

Forum Flash

31 July 2009

“Gangari ‘Understanding Reconciliation’ Workshop

WSCF in conjunction with Blacktown City Council organised the Gangari ‘Understanding Reconciliation’ workshop on 20 August 2009. The workshop is targeting Non-Indigenous workers from government and non-government organisations that are working with Aboriginal communities. However, it is open to Indigenous people who want to join us.

This very interactive one day workshop will assist you to provide better services to your Aboriginal clients as professionals working in the community sector. It will increase your understanding of Aboriginal Australia as you become more confident Australian residents at the same time. You will certainly be able to challenge some myths and stereotypes about Aboriginal Australia.

You will come to a decision yourself after the workshop, however, I want to give you my personal opinion as someone who attended the workshop last year that the presenters Maria and Kerrie are brilliant with theoretical and practical knowledge of the subject. At the end of the workshop you will receive a very practical Resource Booklet.

Please see the [flyer](#) and [registration form](#). Contact Semra Guler for further information on 9687 6974 or send an e-mail to semrag@wscf.org.au

What about WSCF’s Conference - Is there going to be another one?

Previously WSCF has held an Annual Conference – the last one was in November 2007 with the theme: “Understanding Diversity and Facing Change: Influencing Social Policy.”

There seemed to be so many conferences to choose from, we decided in 2008/09 to have a break from the annual conference and focus on holding different Issue Forums throughout the year. We have been giving some thought on what to do in 2010 and the idea for a Conference has once again resurfaced.

We want to know if you would support this idea because if we do a Conference we would like this to be a collaborative venture we do in partnership with our members and stakeholders in the sector. This would include all aspects i.e. the planning, coordination, design, themes etc. The only thing we have considered is the timeframe i.e. May 2010.

If there is support for a Conference, we will be seeking people to be on a Conference Working Group to brainstorm, exchange ideas and begin the process to get the Conference started.

So what we would like from you in the next two weeks, is some indication on your views by voting on the following two preferences:

- WSCF to continue holding Forums/Workshops throughout the year
- WSCF holding a Conference in 2010 + and a couple of regional forums

Vote

Peek result

[Further comments can be made by clicking here.](#)

For more information please contact: Semra 02 9687 6974 or Paul 02 9687 8937.

Community Interview

Topic: The impact of technology on the community sector and how it can be of benefit to the sector.

Miguel Ferrero (WSCF) interviewing Liliana Ruti, Community IT Program Manager, Information and Cultural Exchange Inc (ICE) 23 July 2009

Q What is ICE and what do you offer to the Community services sector?

Information and Cultural Exchange, or ICE as its commonly referred to as, is a community arts and Information Technology (IT) organisation based in Parramatta. ICE runs IT and digital media projects with young people, newly arrived migrants and refugees and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities across Western Sydney. Projects range from film and music projects to basic computer and IT training but they all have one integral component – they build people’s skills in using computers and IT.

Q In what ways Information Technology can help services to do a better job? Do you have any example of a service who by using these technologies have made their service more accessible?

IT, more and more, is becoming part of mainstream life. Banking, shopping, looking for employment, training and study all require a certain basic level of IT skills to undertake. If you find yourself not being able to use these skills, certain opportunities will pass you by that could otherwise help you achieve certain goals in life such as finding a job and undertaking study or further training. This may particularly be the case for people who are newly arrived and may have not had experience utilising computers or IT before living in Australia.

The term “community” is also broadening and many groups are using online forums and social networking sites to interact and communicate with like minded individuals. Community organisations can tap into these online communities, which in many instances may be the same communities they work with, to promote their services and engage with communities.

One example of this is Headspace, a national youth mental health organisation. Headspace makes connections and gets information across to young people through social networking sites such as Myspace and Facebook.

(Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=17133761376&ref=search>. Website: www.headspace.org.au.)

They have identified that, particularly for young people, these are effective avenues for communication and connection.

If communities are becoming more internet savvy, then community workers need to also have these skills or an understanding of these skills so they can communicate with their target groups online. Alternatively, if communities are struggling to utilise IT to their benefit, then community workers and organisations need to be able to resource communities and provide them with the skills they need to embrace life’s opportunities and remove any barriers to participation.

Q Tell me about your upcoming training?

The Connect Digital Tasters Training program aims to give community workers and organisations an overview of technology and online and social media.

It gives community workers basic IT skills to enable them to engage with communities online and offline. The training makes digital technology and online media simple to understand and use. Each of the 6 sessions are 5 hours each, from 10 till 3pm, and can be attended either individually or all together.

The Connect Digital Tasters Training will be held at Information and Cultural Exchange, 8 Victoria Road, Parramatta in October 2009. For details and bookings please contact Liliana on 9897 5744 or liliana.ruti@ice.org.au or visit ice.org.au/training

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Training topics are:

- Engaging Communities online with Social Networking
- Blogging for your organisation
- Podcasting and Radio
- Digital Photography and Editing
- Video Skills
- Intro to Digital Storytelling or more information please contact: Semra 02 9687 6974 or Paul 02 9687 8937.

### **Learn about the future for CSGP on Youtube**

Brian Smith from the Local Community Services Association (LCSA) and Mary Waterford from WSCF met to discuss the issues surrounding the future of CSGP funding following the Government response to the Wood Special Commission, "Keep Them Safe". If you would like to see those discussions, go to the Forum Flash youtube page: [www.youtube.com/forumflash](http://www.youtube.com/forumflash)

### **Reminder that Membership Fees are now due!**

Free Incentive Pack for Members – Offer expires 31 August 2009. Membership fees with WSCF were due by 31 July 2009. Respond NOW to claim your free membership incentive pack. Fees start from \$38.50 but take advantage of the heavily discounted rates for 3 or 5 year membership.

[Click here for membership application/renewal form \(PDF 78KB\)](#)

### **Joke Spot**

If a cow laughed, would milk come out her nose?

### **For a full copy of the WSCF HACC Flash**

[Click link to HACC Flash in Flash file](#)