

Women @ Work

March 2011
Volume 2, Issue 7

The Northern Territory Working Women's Centre

Providing information, advice and support to Territory Women since 1994

Welcome to the first Women @ Work for 2011!

We are delighted to announce that Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, accepted our invitation to become Patron-in-Chief of the National Working Women's Centres which includes Centres in Darwin, Brisbane and Adelaide. Judith Cooper will continue to be the Patron of the NT Working Women's Centre.

The Governor-General has a varied working background that includes a term as the former Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner, the inaugural Director of the Queensland Women's Information service and balancing the demands of her work and family. And of course, she is the first woman Governor-General of Australia.

We are also delighted to let you know that the 4th Our Work Our Lives: Women and Industrial Relations conference will be held in Dili in Timor Leste on the 1st and 2nd of September 2011. Watch this space for more exciting details.

Co-coordinators

Rachael Uebergang and Anna Davis

Celebrate International Women's Day with us!!



NT Working Women's Centre

Celebrate 100 Years of International Women's Day.

Join us for a light supper and screening of

Made In Dagenham

7pm - Tuesday 8 March at
Darwin City Cinema, Tickets \$10.00

Contact 8981 0655 or admin@ntwwc.com.au

Proudly sponsored by
**Northern Territory
Government**



Inside this issue

Client Case Study.....2

Community Education team
get out & about2

Unfair Dismissal.....3

Special points of interest

International Women's Day Centenary March 8

This year on March 8 we will celebrate International Women's Day for the 100th time!

Throughout March events will be held across the Territory and the world. Breakfasts, lunches, dinners, art exhibitions, conferences and all manner of events.

The NTWWC is hosting a film night on the actual day, with the help of the NT ADC and funding assistance from the NT Government via the OWP's IWD grant program.

Visit the NT Government Office of Women's Policy special IWD website to see what else is on offer at:

<http://www.territorywomen.nt.gov.au/>



NTWWC Client Case Study

Karen is a 52 year old Aboriginal woman who had been working on a casual basis for a local company. When she approached the NTWWC, Karen had been dismissed whilst in hospital recovering from the effects of a work related injury aggravated by an underlying medical condition. Additionally, her incomplete workers' compensation forms had been returned to her. Karen was under considerable financial pressure, having had no income for some four weeks at the time of her first appointment.

The NTWWC was able to assist Karen with a General Protections Dismissal Application, as her former employer had stated her underlying medical condition as a contributing factor to her dismissal. The matter was successfully conciliated and a settlement reached.

The NTWWC also assisted her to correctly complete and lodge her workers' compensation claim and later referred her to a lawyer for assistance when the claim was rejected. After her file was closed, Karen wrote to thank the NTWWC for the service she received and stated that:

"without NTWWC, I probably would not have gone ahead. Many thanks are due for helping me get a fair settlement....NTWWC is a very important service and I hope it will always be available for others like myself. Words cannot express my gratitude, appreciation and admiration for all the assistance and respect you have afforded me".

* Case Studies are based on actual clients however names and details are changed to protect privacy



NT Working Women's Centre

**We help with
Problems at work**



"I feel so much better already – and it's only the beginning. I left armed with strategies for the short term and with a basic framework for a longer term approach to the situation." NTWWC Client Feedback

On the Road with the Community Ed. Team

The NTWWC team regularly visit regional areas of the Territory, delivering community education and maintaining the Centre's profile and relationships with other organizations .

During the first half of 2011, NTWWC staff will be travelling to Katherine in the week of April the 4th and Alice Springs in the week of May the 16th.

Community education sessions can be delivered on topics such as Workplace Rights and Responsibilities and Workplace Bullying, or specialized requests may be able to be catered to.

If you would like to know more about our travels or are indeed keen to meet with us during our trips, please get in touch.

Contact Anna Davis on anna@ntwwc.com.au or on 8981 0655 to discuss your Community Education needs.

What is the NT Working Women's Centre?

The NT Working Women's Centre (NTWWC) is a community based, non-profit organisation that provides free and confidential advice to women about work related matters. The NTWWC receives funding from the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments.

The NT Working Women's Centre provides information, advice, representation and referral to NT women about work related issues such as: pay, working conditions, unfair dismissal, superannuation, discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment.

Every day women from all walks of life contact the centre for assistance, either through the free call number or personally in our office. Each year the NTWWC answers thousands of queries from Territory women from short inquiries to more complex matters involving case management.

Throughout the NT we provide advice and representation about unfair dismissal and discrimination. For example, assistance can be provided to help women to prepare their forms and statements and support them throughout the process. The centre also provides community education to women about their rights at work, and our staff members conduct visits to regional centres and some remote communities.

The NTWWC is a member based organisation, and so is dependent on support from the NT Community. For a nominal fee of \$10.00 a year any woman in the NT (or any organisation for \$30) can become a supporting member of the NTWWC.



Free Call: 1800 817 055

Ph: (08) 8981 0655

F: (08) 8981 0433

E: admin@ntwwc.com.au

W: www.ntwwc.com.au

NT Working Women's Centre

Join the NT Working Women's Centre

Membership of the NTWWC will support the Centre to continue to provide services to women throughout the NT who are in a disadvantaged bargaining position, insecure and low paid work. The Centre gives particular attention to vulnerable groups of women, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from Culturally & Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, women who have a disability, women with family responsibilities and those living in regional and remote areas.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the NTWWC please complete the form below and return it to us. We will contact you to arrange payment of your membership fee.

Name:

Postal Address:

Contact Phone No.:

Email:

Signature:

NT Working Women's Centre

www.ntwwc.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

- International Women's Day 8 March 2011
- IWD march in Darwin on 5 March from Civic Park at 9am
- IWD Film Night 8 March
- IWD Dinner 12 March
- Many more IWD events are on throughout the Territory during March, visit the OWP website for more information:

<http://www.territorywomen.nt.gov.au/>