

# Women and Psychology Newsletter

APS WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

Volume 23 Issue 1

February 2011

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National	p.2-6	<p>Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Women and Psychology newsletter for 2011. In a few weeks the celebrations for 100 years of International Women's Day will begin. I have chosen a selection of events that are occurring in each state to highlight the many issues women remain actively involved in and the way women use their talents to keep these issues prominent.</p> <p>This edition contains the news from the Women and Psychology conference held in Nelson; Aotearoa New Zealand in December last year and the planning is well underway for the 2011 conference in Wollongong.</p> <p>As you know, I am always excited to receive articles and this edition has a paper from Karen Carlson explaining her research conducted with Liz Mulder. The project was one of the winners of the 2010 Elaine Dignan Award presented each year by the Women and Psychology Interest Group. If you have an article or items of interest or concern that you would like published in the next newsletter, the deadline is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2011</p> <p><a href="mailto:sal@infoxchange.net.au">mailto: sal@infoxchange.net.au</a></p> <p>Sally Northfield</p>
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## CONFERENCE Snapshot

**National Indigenous  
Domestic Violence  
Conference**  
Gold Coast, Qld  
May 17-19, 2011

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**ACRAWSA  
Directions and  
Intersections  
Surfers Paradise, Qld  
Dec 7-9, 2011  
CALL FOR PAPERS  
By July 31<sup>st</sup> 2011**

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**Preliminary notice  
APS Women and  
Psychology Interest Group  
Conference 2011  
Valuing women and  
children in their diverse  
life contexts  
2 – 4 December, 2011  
Wollongong NSW**

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**The deadline for  
submissions to this year's  
APS Conference in  
Canberra is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>  
March**

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**36th Annual AWP  
Conference:  
Generating Feminisms  
USA - March 2011**

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**Women's World 2011  
"Inclusions, exclusions,  
and seclusions: Living in a  
globalized world"  
Canada, July 2011**

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**4th World Congress on  
Women's Mental Health,  
Madrid - March 2011**

## CONFERENCES

### 1: **2011 National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference to be held at Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, Australia on May 17-19, 2011**

Indigenous presentation stole the show at GCA-DV's Global DV Conference in KL

Following the successful staging of the Global Domestic Violence Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, it was decided that a national indigenous conference be organized in Australia. One of the highlights of the event was the presentation by Mr. Hughie Pepper, an Indigenous Australian and Dr. Chris Laming of Monash University who presented a keynote on 'Engaging Australian Indigenous Men to Stop Violence'.

Hughie Pepper is an Aboriginal man of the Gunnai Kurnai people of Gippsland. He is a community leader, enormously respected. Hughie is the 'go to' person, highly regarded by both mainstream and indigenous workers alike, because of his integrity, genuineness and ability to quietly get things done. By developing programs in conjunction with others whilst taking a holistic approach to combating domestic violence within his community, Mr. Pepper outlined his work that bridges and links two worlds, the Koorie and non-aboriginal people in his area. In his presentation, he further outlined the work within the Regional Indigenous men's behaviour program. Furthermore, his work as case manager based at the Latrobe Community Health Service proven to be a leading factor in combating domestic violence within the whole region, working and facilitating men's behaviour change groups for more than ten years.

Because of his Aboriginality and his status, based on who he is and how he is, Hughie Pepper has been able to challenge those men in the Aboriginal community who are abusive. It was quite clear from Mr. Pepper's presentation and soon become apparent that he is a role model for young men and boys and demonstrates how he straddles two worlds, whilst keeping his sense of humour and his feet on the ground. Delegates at the conference were impressed with the presentation, the approach that Mr. Pepper's team and community were taking to overcome domestic violence in his area.

Indigenous people from throughout Australia should take pride and feel proud of the many of successful projects to overcome family violence in the country. From an Indigenous point of view, Australia is one of the leading countries in overcoming domestic violence, placing Indigenous Australians at the forefront of the battle. One of the things that emerged from the conference was the need for further development of the global coalition's network and to further engage indigenous input into the coalition. To this end, a series of smaller conferences will be held throughout the world, devoted to indigenous domestic violence issues within local communities.

The 2011 National Indigenous Australian Domestic Violence Conference is scheduled to be held at the Sea World Resort in the Gold Coast. Planning is in the early stages however, the date will be 17-19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The conference will focus on increasing awareness of programs being delivered throughout Australia and some parts of the world. One of the special guest speakers will be Ms. Maria Liza Edubas from the Philippines who is the chairperson of the Global Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCA-DV). There will also be guest speakers from New Zealand and Thailand.

To ensure grassroots community programs are highlighted, no less than 50% of the conference proceedings are devoted to community groups. An Australian Indigenous working group is being established to advise the coalition on correct adherence to cultural equilibrium.

For more information on the 2011 National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference in Australia, please visit <http://ica-dv.webs.com> or send us an email at [sosmedical@ymail.com](mailto:sosmedical@ymail.com)

## 2:

### **FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Directions and Intersections**

**December 7-9, Surfers Paradise, Queensland**

**Abstracts should be submitted to [conference2011@acrawsa.org.au](mailto:conference2011@acrawsa.org.au)**

**by July 31st 2011.**

Now in its eighth year, the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association will convene its 2011 conference collaboratively with the Indigenous Studies Research Network at the Queensland University of Technology headed by Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson, founding President of ACRAWSA.

The conference will centre the aims of the Association and those working in the field to:

- Respect the existence of, and continuing rights deriving from, Indigenous sovereignties in Australia and elsewhere, and
- Critically investigate and challenge racial privilege and the construction and maintenance of race and whiteness, both past and present.

To this end, the conference committee invites submissions for individual papers and symposia focusing on topics relating to critical race and whiteness studies from within Australia and abroad.

Whilst the 2011 conference is open to all topics and areas, some suggested topics might include:

- Race and population debates
- Prohibitions on naming race and racism
- Refugees, detention, off-shore detention
- The anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations
- The Northern Territory Intervention
- Critical race and whiteness methodologies
- Patriarchal white sovereignty
- Feminisms and critical race studies
- Sexual racism (i.e., within sexual and gender minority communities)
- Gillard and race politics
- Whiteness and climate change
- Race and dis/ability

ACRAWSA is committed to supporting Indigenous scholars as well as postgraduate scholars, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. An announcement will be made in 2011 advertising scholarships for postgraduate and Indigenous scholars to attend the conference.

Presenters should note ACRAWSA's commitment to the recognition of Indigenous sovereignties and the challenging of race privilege. Non-Indigenous presenters in particular are encouraged to give due consideration to the implications of their presentation in terms of privilege and the sovereignty of the First Nations people upon whose land non-Indigenous people work and live.

# 3:

## START PLANNING

### APS Women and Psychology Interest Group Conference 2011 Valuing women and children in their diverse life contexts 2 – 4 December, 2011 Wollongong NSW Australia

#### Keynote speakers

- Dr Cordelia Fine is an academic psychologist and writer. Described as “a brilliant feminist critic of the neurosciences”, the *Guardian* suggested that her recent book, *Delusions of gender: The real science behind sex differences*, “could have far-reaching consequences as significant as *The Female Eunuch*.”
- Dr. Katie Thomas. Author of *Human life matters: The ecology of sustainable human living vs. the rule of the barbarians* (2010).

#### Conference theme

*Valuing women and children in their diverse life contexts* is the theme of the 2011 APS Women and Psychology Interest Group Conference. The conference is an occasion to celebrate women’s action, agency, initiatives, health and wellbeing, locally and globally, and to critically reflect on how as researchers, practitioners, scholars, activists, friends, neighbours, mothers, sisters, and daughters we embody/facilitate these rich processes. It builds on the Trans-Tasman connections revitalised in Nelson, Aotearoa New Zealand in 2010, and we look forward to seeing our New Zealand sisters at the conference.

#### Inspirational motif

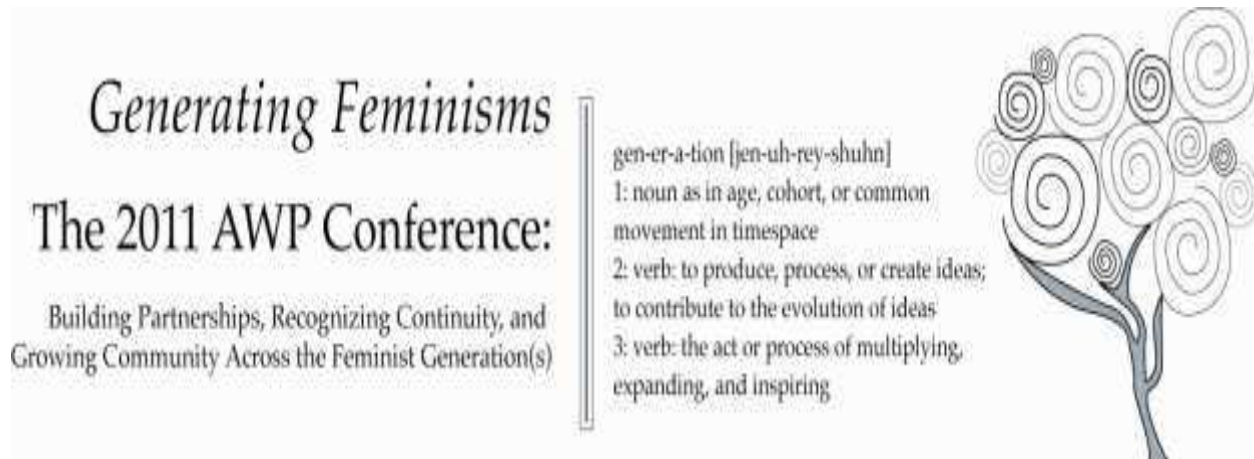
The inspirational motif for the conference is *The Six Daughters of the West Wind*, an Aboriginal legend of how the five islands off the coast of Wollongong, and Mt. Keira, the prominent point on the escarpment behind the city, were formed. A bronze sculpture *The Six Daughters of the West Wind* by Alison Page (her Aboriginal family is from La Perouse in Sydney), non-indigenous artist Tina Lee (Melbourne), and local Aboriginal artists Lorraine Brown, Narelle Thomas, Jodie Stewart, Val Law, Alison Day, Phyllis Stewart, Bonny Foley-Brennan, Lila Lawrence, and Debbie Hamstead-Callaghan, materialises the legend on a site at Mt. Keira sacred to women, and allegedly the site of a massacre. The sculpture is in the form of six ‘Gunyas’ each identified with one of the sisters. *The Six Daughters of the West Wind* reminds us of women’s diverse life contexts including their connections to environment and landscape, their history, culture, politics, creativity, communities, and families, their physical being, their psychology, and their spirituality. We anticipate the conference will reflect these diverse contexts and how they relate to women’s and children’s health and wellbeing, including their mental health.

So start planning your attendance. Calls for abstracts will come later in the year and members of the Women and Psychology Interest group will be updated

For further information contact the Conference Committee Convenor:  
Barbara Bicego [bbicego@ozemail.com.au](mailto:bbicego@ozemail.com.au)

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

## 1: 36th Annual Association for Women in Psychology Conference



*Generating Feminisms*

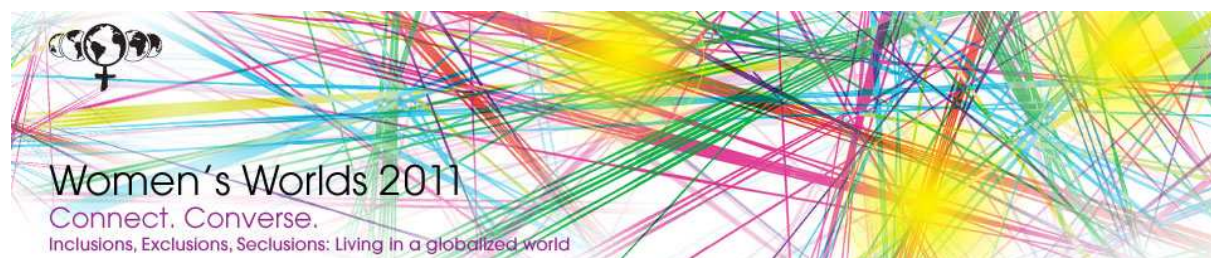
The 2011 AWP Conference:

Building Partnerships, Recognizing Continuity, and Growing Community Across the Feminist Generation(s)

gen-er-a-tion [jen-uh-rey-shuhn]  
1: noun as in age, cohort, or common movement in timespace  
2: verb: to produce, process, or create ideas; to contribute to the evolution of ideas  
3: verb: the act or process of multiplying, expanding, and inspiring

The 2011 Conference of the Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) will be held March 3-6, 2011 at the Hyatt Penn's Landing in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pre-conference workshops will be conducted on Thursday, March 3rd. The conference will open on the morning of Friday, March 4th and there will be keynotes both Friday afternoon (Lisa Bowleg on AIDS in the African American community) and Saturday evening (Dolores Huerta on immigration and activism), with a closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon, March 6th. <http://awp2011.blogspot.com/>

## 2:



Women's Worlds 2011  
Connect. Converse.  
Inclusions, Exclusions, Seclusions: Living in a globalized world

3-7 July, 2011

Ottawa-Gatineau  
Canada

The theme of [Women's Worlds 2011](#) is "Inclusions, exclusions, and seclusions: Living in a globalized world". Why? Where globalization and women are concerned, provocative questions abound. This gathering will be a place to explore these complex matters through reflection, learning, sharing. Proposals are invited from anyone working to advance women's rights, women's empowerment, and gender equality. They can come from individuals, groups, coalitions, networks, teams - everything will be considered.

3:



## 4th World Congress on Women's Mental Health

16 - 19 March 2011 - Madrid, Spain



<http://www2.kenes.com/iawmh/Pages/Home.aspx>

The 4th World Congress on Women's Mental Health, Madrid 2011, expects to attract over 1,000 psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health professionals, women's health providers, researchers, policy makers and bureaucrats from across the globe. Clinicians from all disciplines, including psychiatry, psychology, social work, obstetrics, gynaecology, family healthcare, nursing and community health, will share their knowledge on best practices and innovative developments to improve women's mental health.

# **SEMINARS/LECTURES**

**1:**

## **THE APS WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY INTEREST GROUP**

**Presents a Professional Development Seminar**

**'Nga Pou Wahine': A culturally safe pathway towards addressing gambling misuse among Maori and Pacific Islander women**

**Guest presenter**  
**Dr Laurie Morrison**

**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30-9.30pm

**Venue:** Treacy Conference Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville  
(Easily accessible by public transport)

**Cost (GST incl):** \$20; Women & Psychology members \$10, students/concession: \$5  
Light refreshments will be provided - registration is not essential but helpful for catering

**The Presenter:** As a mid-career Māori researcher, Dr Morrison is committed to improving Māori health outcomes. She completed a doctoral study at the University of Waikato in Hamilton that investigated Māori women's gambling behaviour which has contributed toward workforce development, public health and policy in the area of gambling misuse. More recently she translated her research framework "Powhiri" into practice by developing a public health harm minimisation resource. She also developed a gambling misuse manual for Maori gambling providers working specifically with wahine Māori, and organised the first Indigenous Problem Gambling Symposium in 2010 in Rotorua – it was a great success with indigenous people from Pacifica, Australia, Canada and USA showcasing culturally appropriate interventions.

**The Presentation:** Māori women (wahine Māori) have been identified as an 'at risk group' since the introduction of pokie machines (Electronic Gaming Machines) into Aotearoa New Zealand. The resource Dr Morrison has developed is an extension of her doctoral thesis, which revealed that targeted programmes available for Māori women were sparse or poorly resourced.

Nga Pou Wahine is a supportive kāupapa intervention for Māori communities to address gambling misuse. A wahine Māori lens informs a programme of education and healing to develop the existing potentials of wahine and their whanau (extended family). The aim is to design, implement and evaluate this programme using a kāupapa Māori approach and participatory action research design. The participants are wahine Māori attending a support group to reduce or stop gambling. Expected outcomes include an effective intervention programme, improved knowledge in the area of gambling misuse and wahine Māori, a contribution to the literature and a practice manual.

The presentation has implications for Maori and Pacific women in Australia who may be affected by pokie and casino gambling. Melbourne psychologists working with women experiencing gambling problems will act as discussants following the presentation, and there will be time for open discussion of the potential applications of Dr Morrison's work within and beyond Aotearoa.

**For more information or to register your interest in attending, contact Heather Gridley**  
**Ph: 0419 113731 or Email: [heather.gridley@vu.edu.au](mailto:heather.gridley@vu.edu.au)**



## 2: Medical Lecture Series - Obstetric Fistula

***"Obstetric Fistula is almost entirely preventable when there is universal and equitable access to quality maternal and reproductive health services".***

This is why it was possible for developed countries to eliminate obstetric fistula over 100 years ago and also why Médecins Sans Frontières is continuing to expand its emergency obstetric care in many of our medical projects.

The main cause of obstetric fistula – obstructed labour – is also one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in the developing world. Up to 90% of cases are obstetric fistulas which result from obstructed labour. The baby is often stillborn or dies within the first week of life. The obstructed labour means that the physical trauma of the labour and the delivery can leave the mother with a fistula (hole) between her vagina and bladder, or vagina and rectum, which can leak urine, faeces or both. She then has to deal with not only grief but a disability that is highly stigmatising.

Médecins Sans Frontières is working to provide emergency obstetric care to prevent fistula and, where fistula occurs, surgical programs that can repair the fistula and thus aim to restore the woman's health and dignity. Our main programs are in Nigeria, Burundi and Chad.

In the lead up to International Women's Day 2011, Bronwyn Hale, Médecins Sans Frontières Australia's Medical Advisor - Women's Health, will be presenting a series of lectures in Australia and New Zealand on the topic of obstetric fistula. This will be the fourth year that we have marked International Women's Day by presenting on issues of emergency medical care for women. Bronwyn works with both international and national staff to support them in the provision of medical activities including obstetric care, neonatal care, family planning, fistula repair and medical care for survivors of sexual violence. Médecins Sans Frontières has numerous projects worldwide with a focus on women's health, including in Congo-Brazzaville, Haiti, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Sudan.

### **Obstetric Fistula LECTURE DATES**

<b><u>IWD 2011 02/03/2011: 8-9am</u></b> Prince of Wales Hospital Grand Rounds Barker Street, Randwick, NSW	<b><u>IWD 2011 09/03/2011: 12:30 - 1:30pm</u></b> Royal Women's Hospital Conference Room A, Ground Floor, Women's Conference Centre cnr Grattan Street & Flemington Road, Parkville, VIC
<b><u>IWD 2011 04/03/2011: 12:30 - 1:30pm</u></b> Auckland City Hospital CME Meeting Park Road, Grafton, NZ	<b><u>IWD 2011 10/03/2011: 12:35 - 1:30pm</u></b> Alfred Hospital Grand Rounds Commercial Road, Prahran, VIC
<b><u>IWD 2011 08/03/2011: 5 - 6pm</u></b> Royal Hospital for Women Grand Rounds Seminar Rooms 3&4, Women's Health Institute Barker Street, Randwick, NSW	

# 4:

## DiVeRT

Lifeline Australia is providing opportunities for psychologists to attend free training sessions on Domestic Violence for Rural and Remote workers in various areas around Australia. Workshops are available in Whyalla, Nowra, Ballarat, Hervey Bay, Mildura, Geraldton, Armidale, Coober Pedy, Ballina and Maroochydore. Further details and enrolment form are available at:

[www.lifeline.org.au/divert](http://www.lifeline.org.au/divert)

Domestic Violence Response Training State	Location	Proposed Dates 2011	
SA	Whyalla	February 8th and 9th	enrolments closed
NSW	Nowra	February 22nd and 23rd	Taking enrolments
VIC	Ballarat	March 1st and 2nd	Taking enrolments
QLD	Hervey Bay	March 22nd and 23rd	Taking enrolments
VIC	Mildura	April 5th and 6th	Taking enrolments
WA	Geraldton	April 12th and 13th	Taking enrolments
NSW	Armidale	May 26th and 27th	Taking enrolments
SA	Coober Pedy	May 31st and June 1st	Taking enrolments
NSW	Ballina	June 7th and 8th	Taking enrolments
QLD	Maroochydore	June 21st and 22nd	Taking enrolments
WA	Bunbury	TBA	
NSW	Orange/Bathurst	TBA	

# CONFERENCE REPORT



## WOMEN IN PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE 2010



Boatshed Cafe, Nelson Dec 2010

### [Trans-Tasman Women in Psychology Conference](#)

### [Keeping our balance in a changing environment: Women, politics and wellbeing in the 21st century](#)

[Nelson, Aotearoa New Zealand - December 3-5.](#)

[This conference replaced the annual Australian residential conference.](#)

[This conference heralded the revival of Trans-Tasman Women and Psychology conferences in Aotearoa New Zealand, continuing the tradition of conferences where Australasian women have come together to network and learn from one another about research and practice relevant to women. The conference highlighted women's and feminist perspectives on global and environmental issues, mental health and wellbeing, women's changing roles in the 21st century, work-life balance, research and psychological practice with and about women.](#)



Jane Ritchie Dec 2010

### Conference Reflections from Heather Gridley

Travelling to Aotearoa New Zealand for this year's Women and Psychology Conference was a great thrill. Holding it in Nelson had been my idea a year ago, mainly because I'd stayed there once for one night only, and really wanted more time in that lovely town at the north end of the South Island. The opportunity to spend time with my Kiwi friends, as well as driving and walking in the Abel Tasman National Park afterwards with a couple of long-time Women and Psychology friends, was a major bonus. Apparently we weren't the only Australian visitors to the conference to take time out for a proper holiday as well.

The conference itself maintained the tradition of small, informal gatherings that have made Women and Psychology conferences on both sides of the Tasman for the last 20 years so special (there have been 20 in Australia and this was the fifth to be held in New Zealand, and the first since 1994 – I've only missed two out of all of those!) About a third of the 40 participants were Australian. The Tahuna Holiday Park and Function Centre near the beach offered a surprising range of accommodation, making it very accessible to students while still being luxurious enough for those of us who like our creature comforts. What I really liked was that some family groups chose to stay there, so that after our final plenary session partners and children drifted in to join us for lunch and say goodbye. We could hardly be accused of being separatist!

The conference program was patchy, as it often is when we try to be as inclusive as possible. Whether you're a nervous novice or a laid-back veteran, if you're planning to present at a conference, you really need to think about and respect your audience – the number of slides, the size of your font, how much text to cram into and read from the screen, how to pace yourself and project your voice... and time management, especially when another presenter is following on. Ok, that's the extent of my Grumpy Old Woman bit.

I think this was one of the best conferences for all of the sessions being relevant to the broad theme of 'Women, politics and wellbeing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century', although the political/critical element wasn't always prominent. The highlight for me was Professor Jane Ritchie's keynote

'retrospective view and personal reflection' on her 35 years of teaching Women and Psychology at the University of Waikato in Hamilton. Jane started teaching there *after* rearing five children with her husband James, who was also a professor at Waikato. He died in 2009. Between them they wrote seven books and conducted studies of child-rearing attitudes and practices that led to major changes in policy on parental use of physical punishment. And this must surely have been the first conference anywhere to have three generations of women from the same family participating, with Jane's daughter Jenny and granddaughter Isa there as well!



Colleen Turner and Jenny Ritchie

Another standout was Pantea Parvid's presentation of her doctoral research 'Heterosexual casual sex 'advice' in self-help books: (Re)constituting gendered subjectivities'. Pantea looked at the advice provided for men and women regarding 'necessary' casual sex preparation (personal 'grooming'), and went on to examine four main subject positions available in such texts: the 'strategic man'; the 'performance man'; the 'sassy woman' and the 'vulnerable woman'. The content was depressing, but I was inspired by the level of scholarship and critical reflection in the presentation. I was left wishing I could think of an Australian university psychology department that could foster such high level feminist research and theory development as happens at the University of Auckland, where Ginny Braun and Nicola Gavey edit the still amazing journal *Feminism and Psychology* (which turns 20 this year). Could we ever produce an Australian special issue? – there's a challenge! (Great to see Megan Brock's article on female subjectivity within patriarchal institutions – i.e., a study of Catholic nuns – in the latest issue of *F & P*)

Another feature of the conference was the number and strength of presentations by Maori women. I was moved by Dr Laurie Morrison's account of the model she has developed to work with Maori women affected by gambling misuse. It's great that Laurie will be in Melbourne in late March to present her work – see notice p.8. The structure of the program meant that there tended to be a de facto separation between Maori and Pakeha papers, which was a pity. Each year we lament having to choose between streams, but the alternative of halving the length of each paper and eliminating the need for parallel sessions would have been an even greater loss. The papers were mostly a generous 45 minutes, which really gave presenters a chance to do justice to their subject (and left no excuse for running over time!).

The final session was a 'where to from here' that generated a number of ideas for ongoing trans-Tasman connections and activities – an email discussion list, a Facebook group, shared PD activities (e.g. online/via Skype or webinar), alternating conferences... maybe next year in Tasmania or Wollongong (and the winner is – Wollongong – see notice p.5)

Finally, a huge thanks is due to the conference organisers, Cate Curtis, Libby Gawith and Heather Hamerton, who managed the whole undertaking without ever meeting face to face! Special thanks to Libby for reminding us of the first half of the conference theme – 'Keeping our balance in a changing environment' - by running a women-oriented quiz night on the Friday and making us dress as 'the woman we'd like to be' for Saturday night's party – and no, I'm not including the photo here of Edna Everage and the Statue of Liberty. On holiday away from home, you just have to improvise.



Heather Hamerton with  
Una Gault and Colleen Turner

## **APS Women and Psychology Interest Group and News from the States**

### **Annual General Meeting**

In December 2010 the Women and Psychology Interest group held their AGM in Melbourne in the APS boardroom. With some delicious food organised by our National Convenor (thanks RaelLynn) and some phone hook-ups from Queensland and Tasmania we enjoyed presentations from the recipients of the annual Elaine Dignan award. The award was established by the APS Women and Psychology Interest Group in recognition of Queensland psychologist Elaine Dignan, who died in 1990. The Award aims to encourage further research about women, women's studies in psychology and professional work with women (in any field).

There were joint winners for 2010. Karen Carlson and Liz Mulder (TAS) received the award for their research project ***Family and Domestic Violence – A Gendered Crime***. Karen has contributed a summary of the research later in this newsletter (See p. 15)

The second recipient was Carmel O'Brien (Vic) in recognition for a lifetime of research, practice and support of women and children in domestic violence and other areas of need. Carmel spoke about the DAWN project (Doncare Angels for Women Network) she initiated that links volunteers to women recovering from the impact of domestic violence. Funded by the Federal Office for Women and based on a 'big sister' model, volunteers act as mentors and companions by assisting women with everyday activities and by providing them with emotional support for up to twelve months.

The two judges, Dawn Baker and Ann Aboud (Qld), are both former winners of the Elaine Dignan award. We heard from Ann about the judging process and also a very interesting account of the history of the award and Elaine's life and work.

### **APS Women and Psychology Interest Group Committee members elected were:**

National Convenor: RaelLynn Wicklein - [raelynn.wicklein@rmit.edu.au](mailto:raelynn.wicklein@rmit.edu.au)

Secretary: Carmel O'Brien - [carmel@doncare.org.au](mailto:carmel@doncare.org.au)

Treasurer: Dori Wisniewski

Website Liaison: Heather Gridley - [heather.gridley@vu.edu.au](mailto:heather.gridley@vu.edu.au);

Newsletter Editor: Sally Northfield – [sal@infoxchange.net.au](mailto:sal@infoxchange.net.au)

Committee Member: Marian Lau

### **Update from APS Women and Psychology in Queensland.**

Report from Ann Aboud (Convenor Qld W&P) Email: [ann.aboud@ssa.qld.gov.au](mailto:ann.aboud@ssa.qld.gov.au)

Ann reported at the AGM in December 2010 that the Queensland branch is continuing to develop links with the College of Counselling Psychologists and intends to hold more joint events in 2011. Ann was also pleased with the attendance at the Christmas breakup.

## Update from Women and Psychology in Victoria

The Victorian Group continued to be active in 2010, hosting the AGM in December and meeting regularly for potluck dinners at various locations around Melbourne. Planning events for 2011 is already well on the way with an exciting seminar called '**Nga Pou Wahine**': **A culturally safe pathway towards addressing gambling misuse among Maori and Pacific Islander women** planned for March 2011 (see p. 8 for details). Details of the 2011 program will be emailed to members very soon (we hope).

## Women and Psychology in Tasmania

**Breaking news** - Karen Carlson and Liz Mulder would like to form a local group in Hobart/Tasmania, or perhaps join with others in organising some Women & Psychology related PD event(s). Interested members or others can contact [karen.carlson@bigpond.com](mailto:karen.carlson@bigpond.com) and/or [Liz.Mulder@bigpond.com](mailto:Liz.Mulder@bigpond.com)

## Theatre report

In Melbourne, some of us begin to tingle with anticipation at this time of the year as we wait for the International Comedy Festival. Each year I try to catch the women's comedy night, guaranteed to be hilarious, but you have to be quick because it is so popular it always sells out fast. And for the other states the comedy festival takes The Roadshow right around metro and regional Australia from late April to June [2011http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/outside-the-festival/roadshow/](http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/outside-the-festival/roadshow/)



### Upfront

**Melbourne Town Hall, 18 April 7pm**

The ginchiest gals of comedy turn 'sweet 16'. Pull on your best threads, coiff your puff and get cranked for the best local and international female comedians ever assembled under the one roof. These ladies have more front than Myer and they're ready to get lippy and a whole lotta funny for this very special 16th birthday celebration of Upfront, hosted by Clair Browne and the Bangin' Rackettes. The line-up includes Kim Hope, Fiona O'Loughlin, Caroline Rhea, Zoe Lyons, Roisin Conaty, Geraldine Hickey, Claudia O'Doherty, Anne Edmonds, Die Roten Punkte, Melinda Buttle, Cal Wilson, Felicity Ward and Fez Faanana as Shivanna.



# Feature Article

## Family and Domestic Violence – A Gendered Crime.

**By Karen Carlson and Liz Mulder (Family Violence Counselling and Support Service)  
Elaine Dignan Award Winners 2010**

The 'Safe at Home' Tasmanian government response to family violence commenced in 2005. It is an integrated pro-arrest and pro-prosecution criminal justice response including the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (FVCSS).

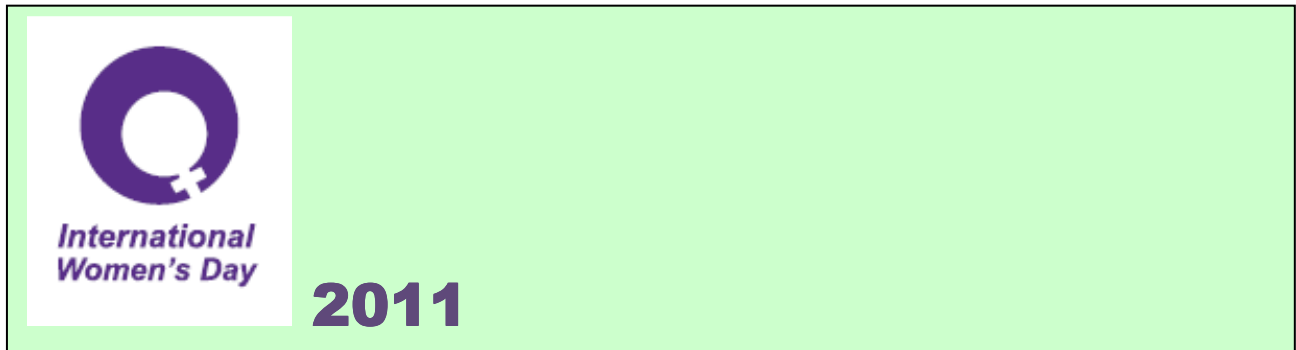
Statistics collected since the start of Safe at Home have revealed a larger than expected number of women identified as offenders, 28% between 2005 and 2009, leading to questions about the gendered nature of family and domestic violence. Internationally, increases in women arrested for family violence have been reported when pro-arrest polices are introduced, and research indicates that such unintended consequences may be common.

Given commonly cited statistics which show men as predominantly offenders of family violence both locally and internationally, this proportion (28%) raised questions about the context, meaning and consequences of women's offending behaviour. FVCSS conducted a small research project examining 71 police reports of family violence incidents where women had been identified as the offender. The focus of the research was the nature of the violence used by both people in the examined incident, and the context of the incident within the relationship. Common aspects of family violence such as fear, control and ongoing violence were considered.

Results indicated that as many as two thirds of the arrested women had been victims of family violence, largely by the same partner, either prior to the examined incident or afterwards. In contrast to literature relating to women victims, very few male victims in the sample experienced fear or ongoing risk to their safety. Those who did report fear to police were all offenders of family violence prior to the incident in question, perhaps indicating a developing knowledge of the Safe at Home system.

Notably, almost a third of the male victims used physical violence themselves in the incident, sometimes of a serious nature, and several reports indicated that the 'victim' in the incident was actually in control at the time. The results were consistent with international literature that identifies control and intimidation as hallmarks of domestic violence and demonstrates that women's use of violence is frequently in the context of self-defence or retaliation when they are primarily the victim.

The consequences of being deemed an offender can be serious and broad for women, and may include an increased risk for them, particularly those who are the victim of violence in their relationship. This research has highlighted the necessity of examining family violence incidents in the context of the relationship over time rather than focussing on individual incidents to identify genuine offenders of family violence.



The UN Women Australia website has an easy to navigate events calendar for IWD where you are able to click on your state and see what is happening near you. You are also able to add your own event <http://www.internationalwomensday.org.au/>

There are many events this year perhaps reflecting a desire to recognise the longevity of the event, which began in Europe 100 years ago. The first IWD in Australia was held in 1928 and continues to be celebrated across the country. I have sampled a few metropolitan events and regional events in each state to whet your appetite. Go ahead and fill your diaries in March.

## ACT...

**Date & time:** 06 March 2011 14.00 to 15.00

**Event:** **TALK - THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL: AUSTRALIAN WOMEN PIONEERING CHANGE**

**About:** Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Australia Research Council laureate fellow, lawyer and ANU academic, speaks of the women in the NPG collection who have changed Australian society

**Venue:** National Portrait Gallery of Australia King Edward Terrace Parkes, ACT, 2600

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**Date & time:** March 7 - 8pm until 9pm, followed by light refreshments

**Event:** **SLEEPING DRAGON: THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF ABORTION LAW REFORM IN AUSTRALIA**

**About:** Presented by The Australian National University: Pamela Denoon Lecture Dr Leslie Cannold, Adjunct Fellow, School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Inquiry, University of Melbourne

**Venue:** Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 3 Union Court ANU

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## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Hunter Valley

Date & time: 05 February 2011 6.00

End date: 27 March 2011 4.00

Event: **STRONG WOMEN, STRONG PAINTING, STRONG CULTURE**

About: An exhibition celebrating the art and culture of Australian indigenous women of the Central and Western deserts and their role in keeping communities together.

Venue: Cessnock Regional Art Gallery 16 Vincent Street Cessnock, Hunter Valley, New South Wales, 2325

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### Sydney

Date & time: 08 March 2011 6.30 to 8.30

Event: **THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS**

About: The first wave thought the vote would do it, the second that laws and equal opportunities would solve the inequities but we are not there yet, wherever there is. On the one hand, we have made a lot of changes in the last hundred years but now we seem to be stalled. Do we need to rethink again? On the centenary of International Women's Day, the History Council of NSW and Macquarie University present this lecture by Eva Cox, well known academic and feminist.

Venue: Museum of Sydney, cnr of Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney, 2000

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Date & time: 08 March 2011 1.30 to 5.30

Event: **FIGHTERS, FEMINISTS AND PHILANTHROPISTS: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF IWD**

About: The first march for International Women's Day took place in New York in 1911. Australia's first march occurred in 1928 but women had been demanding change a long time and across the world before then. This symposium will celebrate the many different activists and forms of activism that led to dramatic changes in Australian women's lives over the course of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Venue: Dixon Room, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000

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## NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Darwin

Date & time: 04 March 2011 7.00 to 9.00

Event: **100 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY BREAKFAST**

About: A breakfast will be hosted on Friday the 4th March 2011 by Women's Network NT and UN Women Australia - NT Chapter (formerly UNIFEM) to help to launch the Territory's own UN Women's NT Chapter. Get a breakfast table together with your family, friends and work colleagues and show your support for Women around the world. WNNT have Leonie-Ruth Acland, Vice President of UN Women Australia as the key speaker on the morning. Leonie has a strong background and commitment to human rights issues having worked internationally and domestically in education and community development.

Venue: Crocosuarus Cove Mitchell Street, Darwin, 0800

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### Tennant Creek

Date & time: 12 March 2011 6.30 to 10.00

Event: **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DINNER AND AWARD PRESENTATION**

About: Nominated women will be presented with awards at a special gala dinner. Shellie Morris is performing along with local speakers and singers.

Venue: Civic Hall, Peko Road, Tennant Creek, NT, Tennant Creek, 0860

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## QUEENSLAND

### Brisbane

Date & time: 08 March 2011 9.30 to 5.00

Event:



**WOMEN IN MUSIC (WIM) 2011**

About: Women in Music is a one day forum for emerging and aspiring female artists and music industry workers. The day will provide a combination of informative panels and practical workshops designed to inspire, educate and engage.

Venue: Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts 420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, 4006

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## Cairns

Date & time: 04 March 2011 9.00

End date: 27 March 2011 4.30

Event: **LILLA BENIGNOS LAST EXHIBITION**

About: For International Women's Day 2011, Tanks presents this very personal homage to Womanhood, from one of our city's most colourful artists. The Women Who Taught Me To Fly is a collection of painted portraits of the female friends and family of Lilla Benigno. LAUNCH: Friday 4th March – 6pm ALL WELCOME OPEN: 9am-4.30pm Weekdays | 10am-4pm Weekends COST: FREE

Venue: Tanks Arts Centre -Tank 4 , Cairns, 4870

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Date & time: 08 March 2011 10.00

End date: 19 March 2011 4.00

Event: ' **WOMEN IN THE ARTS'**

About: Contemporary art exhibition featuring both established and emerging women artists. Highlighting the wide range of media and concepts being explored in our local arts community.

Venue: c1907 Contemporary Artspace, City Place (near sound shell), Lake Street, Cairns

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Adelaide

Date & time: 4,5,9 & 11 March

Event: **CREAM PIES, PEANUTS AND TOMATOES. WELCOME BACK, BROWN COUNCIL. A COMEDY BY BROWN COUNCIL**

About: presented by Vitalstatistix. Brown Council are back, and they're revealing the dark side of comedy with their latest endurance spectacular, *A Comedy*. Since winning the 2009 Adelaide Fringe Award for Best Theatre Production for their quirky and macabre take on speed dating, *Six Minute Soul Mate*, these Sydney artists have been shining a spotlight on what makes us laugh. And the answer is not always funny.

Venue: Queens Theatre (Playhouse Lane, cnr Gilles Arcade, Adelaide)

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### Port Lincoln

Date & time: 05 March 2011 8.00 to 10.00

Event: **ZONTA CLUB OF PORT LINCOLN IWD BREAKFAST AND WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

**About:** Guest speaker Judy Steel AO author of "Mama Jude". She has set up a charitable organisation that helped establish a hospital in Uganda and the Micro Loan Scheme which has financially empowered many women.

**Venue:** Ravendale Community Sporting Complex, Port Lincoln, 5606

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## **TASMANIA**

### **Hobart**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Event:** UN Women Australia's Hobart International Women's Day Lunch

**Venue:** Wrest Point Convention Centre

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### **Launceston**

**Date & time:** 11 March 2011 19.30 to 22.30

**Event:** **WOMENOGRAPHY!**

**About:** Womenography is a cabaret featuring the very laugh out loud Tracey Cosgrove & fabulous local women musicians, dancers, poets and other artists + the campaign launch to spotlight continuing inequality.

**Venue:** Earl Arts Centre 10 Earl Street, Launceston, 7250

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## **VICTORIA**

### **Belmont**

**Date & time:** 08 March 2011 12.00 to 14.00

**Event:** **CENTENARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH**

**About:** The event will be an action packed celebration of sharing stories, skills and talents with a huge range of interesting and inspiring speakers, artists and designers.

**Venue:** Belmont Civic Centre (City of Belmont, 1st Floor, Progress Way, 215 Wright St, Cloverdale), Belmont, 6104

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### **Horsham**

**Date & time:** 10 March 2011 18.30 to 23.30

**Event:** **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - HORSHAM EVENT –**

**About:** Our theme is based on a humorous reflection of the past 100 years which will demonstrate how women's roles in society have progressed.

**Venue:** Horsham RSL McLachlan Street, Horsham, 3400

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## Melbourne

**Date & time:** 22 February 2011 10.00

**End date:** 13 March 2011 18.00

**Event:** **PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION - ON WOMEN**

**About:** To coincide with International Women's Day the exhibition "On Women" features the works of three photographic based artists Grace McKenzie, Rowena Hall and Craig Blowfield.

**Venue:** Chapel Off Chapel Gallery, 12 Little Chapel Street, Melbourne

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**Date & time:** 04 March 2011 10.30 to 5.00

**Event:** **HERSTORY - 100TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

**About:** Come write your achievement story for the 100th Celebration of International Women's Day! HerStory is a collection of migrant/refugee women's stories that will be displayed.

**Venue:** The Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 3000

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**Date & time:** 08 March 2011 19.30 to 23.00

**Event:** **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PRESENTS - HALF THE SKY!**

**About:** A music and arts event celebrating 100 years of International Women's Day & raising funds for women in the Asia-Pacific region. Featuring Clare Bowditch, Deborah Conway & Willy Zygiel, Sally Dastey of TIDDAS, Lucie Thorne and The Town Bikes plus more.

**Venue:** Thornbury Theatre (859 High Street, Thornbury), Melbourne, 3071

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**Date & time:** 7:00 for 7:15pm, Tuesday 15 March

**Event:** **MURIEL MATTERS LECTURE**

**About:** Join us at the Victorian Women's Trust's International Women's Day event, a public lecture to pay tribute to a remarkable feminist and activist Muriel Matters. Read more about her fascinating life. The Public Lecture will be delivered by Frances Bedford MP, State member for Florey. The wonderful, talented Brunswick Women's Choir (featuring W & P member Heather Gridley!) will also perform, making this a very special night.

**Venue:** Welsh Church, 320 Latrobe St Melbourne

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**Date & Time:** 8th March – 6pm

**Event:** **JOIN WOMEN ON THE BRIDGE**

**Venue:** Sandridge Bridge Southbank Melbourne (Melways. 1D, Q2)

**About:** A global "Join Women on the Bridge" campaign to draw attention to the issues of peace and women's rights. Participants are invited to bring banners with their images of peace, saying No! to war and Yes! to peace

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## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **Albany**

**Date & time:** 05 March 2011 10.00

**End date:** 12 March 2011 14.00

**Event:** **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GREAT SOUTHERN**

**About:** A fabulous week of celebrations in honour of 100 years of International Women's Days. All details at [www.iwdgreatsouthern.org.au](http://www.iwdgreatsouthern.org.au)

**Venue:** Various venues during the weeklong celebration, Albany, WA, 6330

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### **Gosnells**

**Date & time:** 01 February 2011 9.00

**End date:** 08 March 2011 11.30

**Event:** **PHOTOVOICE: CELEBRATING EVERYDAY WOMEN**

**About:** Celebrating women in our community with a PhotoVoice competition to be voted on by the public with the winner announced at a morning tea.

**Venue:** Pioneer Park behind the Agonis Building, Gosnells, WA, 6110

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### **Perth**

**Date & time:** 08 March 2011 9.30 to 11.00

**Event:** **CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: SOCIAL CHANGE AND CHALLENGES AHEAD**

**About:** An interactive morning tea will be held to launch the Australian Violence Against Women Alliance IWD centenary resource; Funds for Freedom and WC new website

**Venue:** By invitation only, Perth, 6005

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# **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH POLICY – released Dec 2010**

**THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP  
Minister for Health and Ageing  
THE HON KATE ELLIS MP  
Minister for the Status of Women**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

29 December 2010

### **NEW DIRECTIONS FOR IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH**

Ensuring women have access to the right health care at the right time is a key objective of the Gillard Government's National Women's Health Policy 2010 released today.

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon and Minister for the Status of Women Kate Ellis said that the National Women's Health Policy provides a comprehensive approach to the health needs of women and acknowledges that health needs vary across the population.

"This policy will prioritise preventing chronic disease among women and has a clear focus on maintaining and developing health services and prevention programs that target the greatest challenges to women's health over the next two decades," Ms Roxon said.

"It is twenty years since the first national women's health policy and there have been significant changes in the way women live their lives."

"Never before have we seen such enormous growth in chronic disease. Nearly half of all women are overweight and 27 per cent of women aged over 25 have high blood pressure. Sadly, large gaps in health outcomes for women from low socioeconomic groups, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women still remain," Ms Ellis said.

"This policy is about ensuring women have the information and support to take control of their immediate and longer term health."

Ms Roxon and Ms Ellis also announced an additional \$5.3 million in funding to support the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health that will help continue to build the evidence base on women's health.

"Knowing more about the key issues that impact on women's health is fundamental to improving health outcomes for all Australian women", Ms Roxon said.

The additional funding will enable a new younger cohort of women to be added to the study, providing valuable information on the changes and challenges to women's health over time across a broader range of age groups.

**The policy is available at:**

**[www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national\\_womens\\_health-1](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national_womens_health-1)**

**For more information, contact Ms Roxon's Office: (02) 6277 7220**

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/CA3E77F8603EFD3CCA25780D00772FBB/\\$File/nr211.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/CA3E77F8603EFD3CCA25780D00772FBB/$File/nr211.pdf)

## **WOMEN'S HEALTH ARTICLE OF INTEREST**

This article shows the importance of viewing health data via a gender lens. Studies such as this, which disaggregate the data by gender, facilitate a critical assessment of the impact of policy upon women's health in general and in this case, specific groups of women. Follow the link below to read the full text article.

**Women's uptake of Medicare Benefits Schedule mental health items for general practitioners, psychologists and other allied mental health professionals**

Julie E Byles, Xenia Dolja-Gore, Deborah J Loxton, Lynne Parkinson and Jennifer A Stewart Williams

[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194\\_04\\_210211/byl10438\\_fm.html#intro](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_04_210211/byl10438_fm.html#intro)

### Abstract

#### **Objective:**

To quantify women's uptake of Medicare Benefits Schedule mental health items, compare characteristics of women by mental health service use, and investigate the impact on Medicare costs.

#### **Design, setting and participants:**

Analysis of linked survey data and Medicare records (November 2006 – December 2007) of 14 911 consenting participants of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH) across three birth cohorts (1921–1926 ["older cohort"], 1946–1951 ["mid-age cohort"], and 1973–1978 ["younger cohort"]).

#### **Main outcome measures:**

Uptake of mental health items; 36-Item Short Form Health Survey (SF-36) Mental Health Index scores from ALSWH surveys; and patient (out-of-pocket) and benefit (government) costs from Medicare data.

#### **Results:**

A large proportion of women who reported mental health problems made no mental health claims (on the most recent survey, 88%, 90% and 99% of the younger, mid-age and older cohorts, respectively). Socioeconomically disadvantaged women were less likely to use the services. SF-36 Mental Health Index scores among women in the younger and mid-age cohorts were lowest for women who had accessed mental health items or self-reported a recent mental health condition. Mental health items are associated with higher costs to women and government.

#### **Conclusion:**

Although there has been rapid uptake of mental health items, uptake by women with mental health needs is low and there is potential socioeconomic inequity.

## Petition for the Protection of Children

John Howard, in 2006 overthrew the rights of children and imposed Californian Family Law onto the Australian Family Law system. This set Australian society back two centuries in terms of children's rights and effectively removed the capacity of the Family Court to act in the best interests of the child, regardless of adult demands. The changes were made in spite of, not as a result of, all research and statistical evidence documenting the contributors to emotional and physical wellbeing of children, particularly in the early years. The result is that contact has been placed before safety for children in a departure from community standards that would horrify most of the public if they knew.

This law 'reform' enforced a 50:50 split of child custody after relational breakdown and judges are forced to separate mother and child even when there are extreme, documented cases of abuse. If they wish to avoid being in contravention of the legislation, judges must demonstrate willingness to privilege the demands of adults for 'contact'- even if that adult has been demonstrated to be violent. Most concerning is the enforcement of the 50:50 split when the male has had no previous caregiving responsibility for the child and has enacted violence towards his partner.

An amendment to this law has now been proposed in order to protect children from violence and to enable the Family Court to act to protect children but conservatives have already garnered over 4000 signatures to block the amendment. In Australia young families are the most likely to break up, with half having a child under 3 and only 7% having children older than 12. Thus, this amendment is for the protection of very young children.

Please consider signing the petition to support the amendment. Your voice will be on behalf of the voteless, and the voiceless - our most vulnerable citizens with the primary benefit to small children and therefore to the communities of the future.

Thank you,  
Katie

Dr. Katie Thomas

**Telethon Institute for Child Health Research**

PO Box 855, WEST PERTH 6872

<http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au> Email: [katiet@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:katiet@ichr.uwa.edu.au)

<http://www.gopetition.com/petition/40638.html>

Please sign for Australia's children - that their right to be protected and safe be the focus of family court matters. The petition is still live and was up to about 1500 signatures when last checked. You may need to copy and paste the link into your own browser, if clicking here doesn't work.

Note: the APS made a submission in January to the Australian Government's public consultation into the proposed changes in the draft Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2010. The submission is available on the APS website at:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/APS-submission-Family-Law-Amendment-14012011.pdf>



**THE HON KATE ELLIS MP  
MINISTER FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**REMARKS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE *NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN* (slightly edited)**

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY OFFICES, SYDNEY**

15 February 2011

Today we are here to announce the endorsement of Commonwealth, State and Territory governments of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*.

Alarming, one in three Australian women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Almost one in five has experienced sexual violence. These figures are staggering. They are deeply disturbing. All forms of violence against women are unacceptable, in any community and in any culture and it is everyone's responsibility to reject and prevent violence.

Today is a historic day. We come together as governments and community to say that these figures are not good enough – to say it is time for a combined, strategic and sustained effort to reduce the terrible prevalence of violence against women.

This *National Plan* follows the receipt by Australian governments of a report called *The Time for Action*. The report put forward a vision that sustained action across generations and on multiple levels is what was most likely to achieve long term change. In other words - it is time to end the ad hoc and generalised solutions – it is time for us to work together, to share our best practices and to make a real difference for Australian women. The *National Plan* brings governments of all persuasions together, in a combined effort to reduce this violence against women. It is a single unified strategy aimed at combating the problems of domestic and sexual violence.

Today we are committing to:

- reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault;
- to increase the proportion of women who feel safe in their communities;
- to reduce deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- to reduce proportion of children exposed to their mother's or carer's experience of domestic violence.

And we are committing to achieve these real changes in the next 12 years.

The *National Plan* will be driven by a series of four Action Plans, designed in three-year cycles so governments can review the strategies and actions once they are implemented and design future government efforts to be as effective as possible. This series of plans will allow governments to respond to emerging priorities as new evidence becomes available and circumstances change.

The *National Plan* brings with it a lot of 'firsts'. It is the first plan of its kind to coordinate action across jurisdictions. It is the first to focus so strongly on prevention. It is the first to look to the long term - building respectful relationships and working to increase gender equality to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. And it is the first to focus on holding perpetrators accountable and encourage behaviour change for the future.

Since April 2009, the Australian Government has committed over \$86 million to initiatives under the *National Plan* to improve the lives of women who have experienced violence and critically, to stop violence occurring in the first place.

- We have established a 24 hour telephone counselling hotline 1800 RESPECT, to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- We are increasing support for frontline workers and rewarding States and Territories when they promote best practice perpetrator interventions.
- We launched a social marketing campaign, *The Line*, which encourages young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships.
- We are improving services for victims of domestic violence through reform projects and
- We are funding a new National Centre of Excellence for research into sexual assault and family and domestic violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children who presented this Government with *Time for Action*. Most particularly I would like to thank the brave 2000 women and men around Australia who told their stories to the National Council and informed the development of *Time for Action*.

My thanks also go to the Violence Against Women Advisory Group, appointed in 2009 to respond to *Time for Action* and the many, many women's organisations who contributed to the Plan. You have done an extraordinary job. The expertise of these groups has assisted Government to develop a national policy agenda to reduce violence against women in the long term.

I hope that in 12 years time we are able to demonstrate that your work has made a real difference to the lives of Australian women and their children. The *National Plan* is underpinned by the belief that involving all governments and the wider community is necessary to reducing violence in the short and longer terms. We recognise that no government or group can tackle this problem alone.

While living free from violence is everyone's right - reducing violence is everyone's responsibility.