NSW WOMEN’S REFUGE MOVEMENT
2011

“Breaking down the Barriers”
OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES:
The NSW Women’s Refuge Movement is a state-wide representative body with its membership made up of Refuges (approx 60) and other DV Specialist Services. It aims to provide consistent quality support for Women & Children who have been impacted by DV within a feminist framework.

Our overarching principles include the following.

• We operate within a collective framework for decision making as a peak body.
• Women’s Services for Women and Children.
• Domestic Violence is a breach of human rights.
• DV is a crime.
• DV includes all types of violence.
• DV occurs in all types of relationships.
• DV requires a comprehensive response.
• Children have particular needs.
• Access & Equity principles apply.
• Sensitivity and cultural awareness for Women & Children from diverse backgrounds
• Representation of women from diverse backgrounds in decision and policy making.
Background NSW Women’s Refuge Movement 1974 and beyond.

- 1974 – 1ST Recognised Women’s Refuge established in Australia after the IWD celebrations in that year. Now known as Elsie’s Women & Children’s Refuge Other Refuges were established, but all operated without Government funding relying only on the generosity of the Community.
- 1979 – 1st WRM Conference held at Bathurst in February.
- 1982 – WRM Evaluation change was underway.
- 1985 – In January 1985 Refuges were starting to be funded by the NSW Government under the new SAAP (Supported Accommodation Assistance Program), however the funding was limited. The demand for assistance grew and pressure was mounting for more Services to be established.
• 1986 – Establishment of the NSW WRM Resource Centre, now known as the Office of the NSW WRM.
• 1994 – NSW WRM undertook the auspice of a few Refuges.
• 2004 – Business arm of the WRM developed to manage Refuges directly.
• 2007 – Further successful tendering of Refuges 8 in total.
• 2009 – SOAAR established
• 2010 – 2011 Community Services brings in Service Specifications for all peak bodies.
• 2011 – Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) previously known as SAAP updated Case management Resource Toolkit.
• The NSW WRM supports the development of policies which aim to reduce the barriers for Lesbian’s who have been affected by DV, accessing our Services, as well as to educate and inform staff on best practice when providing Services to Lesbian clients / and their children and provide advocacy for Lesbian clients where appropriate.

• Within the NSW WRM a specialist group has been established L.E.A.PS (lesbian, advocacy and peers support) which aims to raise awareness and provide information and support within the NSW WRM in relation to issues relating to lesbians / and their children.
NSW WRM LEAPS group has also developed strategic planning which covers the areas of

- peer support and education
- case management/practice
- community development
- resource development
- addressing homophobia and myths within the movement
- data/reflection and collection
- partnerships
women's refuges
providing support to lesbians

CALL THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LINE
☎ 1800 65 64 63

The Domestic Violence line is a toll-free 24 hour counselling and referral service. They can help you get in contact with a refuge or give you advice over the phone.

www.womenarefuge.org.au
• PRESENTERS : Ms Nav Navratil – Chair NSW Women’s Refuge Movement, L.E.A.P.S. Delegate on the NSW WRM & Manager Clarence River Women’s Refuge
• Ms June Wilson Northern Region Delegate NSW WRM & Manager Kempsey Women’s Refuge