



Staff and Board at Women's Health Goulburn North East wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

Women's Health Goulburn North East Member's Newsletter **December 2006**

Christmas Hours

Our last working day is Thursday 21st December 2006 and we reopen 8th January 2007.

Office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9.00 – 5.00.

Embracing the principles of equity

Embracing the principles of equity was held in Beechworth on Wednesday 6th December 2006 .

This forum is an initiative of the Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership. It was coordinated by Women's Health Goulburn North East as part of Project:Equity. 70 local people attended, mostly workers in the health and community sectors.

Speakers were:

Professor Ann Taket from Deakin University, who researches the interactions between social exclusion and health.

Dr Dorothy Broom from ANU, Canberra's Woman of the Year in 1993 and in 1994.

Professor Bob Pease, Deakin University, whose research and teaching areas include Men and Masculinities.

Peter Waples-Crowe, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), who is a descendent of the Ngarigo people of the Snowy Mountains.

Kim Jenkins, Health Promotion Coordinator with Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation, Karin McMillan, Spiritual Emotional Wellbeing Officer at Adult Mental Health and Wodonga Regional Health Service and Kylie Stephens, Health Promotion Worker with Women's Health Goulburn North East have been working collaboratively for the past 18 months to develop and conduct cultural training for generalist workers, and to strengthen relationships with local agencies.

Project: Equity is a practical approach to recognising and responding to **inequity** and **exclusion**.

It seeks to alert health professionals to the possibility that their practices may unintentionally exclude certain groups within the community.

Equity is a term which describes fairness and justice in outcomes. It is not about the equal delivery of services, or distribution of resources, it is about recognising **diversity** and **disadvantage**, and directing resources and services towards those most in need, to ensure equal outcomes for all.

The forum's proceedings will be available in 2007.

Project:Equity has been challenging workers and agencies to consider:

- φ **Who's not using our service?**
- φ **Are we reaching those most at risk of poor health outcomes?**
- φ **Do we know why some people are not accessing our service?**
- φ **Are there potentially avoidable, unfair, or unnecessary barriers to accessing our services?**
- φ **Do we offer the same service to everyone or do we tailor services for specific groups or individuals?**



Peter Waples-Crowe, Karin McMillan, Kim Jenkins, Professor Bob Pease, Professor Ann Taket, Kylie Stephens and Dr Dorothy Broom

Contact numbers over the Christmas break

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**

Please find attached an article about the removal of terminations from the crimes act, written by Women's Health Victoria, in Women's Health West's newsletter. We encourage you to stay informed and to take action within your circle of influence.