She has been involved in Young Women's Leadership programs as a team leader and a volunteer overseas educating young people about HIV/AIDS.

Natalie also loves all types of art and craft and will try out everything if she gets a chance to. She's is a keen painter and hopes one day to be able to exhibit her work. Her favourite artists are Australian foremost surrealist artist James Gleeson and Spanish surrealist painter Joan Miró i Ferrà and Natalie's favorite painting is Joan Miro's 'Carnival of Harlequin'.

Future plans include travelling to Canada on a working holiday as she is always focused on expanding her boundaries; and always looking for the opportunity to create the possibilities of Adventure and Empowerment for everyone she comes across.

State Scene

Active Women's Groups in WA

Indigenous Women's Congress
(Government Advisory Board)

The Indigenous Women's Congress was established as a result of recommendations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women at the 2002 Women's Convention Your Future - Your Say, consultations around the state and the national Indigenous Women's Gathering in 2003. The Congress is part of the State Government's commitment to reconciliation and the creation of opportunities for Indigenous people.

The congress is made up of local WA Indigenous Women and is an advisory body to the State Government, through the Minister for Women's Interests and the Office of Women's Policy.

Current representatives of the Congress are from all the geographic regions in Western Australia and reflect the diversity of Indigenous women. The members are leaders from business, the general community, Government and non-government organisations and advise the State Government on issues and policies which impact on Indigenous women, their families and their communities.

Nominations for congress positions will be called for soon and keep reading our publication and local press to find out more.

For further information, please contact denese.griffin@communities.wa.gov.au at the Office of Women's policy. Head Office Level 7, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street WEST PERTH WA 6005

General Enquiries (08) 6217 8700

WOMEN ACROSS THE STATE Other Women's group activities.

IWC

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Nominations will open for IWC representatives mid-year 2008.

Contact details: owp@dcd.wa.gov.au

The NAIDOC Perth Opening and Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday 6 July 2008 at Wellington Square East Perth, between 12pm and 4pm.

This is a free event open to all people in Perth. Please spread the word and join in our celebrations and culture.

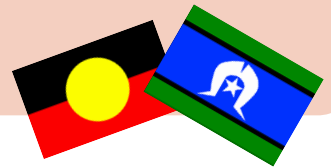
Purpose

The NAIDOC Week Opening Ceremony has four key purposes:

- officially open NAIDOC week celebrations in Perth with a flag raising ceremony and Welcome to Country;
- present the winners of the NAIDOC Perth Awards;
- showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music and dance; and
- promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, organisations and businesses with community stalls.

The event will be alcohol and drug free, with families encouraged to attend through the provision of children's activities. It will also be a day of 'healing', with respect to the Sorry Day Apology that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd nationally made to Aboriginal Stolen Generations on 13 February 2008. Key Aboriginal agencies will be involved to provide referrals for counselling and healing. Other agencies and businesses will promote their services.

For more NAIDOC info please visit <http://www.naidocperth.org/>



Indigenous Family Violence National Research & Policy Forum, Canberra

The National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) at the Australian National University hosted a forum for researchers and policy makers working on Indigenous family violence, to provide information and advice on the development of a national research strategy to address family violence in Indigenous communities.

The Forum was held on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 April 2008 at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra and was hosted by Professor Mick Dodson.

Some of the participants included Matilda House Williams, Patricia Anderson, Dr Kyllie Cripps, Prof. Judy Atkinson, Dr Harry Blagg, Victoria Hovane, Greg Telford, Dr Michael Adams, Dr Juliet Behrens, Marcia Ella-Duncan, Dr Roslyn Baxter, Tjanara Goreng Goreng, Darren Dick, Gillian Calvert, Megan Davis, Hannah McGlade, Dr Judy Putt, Winsome Matthews, Fr Brian McCoy and a number of other participants.

A key outcome of the Forum was to identify a National Indigenous Family Violence Research Strategy that informs policy development in this area - what such a strategy looks like and how do we do it?

We will keep you posted as and when we received further information regarding this strategy.

Federal Scene

National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women & Children

The Commonwealth Government has appointed a National Council to reduce violence against women and children. The Council will oversee the development of a National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children.

In order to do this, the Office of Women, Canberra arranged for a consultant Colmar Brunton Social Research to facilitate a listening tour with professional stakeholders. The consultations were held in Perth on Thursday 12 June, 2008 at Citi Gate Perth, and sought input on what is currently in place to prevent or respond to domestic and family violence, and sexual assault - for both victims and survivors, and perpetrators.

The Council will assist with the development and implementation of the Plan by providing expert advice and direction to the Government to ensure evidence, best practice and innovation are properly considered.

The Council is chaired by international human rights advocate, Libby Lloyd AM, with support from deputy-chair, Heather Nancarrow, Director of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research.

Congratulations to Darinda Cox our local WA woman appointed to this Council. Other members appointed are Lisa Wilkinson, Pauline Woodbridge, Vanessa Swan, Andrew O'Keefe, Melanie Heenan, Associate Professor Moira Carmody, Maria Dimopoulos and Rachel Kayrooz.

Upcoming priorities include:

Developing respectful relationship resources for Australian high school students to educate young Australians, particularly boys, about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault; \$1 million over four years to support White Ribbon Day education activities in rural and regional communities to promote culture-change that will reduce violence against women; and toughening and harmonising State and Territory domestic violence and sexual assault laws.

We will keep you posted regarding any information that we receive about the outcomes of these consultations or whether there will be any further consultations in regional WA.

WomenSpeak Network (Community network)

WomenSpeak is a National network of women diverse backgrounds supporting Aboriginal women locally organised by Dot Henry and Friends. For more information contact: Dot.Henry@heartfoundation.org.au

WomenSpeak Network is a network of 38 non-government organisations that have a specific focus on the impacts of policy and service delivery on women in Australia. Members are predominantly national organisations. In the case of no relevant national organisation existing WomenSpeak Network includes state- or territory-based organisations or groups.

After a period of extensive consultation we chose to form a network that did not speak as a unified voice, but reflected our diversity. We also chose to adopt mechanisms that allow members to opt into involvement in the projects and activities that support their own work.

The identified priorities of the network are:

- human rights;
- the involvement of young women and ensuring a youth voice in policy work;
- inclusion and representation of the diversity of women in Australia and their different life experiences;
- networking and strengthening women's organisations, groups and gatherings through sharing resources, information, experience and good communication.; and
- participating in federal policy issues as they arise.

We recognise that the current participants of the WomenSpeak Network do not reflect the full diversity of women in Australia and are actively seeking to strengthen the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women; women with disabilities and immigrant and refugee women both within our network and within the women's sector.

More information about the principles, objectives or activities of the WomenSpeak Network is available at <http://www.ywca.org.au/projects/womenspeak/index.php> or contact Kathy Richards at womenspeak@ywca.org.au or 02 6230 5152.

Upcoming Events...

Aboriginal Women's Network Organising Committee Meeting

All welcome!

When 5pm, Thursday 10 July

DIA, 1st Floor, 197 St Georges Tce, Perth

Contact numbers: Mia – 0438 974 847 or Vickie – 0417 928 216

Parking available at the Convention Centre

Employment Opportunities

Position Vacant – Solicitor – Women’s Law Centre of WA

The Women’s Law Centre of WA is a community legal centre dedicated to assisting women to access justice.

We have a new solicitor position available for a 12-month contract, with potential for extension or permanence dependant on funding. We will consider full-time and part-time applications.

We currently have a team of 3 lawyers plus community development and support staff. We provide advice, minor assistance and representation primarily in family law and domestic violence areas. We also run community legal education and law reform projects.

For further information, including selection criteria, please contact Kate Davis, Managing Solicitor, on (08) 9272 8855 or wlcenreofwa@inet.net.au.

Expressions of interest close Friday 18 July 2008.

Indigenous Community Engagement & Partnerships Officer - Internship

12 Month Contract

(Position Number: 30826)

Salary negotiable \$48,705.58 - \$54,483.57 per annum. Attracts up to 15% Superannuation

In the 12 month period of the internship, the successful applicant will participate in training, mentoring and supervision to achieve a high level of competency in community engagement, capacity and partnership building. On completion of the internship, and subject to the achievement of the pre-determined and tailored learning objectives, it is intended that the incumbent will be offered a permanent position in the City of Swan.

The City of Swan is inviting applications from Indigenous people to fill this exciting position.

The position duties include assisting in the development and implementation of:

- Indigenous community development and community engagement strategies, with a focus on processes that engage and empower Indigenous women;
- Policies, procedures, protocols and projects to build the capacity of the City of Swan and the Swan Indigenous community through collaboration and effective inter sectorial partnerships;
- Assisting in the evaluation of partnerships and Indigenous community engagement approaches and processes; and
- Supporting community groups in obtaining and/or managing grants.

In this role you will provide professional advice and recommendations to Council, Management and staff, and Executive Support to the Swan Indigenous Reference Group. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, minutes and correspondence.

Experience in community development with Indigenous communities is essential for this position as is a current C class driver’s licence. You must have good organisational and communication skills and possess good word processing skills. While not essential, relevant tertiary qualifications are desirable.

Questions about the role can be directed to Helen Lynes on 9267 9107.

Applicants must address the selection criteria. An application package is available on the City’s website www.cityofswan.com.

Applications close at 4pm, Friday 27 June 2008 and will be accepted by email hr@swan.wa.gov.au or in hard copy addressed to The Manager, Human Resources, City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland WA 6936.

Requirement: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need only apply as defined under Sections 50D & 51 Equal Opportunity Act