

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2012 HERSTORY OF THE ORIGINS OF IWD

In 1910 Women's Day was taken up by socialists and feminists throughout the country. Later that year delegates went to the second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen with the intention of proposing that Women's Day become an international event.

The notion of international solidarity between the exploited workers of the world had long been established as a socialist principle, though largely an unrealised one. The idea of women organising politically as women was much more controversial within the socialist movement. At that time, however, the German Socialist Party had a strong influence on the international socialist movement and that party had many advocates for the rights of women, including leaders such as Clara Zetkin

Inspired by the actions of US women workers and their socialist sisters, Clara Zetkin; had already framed a proposal to put to the conference of socialist women that women throughout the world should focus on a particular day each year to press for their demands. The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties, working women's clubs, and including the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament, greeted Zetkin's suggestion with unanimous approval and International Women's Day was the result.

"In the 70s, 80s and 90s the IWD banner was taken up by women's rights groups and feminists who protested and demanded laws, rights and services for victims of rape, domestic and family violence, equal pay, no fault divorce, sole parent benefits etc Feminist colours: Symbolically, white represents purity, purple is for **dignity and self-respect**, and green stands for **hope and new life**.

21st Annual Silent Memorial March

The 21st Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March was held on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 in Stirling Gardens. This year saw many members of parliament, police, child protection workers, domestic violence support services, refuge workers, community groups and committed members of the public brave the searing 37 degree heat to honour and pay their respects to the 10 people who had lost their lives as a result of domestic homicide since the last march.



Angela Russo, shared her personal story of adversity and financial struggle that followed after leaving a violent relationship. Through her experiences she has become a community campaigner of Funds for Freedom. The fund aims to provide grants that will assist women to purchase white goods and essential household items without having to repay a loan.

The Hon. Robyn McSweeney raised concerns that the place where most people find comfort and safety – their home, is “sadly not the case for some” and on this she announced the establishment of the Fatality Review Committee into Deaths Related to Domestic Homicide.

Diana Warnock, Patron of the Women's Council announced the petition to Government to consider reviewing the laws pertaining to domestic violence. Simply stated the petition says that the charges of 'unlawful assault causing death' should not apply in cases where there has been a history of physical violence and abuse. To date 2000 signatures have been collected.



The Women's Council would like to thank the volunteers and stall holders who generously gave their time to support and highlight that one death is too many.

For more follow the link to the soon to be updated Women's Council's webpage – <http://www.womenscouncil.com.au/annual-silent-march.html>



WHITE RIBBON DAY



Women's Council, in conjunction with the Family and Domestic Violence Unit took White Ribbon Day to Kent Street Senior High School this year.

This event aimed to promote respectful relationships and encourage students to take the pledge to help bring about change, both individually and collectively. It involved a whole of life approach with involvement from Minister Robyn McSweeney MLC; school principal, teachers, White Ribbon Day Ambassador, special guests, students and parents. Three young men from the school were nominated as young WRD Ambassadors on the day. Approximately 300 students attended this event.

Photos from the day will be on the Women's Council website soon.

Funds for Freedom – Who's Donating

Huge Thanks to our friends at the Australian Services Union who held a fundraising Soup Day at their office in East Perth.

\$72.00 was raised from the delicious Minestrone and Pumpkin soup and a further \$400.00 from a raffle held over several weeks and drawn on the day.

Boxes of new items were donated by ASU staff to Lucy Saw, Wooree Miya, St Barts and the Salvation Army.

Total for Funds for Freedom as at November 2011 is \$8,801.00. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.



CEO report

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- Access and Equity for Regional and Remote Services
- Community Education and Training



Mayor Barry Sammels presented Anne Moore with the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for a person over 25 years.

And finally, Congratulations to our fabulous Chair Anne Moore for receiving the City of Rockingham's Premier's Active Citizens Award. It is well deserved and good to see Anne is appreciated by those outside the DV movement. In the words of Rockingham Councillor Sammels: "Ms Moore's generous and compassionate attitude to local women in need was impressive and she often went beyond her responsibilities."

Sparkling High Tea FUNDRAISER

Just a gentle reminder to all those that expressed an interest in attending our Sparkling High Tea for International Women's Day 2012, that the time is fast approaching. Don't miss out. Follow the link to our booking form and don't forget to bring your friends.

www.womenscouncil.com.au/uploads/6/1/1/9/6119703/high_tea_flyer_final.pdf

THE LUCY SAW CENTRE, CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION OF DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Humanity that is the Refuge Movement and its staff!

It's with much sadness that I write this but it's a story that needs to be told.

We were referred a CaLD woman from MWAS following ongoing Domestic Violence, while in its self is not unusual; this case was a little different. This client, who we will call B, was terminally ill and had only just been released from hospital following brain surgery to remove a cancerous tumour. She was not a permanent resident and therefore had no income and was not eligible for Centrelink benefits.

B was assessed by staff as a Domestic violence client and accepted into the centre in July 2011. On her arrival she was assessed and made comfortable in her room. At that time her 14 year old daughter was with her having made the long journey to be with her mother following her surgery. The daughter stayed with mum until she had to return to her own country 3 weeks later where her two brothers were living.

Our client had a battle on her hands as she was now also diagnosed with an aggressive lung and bone cancer. A long and arduous round of radiation therapy and Chemotherapy followed. While radiation and chemo was being administered we had to limit access to small children, mainly for their wellbeing as we understood that some of this toxic medicine can expel from body waste. The client also needed protection from exposure childhood illness' that could prove fatal. During this time Silver Chain was involved and they came to the centre to provide much needed support for the client and the staff.

B had been given 3 months to live.

Every effort to find accommodation for this brave woman failed, she had no legal status to afford her Public housing, no income and she needed ongoing support! Hospice was only going to be available for the last few days of her life.

So what do we do, she is here and she needs help! So following a staff meeting in which staff were given full disclosure on her health and the possible outcome a decision was made that we could and should support this woman. We supported B through our ER funds, the generosity of staff and external services such as local church groups etc.! And a very generous donation from two ASU staff members – Pat and Sue – who gave from their own pockets!

We were able to get B home to see her children for the last time just a few days before she died.

This story is just one of the examples of how Refuges and the women that work in them are willing to shoulder the responsibility that goes with the ideal of humanity. Although heartbreaking, without the willingness of the staff and others who gave support it could have been a tragedy.

Anne Moore
Lucy Saw Centre

Why Forget-me-knot Day?

On Forget-me knot Day ASCA asks all Australians to unite in support of the more than 2 million Australian adults surviving child abuse.

Forget Many people forget that adults who were abused as children often need help to do those things others take for granted. Some don't even realise. Childhood abuse in all its forms profoundly affects the developing brain, arresting emotional development and our ability to make healthy choices. Sadly for many survivors it's not just a matter of getting over it!

Me Many survivors suffer from low self-esteem. ASCA works to empower survivors, encouraging nurture and self-care while establishing a healthy support network.

Knot When children are abused they become confused. Even for adults, life can be chaotic and tangled. ASCA wants all Australians to work together to untangle the knot of child abuse and to support survivors.

Women's Council For Domestic Violence Services recognises Forget-me-knot Day as an important start to raise awareness of the ongoing difficulties for survivors of child abuse including those whose violence is a result of family violence.



A display board by the Women's Council on Forget-me-knot Day at City West Lotteries House.



Applications for **Safety and Security for Women (SAS)** Project will be open shortly!!

The WCDFVS has successfully received an offer of grant from Strategic Crime Prevention WA Police to continue the SAS project.

The SAS project assists women and children in Western Australia to remain safely in their own home after separating from their violent partner/family member by providing financial support to enhance their security.

Funding of up to **\$550.00** per client (GST inc.) will be provided through the grant to install/replace security options within their home.

There will be some **additional security options** available for this round of funding.

Applications must be made by:

- Refuge Services;
- Domestic Violence Outreach Services;
- DV Services for Victims; or
- DV Police Sergeants

Commencement of the project and application details will be announced soon. Any further queries do not to hesitate to contact **Minako at Minako@womenscouncil.com.au** or on **9420 7264**.



HONOURING Dr Ellen Pence

April 15, 1948 - January 6, 2012

Dr Ellen Pence (1948-2012) was a scholar and a social activist. She co-founded the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, an inter-agency collaboration model used in all 50 states in the U.S. and more than 17 countries. She inspired social workers, domestic violence advocates, police, courts and human service workers.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Pence graduated from St. Scholastica in Duluth with a B.A. She was active in institutional change work for battered women since 1975, and helped found the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in 1980.

She is credited with creating the Duluth Model of Intervention in domestic violence cases and Coordinated Community Response (CCR), which uses an interagency collaborative approach involving police, probation, courts and human services in response to domestic abuse. Ellen was integral in the development of the well known Power and Control Wheel is a key theory for understanding the range of tactics and behaviours used by perpetrators in domestic and family violence. The primary goal of CCR is to protect victims from ongoing abuse. (DIAP Email 12.01.12).

Thank you Ellen, you will be sadly missed.