

**Media Release: 10.03.09 – Gay and Lesbian Community Services.**

## **GLCS Launches WA Women On Women Forum - WA WOW!**



GLCS have just launched an online forum for Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer and same sex attracted women in WA.

GLCS's services for women were previously limited to the Women On Women (WOW) course about sexuality relationships and health in same sex attracted women. Now the 'WA WOW' forum aims to provide an online community for same sex attracted women (over 18) to meet in a safe & supportive social space, chat and find out about community events and health & sexuality information. It's something different from commercial dating sites for same sex attracted women. WA WOW has more of a community support emphasis as an online community service for WA women.

The idea for a women's forum came about as the current GLCS Board were aware that there are many health and community based services for gay men and far fewer for women. With more and more women accessing the internet for social networking, information and health related support, a forum seemed ideal as well as manageable for GLCS to maintain under its limited staff and volunteer capacities.

It was especially important for GLCS to cater to the needs of WA women who are coming out and could benefit from a social space where they can get peer support, information and hear others' experiences. Particularly for those who are over 26 and have no alternatives as they cannot access the Freedom Centre and the WOW course by GLCS is can only run once or twice a year.

The forum will also provide an opportunity for women waiting for the next WOW course to link in with the community sooner. It's also an opportunity for women who participate in the WOW course to keep in touch and chat with past WOW participants.

WA WOW is also more accessible to rural and regional women, giving them an opportunity to reduce their isolation from other parts of the lesbian and bisexual community and to keep up with what's happening in and around the city for any interesting events.

The Forum has a number of features such as a calendar for community events, private messaging functions and a number of topical sub-forums.

The forum has been launched in its initial phase as a trial to assess the need for this kind of services. GLCS is encouraging all women in the WA community and women's community groups and events to get involved. We will be using feedback and suggestions from registered forum users to determine how the forum looks and functions in its final form. Register now and get involved. Go to [www.glcs.org.au](http://www.glcs.org.au) for more.



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