



## Christmas Hours

Our last working day is Thursday 22nd December 2005 and we reopen 9th January 2006.

Office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9.00 – 5.00.

## Cultural Awareness Training

36 workers attended a Cultural Awareness Training facilitated by Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation and WHGNE in November. This training was offered to Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership agencies and workers. The objectives of the day were to provide an opportunity to meet with Mungabareena staff; improve knowledge about local Indigenous culture, Mungabareena and the way we work and hear Mungabareena's perspective and experiences about working with mainstream to better understand cultural issues that can arise when working with Indigenous clients.

Participants said:

"Good insights into services which are available-they were well explained".

"What was useful was...Information on traditional culture i.e. family structure and relationships".

"Well presented and common sense approach".

"Great learning day -keep it up the whole community continues to need it".



Participants identified their first point of contact with Australia and connected it to Aboriginal land.

## Micro Credit

WHGNE use the principles of health promotion and the social model of health for all its work. Both frameworks view health in a broad social context and attempt to address the many factors that influence the health and wellbeing of individuals. Research shows us that education and economic status do influence the ability to prevent illness and access health services.

Following these principles the Board of Women's Health has committed \$60,000 of its current reserves to investigate the development of a Micro finance project in the Hume Region.

Micro finance programs are aimed at empowering those excluded from mainstream credit options by providing clients with a hand up rather than a hand out. It is more sustainable than charity and the benefits are more outreaching and longer term.

Micro finance incorporates micro credit and other finance projects such as consumer information, financial counseling, 'Step Up' loans, 'Better Energy' programs, micro insurance, and a Buying Service.

One well known form of micro credit practice in Australia is No Interest Loans Schemes(NILS). What shape the project takes is yet to be determined, so stay tuned. .

## Family Violence Prevention

### Week Without Violence 2005

Week without violence this year saw many community based activities across the North East and Goulburn Valley.



**Sgt Ken O'Connor WWV BBQ in Shepparton**

- Albury/Wodonga Family Violence Integrated Response Professionals Forum with guest speakers Angela Barker, Women of Gaia, Dr David Wells, local service providers
- Shepparton Indigenous Forum held at Rumbalara Football Club. Some of the guest speakers included Jan Muir, DHS State-wide coordinator Indigenous Family Violence Strategy, Graeme Briggs, indigenous family violence project worker, Karen Bryant – Program coordinator, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria and local service providers
- Family Fun Twilight Carnival with local rock band
- Wangaratta Walk Against Violence followed with light supper and service providers presentations
- Wodonga Centro Plaza Family Violence Information Display
- Seymour Reclaim the Night march
- BBQ at 3 different location in Shepparton
- Wangaratta IGA information display
- Media coverage across the region during and prior to Week without Violence

FVP Networks continue to undertake initiatives all year not only during WWV. Some of these initiatives include developing brochures and wallet sized cards, Shop-a-docket projects, supporting the production of Children Resource Worker Kay Lavender's Children's Brochure and supporting the implementation of referral pathways with Victorian police. The FVP networks are instrumental in developing localised responses to family violence.



**Emma Fahey with the display in IGA Plaza Wangaratta**

## **Women of Gaia (Formerly Women's Support and Advocacy group)**

"The Women of Gaia was established in late 2004, it is a support and advocacy group for survivors of domestic violence. I am a member of this group. During Week Without Violence 2005 we organized a walk against violence; I and another member from our group were invited to present at the Wodonga Integrated Response to family Violence forum held in Wodonga where over 70 service providers attended.

The walk against violence saw approximately 60 supportive men, women and children walking to show their support. It had been several years since the walk (Reclaim the Night) had been attempted in Wangaratta. I am prepared to undertake the challenge again next year! The support from the community was shown in the many donations from the following businesses;

- Monty's Bakery
- Winzer Repairs
- Sign Effects
- Appin Street Butchery
- Ford Street Butchery
- Mitre 10
- The Chronicle
- Victorian Police
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- Women's Health Goulburn North East
- Upper Murray CASA
- Cooroonya Domestic Violence service

Thank you to all others who donated their time and energy! Until next time, Dinky"



Community Member gathers to commence for the Walk Against Violence

## Stop Violence Against Women

Amnesty International Australia has instigated 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This is a world-wide event where people take action to end violence against women. The 16 days starts on the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women (25th Nov) and ends on International Human Rights Day (10th Dec). People are encouraged to wear a white ribbon as a personal pledge to not commit, condone nor remain silent about violence against women and

children. More information is available: [www.amnesty.org.au](http://www.amnesty.org.au) 1300 300 920

For women needing services over the Christmas break contact:

Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service: 1800 015 188

Centre Against Sexual Assault: 1800 806 292

Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service: 03 9898 3145

Women's Legal Service: 03 9642 0877

Women's Information Referral Exchange: 1300 134 130

## Sexual diversity health services audit

Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria have produced a Sexual Diversity Health Services Audit which can help you to assess your organisation in terms of providing care for GLBTI (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex) people and perhaps highlight areas for improvement. You can view a PDF of the audit at [www.glhv.org.au](http://www.glhv.org.au) or they are happy to send out printed copies to interested organisations in Victoria. Phone 03 9285 5382 for more information.