

## News from Western Sydney Community Forum

# Forum Flash

22 May 2009

### Care Campaign Update & Rally- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 11am Hyde Park

An historic decision was handed down by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission last week (see attached newsletter & poster for your workplace). A Pay Equity decision found that the work of the non-government community services work is undervalued in relation to public sector work and due to the fact that the sector is dominated by women workers.

The result is that pay in Queensland will increase by between 18-37% over 3 years starting on 31 July 2009! And the Queensland government has agreed to fund the decision. This is a stunning victory for union members in Queensland and those that have supported the Pay Equity case.

So are we in NSW worth any less? We say NO! The CARE Campaign now has a new goal - equity with Queensland workers - and it's a goal we think is winnable.

Community workers and ASU members will assemble at Hyde Park North at 11am and then march to NSW Parliament House. There will be a sausage sizzle and balloons and our decorated calico art will be put around Parliament House.

It was agreed at the Parramatta Care meeting that the group will aim to get 60 Members / people to the Rally. There are over 600 members in Parramatta and surrounds so we need you to help! Click here for your invitation and more details <http://tinyurl.com/qvj7od>

### 'Understanding Reconciliation' Training

WSCF is planning to organise a Training in August 2009 for workers providing services in Blacktown and LGA. Gangari 'Understanding Reconciliation' workshop package targets non-Indigenous Australians, in particular those working with Aboriginal children and families. Quote from Gangari training presenters 'We believe as non- Indigenous Australians, with a strong sense of social justice that under Reconciliation we all have a responsibility to have a better understanding of Aboriginal Australia and begin to build new relationships based on knowledge, trust and respect.' If you are interested in attending this 'full day enjoyable, and a straight forward way to learn more about Aboriginal Australia' training please send an e-mail to [semrag@wscf.org.au](mailto:semrag@wscf.org.au) by 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### E-Flash Survey Results

Most of you may remember we had a survey about e-flash in April. Thanks to those

who participated to the survey. Below is the result of e-flash survey.

We asked participants if they read the e-flash

**69.8% said YES**

**3.2% said NO**

**27% said SOMETIMES**

We asked participants if they like e-flash

**83.1% said YES**

**1.7% said NO**

**15.3 % said NOT ENTIRELY**

We asked if including approximately 4 topics in fortnightly e-flash needed to be increased or decreased and the response was:

**10.5 % Wanted LESS topics**

**15.8 Wanted MORE topics**

**73.3 % said NO NEED to change, IT'S JUST HOW IT SHOULD BE**

The survey showed us that participants were happy with the current e-flash however some comments on the style were relevant what we were thinking prior to the survey. Please do not forget that we don't have an art worker or IT person working on the e-flash, it's been part of any other projects that Regional Resource Workers are doing in their busy schedule. We'll try our best to continue to inform the sector in this way until a better way is possible for the organisation.

If you want to share any comments about e-flash please send an e-mail to [semrag@wscf.org.au](mailto:semrag@wscf.org.au) or if there are any technical issues with e-flash, if you want to unsubscribe or you know some other people that would like to subscribe to e-flash please send an e-mail to [wscf@wscf.org.au](mailto:wscf@wscf.org.au)

Below is some chosen comments from e-flash survey enjoy reading them;

- I like simplicity short sharp information snatches keeps me up to date, esp with WSAAS / CSGP campaign
- Training available and keeping up with what is happening in the area
- Keeps me up to date with what is happening in the sector
- Quick and easy access to information - can easily choose what is of most interest. Saves paper - timely.
- Short and Sweet outlines. If I want to find more just click. I also like Joke Spot.
- It's regular, reliable and has links to Newswire and community Net
- Clear, simple information relevant to the sector
- The formatting could be nicer.
- Not always relevant to my work
- It needs to be more visually interesting - it doesn't encourage me to read it in my busy work schedule
- it is a bit DoCS focused but that probably reflects the membership
- Interesting topics. I wish I had more time to read thoroughly. Keep up the good work.
- It repeats a lot that comes out in other e-news from other peaks

- I have never read it. I don't even know what it is
- I think it does the job very well. Could perhaps add a bit of personal interest and do a little profile of a staff member in each issue (or a board member).
- Thanks for your work WSCF!
- Good job WSCF!

## Community Care news and updates in Western Sydney (Cumberland-Prospect and Nepean)

Community Care news on upcoming events, current projects, new resources as well as a recap on the last quarter, in May HACC Forums Flash.

Please visit WSCF's HACC webpage at:

[http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc\\_home\\_and\\_community\\_care](http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc_home_and_community_care)

### Update on WSAAS

The good news is that the AAS is defiantly survived another threat and will continue once again! But unfortunately there is no increase in the \$10 million allocated many years back that is now worth less than half of what it was and no return to 'pick-up".. We had a WS regional meeting 8.5.09 and there were good stories presented, answering "but what is the outcome for children and families" pretty persuasively. Strong recommendations are no less than three year funding but there is concern that AAS will focus on DoCS core business of child protection rather than child community development. There is some discussion that AAS should be expanded to Western NSW but no extra funding.

WSAAS turns 30<sup>th</sup> this year – WSCF is considering having a birthday party and bringing together representatives of all the organisations funded by WSAAS over the past 30 years to join in celebration!

### and what's happening with CSGP?

The campaign has been strong and we are waiting to see if the State Budget bears fruit on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile we encourage you to continue to follow the directions of LCSA, YAPA and FamS NSW regarding keeping the pressure on politicians.. The CSGP Roundtable has not met since themed last year and requests by Peaks recently for a meeting have had no response from DoCS as yet – we will keep you posted.

### Joke Spot

Energizer Bunny arrested: charged with battery.