

News from Western Sydney Community Forum

Forum Flash

Date: 22 November 2010

Greater Western Sydney Community Sector Service ZEST Awards

WSCF is proud to announce that the inaugural Greater Western Sydney Community Sector Awards nominations are now open.



Who can apply?

Individuals and organisations (funded and non-funded) which focus on capacity building and advocacy and can demonstrate evidence of Standing Up for Western Sydney; and must be actively working within the 14 LGA of Greater Western Sydney.

There are **eleven (11)** Award Categories - Exceptional performance by a

Community Leader	Youth Leader 12-25	Project within NFP agency
New worker in CS Sector	Project in Aboriginal Service	Project within a Gov. Dept
Voluntary Group/organisation	Project in Multicultural Service	Project within a Business
Inspired and Supportive Journalism		

For more information and the nomination form please visit Awards website

<http://gwsawards.org.au> or contact us at WSCF email: wscf@wscf.org.au ph: 02 9687 9669

WSCF new Staff - Daliah Nwaogazi!

Daliah is the new Aboriginal Organisation Capacity Building project worker who starts at WSCF on 24 November. The position is funded for three years from Community Builders and will work in Metro West, primarily with Aboriginal managed community organisations but also support Aboriginal workers in non-Aboriginal organisations. We are very pleased to welcome her. Daliah's email address will be daliahn@wscf.org.au

What's happened to our Wage Parity case?

WSCF staff and Board are very disappointed with the Federal Government's submission to the fair pay Commission on Social & Community sector pay equity case - we urge you to request an appointment to see your local Federal Member to register your concern too.

Open letter to Julie Owens, Member for Parramatta from Mary Waterford, EO for WSCF

Dear Julie,

You may recall that you spoke to our “Meet the Candidates” Forum just before the Federal Election and confirmed that you and the Labor Party had a commitment to the ASU's Equal Pay Case for Community workers which is currently running in Fair Work Australia (FWA).

On November 18th, the Federal Government put in their submissions to Fair Work Australia - this can be viewed on www.fwa.gov.au It argues that FWA in deciding whether to award increases, should take into consideration the fact it will cost the Government a lot of money and the affect it will have on their budget. This submission will make our goal of fair wages harder to achieve. Given we signed an Agreement with the Federal Government - this is most disappointing.

Our industry is under crisis. It is getting harder and harder to recruit and retain staff. Government is on the one hand contracting more services to non-government agencies and on the other hand lacking foresight and planning to secure a health sector to provide the necessary infrastructure. Given our ageing population, increasing child protection reporting, growing social inequity, this is of particular concern. While many Australians are reporting increased quality of life, the gap between wealth and marginalised is growing and many vulnerable people need the safety net provided by our services.

The Government have known for over 12 months how much equal pay for the community sector will cost, they signed an Agreement with the ASU to support our Equal Pay Case in full knowledge of t his cost. It seems they are now doing what they can to minimise our chance of success.

Effectively the Government is saying that women workers (and men) in the community sector should continue to pay the cost of service delivery of their programs through low, unfair wages. They also say the sector should look at productivity increases and that workers should bargain with their employers for better wages! This is not realistic - the sector employers are mainly are voluntary Boards of Management that do not have the resources to allocate additional benefit unless funded to do so.

If the social and community sector do not get pay equity we risk loss of both workers and volunteers in Management as both groups see their skills and time are not respected or rewarded.

I urge you to take our case to your government and I request a time to come and speak to you personally about the issue.

Sincerely, Mary Waterford EO WSCF

Listening to our members

WSCF want to engage you in our work. Our first step is to come to you and hear more about that you think is important to the sector. Give us a ring on 9687 5812 if you would like a visit. We will be strategically selecting organisations as well.

Interesting fact spot (we couldn't find a joke)

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

For a full listing of community sector news we recommend that you subscribe to [CommunityNet](#)

Become a fan of our A Stronger Voice for Western Sydney Facebook Page: www.ngo.net.au/strongervoice

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