

December 2005

SEASONS GREETINGS!

The staff of the Office for Women's Policy would like to wish our readers and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2006!

NEW ADDRESS

PLEASE NOTE: Office for Women's Policy and Women's Information Service are moving on 14 December 2005!

NEW ADDRESS: Level 7, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, WEST PERTH WA 6005
TELEPHONE: Office for Women's Policy: 6217 8200.
Women's Information Service: 6217 8230 / 1800 199 174 **FAX:** 9481 0441.

2 December 2005 - WORKSHOP

WA Council of Social Service: Oh my goodness, I'm on a Board!! Your Rules, Responsibilities and Liabilities. This workshop emphasises strategies and skills for you to be involved on a board that will stimulate, encourage, support and motivate others. **Cost:** \$104.50 Members / \$137.50 Non-Members. **When:** 9:30am-4:30pm. **Where:** George Burnett Leisure Centre, Manning Road, Karawarra. **Contact:** Training Co-ordinator 9420 7222 / training@wacoss.org.au

3 December - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS

Further info: www.humanrights.gov.au

5 December - INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Australia Celebrates International Volunteer Day The United Nations declared 5 December as International Volunteer Day as part of International Year of Volunteer Celebrations in 2001.

9 December - AWARDS

Human Rights Equal Opportunity Commission: Human Rights Awards. A gala luncheon awards ceremony. **Where:** Sheraton on the Park Hotel, Sydney. **When:** 12noon-3pm. **Information:** www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/index.html
Contact: hrwards@humanrights.gov.au or (02) 9284 9618.

6-11 December - UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

National Union of Students: National Conference 2005. **Where:** Ballarat University. **When:** Women's session starts 1pm on 6 December. The registration form will be available shortly to download. All information about the conference is included on this form. **Information:** unistudent.com.au

6 December - BREAKFAST SEMINAR

Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA): Achieving Coordinated Community Responses to Family and Domestic Violence In WA. Dr Ellen Pence, USA who was instrumental in developing the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program. **Where:** The University Club of WA, Nedlands. **When:** Register 7am for 7.30-8.45am. **Cost:** \$30 Supported by the Family and Domestic Violence Unit. **Contact:** Cassandra / Andrea 9420 7264.

Up to 10 December - ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

Amnesty International WA / UNIFEM / Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA): Calendar. For an up-to-date schedule of events visit: www.amnesty.org.au/16days **25 November-10 December - 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM** Continuation of events taking place highlighting the injustice of Violence Against Women. Concludes on 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

1 December - CALD & INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FORUM

Amnesty International WA's Women's, Indigenous & African Groups: 'Untold Stories' Seminar. Women from Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of Congo, the Middle East and Indigenous Australian women, speak about their personal stories of violence in the home, war and post-war. **When:** 1:30-4:30pm. **Where:** Case study room 213, Curtin University, City Campus, Cnr Pier & Murray Street, Perth. **RSVP:** For catering and limited seats. **Contact:** Amnesty International WA 9381 3200 / waia@amnesty.org.au

1 December - STALL Run by the Health Group to raise awareness of violence against women to health professionals. **When:** 10am-3pm. **Where:** Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Hospital Avenue, Nedlands.

3 December - STALL Stall held by the Health Group to raise awareness of violence against women to health professionals. **When:** 10am-3pm. **Where:** St John of God Hospital, South Street, Murdoch.

6 December - SEMINAR Discrimination of People with HIV Seminar. Presented in partnership between Amnesty WA Branch & WA Aids Council. **When:** 5:30-7:30pm. **Where:** Supper Room, Perth Town Hall, Cnr Hay & Barrack Street, Perth.

8 December - STALL Yellow Glass Theatre: 'Rent' the Musical - Pre-Show Stall. Amnesty information stall and drinks for the audience. **When:** 6:30-8pm. Show starts 8pm. **Where:** The Bakery Artrage Complex, 233 James Street, Northbridge.

11 December - INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMUNITY CONCERT Amnesty International / Kulcha / Melville City Council. Free concert and family event including Noongar chanteuse Gina Williams, a reflection on the centenary of the 1905 Aborigines Act and presentation of Indigenous human rights activist awards and a feast of multicultural artists, plus African braiding, henna tattooing, face painting, multicultural BBQ, information stalls and much more. **When:** 3-6pm. **Where:** Piney Lakes, Murdoch Drive, Murdoch. **Information:** www.kulcha.com.au or www.amnesty.org.au or call KULCHA 9336 4544

Information for Women 爲婦女提供的資訊 Thông tin dành cho Phụ Nữ معلومات للسيدات Πληροφορίες για γυναίκες Informazioni per le Donne Informationen für Frauen

10 December - INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Further info: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/>

12 December - MENTORSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

Women for Women: Harmony of Sisterhood. The Women's Sub-Committee of the Ethnic Communities Council WA is seeking 30 community women from new and emerging communities, and 30 professional women working in mainstream organisations, who would be willing to participate in a Mentoring Program. **Contact:** Nadia Loncar, Women's Policy Officer, 9227 5322 or ecwa.women@inet.net.au

15 December - FOCUS GROUP

Financial Control in Relationships. The Financial Counsellors Resource Project is developing a brochure for consumers regarding financial control in relationships. The resource will identify and explain economic abuse, provide information on useful strategies including safety planning, and provide referral options. A focus group has been organised to give the community the opportunity to have input into the development of the resource. **When:** 10am-1pm. **Where:** Women's Law Centre 920 Beaufort St, Inglewood. **RSVP** Astrid Chapman fcrp@inet.net.au or 9221 9411

16 December - DEADLINE

The Foundation for Young Australians: Youth Led Futures Grants. Funding is available for Indigenous organisations working with young people to develop and implement initiatives that address issues important to young Indigenous people and their communities. All Indigenous organisations, metropolitan or remote, are invited to apply. **Information:** www.youngaustralians.org **Contact:** The Foundation (03) 9670 5436.

16 December - **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS CLOSE

Department of Consumer and Employment Protection: Attracting and Retaining Tomorrow's Workforce. Speakers include Pru Goward, Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner; Karl O'Callaghan, WA Police Commissioner, plus more. Work-life balance strategies, initiatives and solutions. **Where:** Hyatt Regency, Perth. **When:** 22-23 February 2006. **Sponsor:** Office for Women's Policy. **Information:** Work-life Balance [website: www.worklife.wa.gov.au](http://www.worklife.wa.gov.au)

17 December - TALK & SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) WA: Talk & Sausage Sizzle. **Speaker:** Professor Larissa Behrendt, Director, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney. Larissa is one of the most influential Aboriginal voices in recent decades. **When:** 12.30-2.30pm. **Where:** Maritime Union of Australia Centre, Kwong Alley and Queen Victoria St, North Fremantle. **Cost:** Gold coin donation. Refreshments on sale: sausage sizzle, hot / cold drinks. BYO wine, beer. **RSVP:** 9371 7116 / antarwa@antar.org.au

18 December - INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Further info: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/>

Upcoming events in 2006

6 January - CLOSING DATE

Office for Children and Youth, DCD: 'Just Add You' - National Youth Week 2006 Grants. Australia's largest annual celebration of young people, involving thousands of events, concerts, competitions and fun ways for young people to be involved in their communities. National Youth Week grants of up to \$1000 will be available through the Office for Children and Youth from early November 2005. **For more information** Call: Lincoln 6217 8400 or visit: www.community.wa.gov.au/Communities/ChildrenAndYoungPeople/

21-22 January 2006 - FESTIVAL

Celebrating the Sacred Feminine Festival: Empowerment and Inspiration! An event with seminars, workshops, art exhibition, healing, music and dance performances. A charity project for children in need. Men and women come and celebrate! **Where:** Fremantle Town Hall. **When:** 8am-11pm. **Cost:** Single day, evening prices, weekend tickets - to be advised. **Contact:** Mohini 9336 7954.

9 February 2006 - COURSES

The Patricia Giles Centre (PGC): February to June 2006 Groups. **9 February-Self Esteem.** How self-esteem originates and ways to maintain healthy self esteem. **When:** 10am-12.30pm. **Where:** PGC. **7 March-Home and Car Safety Course.** Skills for minor repairs or maintenance in the house or car. **When:** 10am-12.30pm. **Where:** PGC. **15 May-Self Defence Course.** Skills to assess situations, harassment and violence. **When:** 10am-1pm. **Where:** Carine. **Cost:** Free 6-week courses with free child care available. **Contact:** PGC to book and further details 9300 0340.

7-8 March 2006 - CAREER SHOWCASE

The Go Girl Go For I.T. Career Showcase for 2006. A high profile, educational event in response to the declining numbers of young women choosing information technology (I.T) as a subject. It aims to promote the I.T industry as an exciting, rewarding and positive career option for females in WA. **Where:** Murdoch University, Perth. **Information:** visit www.gogirlwa.org.au or visit www.witwomen.org.au

24-26 May 2006 - CONFERENCE

5th International Conference on Drugs & Young People. The 2006 theme is the culture and context of young peoples' drug use across various settings. Some of these settings include - bars and clubs - workplaces and schools - public spaces - juvenile justice settings - the web - sports settings. **Where:** AJC Convention Centre, Randwick, New South Wales. **Information:** <http://www.adf.org.au/browse.asp?ContainerID=5dyp>

NEW ADDRESS

The National Council of Women of WA (NCWWA): NEW OFFICE! The new office for the NCWWA is at the Rod Evans Community Centre, 160 Hay Street, East Perth. Office hours 10am-4pm weekdays. Mailing address to remain PO Box 6224, East Perth WA 6892. Telephone is 9325 8897. **New email address:** ncwwa@bigpond.com Please amend your contact lists accordingly.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Department of Justice, Boronia Pre-Release Centre for Women, winner of the 'People and Communities: Social and Community Development' category of the 2005 Premier's Awards. Opened in May 2004, the Centre is a radical new approach to managing women in custody, and is more culturally appropriate for Aboriginal women. It has attracted international attention with a community volunteer program, education and training achievements, and prisoners engaged in work. Early indications show a reduced recidivism rate. **Source:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet: www.premiersawards.dpc.wa.gov.au

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Office Duties-Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA). YACWA - the peak-body representing non-government organisations in the youth sector in WA, is a great place to get involved in issues affecting young people and youth workers in WA. To gain experience in office administration as a volunteer, **Contact:** Karyn Lisignoli, Executive Support Officer, or John Blahusiak, Member Support Officer, on 9485 2750 or email your resume and details of your availability to yacwa@yacwa.org.au.

YOUTH INFORMATION

Some interesting publications and information available on the Office for Children and Youth website:

www.community.wa.gov.au/Communities/ChildrenAndYoungPeople/
Leavers and The Law: Leavers and the Law is designed to inform Year 12 students planning their Leavers Week celebrations of their legal rights, and highlight common problem areas associated with 'Leavers'.

Piercing Information Kit: Body Piercing is one of the most popular forms of body art in Western Australia. The Piercing Information Kit is useful information designed to help people considering a piercing, obtain all of the necessary information.

Managing and Avoiding Debt: A Young Person's Guide was developed to assist young people understand some of the common problem areas, with a view to avoiding debt in the future. The guide also talks about managing debts once they are incurred. Major focus areas included within the guide are: budgeting techniques, financial responsibility, credit cards, credit lines and store credit cards, mobile telephone bills and common traps, buying a car, computers and technology, shopping on the internet, house sharing considerations and managing debts, and where to get help.

Understanding Youth Suicide: 'Understanding Youth Suicide' is a new information kit to help young people and their carers to identify suicidal behaviours and direct them to the appropriate services is now available.

Greenlight Youth Resource Directory: An online listing of services and resources for young people.

YOUTH RESEARCH

The latest issue of the Youth Research Centre's newsletter, 'Youth Research News' is now available on the YRC's website. **Information:** www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/EPM/YRC/news/#yrm

YOUTH INFORMATION

A free copy of the latest issue of IGNITE! A monthly e-newsletter for enterprising young people, packed with great opportunities and contacts to help young people turn their ideas, business, and career goals into a reality! IGNITE is created by Youth 2 Youth. **Information:** IGNITE is available for download at http://www.youth2youth.com.au/downloads/ignite_22_2005.pdf, or email kori@youth2youth.com.au.

contact details

Please fax, mail or email your event details in 30 words or less by the 10th of the month prior to your event (non-government organisations only). For further information or a copy of WINFO telephone (08) 9264 1900, country freecall STD 1800 199 174, TTY available on these numbers, fax (08) 9264 1925, email wpo@dcd.wa.gov.au or view WINFO on-line at www.community.wa.gov.au/women. Postal address: 1st Floor, 141 St Georges Tce, PERTH WA 6000. This document is available on request in alternative formats such as large type, audio tape, computer disk and Braille.

The Office for Women's Policy, Department for Community Development, in no way endorses or recommends any events, agencies or services listed in this monthly calendar. For further information contact the event organisers directly.

THE OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY - ABOUT US

The Office for Women's Policy (OWP):

- gives advice to the Government on issues, programs and services which impact on women;
- supports women's groups and community organisations by providing funding, forums and information; and
- provides the Women's Information Service (WIS): a free, confidential telephone information and referral service.

Contact WIS Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm on 9264 1900. If an interpreter is required telephone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50. For women who are deaf or have a hearing impairment call the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.

SMS

Da Ofis 4 Wmns Polici - abt us

Da Ofis 4 Wmns Polici (OWP):

- GivZ adviCe 2 Gvt on iShu's, ProGms N ServicZ wch imPct on Wmn;
- SupOrtZ WmnZ Grps N ComUnit-e OrgZ bi ProVidin \$\$, 4UmZ N inFo; N
- PrOvidZ da WmnZ InFo serVis (WIS): a Fr3, ConfDentL fone Info N Ref SerVis
- ConTact WIS Mon 2 Fri, 9 - 5, 92641900. If inTerPreta reQuiRd fone da TranZlatin n inTerPreta Serv 131450.
- 4 Wmn who R Deaf Or hav hearn impairMent call NatL ReLay SerVis 133677

...is a monthly calendar of events by, for and about women. It is produced by the Women's Information Service (WIS) and is free to any group or individual.

December 2005

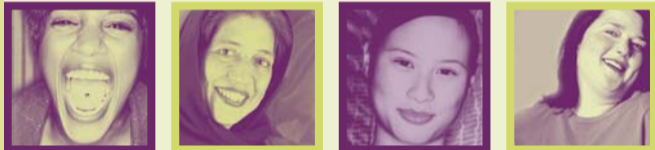
WIS

The Women's Information Service (WIS) is a free, confidential telephone referral service for all women in Western Australia, provided by the Office for Women's Policy.

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
(08) 9264 1900

or Country freecall STD 1800 199 174

TTY available on these numbers. If an interpreter is required telephone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 or the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.



THEME: NEWS / 2005 ACHIEVEMENTS / 2006 COURSES

Students Help Build Better Communities The Premier recently announced that ten public high schools will pilot a State Government Community Service Program next year so all WA students will understand the value of giving their time to the community. Years 10 and 11 students will complete 20 hours of community service and it will be introduced into all secondary schools in 2007. The program will develop students' leadership skills, social responsibility and citizenship. Students will be able to do their community service either inside or outside school hours. The State Government will spend \$1.9million over four years so the program is well managed and has strong administrative support, working closely with organisations to ensure all students have access to suitable community work, regardless of where they live. Source: Department of Premier & Cabinet: Premier's E-Newsletter 11 November 2005.

It's Official, 15 is Too Young! The School Leaving Age Bill passed through State Parliament last month. As of next year, students will stay in education or training until the end of the year in which they turn 16 and in 2008 the leaving age will be raised to 17 years of age. A recent report showed that students who left school early earned 20% less than those who stayed in education. Earlier this year, the Gallop Government introduced the 'It Pays to Learn Allowance'. Every school student turning 16 and 17 years old receives \$200. Students in training receive \$400. For more information visit: www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au Source: Ministerial Media Statements -Ravlich: 'It's Official, 15 is Too Young' (16 Nov. '05).

Chicz Biz A girls only group for 12-17 year olds runs during school terms. Each week girls socialize and do activities such as dancing, singing, make up artistry, theatre arts, excursions, craft, cooking and much more. Cost: \$10 per term. Chic Biz operates from two venues, the Wanneroo Youth Centre, corner Ariti Avenue and Wanneroo Road, Wanneroo on Tuesdays from 5pm to 7pm, and at the Phil Renkin Recreation Centre, Charnwood Reserve, Two Rocks on Mondays from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. For further information contact City of Wanneroo Youth Services on 9405 5000.

GirlsSpace @ Freedom Centre Freedom Centre provides a safe space, information, peer support and referral for same sex attracted and gender diverse young people (up to 26). GirlsSpace is a weekly session for girls 25 years and under, held on Wednesdays from 5pm to 8pm. Throughout the year GirlsSpace runs workshops and courses that cover issues relating to sexuality, relationships and sexual health. Check out the website for more upcoming events. Located at 1/471 William St, Northbridge. For more info call 9228 0354, email info@freedom.org.au or visit www.freedom.org.au

Helpful Websites and Phone Numbers:

Office for Children and Young People: www.community.wa.gov.au/communities/ChildrenandYoungPeople/
Enterprise Network for Young Australians: www.enya.org.au
Ybblue youth program: www.ybblue.com.au
Foundation for Young Australians: www.youngaustralians.org
Young Achievement Australia: www.yaa.org.au
Frank Magazine: www.frankmag.com.au
Young Australian Rural Network: www.yarn.gov.au
National Union of Students: www.unistudent.com.au
Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net.au
Reachout: www.reachout.com.au
YouthGas: www.youthgas.com
Somazone: www.somazone.com.au
Youth Mental Health Info: www.itsallright.org
The Source: www.thesource.gov.au
YWCA: www.ywca.org.au
ARAFMI Youth Services: 9402 7022
Commonwealth Carer Resource Centre: 1800 242 636
Family Drug Support Line: 1300 368 186
Just Ask: 1800 131 114
Lifeline: 13 11 14
Samaritans Youthline: 9388 2500 / 1800 198 313
Youth Debt Line, Youth Legal Service: 9202 1688 / 1800 199 006



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This month the Office for Women's Policy focuses on services and events for young women in Western Australia (WA), aged 16 to 25 years. In many instances, such as education and employment, opportunities have improved greatly for young women. Young women who remain in post compulsory education to Year 12, and who undertake further education and training, enjoy greater employment opportunities, higher incomes and enhanced levels of health and wellbeing.

Female participation in high school and tertiary education is higher than ever before. School retention rates for women in WA have been consistently higher than for males over the past 10 years. During the period 1998 to 2002, the retention rate of young women in WA to Year 12 was 78.3%.

In 2001, 9% of all women in WA were attending TAFE or university, compared with 8% of men. In 2002, women represented, 45.7% of students enrolling in vocational and educational training (VET), and 57.2% of students commencing higher education in WA. This is a positive sign for young women assuming a greater leadership role in the future.

However there is still a high concentration of women in traditional fields of study, which limits broader employment opportunities and pay equity for young women. High enrolment in both VET and university courses for women include, management/commerce, society and culture, and education, with low enrolments in engineering, information technology (I.T), architecture/building and agriculture. This issue is one area in which the Government has a keen focus, to ensure access to employment and equal pay opportunities exist for young women.

An example of the Government's commitment in this area is the ongoing sponsorship to the 'Go Girl, Go for I.T.' Showcase held every two years. Taking place again in 2006, this event focuses on changing the perceptions held by young women about seeking employment in the I.T industry. According to recent ABS statistics, the I.T profession is one of the highest paid within Australia, making it even more important to encourage young women to consider this field.

OWP also supports and encourages young women through the Women's Grants Program. Two examples of recent initiatives OWP has funded include:

- **'Brunswick Young and Active Females Program'** - A holistic skills development and mentoring program aimed at encouraging young women in Brunswick community to develop, refine and enhance interpersonal, intrapersonal, leadership and teambuilding skills through vocational and health training.
- **'Girrawheen - Strong Yokas'** - A project to engage young Indigenous women and young mothers in a series of life skills workshops. The women's group includes activities such as cooking, budgeting and baby care, and also strengthens social networks and contributes to participant's emotional and physical support. This project is run in close consultation with the local high school and in conjunction with homework programs.

On Saturday, 12 November 2005 the Hon Minister Sheila McHale and I joined the West African Women's Group in Western Australia in celebrating their achievement of becoming an incorporated body. The West African Women's Group was established with the assistance of a WA Women's Grant. This community group's work encourages and enhances the strengths of the West African women and their families. OWP has an important role in supporting the establishment of women's groups, especially those from new and emerging migrant communities.

Finally, I would like to say farewell to all the wonderful, dynamic and strong women of WA. For me, these past three years have been an incredible journey and I am extremely proud to have served as the Executive Director of OWP. I leave behind dynamic and committed staff who have initiated and developed some ground breaking nationally recognised projects, policies and programs such as the Women's Report Card, the Indigenous Women's Report Card, the establishment of an inclusive women's grants program, the Gender Analysis Project, the Indigenous Women's Congress, the Community Roundtables in the not-for-profit sector and the

Publications

Something on My Mind! A new Streetwise comic developed by young people exploring the impact mental illness has on family life. **Free Tips, Get Phonewize** A leaflet by Streetwise Communications on mobile phones and debt. For copies: stwize@streetwise.com.au / (02) 9319 0220 / www.streetwise.com.au **Not for Service-Experiences of Injustice & Despair in Mental Health Care in Australia** A report by the Mental Health Council of Australia, Brain and Mind Research Institute and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. **Managing & Avoiding Debt: A Young Person's Guide** A booklet developed by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP), Office for Children & Youth, and the Youth Legal Service WA Inc. For copies 1300 30 40 54 or visit: www.docep.wa.gov.au

S.H.E. - Sexual Health Education From January onwards the WA AIDS Council will run workshops for organised groups of young women such as youth groups. The workshops are part of an outreach service and provide education and skill development in the areas of communication, relationships, sexual health and contraception. The workshop goes for about 1 1/2-2 hours. For further details contact Catherine on 9482 0000 or cswift@waids.com, www.waids.com

Young Parents Group Fremantle Community Youth Services in collaboration with Willagee Child Health Clinic, run a young parents group for young parents aged 15-25 years, to meet, share ideas and gain parenting skills/information through workshops and outings. The program runs fortnightly from two venues, the Willagee Community Centre and Hilton Primary School. Contact details: Caterina - 9432 9512 / Yvonne - 9337 8187.

GIRL 2 This course offers an opportunity for same sex attracted women under the age of 26 to share ideas in a safe and friendly environment. Run twice a year, the GIRL 2 course is for six weeks. Sessions will cover themes such as - coming out, identity, family, relationships, safe sex, and the community. For more information or to register interest telephone the Freedom Centre on 9228 0354 or email info@freedom.org.au

Bunbury Freedom Centre Growing up same sex attracted can be a very different experience in a rural town. For social contact and support, the 'drop in' sessions are the first and third Friday of each month, 6pm-8pm. It is a safe space, and confidential. Now also at Escape Youth Centre every second Monday night, 6-9pm. Same Sky Project is raising awareness about the needs of young people with diverse sexuality and gender expression in rural, regional and remote areas, and also offers training for teachers, youth workers, health professionals and others. New Freedom Centres will open soon in Albany, Mandurah, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton. For information contact Jaye on 0409 373 922 or jedwards@waids.com

The Leading 500 New Foundations Funding Women and Girls Now available, Women's eNews members receive a 20% Early Bird discount up to 15 December 2005. Provides in-depth profiles on the foundation leaders in women's and girls philanthropy. Early Bird Price is \$157.50, plus \$5.95 shipping. (Full price \$219). For free membership, register at http://womensenews.org/subscribe_member.cfm

Talking Realities A group of WA young women have recently completed training as peer educators in the first Talking Realities - Young Parenting Program, at Trinity Learning Centre. Six months ago they had never spoken in public but now present the program to groups of up to 60 young people at high schools and conferences. They are confident and proud of their achievements. Talking Realities is an interactive presentation that compares the life of the average teenager with that of a teenage parent. It provides information on parenting, social, emotional and sexual health, intertwined with young women's experiences on finding out they were pregnant, telling friends and family, and how their lives changed. Three of the girls are now training as peer leaders. Training for the next group will commence in January 2006. For further information call Helen on 9481 1077.

Trinity Learning Centre (TLC) for Teenage Mums Supporting pregnant and parenting adolescent women (14-19 years) completing their secondary education through distance learning in Department of Education programs. The program offers students tutorial, practical, social and emotional support from peers, staff and volunteers in a supportive non-judgemental environment that operates on the principles of respect, rights and responsibilities. TLC operates between 9.30am and 3pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays during school terms. A crèche is available, and students in the program feel comfortable giving and asking for advice on school work, personal relationships and being a parent. For more information contact Christina on 9481 1077.

Women's Information Service (WIS) Volunteer Program. OWP has also established strong and sustainable relationships with women's groups and community organisations in the not-for-profit sector, whose voices we have listened to and considered. There are still many challenges ahead such as the impact on women of the impending Industrial Relations and Welfare reform, pay equity, discrimination against Muslim women and gender based violence.

Thank you to all the women who provided me with support, guidance and assurance over the last few years, and I wish you all the very best in the future.

Maria Osman
Executive Director

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DISCUSSION PAPERS

The Federal Government's proposed changes to industrial relations (IR) will disadvantage the most vulnerable employees in the workplace. The most vulnerable employees are those who work part-time, casually, or in low pay, low skilled occupations. Women are over represented in this group of workers and do not necessarily have the capacity or industrial strength to effectively negotiate pay and conditions with their employer. To coincide with the recent five day Senate Inquiry into IR changes, several important national and international discussion papers have been released. These discussion papers include:

'Gender, Time Use and Public Policy Over the Life Cycle', The Australian National University (ANU) - <http://econrsrcs.anu.edu.au/pdf/DP500.pdf>
'Does Raising the Minimum Wage Help the Poor?', (ANU) - <http://econrsrcs.anu.edu.au/~aleigh/pdf/MinimumWageHelpPoor.pdf>
'Working below potential: women and part-time work', Equal Opportunity Commission, Great Britain - http://www.eoc.org.uk/PDF/WP_40_full_report.pdf

'REACHING FOR RIGHTS AND RECOGNITION' - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2006

International Women's Day (IWD) is held every year on 8 MARCH. The Office for Women's Policy's (OWP) theme for IWD 2006 is women living in rural, remote and regional (RRR) areas. OWP is currently working with a Western Australian artist living in a RRR area, to develop an exciting image for IWD resources such as posters and bookmarks, to be distributed early next year. Visit www.women.wa.gov.au for an order form for IWD 2006 resources, and start planning for your 2006 IWD event now!

NEW OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY (OWP) EMAIL ADDRESSES

To improve efficiency at the Women's Information Service, the Office for Women's Policy has created some new email addresses. This will ensure that information can be circulated quickly so the events you wish to promote or information you want to send will reach the people you need in time. Please add the following addresses into your address book.

IWEN - iwen@dcd.wa.gov.au - This is the Indigenous Women's Email Network, **Winfo Alert** - winfoalerts@dcd.wa.gov.au - Winfo Alerts is an email network for all women and women's groups.

Staff will check both IWEN and Winfo Alert, and will forward emails daily. If there are queries the relevant staff member will contact you directly.

Winfo Newsletter - winfo@dcd.wa.gov.au - Email your event or article to Winfo for publication BEFORE the 10th of every month. If staff have any queries or require additional information, OWP will contact you between the 10th-15th of the month.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to share information with women throughout Western Australia.

Handy Hint: Create an entry in your email address book for each of the above. In the name field type for example type IWEN and enter the address in the Address field. Then when you create a new blank email type you just need to type IWEN etc and the address will automatically appear in the TO field.

WINFO THEMES

The Women's Information Service (WIS) provides an information and referral service to all women in Western Australia from diverse cultural and religious communities, as well as women of different ages, abilities and sexual orientation. This publication provides information on events, courses and community initiatives of interest to women. If you would like to see a focus on an issue during the coming months, please let us know. WIS: (08) 9264 1900 / Freecall 1800 199 174 / Fax (08) 9264 1925 / Email wpo@dcd.wa.gov.au

South West Aboriginal Entertainment (SWAE) SWAE is a team of three young Indigenous women, and is a new business that provides contemporary and traditional entertainment for the Perth metropolitan and South West area. To book an Indigenous band, dancers or welcoming elder contact Jessie at SWAE on 0404 496 877 / 0438 678 471 / www.swaeonline.com / info@swaeonline.com

Just Girls The City of Joondalup provides two leisure and recreation programs for young women that meet every Wednesday of the school term, from 4.00 to 6.00pm. The programs target 12-18 year old young women, and offers the opportunity to meet new friends and try out new activities including art, motivational speakers, movies, water slides, bowling and much more. Experienced youth workers facilitate the program. Anchors Youth Activities Service meets at Sail Terrace, Heathridge. Warwick Youth Activities Program meets at Dorchester Hall, corner of Dugdale and Dorchester Avenue, Warwick. Cost per person ranges from free to \$10 each day. For more information call Dana on 9400 4228 or email dana.anderson@joondalup.wa.gov.au

YouthSpaces and Facilities Fund: Grants up to \$25,000 are available for regional young people to access safe, secure community spaces for recreational, sporting and cultural activities. **Youth Grants WA:** Initiatives to encourage youth participation, services and facilities in the community. Grants are available up to \$5000. **Community Service Grants:** The Office for Children and Youth funds 23 community-based organisations for the provision of children's and youth development services, including leadership, life-skills and teamwork abilities. **Early Years Development Grants:** Supports families, carers and communities to improve children's wellbeing. Grants are available up to \$35,000. For details visit Youth Grants at <http://youngpeople.communitydevelopment.wa.gov.au/> or contact Office for Children and Young People on 9476 2000 or email youngpeople@dcd.wa.gov.au

YPAVE - Young Pregnant and Very Excited. This program provides support, information and community connections to pregnant teenagers in the South Metropolitan area. Delivered by Challenger TAFE, funded by the Department of Education and Training and runs two days a week over lunch time. Young women can plan, shop, prepare, cook and eat a cheap, nutritious meal as well as listen to speakers, visit local medical, health and support organisations, or perhaps do aquarobics or yoga. In Fremantle the program commences mid-January and in Rockingham at the start of February. For more information please phone the facilitator, Deb, on 0412 181 926, or Alison or Jackie on 9239 8200.

Youth Say No! www.youthsayno.wa.gov.au is part of a new suite of resources for children and young people experiencing violence in the family home or in their dating relationships. The resources, including booklets, bookmarks, z-cards and postcards, will offer valuable information about domestic violence and places to go for help and support. This website contains helpful information for young people about family and domestic violence, dating violence and how to support friends if they are being abused. No one deserves to be abused. To obtain copies of the publications order direct via the website www.youthsayno.wa.gov.au

WhereWomenWantToWork.com Women are pro-actively researching companies that offer what they want in relation to wages and employment conditions, such as flexible working hours, role models, child care, equal pay and training. The company you're in makes all the difference to advancing your career. Research available jobs all over the world at: www.WhereWomenWantToWork.com