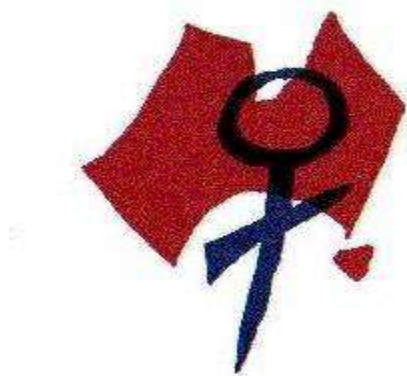


# WESNET

The Women's Service Network



**Australia's peak women's organisation working to eliminate  
domestic and family violence**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2009 - 2010**



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# Committee Reports

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## National Chairperson

### Julie Oberin

Established in 1992, the Women's Services Network (WESNET) is the peak body for domestic and family violence Services across Australia.

It has been a significant year for the women's domestic and family violence sector across Australia with the ongoing roll out of the Road Home policy framework and the launch of the National Council's Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. It has disappointed the sector however that the Commonwealth Government did not launch their National Plan prior to going into the election campaign. Services expressed their disappointment at having it announced instead as an ALP policy platform. WESNET is looking forward to ongoing involvement with Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments throughout the 2010/11 year through relevant advisory and consultative mechanisms to ensure that the implementation strategies benefit from the expertise and support of our sector as key stakeholders, through WESNET their peak.

The WESNET National Committee is comprised of twelve women who volunteer their time and expertise to further our work as a sector and in the elimination of violence against women. Drawn from every State and Territory in Australia, they are grassroots service managers, direct service workers, counsellors, trainers, peer educators, researchers and expert advisers. These women, along with women in the domestic and family violence sector across the country, are Australian experts in various aspects of domestic and family violence. They are experts in policy and legislative frameworks, evaluation and what constitutes 'good practice'. They are fully conversant with 'good practice' discourse and programs in each of their States and Territories. On the Committee there are also delegates for immigrant, refugee and non-English speaking background women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and older women.

Last year the WESNET Committee co-opted Pauline Woodbridge who was retiring as National Chair and QLD representative, back on to the National Committee to focus on older women's issues. Apart from not wanting to lose the valuable contributions from Pauline, this is in response to the huge issues older women face, and will increasingly face as they age, particularly around domestic and family violence but also the long term consequences that can arise from this violence and abuse. Older women are increasingly facing homelessness, poverty, poor physical and mental health and ongoing violence and abuse. Early indications are that there are not enough services or affordable housing for this increasingly large group of women who will require services, support and affordable housing. Governments and services must urgently consider and plan for increasing support for the growing needs of an escalating population of older women.

In 2008-2009 WESNET was funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to undertake a Capacity Building Grants program. The project brief was to seek applications from Service Providers to build capacity to support victims of domestic and family violence within an early intervention and prevention framework.

The domestic and family violence sector is strongly focused on delivering services to clients in need. This often means that there is neither the time nor spare resources for services to document or capture innovative practice wisdom or new and innovative prevention or early intervention activities or opportunities. This grants program specifically offered funding for specialist and allied services that might want to document a particular practice in place in their organisation, or where they have expertise in a particular facet of early intervention and prevention work, or where they wanted to try something new.

WESNET has put together an Evaluation Report on this project which highlights some of the innovative and important work being undertaken across our sector. There is much going on in our member services which are often unrecognised and underfunded. WESNET is keen to ensure that this good work becomes noticed and eventually is considered, by governments and other funders, worthy of resourcing appropriately. Our publications can be found on our website [www.wesnet.org.au](http://www.wesnet.org.au)

I would like to acknowledge our ongoing thanks to Karen Bentley for the high standard of work she delivers for WESNET.

In recent years WESNET has played an important role nationally and internationally in advocating the elimination of all violence against women.

Our immediate past National Chairperson, Pauline Woodbridge, was a member of the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children. The Council worked tirelessly over 2008 and 2009 to produce the *Time for Action: the National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2009-2021*.

In March 2010, the Rudd Government announced the establishment of six national Women's Alliances, one of which concerns Violence Against Women. WESNET, as lead agency, will be closely involved in the establishment of the new Australian Violence Against Women Alliance (AWAVA). AWAVA will be an Alliance which will focus on addressing all forms of violence against women.

WESNET participates in key national policy debates and consultative processes, research and develop publications, and presents at national and international conferences.

WESNET recognises that domestic and family violence is only one form of violence against women and that violence against women is underpinned by structural socio-political and ideological factors. WESNET works with other organisations in Australia and internationally and is a founding and ongoing member of the newly established Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS).

With the funding support of the Canadian Government and other sponsors, 17 countries representing all regions of the world began the process of organising so that the voice of women and their children can be present and at the centre of all initiatives to end violence. WESNET, through the Global Women's Shelter Network is on the organising International Committee and will be an integral part of the Second World Shelter Conference to be held in Washington DC in 2012. We encourage our members to start planning ahead and seeking funding support from state and territory governments to attend if possible.

WESNET also attended the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

in New York in February 2010 and hopes to attend more international meetings in coming years to keep Australian issues on the Australian, UN and world stage.

*Violence against women cuts across the boundaries of culture, ethnicity, class, geography and religion. There is no region of the world, no country and no culture in which women live free from violence.<sup>1</sup>*

## ABOUT WESNET

### WESNET's MEMBERS

Our members, Australia's domestic and family violence services, are a service system of complex service delivery organisations who are specialists in assisting women experiencing or escaping domestic and family violence. Our members include:

- Women's refuges/shelters
- Halfway houses
- Safe houses
- Women's medium-term housing schemes
- Information and referral services
- Sexual assault services
- Outreach services.
- Counselling services
- Advocacy services
- Indigenous services
- Immigrant, refugee and non-English speaking background services
- Other women's services

The models of domestic and family violence services in Australia are diverse. They range from single communal shelters to multi-building cluster models of self-contained units with counselling rooms, children's resource buildings, playgrounds, and group or training rooms; to shop fronts in busy shopping centres servicing dispersed houses throughout the community; to large purpose built facilities in remote areas; to lone outreach workers working out of other organisations. They may be a crisis phone service that also provides crisis accommodation, a community development worker, a counsellor, a networker, a children's worker, or a worker in an isolated community with little support. They may specialise in certain disadvantaged groups of women and children in their community.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (2010) *National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence Against Women 2009 – Changing cultures, changing attitudes – preventing violence against women*. Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra.

<sup>2</sup> Weeks & Oberin (2004) *Women's Refuges, Shelters, Outreach and Support Services in Australia: from Sydney squat to complex services challenging domestic and family violence*, Office for Women, Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra.



In 2010 WESNET undertook strategic planning and agreed on a Strategic Plan to guide our work for the next five years (2010 – 2015).

### **WESNET's VISION**

That all women and children live free from domestic and family violence and its consequences.

### **WESNET's PURPOSE**

WESNET is a national women's peak advocacy body that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and programmatic responses relevant to women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence.

WESNET advances responses which:

- ensure the safety of women and children
- empower them to live free of violence, and
- improve the social, political and economic status of women.

WESNET works within a feminist framework which promotes an understanding of domestic and family violence as gendered violence.

In addition, WESNET acknowledges that women and children's experiences are also intrinsically shaped by their ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexuality and class.

### **WESNET's GOALS**

1. Membership Services
2. Promotion of the prevention of domestic and family violence
3. Continue to strengthen our viability and relevance as a peak body
4. Contribute to and monitor policies, legislation and programs which impact on women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

Reflecting on the past year, the significance of The Road Home and the National Plan, and the current government policy environment, it is clear that we must continue to work together and with governments to not only improve service responses to the women and children who use our services but to continue to insist louder than ever on the following statement.

**It is time to work together and harness our expertise and energies to finally stop the systematic entrenched violation and abuse of women and children in our communities.**

## Indigenous Women

### Shirley Slann

It has been an interesting year with Prime Minister Rudd being overturned by now Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Kevin Rudd certainly won the respect of many Indigenous Australians for his apology on behalf of the Australian government to the “Stolen generation” (traditional owners of this land). It will be interesting to see if Prime Minister Gillard has Indigenous issues on the fore front.

### NATSIWG

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Gathering (NATSIWG) is a forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women across Australia that has occurred annually since 2002. Held as part of the Ministerial Conference on the Status of Women, the NATSIWG is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to discuss issues of importance for them with Women’s Ministers from the Australian, State, Territory and New Zealand Governments.

NATSIWG is also an opportunity for female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to:

- Open and maintain a dialogue with policy makers to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women’s policy reforms come from the ground up, and are not dictated from the top down.
- Participate in agenda setting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to be heard on a regional, national and international level;
- Create networks and make connections with other female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from around the country; and
- Consult with local women to bring their ideas and energy to a national forum; by discussing problems and sharing solutions.
- Every ATSI woman has a direct voice on a national level at each jurisdictional level.
- Transparent and equal representation from all levels of community, including states and territories.
- Gathering allows an opportunity to meet and determine national priorities and report these priorities directly to MINCO Established credibility and have been able to function with minimal amount of resources and support.

In 2006 the NATSIWG Working Group was established for a 3 year term to work on the Consultation Cycle in respect to the relationships between the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Gatherings and consultative timeframes and linkages with the Ministerial Council of Women (MINCO) and the Women’s Advisors Meeting (WAM).

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Gathering was held in Canberra from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010. It was meant to be held in Perth, however was relocated to Canberra due to Parliament sitting. A number of recommendations came out of the gathering and were presented to the WAM and MINCO.

Figure 1 - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering Participants - Canberra 2010



### **National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA)**

In my last report for WESNET I mentioned the possibility of seeing whether a National Indigenous Women's Alliance would be formed. This has since happened with YWCA Australia auspicing the newly formed National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA)

### **The National Congress of Australia's First People**

The National Indigenous Representative body is now being called "The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples". The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples has been established for the purposes of:

- Providing national leadership and recognition of the status and of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as First Nations peoples.
- Protecting and advancing the wellbeing and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.
- Providing a representative voice of, and a conduit for communications with and between, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Securing economic, political, social, cultural and environmental futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities by working with governments, service providers, communities and other stakeholders.
- Building strong relationships with government, industry and among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, based on mutual respect and equality.
- Identifying issues, researching solutions and educating government, service providers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to achieve the above purposes.

### **DFVSIAG (Queensland)**

I have recently been appointed to the Queensland Domestic & Family Violence Strategy Implementation Advisory Group (DFVSIAG). The Advisory Group has been established to advise the

Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women, Karen Struthers on the implementation of “For our sons and daughters”, the Queensland Government’s four year plan of action to reduce domestic and family violence. The plan also includes a comprehensive review of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*.

• • •

In the last WESNET annual report I mentioned that there was uncertainty as to whether NATSIWG would continue as it was being reviewed. I wish to advise that NATSIWG met with MINCO in Canberra recently and were advised that NATSIWG would no longer continue in its current role. This has raised a number of concerns for the NATSIWG and these concerns were mentioned face to face with MINCO. NATSIWG hopes that the voices of grass root Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women will continue to be heard on a National level, but is unsure on how this is going to happen. Although, NATSIWA (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance) is now in existence, let’s not assume that they will fulfil the role of NATSIWG. NATSIWG always hoped that there would be some form of collaborative partnership where both NATSIWG and NATSIWA would complement each other, and work towards ensuring that the voices of Indigenous women were being heard (not replace one with the other). The issues facing Indigenous women are huge and very diverse and it is unfortunate that what appears to have been working really well in the past is no longer required.

Figure 2 - NATSIWG Working Group Members at Gathering in 2010



From left to right: Pat Waria-Reed (S.A), Hayley Hoolihan (ACT), Helen McNeiar (WA), Melissa Stubbings (NSW), Shirley Slann (Australian Government Rep), Ngaree Ah Kit (NT), Erica Short (Tasmania), Leanne Miller (Chair & VIC Rep)

Domestic & Family Violence is still one of the biggest issues affecting women and children. It does not discriminate. However, Indigenous women are 45 times more likely to be a victim of Domestic & Family Violence than Non Indigenous Women. Indigenous women and children should have the same standard of living and health as compared to the wider community. Time will tell if the “Time

for Action - National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009-2021 continues to be implemented.

**Let's see what the future holds!**

## **Immigrant, Refugee and Non-English Speaking Background Women**

### **Jane Corpuz-Brock**

The WESNET NESB representative sends thank you message to all service recipients and service providers who have shared their thoughts and experiences in the context of better service provision for NESB women in Australia. Next year it is hoped that we could progress in doing changes to structural issues that affect the achievement of good and best practice strategies to achieve substantive outcomes for immigrant and refugee women.

### **Family Violence Provisions (FVP) of the Migrations Regulations**

Many service providers that the NESB Representative had met throughout this year had shared anecdotal data about service recipients who had experienced hardships in accessing the current Family Violence and Domestic Violence Provisions of the Migration Regulations. The difficulties experienced by service recipients were:

- Negotiating with competent persons in filling up the DIAC (Department of Immigration and Citizenship) Form 1040 as one of the pieces of evidence of family and domestic violence. Many NESB women have to go pay hundreds of dollars to privately and commercially practicing competent persons for filling up the DIAC 1040 form. These competent persons reason that they spend extra hours to do the forms.
- Negotiating time off from work so that they could prepare their evidence of the family violence they experienced and that they have to lodge at DIAC. The employment situation of many NESB women who are on provisional visas under the Partner Visa category is mostly on casual and temporary arrangements. Employers, who read the word “Provisional” on the passport of these women, do not offer them jobs that provide leave with pay. Most of these women said that when they asked for leave to prepare documents for the DIAC in relation to their experience of family violence, the employers have said: “Yes you can have leave, but you do not have to come back because there is no more employment for you”.

The Immigrant Women’s Speakout Association (IWSA Speakout) is currently undertaking an action research program on the impact of the Family Violence Provisions on CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) women’s employment and the difficulties in preparing the evidence required in accessing FVP. The IWSA has formed the CALD Women Studies Group to undertake the action research program and will plan an advocacy campaign around this issue. The WESNET NESB representative is a member of the CALD Women’s Studies Group.

### **Focus Groups and Conversations with Service Providers on NESB Women and Housing**

The NESB Representative has collated the information recommendations gathered from these activities. Also, the NESB Representative has participated and assisted in holding some of these focus groups and forums on issues concerning access and equity on the social, economic and political status of immigrant and refugee women.

The major recommendations presented:

- Extend affordable housing services funding to include outreach and long-term support for young women and other young people from CALD communities.



- Tax incentives for investors who make properties available to ease homelessness in particular CALD women who are escaping family violence
- Increase housing options for CALD women in family violence situations so safety can be achieved following initial assessment.

### **Forum “Expect Respect, it’s Everyone’s Business”**

The Immigrant Women’s Speakout Association and the MetWest Violence Prevention Network co-organised this forum that was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 in Auburn, New South Wales. One of the highlights of the forum is the sharing of best-practice ideas that focused on approaches that work and those that don’t. The presentation by Dr Fiona Buchanan of Flinder’s University in South Australia had many forum participants asking questions and sharing their ideas. Fiona presented a critique on traditional attachment theory that has implications for service provision. She said that understanding and addressing the context of the DV and the mother-child relationship is crucial to best-practice support. The emotional experience of the mother and of the baby must also be considered and workers must apply helpful strategies that are focusing on strengths, building support systems and challenging myths in the community. For example, the myth that children who experienced DV learn to abuse others themselves. Research shows that 67% of children who experienced DV do not go on to be perpetrators.

### **Bullying NESB Women at Workplaces and in Public Spaces**

- At the National Forum of Migrant Women’s Workers that was organised by the Asian Women at Work and co-sponsored by NIRWA and the Immigrant Women’s Speakout Association on 16 May 2010 in Sydney, bullying experienced by NESB women has been one of the common issues presented by the participants. In the workshop facilitated by the WESNET NESB representative the participants shared the following concerns: Newly-arrived NESB migrant women who holds provisional residency under the Partner visa have often experienced vulnerability to violence in the form of bullying by employers and supervisors at workplaces. Many of these migrant women keep silent about their experience because they are afraid to be made redundant from their job.
- Verbal abuse, threats of deportation and physical aggression towards NESB women who are on a temporary work visa (457). The cases that were reported has shown that some people in the community who have knowledge that a migrant woman is on 457 visa, had abused and threatened to report these NESB women to DIAC when the 457 visa holder tried to reason out and explain her side of the story during neighbourhood disputes.

The Immigrant Women’s Speakout Association has included the above issues in the action research that is currently being done with the CALD Women Studies Group. The WESNET NESB representative is also assisting in this action research.

### **Alliance-Building Among the Immigrant and Refugee Women**

The NESB representative has been one of the members of NIRWA National Council (Network of Immigrant and Refugee Women of Australia), which has assisted in preparing the groundwork for AIRWA (Alliance of Immigrant and Refugee women of Australia). NIRWA together with the FECCA

Women's Committee (Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia) and other organizations have formed AIRWA. AIRWA holds the contract with the federal Office for Women and together with AIRWA members will be responsible for alliance building.

### **Centenary of the International Women's Day Celebration in 2011**

The WESNET NESB Representative is working closely with AIRWA in preparing for the meaningful participation of immigrant and refugee women in the celebrations in 2011. The focus of the activities that have been planned by AIRWA members is on the achievements of CALD/NESB women in key aspects of their lives with emphasis on employment and work conditions.



## Older Women

### Pauline Woodbridge

I have been involved with WESNET for most of its life, in several different roles. Currently I hold the position of Older Women's rep and that came about because of WESNET's commitment to the recommendations that arose from the Capacity Building Grants Project 2008-2009.

One of the successful projects was undertaken by the Older Women's Network (OWN, NSW), the Pathways for Referral: Reducing Violence against Older Women reinforced that violence is a problem for older women and that as the Australian population ages; we can expect an increase in reporting. More worryingly is that many women of this generation will not have the economic resources to afford a healthy and safe retirement. (Evaluation of a grant program for early intervention and prevention projects for domestic and family violence. 2010).

OWN NSW's project aimed to develop partnerships between the aged, health and domestic violence sectors in order to test appropriate responses for reducing violence towards older women. The project established trials in 3 sites chosen for the high concentrations of older people, Indigenous and CALD populations. This included a site in regional NSW. Outcomes include the identification of general practitioners as critical for recognising and responding to violence against older women. Information kits were distributed to 400 GPs and ongoing follow-up was organised to maintain the use of the kits. The project raised the hidden issue of violence against older women across a number of sectors including the media. Baseline data collection was begun and will continue for the next 12 months and a model of collaboration across sectors is available to improve the reporting about, and support for, older women experiencing violence.

While awareness of homelessness as an issue for older persons is growing, the gendered nature of homelessness is often overlooked. Even the issue of rough sleeping assumes that it is homeless men sleeping in doorways or park benches that make up that population. Whereas the reality is there are women rough sleepers who, for safety, hide themselves in a variety of ways. Many women speak of living in cars and on the couches of family and friends.

Homelessness Australia developed an awareness campaign that asks the question "Will You Be Homeless in 2020? This question raises awareness that homelessness can happen to anyone and as statistics show, domestic and family violence are the largest driver of women and children's homelessness.

For many women homelessness is exacerbated by other factors such as illness, often compounded as co-morbidities, poor family and social networks, and poverty.

In August 2010 Older Women's Network NSW in conjunction with the St Vincent De Paul Society and with support provided by the Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse released a report that was researched and authored by Ludo McFerran. The project, called "*It Could Be You: female, single, older and homeless*", showed that there was an estimation of up to 30,000 single women over 45 who are at risk of homelessness on Australia's Eastern Coast. However existing services do not cater for this largely unseen group. These are women who have held jobs and raised families before falling into financial difficulty due to relationship breakdown, violence, unemployment or high rents in the private rental market.

The report proposes accelerated access to social housing for single women over 45 and an increase in the income eligibility limit to encourage older women to place themselves on social housing lists. Another recommendation is a national secondary dwelling program which provides incentives for home owners to rent out self-contained flats or half houses to help reduce the growing incidence of older single women falling into homelessness. Research has shown that women can provide support to each other whilst still maintaining their independence.

The reports mentioned above demonstrate the extent of the problem for older women and the largely unpreparedness of the sector to respond. WESNET is well placed to take up these issues and influence Government policy.

In my role as WESNET's Older Women's Rep, I hope to play a part in keeping this issue high on the agenda.

## Australian Capital Territory

### Richel Malouf

#### Current State/Territory Domestic/Family Violence issues

The lack of alternative accommodation is still a factor that impacts on women and children escaping domestic violence. Emergency and crisis services have been at capacity constantly over the past 12 months. The cost of private rental in the ACT is extremely high and the wait for public housing is long. The stimulus project housing is slowly coming on line so the wait for housing properties may reduce in the coming months.

#### State/Territory Policy and/or Legislative Changes

The Review of the ACT Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) has not been released however is expected by the end of the year.

The Revised Domestic Violence and Protections Orders Act are being implemented. The 'relevant person and relevant relationship' definitions are being utilized by the court and the process of ensuring other participants in the process are aware of these changes has commenced.

The implementation of the sexual assault legal reforms has commenced, the presumption is now that victims will give evidence via Closed Circuit TV unless otherwise requested. Services are working closely with police, forensic services, Department of Public Prosecutions and Victims Support ACT to ensure that victims are supported throughout the criminal justice process.

The lack of protection for counselling/file notes in civil matters is a concern. Protections are afforded under criminal law and a service can claim communications privilege, however this is not the case in civil matters such as the Administrative Appeals Tribunal or in Family Law matters. The ACT attorney General has made a commitment that this loop hole will be addressed before the end of 2010/2011 as a result of lobbying.

#### Domestic/Family Violence Sector Issues

The Women's refuges have worked on many issues this year. Among the most difficult and pressing are:-

- Ongoing violence from ex-partners
- Women facing Domestic Violence and Immigration issues
- Alcohol and other drug misuse
- Violence towards refuge workers from residents
- Racism and cultural intolerance between residents
- Working with child protection services

The solutions for these problems have included:

- Respite
- Education and awareness raising
- Report writing and lobbying
- Designated children's workers
- Mothers and Children's Groups
- Utilizing the new Homeless Person legal service Street Law and
- Connecting people to the Centrelink Community Engagement workers

### **Conferences/Training/Meetings/Events**

A two day Family Violence Conference “Responding to Family Violence, National Perspectives: Local Initiatives” was held in May. There were a number of excellent presentations. See [www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/events\\_reports.html](http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/events_reports.html)

The Sexual Assault Primary Prevention for Secondary Schools Program (SAPPSS) program “respectful relationships” is being delivered in 2 high schools in collaboration with CASA House and Royal Women’s Hospital Melbourne.

The NASASV SAPE project to train, support and mentor youth workers who are facilitating relationship group outside a school setting has been undertaken and 2 pilot programs have been delivered.

### **Other**

Strong support has been gained from the ACT Minister for Community Services and Minister for Women for the national wage case.

### **Submissions to the ALRC Family Violence Review**

A number of services made submissions to this very long inquiry paper. The length of the paper and time frame for responses made it prohibitive for a comprehensive response of the review by community services.

Another concern was the lack of a holistic approach to Indigenous Family violence.

### **Proposal for a National Scheme for the Recognition and Registration of Domestic and Family Violence Orders**

As the ACT is surrounded by NSW the issue of cross-border recognition and registration of domestic and family violence orders is of particular relevance to the ACT community. There are marked differences between jurisdictions issuing protection orders. In NSW police make the application whereas in the ACT Parties make their own. There are also differences in attitude to children being included on the orders.

### **Women Exiting Prisons Service**

**Women Exiting Prisons Service** is out for tender for the second time. The service will be a great support to women in our new prison and upon their exit.

### **Research Reports**

“Women with Disabilities Accessing Crisis Services” Women’s Centre for Health Matters 2009

“It goes with the Territory! ACT Women’s views about Health and Wellbeing Information” Angela Carnovale and Elizabeth Carr 2010

“Out of Reach – Women Living with Mental Health issues in the ACT: What hinders their access to Legal Support” Women’s Centre for Health Matters 2010

“A Case For Justice: Immigrant Women’s Experience with Australian Migration Law” – Maryann Athaide 2010

“A Call for Justice towards immigrant women: Amending Australia’s Domestic/Family Violence

Provisions” Maryann Athaide 2010

## New South Wales

### Catherine Gander

#### The Year in Overview

It has been a busy year in NSW with the State developing a Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan and Regional Plan to support the implementation of the states Homelessness Action Plan. While there has been an increase in governments focus in these areas, domestic and family violence continues to be the primary reason for accessing specialist homelessness services. Specialist homelessness services targeting women and children escaping domestic and family violence continue to turn away over 1 in every 2 new requests for accommodation. Indeed the latest national data shows an increase in the number of women and children turned away from these services has increased from 51%<sup>3</sup> in 2007-08 to 57% in 2008-09<sup>4</sup>. The following provides an overview of some of the key areas of focus for the past year.

#### Homelessness Reforms

NSW welcomed the increased commitment at both the Commonwealth and state level to strengthen responses to women and children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic and family violence, through the major reforms and policy frameworks.

The year saw the release of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan (HAP) and the roll out of the first year of projects under the plan. There was also the commitment in the HAP to develop regional Homelessness Action Plans. The remaining three years of funding through the National Partnership Agreements was based on the development of projects contained within the regional plans.

While we supported the development of regional plans, we have consistently advocated for the need to improve coordination at local and regional levels. Throughout this process we consistently advocated for the needs of women and children who are homeless due to domestic and family violence to be identified and responded to in the regional plans and for the regional actions to engage existing specialist homelessness services and build on their expertise.

Aside from the regional planning processes, there has been a myriad of other actions and projects contained in the Homelessness Action Plan that we have sought to contribute to. Some of this work has occurred in partnership with other members of the Homelessness Community Alliance. The Alliance is made up of range of peak organisations and sector representatives. The Alliance includes Homelessness NSW, the Youth Accommodation Association, NCOSS, the Mental Health Coordinating Council, the Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, the Welfare Rights Centre, Homeless Persons Legal Service, Shelter NSW and Federation of Housing Associations.

NSW established the Premier's Council on Homelessness. The NSW WESNET Representative was appointed to the Premier's Council.

Another key aspect of homelessness reforms will be the development of a National Framework (NQF) for services responding to homelessness. NSW made a submission to this process and

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<sup>3</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2009, Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2007-2008, a report from the national data collection, p.54

<sup>4</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2010, Demand for Government funded specialist homelessness accommodation 2008-2009, a report from the national data collection, p.45

encouraged contributions to the consultation process. Our submission stressed that whilst we appreciated the benefits that many of these potential components may bring to a NQF, the components must be capable of assisting both mainstream and specialists to continuously improve service provision to homeless people and those at risk. The process should not be about just satisfying requirements, a NQF should provide support to agencies to continually reflect on their practices and strategies to make improvements.

### **NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan**

NSW has also consistently advocated that homelessness reforms targeted at reducing the number of women and children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic and family violence will need to be coordinated with other key reforms such as the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan and Keep Them Safe – A Shared Approach to Child Wellbeing. The links between domestic and family violence and child protection are well known and the need for improved integration across these service systems is now broadly acknowledged by Government and the community<sup>5</sup>.

NSW has sought to engage in all of these reform processes as we are acutely aware that specialist services and the women and children they support are deeply enmeshed in the complex justice and human service systems that these reforms are seeking to improve. NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action ‘Stop the Violence, End the Silence’ was released in May. We had engaged in the consultative processes undertaken during its development and NSW WESNET Representative assisted in the facilitation of consultations through her role on the NSW Premier’s Council to Prevent Violence Against Women.

The five priority areas identified in the Action Plan include Prevention and Early Intervention; Protection Safety and Justice, Provision of Services and Support, Building Capacity and Data Collection and Research. We fully support the actions under the five priority areas however equally important will be the effective development and implementation of Regional Domestic and Family Violence Committees and the additional support to local domestic violence committees that are included in the plan. The expertise that exists within specialist domestic and family violence services, including women’s refuges should be utilised in the development, implementation and monitoring of the plan and associated regional actions.

### **Child Protection**

NSW has throughout the year provided information and advice to both members and the Government on the implementation of Keep Them Safe – a Shared Approach to Child Wellbeing. This has included input into a range of KTS initiatives including the new statutory reporting threshold, the development of the interagency guidelines and the development of the NGO Capacity Building Plan. Throughout these processes the Office of the WRM has advocated for increased recognition of the expertise of women’s refuges in the delivery of services and support to children during the implementation of Keep Them Safe. Refuges for women and children provide a diverse range of services to both women and children and often play an important role in preventing

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<sup>5</sup> NSW Government, 2008, *Keep Them Safe: A Shared Approach to Child Wellbeing*, p.12

statutory child protection involvement as well as identifying when statutory intervention is required. Despite many of the good reforms occurring through Keep Them Safe we don't believe that this expertise has been appropriately recognised, utilised and resourced. It would be valuable to utilise this specialisation through representation from the domestic violence sector within State and Regional consultative structures to assist in the implementation of Keep Them Safe and to improve coordination between key reform areas such as Keep Them Safe, the NSW Homelessness Action Plan and the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action 'Stop the Violence, End the Silence'.

### **Inquiries into Domestic and Family Legislation and Family Law**

During the year NSW has also made submissions to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Family Violence Inquiry and the Family Court Violence Review undertaken by Professor Chisholm. We have long advocated for reforms to Family Law Legislation and processes to improve the safety and wellbeing of women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence and child abuse.

### **Submissions**

Other Submission made by NSW during the year included:

- National Quality Framework for Homelessness services
- National Homelessness Legislation
- Australian Law Reform Commission – Family Violence Inquiry
- Professor Chisholm – Family Law Family Violence
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into Income Management
- NSW Homelessness Action Plan



## Northern Territory

### Dale Wakefield

It has been an uncertain twelve months in the Domestic Violence sector in the Northern Territory without a lot of noteworthy progress on many fronts.

The focus continues to be on the implications and implementation of the National Affordable Housing Agreement. At this stage all contracts with the Northern Territory have been rolled over for another twelve months so that the new agreements can be formalised. The sector has had little information about what that process will be. There is also ongoing uncertainty whether the move to population based funding will have the effect of reducing funding to the homelessness sector in the Northern Territory despite having the highest number of homeless people per capita in Australia. The recent SAAP data report again reported that the major reason that women and children present to homelessness services in the Northern Territory continues to be domestic and family violence. At this stage it remains unclear how this will be responded to in the implementation of the NAHA.

The NT Government has also yet to announce how it is going to respond to the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women.

On a territory level the major response of the NT Government to Domestic and Family Violence continues to be the mandatory reporting of domestic violence. This year the campaign included an extensive education campaign. Evaluations on both the campaign and the mandatory reporting will be due on the next twelve months.

Overall the sector continues to be extremely busy with the rates of violence against women continuing to be the highest in the country. As the day to day challenges continue the importance of getting the larger policy directions becomes more imperative and a challenge to all in the sector.

## Queensland

### Lindy Edwards

#### White Paper Implementation

Almost 18 months on and in Queensland we have not seen a great deal of improvement as a result of the White Paper. The State Government has consulted with the sector about its Implementation plan, but despite the establishment of a Qld. Intersectoral Forum, comprising reps from Govt., sector Organisations and Peaks, there is generally a feeling in the sector that the state government is not really listening.

A Strategy to Reduce Homelessness is being developed and regional consultations were to be held across the State for input and ideas from the sector, to inform the development of the Strategy, but these have now been postponed indefinitely, without any explanation.

Funding has begun rolling out, but not all regions have received funding and there is very little for women escaping domestic violence. In the Townsville Region there are several new programs directed at youth homelessness, but in addition the region is to receive approximately 200 properties under the Stimulus Package. In the last couple of months there has been an improvement in this region in the ability of women leaving the shelter, to obtain independent housing both through the private rental market and the Department of Housing. However, it would seem that this is not necessarily the same in other regions, particularly where no additional houses are being built.

#### Qld.'s Whole of Government Response to DV

Last year the Queensland Government released its strategy to reduce domestic & family violence over the next 5 years "For Our Sons and Daughters". The emphasis in the strategy is on prevention and early intervention, connected victim support services, perpetrator accountability, and developing consistent responses aimed at reducing domestic violence through government and non-government partnerships.

A Program of Action will be released each year, following consultation with government and non-government sectors.

Key initiatives in the first year include:

- Expanding DV screening of pregnant women within the hospitals to identify those experiencing or at risk of DV and provide referral.
- A pilot project in Rockhampton testing an enhanced integrated service model, to improve the outcomes for women affected by DV.
- Establishing safety upgrades programs as pilots in three locations across the state (Townsville, Gold Coast and Sunshine coast). All three of these are now up and running, and regular meetings are being held with the Department of Communities and the Evaluation Team.
- In terms of Perpetrator accountability, risk assessment tools and evidence kits are being examined, with the aim of supporting vulnerable witnesses in the justice system.
- An expert Death Review panel is being established to oversee a review of the current coronial processes and practices. Unfortunately, at this stage this has been limited to a set number of

deaths and is not an on-going Domestic Violence Death Review Panel.

- A review of the current domestic violence legislation, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. Consultations are happening around the state in the next few months, to get input from the sector, and obviously it is hoped that any amendments will result in enhanced protection for women and children, and legislation that will hold perpetrators more accountable, particularly in the area of domestic violence breaches.

### **Workforce Development**

Following the Qld. Industrial Relations Commission's ruling in favour of the QASU pay equity case, the Qld Government has made available increased funding, across all departments, to meet these wages. However, very clearly the amounts are not 100% of the increases that organisations have to pay workers. There was no explanation as to how figures were achieved and there are considerable differences for different organisations throughout the sector. So whilst it is great to have some recognition of the increased cost to services and the importance of paying workers appropriately, it has also caused headaches for most services trying to manage the increases. Of particular concern for some services is where funding is received from both state and federal government, as there has obviously been no increase in the funding from the Federal government and services are trying to balance the figures to ensure equity amongst the workers they employ!

Now we are all just waiting for the outcome of the ASU's Pay Equity Case, as organisations will now be moving under the Federal Modern Award and there is real concern that the increases achieved will gradually be eroded over time unless the Modern Award has improved wage scales.

### **D&FV Prevention Month**

D&FV Prevention Month was once again held in Queensland during the month of May, with various activities across the state to raise awareness of the issues for women and children experiencing domestic violence. This year for the first time the Candlelight Ceremony, held at the same time on the first Wednesday of May, was a National event, with ceremonies be held in all states except WA.

### **Family Law Court**

Women's Services around Queensland continue to see huge issues for women in dv accessing the Family Court, as must be the case in all other states. Late last year, a phone in survey was held as part of Attorney General's funded research undertaken by University of SA, Monash University and James Cook to get responses from parents and their children, around their experiences with accessing the Family Court. Two sites were used for the phone line, Adelaide and Townsville where the NQ DV Service was used and workers from the various women's services were involved in conducting the phone in over two days.

## South Australia

### Vicki Lachlan

#### **Restructure of the Domestic & Family Violence Sector:**

All homelessness agencies, including the Domestic Violence Services, in SA spent 6 weeks in October and November preparing their submissions to the *Preferred Support Provider Panel* process. Agencies spent countless hours gathering documents for and writing extensive responses to a very detailed *Call for Expressions of Interest*. Finally successful agencies were announced in February. However this was just part of the process – then most homelessness services (other than the DV services) had to apply again through a tender process to prove that they were capable of managing quite different regional homelessness services, at the time of writing of this report the Domestic Violence Services had just completed their round of the same – each competing for regionalised or specialised service provision to D&FV clients. The outcome for this will not be known until October 2010.

During the period of all of the above process most agencies were also racing to achieve Service Excellence accreditation (stated based quality assurance) as an indicator of the ability to manage being a Preferred Support Provider. It is interesting to note in the homelessness round that although the emphasis was on quality accredited organisations – some of the agencies that won *Preferred Support Provider Panel* status were not accredited organisations and then were awarded regional tenders. Some SA organisations have opted to achieve National accreditation instead.

The Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services of SA Inc chose to not meet during the two intense 'writing' times during the year – to allow services time to concentrate on the work required for both the Expression of Interest and then the Tender. The year has been spent in a state of flux for all our member services, with tension increasing – who will get through the processes, what will happen for the clients and who will they go to, who will lose staff because of the uncertainty, will larger organisations win out over the smaller often independent services? (This was not the case with the first round). We wait and see!

Part of the Domestic & Family Violence Reform process was the formation of a Reform Committee with several representatives from the Coalition on it, which fed into the process regarding all of the above; with additionally a Homelessness Advisory Group – with more generalist reps on it and D&FV ones too – both of these groups are not meeting anymore and we are unsure of what consultative structures will be in place in the future.

There is a range of reforms anticipated –

Gateways to our services will operate such – each regional specialist service is expected to individually operate a 'Gateway' service, with a 'No Wrong Door' policy to whomever approaches your service; the specialist D&FV Gateway will provide referrals only, no outreach or follow-up for women waiting to get into a D&FV service; and there will be an extended government run out-of-hours 'Gateway'.

There will be changes to our Funding Agreements the key elements of which are that each regional specialist service will provide the *Gateway, wait-list support, work on a housing first premise, with early intervention and post crisis support – 'in-centre & outreach support'*, and a focus on *children's*

support, with each child having their own case plan.

*These changes, and in some cases extra services, will occur with some services receiving a cut in funding, others with no extra funding.*

#### **Domestic Violence Death Review:**

After intense lobbying from the Coalition in partnership with the SA DV Death Review Coalition, with rallies on Parliament House steps each time a woman or child lost their lives due to Domestic or Family Violence, it was announced by our Minister for the Status of Women that the government had funded a project officer to sit in the Coroner's office, under the Attorney General's department who would assist the Coroner to determine the circumstances surrounding the deaths of women after D&FV. But it is still not clear how this will work to better improve all services to and for women and children, again a wait and see!

#### **SA Domestic Violence Laws Update:**

Our new law has been proclaimed, but the Implementation of the proposed changes has not started at present, the Coalition will be part of the consultation process with the SA Office for Women.

#### **Family Safety Framework:**

Domestic Violence Services have worked intensively with the government structures that have signed up to this Framework – every government department. The three pilots are complete and been evaluated, and now the Framework processes and structures are being gradually rolled out to various regions in stages. Three more regional groups are now up and running, each time including a country region. The issue for D&FV services is that the commitment is not always there consistently from some government services', including the Police but it varies according to region.

A purported integral action that forms part of the framework is that *Risk and Safety Assessments* are undertaken to determine whether individual clients should be included in the work of each region; however again the commitment and recognition of the expertise of the DV Services is inconsistent, with, for instance, regional prosecutors sometimes asking for many to be completed and others not. The Coalition is taking this up as an issue with the Office for Women.

The 'Staying at Home' program is in its infancy, and has not advanced as yet. The Family Safety Framework incorporates the work to be done on this.

#### **Department of Families & Communities Strategic Plan Steering Group:**

The Coalition has provided two representatives to sit on this group with a number of government departments. It had just started meeting at the end of this period. The new SA DV legislation and the new National Plan are the main documents that will inform the work of the Steering Group, with the Family Safety Framework the structure surrounding the work.

#### **Stimulus/Supportive Housing:**

All homelessness services are given the opportunity to nominate their own clients for the chance to gain a house through this source, however once we have done this there is no guarantee that the client will then be supported by the nominating agency, as Housing SA then chooses who provides the ongoing support. This does not work to the benefit of all clients, as some of them are handed to services they have had nothing to do with, the clients are not consulted, and at times this has led to not the best outcome for the client.

### **Supported Tenancy Scheme Properties (STS):**

This is the program that has provided all homelessness services access to transitional properties here in SA, it has been going for many years like this, with each agency having a fair amount of control over the properties, paying a rent to Housing SA and charging a sub-lease rent to 'our' clients. Mostly the properties are close to each of the services. It has now been under review for several years, with the likely future of the program under a cloud, and all services wanting to hold onto this essential option for clients to transition out of our crisis accommodation, waiting for a more long term opportunity.

The current thinking is that these properties will now transfer to Community Housing organisations, but with our nomination rights still in force – we await to hear!

### **Information Sharing Guidelines:**

The *Information Sharing Guidelines* for promoting the safety and well being of children, young people and their families was launched a few years ago here; now that government departments have applied them to their work in this field the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People is rolling out the information and support for community agencies to sign up to them also. The Coalition has had a number of presentations about them, and is committed to removing the barriers to information exchange where appropriate.

### **Focus on Tenancy Breaches Intervention:**

Within all of the restructure of the Homelessness sector the emphasis is on keeping people in their current housing if they have it. Domestic and family violence is treated as but one of the issues that may precipitate the loss of housing and our work has to include the support of women in this situation.

## Tasmania Report

### Jacinta Atkins

While Tasmanian Government is currently developing some strategies to assist in halving Homelessness in Tasmania, Women's shelters across the state are experiencing higher than last year's turn a ways. Exit points are at an all time low, leaving women and children in shelters far longer than the six week time span allotted for shelter stays by SHS (SAAP). Affordable housing is almost becoming a thing of the past with single income families paying an average of 40% of their weekly income on rent. This amount is escalating with current trends of Real Estate agents to sign only short term leases (3 – 6 months) thus allowing them to do further rent increases in a shorter amount of time.

Safe at Home in Tasmania has enabled women the option in some cases of remaining in the family home, but the current rental market is not, of course allowing for this with single women not being able to afford the rent that was being paid prior to the family breakdown. This is putting further pressure on the EAP's. One Women's Shelter in Hobart reports turning away 302 women and 579 children from Domestic Violence situations in the '09 – '10 financial year period. As stated above, women are spending more time in the shelters, in some cases up to 6 months. In most cases women are linked into a transitional support service that, in some instances are able to provide transitional housing for a further 3 – 6 months. This does not alleviate the issues of removing children from schools and social networks to house and re house them.

In the financial year '09-'10 there were 3227 women and children turned away from Shelters across Tasmania due to no available space, this number may be heightened slightly due to women trying to access alternative shelters when one is full. There are currently in excess of 3500 individuals and families on the Housing Tasmania waiting list.

An initiative of the NAHA in Tasmania is a Specialist Intervention Tenancy Support program that will work with long term homeless individuals and families alongside a Same House Different Landlord program, the Same House Different Landlord program will be given houses from Housing Tasmania stock or Community Housing programs, the SITS team will allocate and work with the clients for 2 years after which time the house and tenant will be handed back to Housing Tas or the Community Housing program. This program is expected to roll out in October 2010.

## Victoria

### Margaret Augerinos

This is my first report as the Victorian representative and as in previous years, there is much to report on.

#### Victorian Reform Context

The domestic violence context in Victoria has been in rapid reform and change since the rollout of the Integrated Family Violence Strategy in 2005. Since that time we have seen significant efforts at all levels of the service system – to improve system co-ordination and linkages with a view to improving the safety of women and children and holding men who use violence towards family members accountable.

In 2005, the Victorian Government invested an additional \$35.1 million dollars which was directed across a range of sectors including courts, justice, police and the community sector and women's services. In 2007 a further \$14.5 million was provided to strengthen the justice response. In 2008 a further \$24.7 million over four years added to the range of reforms and programs. In 2009 \$10.5 million over 4 years was provided to continue the specialist family violence courts in Ballarat and Heidelberg, as well as \$20.5 million over four years to strengthen services across the range of services. A further \$14.1 million was provided in 2010 for the first 4 years of the *A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to prevent violence against women 2010-2020*.

Despite this increased investment, the women's and community sector in Victoria continues to work beyond capacity with increasingly complex service demands. Most of the new funds have been directed to areas other than women's domestic violence services, although we have had some growth.

Some of the recent developments in Victoria include:

- The Victorian Government's "Enough" campaign. This campaign was launched in 2008 in conjunction with Victoria's new Family Violence Protection Act. The campaign not only promoted the new Act but was also designed to raise community awareness of family violence. How successful it was is a matter for debate, but in our local community there was very little promotion of the campaign.
- A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010 –2020 was launched. This plan lists a number of strategies aimed at challenging and changing the causes of gendered violence including developing respectful relationships and promoting gender equality.
- Projects that have been funded under this plan include piloting respectful relationships programs targeting secondary school students, as well as undertaking a strengthening risk management project targeting all systems responding to family violence.
- A Right to Safety and Justice: Strategic Framework to Guide Continuing Family Violence Reform in Victoria 2010 –2020 was launched and designed to complement the Right to Respect prevention plan.



The strategy identifies 6 priority action areas:

- Increase the system's capacity to respond earlier and more effectively to all victims of family violence
- Emphasise the rights, needs and safety of children and young people
- Ensure perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account
- Ensure Victorian communities do not tolerate violence against women
- Strengthen the Integrated Family Violence System including governance and workforce capacity
- Improve research and data systems to measure progress of reform and outcomes.

Further information about the new frameworks can be found at <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/women/family-violence/a-right-to-safety-and-justice-strategic-framework-to-guide-continuing-family-violence-reform-in-victoria-2010-2020>

### **Accreditation**

Accreditation for domestic violence and housing and homelessness services continues to dominate the landscape.

Many domestic violence services have successfully achieved accreditation under the Victorian Homelessness Assistance Standards. Most agencies have chosen to accredit their full agency services under the QICSA (Quality Improvement Council) Organisational Standards in addition to HASS.

The accreditation process, whilst being on the whole a positive experience for services, does place a huge drain on agency personnel and resources – for which they are not funded.

A big thank you to Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic) and the Victorian Council for Homeless Persons (CHP) for their efforts in resourcing the sector around accreditation issues.

### **National Partnership Agreement – Victorian Family Violence Initiatives**

Via the NPA, the Victorian Government have provided additional funds to domestic violence services – specifically Enhanced After Hours support, Safe At Home programs, new Indigenous Family Violence services and a continuation of the men's family violence case management programs.

The objectives of the Enhanced After Hours Program are:

- To introduce and expand telephone and face-to-face outreach after hours support capacity at the regional/sub-regional level
- To establish more consistent after hours support with the provision of a central coordination point located within Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service (WDVCS)
- To establish clear protocols with local police; existing after hours and outreach service providers; WDVCS; and Men's Referral Service (MRS) particularly in relation to formal referral pathways
- To reduce the time lag in response to police faxback referrals.

The objectives of the Safe At Home Program are:

- To assist women and their children to remain safely in their homes and local community to maintain connections with friends, family, kinship networks and other community support. (In some cases safety imperatives may require assistance to relocate to another area).
- To assist women to make informed choices about their circumstances for themselves and their children to protect their safety.
- To reduce disruption to children's lives by avoiding relocation away from existing communities and schools.

Both these initiatives are in the process of being rolled out across the state and will build additional capacity into women's services.

### **Victorian Death Review Committee**

As reported last year, the Victorian Government announced it would be establishing a death review process for all family violence related deaths. This new process sits within the newly established Coroners Prevention Unit and commenced operations in May 2009. There has been no further information about the process to date, and given how late it kicked off in this period, we will no doubt have more to report in next year's report.

### **A Better Place: Victorian Homelessness 2020 Strategy**

A new 10 year homelessness strategy has been released. This strategy aims to:

- Prevent people becoming homeless in the first place,
- Minimise the harm caused by homelessness, and
- Assist people to move out of homelessness permanently.

Four areas of reform have been identified:

1. Focusing more on early intervention and prevention for people experiencing homelessness, to prevent homelessness where possible or significantly reduce its duration.
2. Taking a life stage approach to delivering services for people experiencing homelessness, which recognises people at different stages of life often become homeless for different reasons, face different circumstances and have different needs.
3. Taking a systemic, whole-of-government approach to addressing the causes and effects of homelessness for people at different life stages. This means connecting housing and homelessness support with education and employment services, health services and income support. It also means identifying which part of the system is best placed to coordinate services for people in different life stages.
4. Developing a workforce primed to intervene early, target services for people at different life stages, work across service sectors to address the multiple needs of people experiencing homelessness and focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for their clients.

The strategy correctly emphasises that domestic and family violence is the leading driver for women and children experiencing homelessness and that in the period 2000 to 2009, the number of support periods where family violence was the main presenting issue increased by 74 per cent.

In the strategy, the government announces a Family Violence flagship project (one of two – the

other is targeted at family homelessness) which:

“ ...will locate a multi-disciplinary team of staff in a specialist family violence agency. The project will build on existing integrated service delivery established through the recent family violence service reforms. This project will work with a further 250 individuals, including children.

The aims of the project are that:

- families receive legal services and safe accommodation,
- families have access to financial counselling and support enabling them to control their financial resources,
- families secure and maintain affordable housing,
- families access community health and mental health services,
- children attend and stay in primary and secondary education, and
- parents undertake vocational education and training and/or access employment services.

Clients participating in the two flagship projects will be given access to social housing or private rental. This will help children attend school, enhance access to local services and encourage new community relationships to be formed.”

### **Opening Doors – Local Area Service Networks**

Rollout of the Opening Doors framework continues across the state. The framework aims to deliver better co-ordination across services at a regional level. Some regions have experienced significant change in service delivery arrangements and others have made very few changes. Some regions report positive outcomes and others are reporting concerns about the impacts of the changes. It is fair to say that many in the state would like to “close the door on opening doors” and significant disquiet has been voiced at statewide forums.

## Western Australia

### Kedy Kristal

#### Current State/Territory Domestic/Family Violence Issues

Intimate partner abuse of men. A research project by the Men's Advisory Network and Edith Cowan University. Available on <http://www.man.org.au>

The report has received considerable media coverage with the west Australian devoting full page to the issue. Most media coverage has omitted to clarify that the research interviewed 15 men who had experienced intimate partner abuse in total, 7 from West Australia.

The Minister for Child Protection which fund women's refuges was quoted as saying "the support services offered to domestic violence victims are not gender specific and can therefore be accessed by anyone presenting as a victim or perpetrator of family and domestic violence".

#### 'Parenting Over Violence' Project

In 2009, the Patricia Giles Centre was one of four recipients of the 2008 Women's Community Award. These awards are administered annually by the Department for Communities (Women's Interests) and allocate funding to service providers in the non-government sector wishing to take part in research and/or the development of programs that seek to benefit women in Western Australia (WA). A total of 29 adolescent perpetrators of abuse against their mothers were described during interviews with both service providers and mothers. Of all cases described, 76% of the abusive adolescents were male and the remaining 24% were female. The majority of adolescents described fell between the ages of 13 and 21 years, with 18 being the most commonly reported age. The most commonly reported age of onset of adolescents' abuse was 12 years and the most common age reported with regard to when abusive behaviours hit their peak was 15 years. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, financial abuse, property damage, and control/intimidation were all disclosed by mothers and service providers as common forms of abuse perpetrated by the adolescents described. Female perpetrators were described as engaging in emotional/psychological abuse more frequently than males, whereas physical abuse, verbal abuse, financial abuse, property damage, and control/intimidation were said to be more commonly perpetrated by males than females. Some adolescents were described as being abusive towards other parents or guardians and family members such as grandparents and siblings. There were some incidents described where adolescents were abusive towards pets.

#### Domestic and Family Violence Services Forum.

On the 10th November 90 industry professionals gathered with the Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA) to discuss the Development and Implementation of the Safe at Home Program. Key Speakers included:

- Ludo McFerran, Researcher and DFV Specialist at the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse.

Safe at Home is an important concept for the domestic violence sector for a number of reasons:

- It targets perpetrators for exclusion thereby holding them accountable for their violent behaviour
- It reduces disruption and further trauma for the woman and children, and
- It enables access to domestic violence support services to women who would not ordinarily seek help/accommodation from a woman's Refuge in particular, women who have a strong attachment to their home, older women or women who do not wish to leave their community/network of social supports.

In March 2010 DCP announced that there would be four Safe at Home Centres in the metro area and two, Safe at Home Centre in the regional areas of Wheatbelt and South West Region. The Perpetrator response will be managed by Communicare. There will also be 5 regional DV Police Order Projects

### **Fatality review**

From 2000 to 2008, there have been 166 Domestic Homicides in WA. In January 2009, the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) called for the establishment of a Fatality Review Committee. At the 19th Annual Silent DV Memorial March held in April 2009 it was announced by the Minister's representative, Andrea Mitchell MLA that the State Government, through the Department of Child Protection, would host a Fatality Review Forum later in the year.

The recent forum hosted by Department of Child Protection, Family and Domestic Violence Unit, was held on 24 November 2009 in Perth and attended by approximately 60 invited representatives.

A Fatality Review Committee would seek to: Identify where and how system responses failed to protect victims of Domestic Homicide and make recommendations about how system responses can be reformed to prevent future death. This is guided by a 'no blame/no shame' philosophy.

The WA Strategic Plan for Family and Domestic Violence 2009-2013 was launched the end of the forum along with the Annual Action Plan 2009-10 and the Minister announced that she has assigned the Senior Officer's Group with the task of continuing the work on the Fatality Review process and reporting back with recommendations about the way forward for WA by April 2010.

### **Domestic/Family Violence Sector Issues**

#### **Keeping Kids Safe**

Keeping Kids Safe wound up on a fantastic note last year with the 'Supporting Children and Young People Who Have Experienced Domestic and Family Violence' forum which was a great success with over 70 attendees.

The project has been funded for a further three years through the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness in recognition of the vital role workers play in supporting children and young people.

#### **The Purple Book**

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services has received funding to develop a

Purple Book based on the Women's Aid UK Gold Book which lists comprehensive information about DV services. It has been a long time since we had an updated WA resource on DV services.

### **Indigenous Family Violence.**

#### **The Kimberley Hub**

The Kimberley region has the highest rate of domestic and family violence in Western Australia. In 2008 a community consultation was undertaken with government, non government and community members to identify gaps in services and identify possible locations for family violence hub.

FaHCSIA has engaged the Dept for Child Protection to develop and implement the East Kimberley Family Violence Hub and outreach service. The Commonwealth govt has allocated \$6.8 million until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Hub will service be based in Kununurra to service Wyndham, Kununurra and the communities of Kalumburu, Oombulgurri and Warum.

#### **CALD Family Violence**

The peak body in WA the Ethnic Communities council has not been refunded in the recent State budget.

#### **Conferences/Training/Meetings/Events**

WA Family pathways network conference. Family violence The impact on Children: Working tighter to address complex needs. 24-26<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

The Key speakers were Hannah McGlade, Human Rights lawyer, Libby Lloyd, Chair of the Violence against Women Advisory group, Professor Marianne Hester, Chair Centre for Gender and Violence research school for Policy Studies, University Bristol and Brian Gluestein Magistrate, Family Violence Court. Over 400 people attended from across Western Australia, the morning presentations were followed by concurrent sessions expanding on the topics of research with Libby Lloyd, legal responses with Magistrate Brian Gluestein and the impacts of violence with Professor Marianne Hester and Angela Ryder.

#### **Other**

A range of Housing Support Workers have been funded through the joint Commonwealth/State Homelessness National Partnership Agreement (Homelessness NPA).

The following NPA initiatives fund the provision of Housing Support Workers:

- Homelessness Accommodation Support Workers NAHA initiative
- Housing Support Workers – Corrective Services initiative
- Housing Support Workers – Mental Health Facilities initiative
- Housing Support Workers – Drug and Alcohol initiative
- Street to Home – Supportive Housing Services initiative

Clients supported as part of this program would be reasonably expected, when the support period is complete, to have developed the necessary skills to live independently in the community with mainstream and other appropriate services engaged as required. When the client is part of a family group or couple, support should be provided to the family to ensure they are linked with mainstream services in recognition of the importance of these relationships for the client to achieve

long term stable housing.

### **Restraining Order legislation review**

The recommendations from the RO review in 2008 are currently before Cabinet. One of the significant recommendations is the extension from 24 hour to 72 hour Police Orders issued by police without consent of the victim. The proposed changes to the Residential Tenancies Act which is required to support the Safe at Home projects being held up by the Treasurers Office and will not be going to Cabinet until the Spring.

### **Secondary Family Support Hubs**

The Secondary Family Support State Plan 2010-2013 has endorsed the development: Family Support Hubs, with the first 4 hubs to be located in Joondalup, Armadale, Midland and the Southwest. The consultants for this project are KPMG and they have until November to deliver recommendations on an evaluation strategy, sector Learning and Development strategy, resource model and IT requirements for the Hubs. The introduction in 2012 of mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse, including child neglect and all forms abuse will increase the demand on the tertiary child protection system, the hubs will assist families earlier with the aim to keeping them out of the formal child protection system.

## **Financial Report**

**WESNET INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**



**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

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**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Committee's Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

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The Members of the Committee herewith submit the financial report of WESNET Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2010.

**Committee Members**

The names of Committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Julie Oberin	Vicki Lachlan
Richel Malouf	Margaret Augerinos
Cat Gander	Kedy Kristal
Dale Wakefield	Shirley Slann
Lindy Edwards	Jane Corpuz-Brock
Pauline Woodbridge	

**Principal activities**

During the year the Association provided Women's services in Australia dealing with violence against women and related issues. WESNET promotes innovative models of practice and service delivery, undertakes community education, and conducts or facilitates research on the key issues around domestic and family violence and related issues for women and their children.

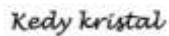
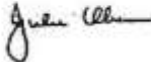
**Significant changes**

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Results**

The surplus of the Association for the period amounted to \$43,915 (2009: \$52,535)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



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President - Committee

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Committee Member

Dated this 1st day of November 2010

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
Revenue	2	121,943	703,004
CBG payment of offers		(9,234)	(493,374)
Consultancy fees		(7,057)	(48,160)
Management fee		(30,000)	-
Depreciation and amortisation expense		-	(1,178)
Loss on sale of asset		(1,436)	-
Employee benefits expense		-	(21,581)
Honorarium		(12,500)	(27,250)
Insurance		(2,308)	(2,584)
Postage		(1,026)	(878)
Printing and stationary		(732)	(1,914)
Provision for future expenses		-	16,727
Subscriptions / Membership		(1,655)	(170)
Travel related expenses		(8,578)	(30,076)
Web design & forum set up		-	(11,377)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(1,805)	(25,149)
Audit Fees		(1,697)	(3,505)
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<u>43,915</u>	<u>52,535</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<u>43,915</u>	<u>52,535</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at 30 June 2010**

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	257,457	273,400
Trade and other receivables	5	39,160	24,439
Other current assets	6	1,100	8,040
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>297,717</u>	<u>305,879</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	7	-	1,436
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>1,436</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>297,717</u>	<u>307,315</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	152,152	205,665
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>152,152</u>	<u>205,665</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
		-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>152,152</u>	<u>205,665</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>145,565</u>	<u>101,650</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		145,565	101,650
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>145,565</u>	<u>101,650</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 416 068 548 631**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

Notes	Retained Earnings \$	Total Equity \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2008</b>	49,115	49,115
Profit / (loss) attributable to members	52,535	52,535
<b>Balance at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>101,650</b>	<b>101,650</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2009</b>	101,650	101,650
Profit / (loss) attributable to members	43,915	43,915
<b>Balance at 30 June 2010</b>	<b>145,565</b>	<b>145,565</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>			
Operating grant receipts		76,390	59,284
Receipts from membership and customers		32,325	68,304
Interest received		5,447	26,269
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(130,105)</u>	<u>(636,621)</u>
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	9	<u>(15,943)</u>	<u>(482,764)</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>			
Purchase of plant and equipment		-	-
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		(15,943)	(482,764)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year		273,400	756,164
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>	4	<u>257,457</u>	<u>273,400</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

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**Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, and the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria) 1981.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

**Accounting Policies**

**(a) Income tax**

Wesnet Incorporated is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**(b) Goods and services tax**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

WESNET Incorporated  
ABN 16 068 548 631  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2010

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**Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(c) Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is possible that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<i>Class of Asset</i>	<i>Depreciation Rate</i>
Computer equipment	25 - 55%
Office equipment	11 - 37.5%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

**(d) Asset capitalisation**

All asset purchases above \$1,000 are capitalised into the Statement of Financial Position then depreciated. Asset purchases less than \$1,000 are expensed as minor asset purchases in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

**(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

**(f) Comparative Figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.



**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

**Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(g) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets

Other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(h) Government Grants**

**Recognition**

Income is recognised when the entity obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution. It is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the entity and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

**Unexpended Grants**

The entity receives grant monies to fund projects either for contracted period of time or for specific projects irrespective of the period of time required to complete those projects. It is the policy of the entity to treat grants monies as unexpended grants in the statement of financial position where the entity is contractually obliged to provide the services in a subsequent financial period to when the grant is received or in the case of specific project grants where the project has not been completed.

**(i) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**(j) Financial Instruments**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial instruments, incorporating financial assets and financial liabilities, are recognised when the association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (ie trade date accounting adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs where the instrument is not classified as at fair value through profit or loss. Transaction costs related to instruments classified as at fair value through profit or loss are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Financial instruments are classified and measured as set out below.

**Derecognition**

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the association no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expire. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

***Classification and Subsequent Measurement***

*(i) Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*(ii) Available-for-sale financial assets*

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that are either designated as such or that are not classified in any of the other categories. They comprise investments in the equity of other entities where there is neither a fixed maturity nor fixed determinable payments.

***Impairment***

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

WESNET Incorporated  
 ABN 16 068 548 631  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 For the year ended 30 June 2010

	2010	2009	
	\$	\$	
<b>Note 2 Revenue</b>			
- Operating Grants	39,395	644,294	
- Other Operating Revenue	44,776	641	
- Member Subscriptions	32,325	31,800	
- Interest Received	5,447	26,269	
	<u>121,943</u>	<u>703,004</u>	
<b>Note 3 Auditor's Remuneration</b>			
- auditing or reviewing financial report	<u>1,697</u>	<u>3,505</u>	
<b>Note 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank	<u>257,457</u>	<u>273,400</u>	
	<u>257,457</u>	<u>273,400</u>	
<b>Note 5 Trade and Other Receivables</b>			
GST Receivable	<u>39,160</u>	<u>24,439</u>	
	<u>39,160</u>	<u>24,439</u>	
<b>Note 6 Other Current Assets</b>			
Accrued Revenue	1,100	7,736	
Prepayments	-	304	
	<u>1,100</u>	<u>8,040</u>	
<b>Note 7 Plant and Equipment</b>			
<b>Office Equipment</b>			
At cost	9,328	9,328	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(9,328)</u>	<u>(7,892)</u>	
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,436</u>	
<b>Furniture and Fittings</b>			
At cost	3,879	3,879	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,879)</u>	<u>(3,879)</u>	
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,436</u>	
<b>Movements in carrying amounts</b>			
	<b>Office</b>	<b>Furniture &amp;</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Fittings</b>	
Carrying amount at 1 July 2008	2,393	221	2,614
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation	957	221	1,178
Carrying amount at 30 June 2009	<u>1,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,436</u>
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	(1,436)	-	(1,436)
Depreciation	-	-	-
Carrying amount at 30 June 2010	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Note 8 Trade and Other Payables</b>		
Trade creditors	12,156	160,067
Revenue in Advance	127,005	44,876
Sundry creditors and accruals	-	722
GST Payable	12,991	-
	<u>152,152</u>	<u>205,665</u>

**Note 9 Cashflow Statement**

*Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit / (loss) for the year*

Profit / (loss) from ordinary activities	43,915	52,535
Non - cash flows in profit		
- Depreciation	-	1,178
- Net (gain) / loss on disposal of assets	1,436	-
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- (increase) decrease in receivables	(14,721)	(24,325)
- (increase) decrease in other assets	6,940	(5,858)
- Increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	(53,513)	(484,385)
- Increase (decrease) in provisions	-	(21,909)
Net cashflows from/ (used in) operating activities	<u>(15,943)</u>	<u>(482,764)</u>

**Note 10 Related Party Disclosures**

**Board Members**

Board Members did not receive or become entitled to receive any other honoraria or fees during the financial year.

**Member Organisations**

WESNET Incorporated has conducted transactions with its member organisations on normal commercial terms and conditions during the year.

**Note 11 Subsequent Events**

There have been no events after the end of the financial year that would materially affect the financial statements.

**Note 12 Contingent Liabilities & Contingent Assets**

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets at the date of this report.

**Note 13 Commitments**

There are no capital commitments.

**Note 14 Association Details**

The principal place of business of the association is:  
Wesnet Inc.  
PO Box 228  
Epsom VIC 3551

**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2010**

**Note 15 Financial Instruments**

**(a) Financial Risk and Management**

The association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

The association does not have any derivative instruments at 30 June 2010.

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	257,457	273,400
Receivables	5	39,160	-
Other assets	6	1,100	8,040
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<u>297,717</u>	<u>281,440</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
- Trade and other payables	8	139,161	205,665
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>		<u>139,161</u>	<u>205,665</u>

**Financial Risk Management Policies**

The main risks the association is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

*Interest rate risk*

The association currently has no interest bearing liabilities and is therefore not exposed to interest rate risk.

*Foreign currency risk*

The association is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies.

*Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the association might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The association manages this risk by holding surplus funds in at call / short term interest bearing bank deposits.

*Credit risk*

The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position and the notes to the financial statements.

There are no material amounts of collateral held as security at 30 June 2010.

The association only deals with financial institutions with an "A" grade rating.

**(b) Net Fair Values**

The aggregate net fair values of the financial assets and financial liabilities is equal to their carrying value as disclosed on the Statement of Financial Position and in the notes to the financial statements.

**Note 15 Financial Instruments (continued)**

**(c) Credit risk**

The association's exposure to credit risk and effective weighted average interest rate by ageing periods is set out in the following table.

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rates (%)	Carrying Amount	Interest Rate Exposure			Not past Due and Not Impaired	Past Due But Not Impaired					Impaired Financial Assets
			Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Non Interest Bearing		Less than 1 Month	1-3 Months	3 Months to 1 Year	1-5 Years	Over 5 Years	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2010</b>												
Cash and cash equivalents	4.50%	257,457	35,768	221,689	-	257,457	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables	-	39,160	-	39,160	-	39,160	38,985	-	275	-	-	-
Other financial assets	-	1,100	-	1,100	-	1,100	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>297,717</b>	<b>35,768</b>	<b>221,689</b>	<b>40,260</b>	<b>297,717</b>	<b>38,985</b>	-	<b>275</b>	-	-	-
<b>2009</b>												
Cash and cash equivalents	2.50%	273,400	34,689	238,711	-	273,400	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other financial assets	-	8,040	-	-	8,040	8,040	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>281,440</b>	<b>34,689</b>	<b>238,711</b>	<b>8,040</b>	<b>281,440</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

**(d) Liquidity risk**

The following table discloses the contractual maturity for the association's financial liabilities

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rates (%)	Carrying Amount	Interest Rate Exposure			Contracted Cash Flows	Maturity Dates				
			Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Non Interest Bearing		Less than 1 Month	1-3 Months	3 Months to 1 Year	1-5 Years	Over 5 Years
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2010</b>											
Trade creditors and accruals	-	139,161	-	-	139,161	139,161	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>139,161</b>	-	-	<b>139,161</b>	<b>139,161</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>2009</b>											
Trade creditors and accruals	-	205,665	-	-	205,665	205,665	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>205,665</b>	-	-	<b>205,665</b>	<b>205,665</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**Note 15 Financial Instruments (continued)**

**(e) Sensitivity Disclosure Analysis**

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience in the financial markets, the association believes that the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months. (Base rates are sourced from the Reserve Bank of Australia):

- A parallel shift of + 1% and - 1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year end rates of 6%; and
- A parallel shift of + 1% and - 1% in the inflation rate from year end rate of 2%.

The following table discloses the impact on net operating result and equity for each category of financial instrument held by the association at year end as presented to key management personnel, if changes in the relevant risk occur.

	Carrying Amount	Interest Rate Risk			Other Price Risk		
		-1 % Profit \$	Equity \$	+1 % Profit \$	-1 % Profit \$	Equity \$	+1 % Profit \$
<b>2010</b>							
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	257,457	(2,575)	(2,575)	2,575	2,575	2,575	-
Receivables	39,160	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other assets	1,100	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>							
Trade creditors and accruals	139,161	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>2009</b>							
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	273,400	(2,734)	(2,734)	2,734	2,734	2,734	-
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other assets	8,040	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>							
Trade creditors and accruals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

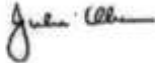
**WESNET Incorporated**  
**ABN 16 068 548 631**  
**Statement by Members of the Committee**

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In the opinion of the Committee of WESNET Incorporated the attached financial report:

- (a) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of WESNET Incorporated as at 30 June 2010 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements, and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- (b) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



*Kedy kristal*

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President - Committee

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Committee Member

Signed this 1st day of November 2010



**Richmond Sinnott & Delahunty**  
Chartered Accountants



Partners:  
Kenneth J Richmond  
Warren J Sinnott  
Philip P Delahunty  
Brett A Andrews

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**TO THE MEMBERS OF WESNET INCORPORATED**

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of WESNET Incorporated which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2010 and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

*Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act Vic 1981. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Woodbury Court, 172 Melvor Road Bendigo 3550, PO Box 30 Bendigo 3552. Ph: (03) 5443 1177. Fax: (03) 5444 4344. Email: [rsd@rsdadvisors.com.au](mailto:rsd@rsdadvisors.com.au)

ABN 60 616 244 309

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion:

The financial report of WESNET Incorporated is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act Vic 1981 including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2010 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act Vic 1981.

**RICHMOND SINNOTT & DELAHUNTY**

Chartered Accountants



**Philip Delahunty**

Partner

Richmond Sinnott & Delahunty

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010