

Staff Report Aug 2016

This report covers the period from June 21st until August 15th.

1. COLLABORATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

1.1 To build and maintain strategic relationships with politicians, bureaucrats, unions and the community to help us achieve our vision

- The Darwin BPW (Business and Professional Women) have raised \$3000 for the NTWWC as part of their annual Golf Day. 4 staff attended the event to assist.
- We received a \$25,000 donation from Baiada Poultry as part of their Compliance Deed with the Fair Work Ombudsman!
- We have sent updates to various VIPs regarding our funding, including the head of the WGEA, the head of the Office for Women, in the Department of Employment and the Sex Discrimination Commissioner.
- We have been liaising with the NT Labor team to seek commitments to additional funding. We have been given verbal reassurances of their support for our service, and have had meetings with Lynne Walker and Natasha Fyles.

1.2 To build and maintain our reputation as industry leaders advocating for the rights of women at work and for workplace cultural change

- Anna has been appointed to the NT Women's Consultative Council, whose role is to advise the Minister for Women on women's issues. This has involved a 2 day meeting so far and will involve 3-4 meetings per year. I would like COM to decide whether this should be work time or if I should accept payment for sitting fees.

2. COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2.1 To establish and implement a clear community education framework

- We presented a session on Basic Rights at Work to English language students at the Adult Migrant English Program in Darwin.

3. FUNDING

3.1 To ensure ongoing financial sustainability and viability of the NTWWC

- See discussion paper.
- We have had meetings and discussions with members of the Labor Territory team.
- We await the release of the FWO tender, and have been told this will be in August with a 6 week turnaround time and the outcomes announced in November.
- Federal Election Update
 - We no longer have Natasha Griggs as an advocate within government now that the federal seat of Solomon has been won by Luke Gosling.
 - During the election campaign we were unable to convince Minister Cash to fund WWC's separate from a tender process despite a massive effort.
 - During the election campaign the dedicated national campaign website was launched <http://www.wwc.org.au/savethewwcs/> Many supporters have used this website to write, email and tweet. It is still active.

- We had an informal meeting with Nigel Scullion just prior to the election. He expressed concern at the potential loss of NT services and committed to working with us on the issue after the election.
- WWC's nationally were successful in gaining a \$3.8 million commitment from Labor. It was announced 2 weeks prior to the election and was contained in their women's policy. Despite this commitment not coming to anything it was a great acknowledgement and much needed morale boost for the Co-Directors and staff.

4. CULTURAL ACCESSIBILITY

4.1 To ensure the NTWWC is accessible and culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and caters for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's needs

4.2 To ensure the NTWWC is accessible and culturally appropriate for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women and caters for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women's needs

- We are proposing a pilot project for September – November: Women's Visa Workers' Employment Advisory Service (VWEAS) to be promoted to all female visa workers and referral agencies. We would provide initial advice on a range of employment issues. We are prohibited from providing any migration advice.

5. REGIONAL AND REMOTE WORK

5.1 To explore opportunities for increasing awareness of and accessibility to the NTWWC in remote communities

6. STAFF

6.1 To maintain the status of the NTWWC as a model employer and workplace

- Anne has returned to work as ILO but is relocated to the Darwin office. She will be working 2 days per week fixed term until the end of December, as a mutually agreed contract variation. It is great that we are able to keep her skills and experience with the Centre.
- As agreed, we are not filling the Alice ILO position until we know our financial situation (pending the outcome of the tender and other discussions with NT and Federal government). In the meantime, as agreed, we have sub-let the Alice office to a research student thus ensuring that Claire has safety and company. Claire will also travel up to Darwin in September and probably again later in the year, and Rach/Anna will travel down to Alice too to ensure connection between the offices.
- Staff have been dealing with the potential loss of their jobs since February this year. As expected, this is now taking it's toll on everybody and has been exacerbated by the fact that the Minister has not changed her position on the funding of WWC's.

6.2 To maximise and maintain our capacity and competency

- During July Rita from QWWS came to work with us for a couple of days. It was wonderful to get her perspective on client issues and the similarities and differences between our two sister services.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 A well-functioning, enthusiastic and supported COM.

7.2 Effective compliant and transparent risk management.

- Rachael went to Alice in July to assess the state of the office after the storm. Things are now functioning as normal and we did not need to make any insurance claims. The floors do have some damage, and we are waiting for advice from the real estate agent re replacing them.
- The end of year payment summaries were completed with no issues.
- The audit has been completed by Sue Lee with no issues.
- 6 monthly reports have been submitted to the two funding bodies within the deadlines.
- **The AGM is usually held in October – this may be a strategic time for a fundraiser raising awareness of our funding issues. Given the workload the Directors’ are and will be under in that time, we will leave it up to the COM to see if you want to organise a fundraiser or just have a low key AGM. For example, we could do an outdoor movie night with a guest speaker (perhaps the new NT Minister for Women?), with the AGM completed prior.**

7.3 Up to date policies and procedures are in place and adhered to.

- **The policy sub committee is on hold so no new policy work has been completed. This will need some attention in the near future.**

8. SERVICE PROVISION

8.1 Maintain the provision of an accessible, ethical and effective service to empower, support and advocate for Northern Territory working women, both individually and at the structural level, within a feminist framework.