

CONFERENCES

The following conference listings are taken from the website of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault.

Home Truths: Stop Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence: A National Challenge

15–17 September 2004

Melbourne, Vic

This three-day conference is presented by the Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA Forum) and Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic), and will provide a dynamic national forum for service providers, policy makers, academics and victim/survivors to discuss, debate and highlight practice and policy issues relating to sexual assault, and domestic and family violence. The chief sponsor of the *Home Truths* conference is the Australian Government Office of the Status of Women. Supporting sponsors are the Victorian Department of Human Services, and the Victorian Health Promotion Fund.

The conference aims to:

- *Foster* a vision for the year 2014 of the optimum service response for victim/survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- *Create* partnerships between sexual assault and domestic violence sectors at both a practice and policy level in the local and national arena;
- *Highlight* examples of best practice with respect to involving victim/survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in service and policy development;
- *Weave* the voices of victim/survivors throughout practice and policy discussions;
- *Showcase* the aims, achievements and key findings of the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault;
- *Contribute* to the ongoing feminist debates surrounding sexual assault and domestic and family violence.

Further information is available from the CASA Forum website at: <http://www.secasa.com.au/conference/>

8th International Conference of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders

6–9 October 2004

Athens, Greece

The theme of this conference is “Sex Offending is Everybody’s Business”. A broad range of topics related to sexual offending will be covered, including: treatment programs and techniques; risk assessment; psychopathology; juvenile sexual offenders; legislation and ethical issues. Presentations will also cover child abuse and intimate partner sexual violence.

Further information is available from the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders at <http://www.iatsoathens.gr/>

A Conference on Women, Feminism and the Law: Challenge, Change and Cha Cha Cha

27–29 October 2004

Brisbane, Qld

This three-day conference hosted by the Women’s Legal Service in Brisbane will focus on contemporary issues around violence against women and family law. Themes will explore: trends impacting on justice for women; key legal issues for future reform; changes in women’s interaction with the legal system over the last 20 years; politics of resistance, race and gender; mainstreaming of women’s issues and services; the effect of global trends on local issues; and re-energising and focusing for future challenges.

Further information is available from the Women’s Legal Service, Brisbane. Phone (07) 3392 0644 or email jclarkin@gil.com.au

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 23rd Annual Conference: Directing Decisions: Assessment for Disposition, Treatment, and Outcome

27–30 October 2004

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

This conference will provide opportunities for professional growth, networking and the dissemination of the latest research findings in the area of sexual abuse. The focus will be on assessment-driven decisions about sex offender disposition, treatment planning, predicting outcomes, organisational planning and innovative assessment and treatment procedures.

Further information is available from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) at <http://www.atsa.com/conf.html>

New Frontiers in Restorative Justice: Advancing Theory and Practice

2–5 December 2004

Auckland, New Zealand

This international interdisciplinary conference on restorative justice will explore how restorative justice theory and practice can develop to meet challenges such as how to define and preserve the values and standards of practice of restorative justice, and how restorative justice should operate in cases of domestic violence and sexual offending.

Further information is available from Massey University at <http://justpeace.massey.ac.nz/Work/Welcome.htm>

Empirical Findings and Theory Developments in Restorative Justice: Where Are We Now?

23–25 February 2005

Canberra, ACT

This conference will be hosted by the International Network for Research on Restorative Justice and the Centre for Restorative Justice, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. The focus will be on new empirical findings in the area of restorative justice, with keynote speakers to include John Braithwaite, Lawrence Sherman, Lode Walgrave and Heather Strang. Abstracts for presentations may be sent by 15 December 2004 to Heather Strang at heather.strang@anu.edu.au

Further information is available from the Regulatory Institutions Network at <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/events/RJconf/program.htm>

Improving Policing for Women in the Asia Pacific Region

21–24 August 2005

Darwin, NT

The improvement of policing for women in the Asia Pacific Region is the focus of this conference. Within a feminist framework, delegates from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and Asia will explore how policing can better protect women's human rights, develop strategies to improve the number of women in key decision making positions within policing, and create a network of women that can work to improve policing for women in the Asia Pacific region.

Further information is available from the Australasian Council of Women and Policing at <http://www.auspol-women.asn.au/>

For more conferences and events visit the Conferences page on the ACSSA website: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/conferences.html>

NEW PUBLICATION

Making Waves: Attending to Lesbian Relationship Violence

Outline provided by *Wayward Concepts*

Making Waves is the first Australian publication written and produced for the lesbian community and professionals in the field of domestic violence. It is a 120-page resource manual exploring issues relating to lesbians who experience relationship abuse. It contains articles on discrimination, feminist analysis and legal rights, and includes resources on relationship abuse suitable for the lesbian community and professional service providers.

Making Waves is intended to stimulate and inform discussion about lesbian relationship violence: discussions that can be carried into kitchens, bedrooms, coffee shops and workplaces. It is hoped the book will also encourage existing organisations to improve access to services for lesbians experiencing relationship violence.

Making Waves has been written and published as a result of Lesbians Initiating Positive Strategies (LIPS) consultations with lesbians and feminists in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. LIPS has been active in raising lesbian relationship violence issues on the New South Wales North Coast for the last six years.

Kassa Bird, having previously worked with the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre in Melbourne, where she initiated the development of lesbian domestic violence resources, brought to the North Coast her commitment to continue raising awareness and developing resources for the lesbian community. LIPS evolved from these initiatives, and now offers this groundbreaking resource manual to the Australian lesbian community and women's services providers. Wayward Concepts, a feminist small publisher, is proud to assist in making this resource available.



Making Waves is available through *Wayward Concepts*, PO Box 2163, Byron Bay NSW 2481 at a cost of \$25 per copy for individuals and \$30 per copy for organisations (including postage and handling). Make cheques payable to *Wayward Concepts*, ABN: 54 351 363 720. For more information email: phoenix@versa.com.au

Lesbian relationship violence training

A training program is being offered to services by *Wayward Concepts*, to accompany the resources in the *Making Waves* manual. See the "Training" column elsewhere in this issue of *ACSSA Aware*.

The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault website lists organisations that provide training in areas relating to sexual assault. These are some of the courses on offer.

Adult sexual assault in Aboriginal communities

Examine some of the issues for Aboriginal people in relation to sexual violence, effects on victim/survivors, confidentiality in providing support, legal issues, and strategies to prevent further violence.

Contact: Education Centre Against Violence (NSW): Phone (02) 9840 3737 or visit www1.health.nsw.gov.au/ecav/index.asp

Alcohol and drug facilitated sexual assault

Provides a framework for understanding drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault including the legal, medical and social contexts which influence popular perspectives about this crime.

Contact: CASA House (Vic): phone (03) 9347 3066 or visit www.rwh.org.au/CASA

Counselling women and young women who have been sexually assaulted

Contact: Centre Against Sexual Violence (Qld): phone (07) 3808 3299 or visit www.connectqld.org.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=7155

Provision of forensic services to adults who have been raped or sexually assaulted

Outlines the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to collect and maintain evidence whilst upholding the rights and interests of adults who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

Contact: Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service (SA): phone (08) 8226 8777 or 1800 817 421 or visit www.wch.sa.gov.au/yarrow/

Responding to sexual assault

Level 1

Designed to assist those working with victim/survivors of sexual assault who have not had the opportunity to access training previously. Examines the nature and consequences of sexual assault and the key issues relevant to providing an effective response, and includes information about referral options and professional support.

Level 2

Designed to extend the skills of those who are working with victim/survivors and have some experience or have attended the Level 1 training. Considers the theoretical framework of the rights/advocacy model of responding to victim/survivors of sexual assault. Enhances skills and strategies for responding to people in crisis because of sexual assault, and examines vicarious trauma for workers.

Contact: CASA House (Vic): phone (03) 9347 3066 or visit www.rwh.org.au/CASA

Sexuality and disability

Explores relationship and sexuality issues, and the rights and needs of people with disability.

Contact: Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency (WA): phone (08) 9420 7226 or visit www.secca.org.au/

Working with older women responding to past or current violence

Develop strategies to work appropriately with and increase older women's access to sexual assault and domestic violence services.

Contact: CASA House (Vic): phone (03) 9347 3066 or visit www.rwh.org.au/CASA; or Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre (Vic): phone (03) 9486 9866 or visit www.dvirc.org.au

Lesbian Relationship Violence Training

In conjunction with the recent launch and publication of *Making Waves: Attending to Lesbian Relationship Violence*, Wayward Concepts is able to offer services a training program to accompany the resources in the manual.

Model 1: one-day training

This one-day workshop for professionals aims to look at the social and cultural context in which lesbians experience relationship violence; explore the similarities and differences to male violence against women; outline the specific needs of lesbian victim/survivors and current discriminative practices, and present agency options such as programs and resources addressing lesbian relationship violence.

Model 2: half-day or sessional training

Half-day or sessional training will focus on the specific needs of lesbian victim/survivors, discuss current discriminative practices in policing and the legal system, and present options for programs and resources to improve service access for lesbians.

Model 3: workplace-specific training sessions

Training specific to the service delivery and issues faced by individual services (for example, domestic violence court support workers or medical staff at hospital emergency units) can be designed in consultation with co-ordinators or team leaders.

Contact: Wayward Concepts (NSW): phone (02) 6687 2106 or visit phoenix@versa.com.au

For a more training courses visit www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/training.html

If your organisation provides training or professional development in the area of sexual violence that you would like listed on the ACSSA website, please contact acssa@aifs.gov.au with the details.