

# Women and Psychology Newsletter

#### APS WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

Volume 25 Issue 1 Winter 2013

Inside		Since the last edition of this newsletter in winter 2012
Trisido		the national spotlight has shone on some of the
		outrageous behaviour Julia Gillard encountered as
Conferences and	p. 2-6	Australia's Prime Minister. In mid-June, when composing
workshops	p. = 0	the first draft of this newsletter, I was reflecting on the
A Oalahuatian of		October 2012 speech she delivered, highlighting zero
A Celebration of	p.7-8	tolerance for continued misogynist behaviour towards
the life of Una Gault		women in power and women in general. Little did I know
Olia Gault		back then that this topic would dominate the media again
W&P AGM & State	p. 9-10	in the last weeks of June 2013 and prove that the issues
Reports		raised last year remain firmly entrenched.
		More specifically in relation to the Women and
2012 Elaine Dignan	p. 11	Psychology Interest Group, in 2012 the long awaited
Award		revised APS Ethical Guidelines for psychological practice
Links to articles of interest	p. 12-13	with women and girls were ratified. And sadly Una Gault,
		founding member and icon of the Women and Psychology
IIIICICSI		Interest Group, died on 30/11/2012 at the age of 86.
		A celebration of Una's life and achievements was held
		at the Jessie Street National Women's Library in Sydney
		on 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2013, where for several hours, Una's
		colleagues, friends and family told and listened to rousing
		anecdotes and moving recollections of Una's widespread
		influence and determination to make a difference in
		women's lives.
		An important event coming up soon is the 2013 W&P
		Conference in Auckland, New Zealand September 27-29.
		Submission date has been slightly extended but must
		close Fri 5 July – get yours in, then book your flights!
		Sally Northfield

### **2013 Conferences Snapshot**

Women and Psychology: Trans-Tasman Conference I'm a feminist, now what?

27-29 September, 2013 Auckland, New Zealand

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48th APS Annual Conference

Psychology for a healthy nation

8-12 October 2013, Cairns, Queensland

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Macquarie University Women and Leadership 2013 Conference 18-19 July 2013. Sydney, NSW

8<sup>th</sup> Australasian
Women and Policing
Conference
Making it Happen –
Making it Last!
25-28 August 2013
Adelaide

### **CONFERENCES**

1: APS Women & Psychology Trans-Tasman Conference

Auckland, New Zealand 27-29 September 2013



#### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Continuing the tradition of conferences where Australasian women in Psychology have come together to network and learn from one another about research and practice relevant to women, this year we are delighted that the 5th Trans-Tasman (and 23<sup>rd</sup> APS) residential conference will be held from Fri 27 to Sun 29 September 2013 at

Vaughan Park Retreat Centre, Auckland, New Zealand

Conference theme: Feminist diversity: Praxis and problematics in early 21st Century Psychology

The conference committee is now calling for papers for presentation at the conference and invites abstract submissions for oral and poster presentations. Abstracts are invited for any type of theoretical or research work and proposals for discussion sessions, panels and plenary topics will also be considered.

#### FINAL Extended Deadline Friday 5 July

More details on page 2 and via the conference website: http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/staffroom/national-sharedservices/external-relations/conference-services/upcomingevents/women-in-psychology-conference.cfm

#### **CONFERENCE PURPOSE**

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for women in Psychology on both sides of the Tasman to consider the challenges of research and practice that face us now – in the first decades of the 20th Century and in the wake of what is increasingly regarded as a period of 'postfeminism'.

#### **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

Abstracts should be submitted on-line by clicking on 'Call for Abstracts' and then clicking on the 'New Submission' button on the 'Women in Psychology Website':

http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/staffroom/national-shared-services/external-relations/conference-services/upcoming-events/women-in-psychology-conference.cfm

If you have any difficulty navigating the submission system or if on-line submission is not possible please email your abstract to: <a href="mailto:conferences@massey.ac.nz">conferences@massey.ac.nz</a> or contact Mandy Morgan <a href="mailto:conferences@massey.ac.nz">C.A.Morgan@massey.ac.nz</a>.

#### **REQUIRED ABSTRACT CONTENT AND FORMAT GUIDELINES**

- Title of paper
- Name(s) of the author(s) and the authors(s) affiliations (if more than one author, the presenting author(s) name(s) must be underlined)
- Presenting author's email address
- Abstract of presentation
- Preference for oral or poster presentation or information related to discussion sessions, panels or plenary topics.

Please use Times New Roman font, size 12, justified left with line spacing of 1.5.

#### **ABSTRACT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Abstracts will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Originality and/or interest
- Relevance to Aotearoa/New Zealand and/or Australian contexts
- Relevance to the conference theme.

Oral presentations will be 20 minutes in duration followed by ten minutes for questions. Posters will be on display throughout the conference.

Prizes will be presented for the best student oral presentation and best student poster.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Abstracts submission deadline: 5 July

Abstract acceptance for conference presentation notification: 15 July

Preliminary programme available from **15 August** 

Early Bird Registration Fee deadline 24 August

Standard Registration fee commences on 25 August

Conference Fri 27 - Sun 29 September

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS**

If your abstract is accepted, the presenting author is required to register and pay their registration fees in full to attend the conference.

The accuracy of the submission remains the responsibility of the author(s)

Accepted abstracts will be compiled to form part of the conference handbook.

#### **ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO:**

The Organising Committee of the Second 'Women in Psychology' Trans-Tasman Conference, 2013 c/- Massey University, National Events and Sponsorship Team, Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston Nth, 4442, New Zealand Tel: +64 6 350 5117 Email: conferences@massey.ac.nz

### 2:

#### **48th APS Annual Conference**

#### 8-12 October 2013, Cairns, Queensland Psychology for a healthy nation

#### W & P INTEREST GROUP FORUM ABSTRACT SUBMITTED: 'Una never let me get away with anything': remembering Una Gault.

Gridley, H. (Victoria University), O'Brien, C. (Doncare), & Aboud, A. heather.gridley@vu.edu.au

In November 2012, Dr Una Gault died in Sydney, three weeks short of her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dr Gault was a founding member of the APS Women and Psychology Interest Group, and edited the Blue Newsletter that was members' main link to the group in the days prior to the internet. A Life Member of APS, she received the Elaine Dignan Award in 1993, but refused other honours such as Fellowship. Generations of psychology graduates have stories to tell about Dr Gault. The Interest Group dedicates this forum to Una Gault's fierce commitment to psychological science as a means of promoting social justice and combatting misogyny. The forum takes a light and not-solight look at examples of psychological research that most feminists would describe as misogynist and most psychologists would consider guilty at least of the ethical breach of 'bringing the profession into disrepute'.

Media item 1: A study of newlywed couples found that husbands were more satisfied initially and wives more satisfied over time when the women were thinner. Explanation offered by a couple's therapist: men and women tend to be happiest in a relationship when the men are "more powerful in a benign way"

Media item 2: Research carried out by anthropologists and psychologists that focused on the sex lives of 110 heterosexual couples concluded that women orgasm more quickly and more often with handsome partners and/or with partners rated as masculine and dominant.

Media item 3: Psychology Today published an article by an evolutionary psychologist who made claims such as "black women are objectively less physically attractive than other women" yet "subjectively consider themselves to be far more physically attractive than others."

#### Questions for discussion include:

- What are some of the logical conclusions to be drawn from such research claims?
- What is psychology's collective responsibility for the kinds of research done in its name?
- What is it about 'psychological science' that lends itself to abuses of this kind that is, are they just aberrations, or are they really how psychology (still) constructs the female?
- And how did they get past an ethics committee?

Be great to have a supportive audience if the abstract is accepted – watch this space (or the conference website http://www.apsconference.com.au/)

### <u>3:</u>

# Macquarie University Women and Leadership 2013 Conference

Macquarie University invites you and your organisation to join in the celebration of 25 years of inspirational women's conferences where outstanding leaders from industry, government, universities and unions share their expertise, knowledge and experience at the 2013 Women and Leadership Conference to be held from Thursday 18 to Friday 19 July 2013 in Sydney. The theme for this year's conference is: Past and future leadership challenges.

#### Leading Speakers include:

- Keynote Dinner Speaker: Lisa Wilkinson, Network Nine
- Åse Lunde, Managing Director, Lunde Risk Reduction AB, Sweden
- Carol Austin, Investment Services, Director, Contango Asset Management
- Ged Kearney, President, ACTU
- Helen Conway, Director, Workplace Gender Equality Agency Limited
- Romilly Madew, Chief Executive, Green Building of Australia
- Terry Davis, CEO, Coca-Cola Amatil

Date: Thursday 18 and Friday 19 July 2013.

**Venue:** The Hilton Hotel Sydney

Visit www.mm.mq.edu.au/wmwc for registration fees, information and to register online.

# 4: 8<sup>th</sup> Australasian Women and Policing Conference Making it Happen – Making it Last!

Adelaide 25-28 August 2013

The Australasian Council of Women and Policing is calling for papers for the 8<sup>th</sup> Australasian Women and Policing conference being held in Adelaide at the Hotel Grand Chancellor from 25 to 28 August 2013.

The theme of the 2013 conference is: Making it Happen – Making it Last. It will focus on how we can make lasting changes for women in policing, emergency services and the community and will hear from practitioners, researchers, and policy makers.

Be part of this opportunity to share innovations, challenges and successes.

The conference will build on previous Australasian Women and Policing conferences and develop the body of knowledge around how policing and the emergency services are being improved for women.

The areas of interest for the 2013 conference include:

- Networking best practice and good ideas
- Peacekeeping domestic and international
- Recruitment and retention challenges and opportunities
- Staying healthy supporting yourself to support your community
- Sustainable partnerships working with local government, women and the community
- Career transitions moving up, across or out
- Policing as a profession the contribution of women

Police, emergency services, researchers, advocates, policy makers and practitioners from policing, emergency services, law enforcement, criminal justice and women's services are encouraged to contribute papers.

This conference is <u>not</u> limited to police services, <u>everyone</u> who has an interest in improving the emergency and policing response to women in our communities is welcome.

Further details available on the ACWAP website <a href="www.acwap.com.au">www.acwap.com.au</a> or conference@acwap.com.au

#### A Celebration of the life of Una Gault

At the Women and Psychology AGM in February 2015 Una's long history as an advocate for women and particularly for women in psychology was acknowledged and a commitment was made to honour her work and achievements over many years. Part of this commitment was realised at the celebration of Una's life in Sydney on May 15, hosted by the Jessie Street National Women's Library in conjunction with APS Women and Psychology Interest Group and the NSW Women's Electoral Lobby. A huge thanks to Dori Wisniewski for coordinating the organisation of the event which was very well attended.

Una Gault, was born in Young NSW in 1925. She studied psychology at the University of Sydney and after graduation went to work for the Department of Repatriation at Concord Hospital. Una later gained an MA (Arts) and PhD in psychology and worked as a lecturer and later senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales and Macquarie University in Sydney. She was an avid feminist and was actively involved with numerous women's groups including the Women's Electoral Lobby, Jessie Street National Women's Library, Women and Psychology, Women at Macquarie and Women in Education. Her other passions were literature, classical music, movies, and cats. She maintained an enormous library in her Sydney and Coledale residences. She remained fully engaged in women's issues until her death in 2012.

Una was a founding member of the APS Women & Psychology Interest Group, which began in 1984 after rejection of a proposal for a professional Board. Women and Psychology conferences began on an annual basis in 1990, and a Pacific Women's Network was formed with the first joint conference held with New Zealand colleagues in 1992. Una edited the Blue Newsletter that was members' main link to the group in the days prior to email and the internet. In 1992 June Crawford, Susan Kippax, Jenny Onyx, Pam Benton and Una collaboratively produced the book *Emotion and gender: constructing meaning from memory.* Una received the Elaine Dignan Award in 1993, but refused other honours such as APS Fellowship, which she richly deserved. She was a Life Member of APS, and generations of psychology graduates from Sydney, UNSW and Macquarie Universities have many stories to tell about Dr Gault. She taught singer-songwriter Judy Small, and when Judy sang at the APS conference in 2005, she was delighted to see 'Dr Gault' in the front row!



Jumping Generations – APS Conference, Canberra 2011 Heather Gridley, Catherine D'Arcy, Una Gault, Emma Sampson, Colleen Turner & Kylie Cann - What is evident from accounts of Una is that she was particularly good at 'jumping generations', to borrow a phrase from Iris van der Tuin (2009). The above snapshot seems to encapsulate the influence Una Gault had on Australian and New Zealand women in Psychology. Una also remained concerned throughout her life about the state of research in psychology and its impact on the lives of women. In 2009 van der Tuin described an emerging feminist framework which neither refutes nor affirms the achievements or paradoxes that feminisms have espoused in theory or practice in previous generations. Australian philosophers such as Elizabeth Grosz and Genevieve Lloyd connect empiricist, standpoint and postmodern feminism. By bridging what was conflictual for a previous generation, they provide another instance of jumping generations - an approach which can lead to shared conversations across and between generations and disciplines. An approach that was characteristic of Una's interactions with a wide variety of women, and across disciplines like psychology, education and women's studies.

Una's concern for the state of feminist research in Australia was ongoing. The questions posed in the 2013 APS conference forum abstract (see p.3) such as *What is it about 'psychological science' that lends itself to abuses of this kind – that is, are they just aberrations, or are they really how psychology (still) constructs the female?* would surely see Una rising to voice an opinion. Not to mention current developments in Australian politics!

It is salient that we revisit an article written by Una Gault in 1993 commenting on Naomi Weisstein's seminal 1968 article *Psychology constructs the female,* which critiqued the psychology profession and its lack of attention or willingness to research, consider and encompass the concerns in the lives of women. Una reports first reading this article circa 1975 – International Women's Year – when she was the guest editor for the Australian Psychologist special edition on women and psychology. In 1993 she reconsiders the issues raised in the 70s article and comments on the state of feminist research in psychology concluding that "we have been on a plateau for some time" (Gault, 1993: 228), adding that questions such as *'whose expectations?' whose authority?, who tells what to whom?'* and then *'What should be done?'*, despite having been asked for some time, were still pertinent in the 1990s. In the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the questions remain central and it is worth considering whether feminist researchers in psychology have continued the ascent or fallen off the mountain?

Gault, U. (1993). III. `Psychology Constructs the Female': A Comment *Feminism & Psychology* 1993 3: 225 -229

van der Tuin, I. (2009) 'Jumping generations' on second- and third-wave feminist epistemology. *Australian Feminist Studies*, Vol 24, 59, 17-31

The Women and Psychology Interest Group is planning other events and actions to honour the life of Una Gault. If you have any thoughts or wish to make a written or oral contribution to a time capsule please contact Heather Gridley - <a href="https://example.com/Heather-Gridley@vu.edu.au">Heather-Gridley@vu.edu.au</a>

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

#### **Annual General Meeting**

In February 2013 the Women and Psychology Interest group held its AGM in Melbourne in the APS Boardroom, with the usual array of delicious food and phone hook-ups from around the country.

Carmel O'Brien became the National Convenor, having been National Secretary for some years, taking the role vacated by Raelynn Wicklein, who was wholeheartedly acknowledged and thanked for her many years of hard work and leadership of the Interest Group.

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

National Convenor: Carmel O'Brien - <a href="mailto:carmel@doncare.org.au">carmel@doncare.org.au</a>
Secretary: Eugenia Castro - ana\_eugenia\_castro@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Dori Wisniewski: dori.w@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor: Sally Northfield – <a href="mailto:sal@infoxchange.net.au">sal@infoxchange.net.au</a>

Committee Members:

Rosemary Pynor NSW
Ursula Benstead Vic
Penny McDonald Vic
Heather Gridley Vic
Ann Aboud Qld
Cynthia Dunn Qld

#### **Introducing our new Committee members**

**Ursula Benstead** is a psychologist in private practice in Melbourne who also works part-time for the Western Region Centre against Sexual Assault (WestCASA). Ursula currently runs training in her Shark Cage model which introduces a framework for addressing vulnerability in women who are victims of abuse and domestic violence. For further details see <a href="https://www.ursulabenstead.com.au">www.ursulabenstead.com.au</a>

**Cynthia Dunn** has taken up a position in the Far North Qld in Family Violence services. She has previously worked in Gambling AOD services and most recently in Rockhampton on the Breaking the Cycle Program which has been defunded by the Newman Government. Once settled in her new role, Cynthia hopes to be able to participate more meaningfully in W&P in Queensland.

**Penny McDonald** works with Ursula as a counsellor/advocate at WestCASA, and is very excited about joining the committee and really looking forward to meeting other members.

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

Ann Aboud reports that the Queensland Group has organised Pamela Davidson to speak on 'Altruism' at their first meeting for 2013. Pamela is a psychologist at Herston who won a bravery award for returning to a burning plane, which she had safely escaped, to rescue two other people who would have died. She was badly burnt in the process. The other person who escaped with her told her she was crazy to go back. Pamela has attended W&P activities at Qld in the past. Watch out for notice of the date of this special event – or check with Ann <a href="mailto:aboudann@gmail.com">aboudann@gmail.com</a>

#### **Update from APS Women and Psychology in New South Wales.**

The main focus for the group in NSW in the first half of 2013 was the organization of the Una Gault Celebration in May. The group is now organising another "Getting Started as a Women in Psychology" gathering in Sydney for later this year. Check with Dori for details – or if you'd like to help organise any NSW events <a href="mailto:dori.w@bigpond.com">dori.w@bigpond.com</a>

#### Update from APS Women and Psychology in Victoria

The Victorian Group continued to be active in 2012, with its annual Getting Started as Women in Psychology in mid-June, and Potluck Dinners at members' homes - August 2012 & April 2013. This year's Getting Started event will happen as soon as we get our act together to set a date and book a venue – contact Heather if you'd like to help – <a href="heather.gridley@vu.edu.au">heather.gridley@vu.edu.au</a>

And if you'd like to be on the potluck list for notification of the potluck dinners, contact Eugenia <a href="mailto:ana\_eugenia\_castro@hotmail.com">ana\_eugenia\_castro@hotmail.com</a> – all W & P members receive a general notice but the address is only circulated to individuals requesting it and to the potluck list and, for privacy reasons.

A number of us joined our new committee members from WestCASA in Federation Square to support the One Billion Rising event on 14 Feb 2013 (yes, Valentine's Day – it's not all wine, chocolates and roses for way too many women around the globe). Dubbed 'V-Day' as part of a global movement to end violence against women and girls, this year marked the largest day of action in the 15-year history of the campaign. We even managed a supportive tweet from APS, based on the *APS Guidelines for psychological practice with women and girls:* 

- 4.1. Psychologists are aware of the extent of harm caused to women and girls by physical and sexual violence, and psychological and emotional abuse.
- 2.10. *Psychologists* support policies and structures (organisational, institutional and social) that reduce unfair discrimination against women and girls.

Psychologists as researchers and practitioners are witness to the devastating impacts of violence in women's lives, in our own communities and worldwide. The Australian Psychological Society supports communities working together to end violence against women

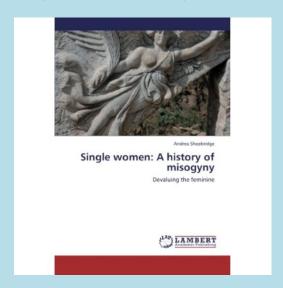
ONE BILLION RISING began in 1998 as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION women and girls. The event has attracted massive global attention with celebrities, women and men from all walks of life joining in to make women visible, to bring the community together through dance and to empower people to develop respectful relationships – free of violence and exploitation. This year ONE BILLION women and those who love them were invited to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence.



### **Elaine Dignan Award 2012**

The annual Elaine Dignan Award was established by the APS Women and Psychology Interest Group in recognition of Queensland psychologist Elaine Dignan, who died in 1990 after a long and distinguished career. The Award aims to encourage further research about women, women's studies in psychology and professional work with women (in any field).

Congratulations to Dr. Andrea Shoebridge - recipient of the 2012 Elaine Dignan Award. Andrea's book *Single women: A history of misogyny* was published in 2012 and began its life as her PhD research. Dr Shoebridge was nominated by her Curtin University co-supervisors, Dr Lyndall Steed and Dr Lynne Roberts.



#### Book description:

Misogyny is the fundamental narrative of a patriarchy that has worked since prehistoric times to devalue the feminine. Unmarried women are particular anathema to patriarchal ideology, their marginalisation validated by the authoritative voices of institutional religion and science. This monograph maps the systematic elevation of the masculine over the feminine since patriarchy's arrival in the Palaeolithic Mediterranean region, the birthplace of the Western tradition. The story moves through the West's formative cultures and beliefs before relocating to England in the early Common Era, finishing in the New World, Australia, in modern times. Over millennia, women's social position has periodically risen and fallen, consistent with patriarchy's need for access to, and control over, their reproductive, economic, and political resources. In the early twenty-first century, the numbers of women embracing lives of relational independence are increasing. As might be expected, patriarchy continues its campaign of control through cultural discourses that idealise sexual attachment and privilege the couple.

Shoebridge, A. (2012.) Single women: A history of misogyny. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing.

Nominations for this year's Elaine Dignan Award close on October 31 2013 – for details see <a href="http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/dignan/">http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/dignan/</a>

#### Links to articles of interest

# Rural women face judgement and misinformation on family planning

http://theconversation.com/search?q=kruss

Research conducted by Dr Julie Kruss in Victoria has attracted international attention, "a sign", as Heather Gridley reports "that the story resonates beyond our context."

Women living in urban areas may take for granted their relatively easy access to family planning services that provide information and ways to freely determine the number, timing, and spacing of their children. For women in rural areas, the picture can be very different. Recent research in rural Victoria found these women face extra hurdles and feelings of "judgement" when seeking out these services. The project investigated the barriers for women seeking emergency contraception, pregnancy termination or pregnancy-related options counselling in rural western Victoria. Options counselling refers to services that explore available alternatives regarding an unplanned pregnancy. The study highlighted an overall lack of women's health services in rural communities, as well as some alarming patterns in reported barriers to accessing them.

The article was reprinted as far afield as the USA: <a href="http://atlantablackstar.com/2013/04/02/rural-women-seeking-family-planning-face-obstacles-judgment/">http://atlantablackstar.com/2013/04/02/rural-women-seeking-family-planning-face-obstacles-judgment/</a>- Equally exciting is the take up by ruraldr.com.au - and the 55 mamamia blog comments <a href="http://www.mamamia.com.au/health-wellbeing/rural-women-are-missing-out-on-the-health-services-we-take-for-granted/#comments">http://www.mamamia.com.au/health-wellbeing/rural-women-are-missing-out-on-the-health-services-we-take-for-granted/#comments</a>.

#### **PMS**

An interesting article in The Conversation: <a href="http://www.monash.edu.au/news/show/pms-is-real-and-denying-its-existence-harms-women">http://www.monash.edu.au/news/show/pms-is-real-and-denying-its-existence-harms-women</a> on the PMS debate started (or revived) by Jane Ussher in a previous piece titled 'The myth of premenstrual moodiness <a href="http://theconversation.com/the-myth-of-premenstrual-moodiness-10289">http://theconversation.com/the-myth-of-premenstrual-moodiness-10289</a> What do W & P members think??

#### Sexual assault in psychiatric settings

Whilst organisations such as the Victorian Women and Mental Health Network have been exposing women's experiences of mixed-sex psychiatric units and advocating for urgent change for decades, it has taken much longer for the wider dissemination of such information. A petition "Victorian Government: Stop sexual assault of women in psychiatric care" is being circulated by Change.org: <a href="http://www.change.org/petitions/victorian-government-stop-sexual-assault-of-women-in-psychiatric-">http://www.change.org/petitions/victorian-government-stop-sexual-assault-of-women-in-psychiatric-</a>

care?share id=AJxMUEjyoc&utm campaign=signature receipt&utm medium=email&utm sourc e=share petition The recent media coverage can be viewed here

http://au.news.yahoo.com/latest/a/-/latest/17131650/sexual-assault-rife-in-psychiatric-hospitals-report/?cmp=ydn:

http://www.vicserv.org.au/uploads/documents/general%20docs/Nowhere%20to%20be%20Safe%20Final%20layout.pdf

#### Women and power

An interesting re-examination of the challenges faced by women assuming and sustaining positions of power has been occurring recently in Australia. In August 2012 Anne Summers delivered the 2012 Human Rights and Social Justice Lecture to the Universty of Newcastle on the *Political persecution of Australia's first female Prime Minister*, revealing example after example of the frequently vile and degrogatory public representations of the Prime Minister: http://annesummers.com.au/speeches/her-rights-at-work-r-rated/



In September 2012 the Victorian Women's Trust launched its *A Switch in Time* initiative with a book written by CEO Mary Crooks documenting the lack of respect in Australian politics:

to protect and promote, rather than destroy, important community values of respect, accountability, fairness and tolerance; to confront the sexism and misogyny in our political discourse; to keep the focus on global science, climate change and other important policy issues; to challenge media 'group think'; and to reject vitriol and abuse as some kind of 'new normal

# A Switch in Time - restoring respect to Australian politics

By Mary Crooks

slippery little word, respect – easy to say, sounds good, harder to practise.

- Interested in defending democratic principles?
- Keen to confront the sexism and misogyny in our political discourse?
- Anxious to keep the focus on climate change and other important policy issues?
- Want to challenge media group think?
- Ready to reject social media vitriol and abuse as some kind of 'new normal'?
- Hungry for some ideas as to what we can do?

Then *A Switch in Time* is for you!

http://www.vwt.org.au/initiatives-25.html

A Switch in Time is available in hard copy free of charge. The only cost is postage and handling. **RESTORING RESPECT TO POLITICS - KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM!** 

The latest edition of the Griffith Review is also recommended <a href="http://griffithreview.com/edition-40-women-power/">http://griffithreview.com/edition-40-women-power/</a>