

Women's Services Network

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History of WSN

- Was a 'loose' network when I took up my position with WWC in 1998
- Based on feminist principles of support and empowerment
- Honored the history of women's achievement in SA
- Part of the role was to ensure the continuation of women specific services in a climate of 'mainstreaming'



Formalisation of the Network

- Steph Key when Minister for the Status of Women formally recognised the network, gave some financial support and put in place a regular process of consultation.
- WSN still gives regular briefings of the 'burning' issues for the sector to the current Minister for Women Gail Gago



Philosophy

- WSN is committed to feminist philosophy and actively addresses issues of concern to organisations/agencies providing services to women.



Aims of the Network

- To promote social justice, health and well being and advance the rights and interests of women in South Australia.
- The network provides support, information and collective action, of and for, women's services in South Australia



Statement of Purpose

- Advocate on behalf of women and women's services in SA
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively with other women's networks and services to advocate for improved services for women at both state and national level
- Provide a forum to raise and debate issues of concern to members and to formulate collaborative responses to these issues
- Provide input to state and federal government on issues that affect women
- To enhance, support and strengthen the capacity of organisations that provide services to women



Membership

- Voting members being women's services representatives
- Associate members being key individuals who are able to contribute to the network and are willing to adhere to the philosophy and terms of reference



WSN provides professional support

Some examples of this include;

- Individual leadership support
- Support with funding campaigns
- Debriefing of difficult issues
- Threats to the sector from change in policy
- Threats from other groups



Issues

Some examples include:

- Abortion law reform
- Addressing violence against women and children – national strategy
- Women's Health Policies – State and Federal
- Tendering for services by the DV sector
- DV Death Review

