

IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SPEAKOUT ASSOCIATION OF NSW Inc

21st Annual Report



Immigrant Women's Speakout
Association of NSW

21st Annual Report
2005 - 2006



OBJECTIVES IN CONSTITUTION

The Association is a non-profit, benevolent and empowering organisation whose aims and objectives are as follows:

- a) To alleviate the poverty and distress of migrant and refugee women
- b) To provide appropriate services to immigrant and refugee women in need, particularly those without any other avenues of assistance, those who are isolated, and those at risk of homelessness, abuse and ill health.
- c) To assist immigrant and refugee women to achieve equal participation in society and the opportunity to express their own economic, political, social, religious, cultural and sexual identity.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson: RUGMINI VENKATRAMAN



The Immigrant Women's Speakout Association (IWSA/ "Speakout") is looking forward to celebrating its 25th Year of foundation next year-2007. This year IWSA/Speakout Management Committee, Staff and Friends commenced the task of stocktaking the highlights of our history, particularly on service delivery. We have rummaged through our archives and one of the valuable documents we found was the "1992 Speakout Conference Proceedings". The 1992 Speakout Conference had been held on 16 -17 October at Ashfield Town Hall. The conference reviewed the migrant and refugee women's decade of policies affecting NESB women covering the period 1982 – 1992.

As we move towards the 25 years of Speakout's foundation, it will be helpful for all of us to take in to consideration the recommendations that came out of the 1992 Speakout Conference. For the purpose of having all of us reflect on Speakout's, achievements, the following are some of the key recommendations of the 1992 Speakout Conference:

"Recommendation 19: That The Speakout incorporates into its work issues facing NESB women living in rural areas. This should build on the work began by the Speakout rural project 1990-91 and should include networking, resourcing of rural immigrant women's group and lobbying for programs and services to meet these needs."

In 1996 Speakout received funding for the Speakout Rural Project. Through this project Speakout convened and facilitated a series of workshops for service providers on issues affecting NESB and refugee women in Broken Hill,

Wagga Wagga and the Coffs Harbour and nearby areas. The outcomes of the consultations were collated into a report titled "Yes, but where are they?". The report highlighted the following issues of migrant and refugee women in the rural areas: domestic violence, racism and discrimination, high level of unemployment, limited access to training, limited access to transport, the under utilisation of accredited interpreters, isolation and the limited availability of multi-lingual information.

The Domestic Violence Project Team also helped in implementing other aspects of the 1996 Speakout Rural Project. The DV team made extensive networking with women's refuges and women's health services. They also ran workshops for service providers on Domestic Violence provisions of the Migration Regulations and on Working with Families in Cultural Transition.

From 1998 to the present the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association continues to run two types of training in rural areas. These trainings are titled "Domestic Violence Provisions of the Migration Regulations" and "Working Cross-culturally in Domestic Violence". These trainings targeted women, community leaders of NESB background and service providers, both from government and non-government sectors.

On the 1st and 2nd September 2005, IWSA held the first Rural CALD Women's Conference in Coffs Harbour. There were over 110 CALD women participants. They explored strategies to sustain the links they developed amongst them during the conference. The workshops provided the participants with hands-on skills and knowledge that will help them access community services. The conference came up with recommendations and these are available at the IWSA Office. This year, we have taken the first steps in establishing a Rural CALD Women's Working Party. This working party will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of the 2005 Rural CALD Women's Conference.

"Recommendation 22: This conference (referring to the 1992 conference) condemns the introduction of the 26-week waiting period for Social Security Benefits for recently arrived migrants and calls for the reversal of the decision. It is discriminatory practice causing severe hardship and is likely to lead to the development of a new underclass migrants."

In 1997, the newly elected government under Howard introduced harsher changes to the Social Security Benefits. Instead of 26-week waiting period, it became a 2-year waiting period for newly arrived permanent residents. IWSA strongly advocated against this change. We held information sessions with the support of the Welfare Rights Centre. There had been community meetings held to plan a massive campaign. Unfortunately before the campaign could take-off, the IWSA project which was working on this campaign was told that the Department of Immigration will no longer continue to fund the project. Due to this funding cut, IWSA was not able to actively continue its participation in the 1997 campaign against the two-year waiting period.

For those who want to have a complete copy of the 1992 Speakout Conference Proceedings, please contact a Speakout staff. We encourage all our members to join together in pointing out to lessons learned over the years and to celebrate our achievements. The 1992 Speakout Conference recommendations could be one of our starting points. At our 25th Anniversary celebration in 2007, we wish to outline recommendations for implementation during the next 10 years to come.

After 1992, there were many NESB women who came to work with and support Speakout as paid staff, volunteers at the Management Committee or in the various Speakout services, students on placement and most of all as our members. We will be searching our archives and recent files and compile the names of all the women who were actively involved at Speakout during the last 25 years. We will be looking forward to sharing our joy with all of you and seeking your support to Speakout in facing the challenges for decades to come.

We are also delighted to inform you that on our 24th year – 2006 in May, our Executive Officer Jane Corpuz-Brock had been granted the EDNA RYAN AWARD on community activism by the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL). Jane's work as a volunteer to Migrante Philippines-Australia, a Filipino community based organization, had been the focus of the award. Her citation stated: " Since migrating to Australia in 1996, Jane Corpuz-Brock has trained many women in life skills, computer literacy, and shown them how to get information about government services, as well as raising their awareness on domestic violence, and equity and access issues. Jane is a volunteer worker with Migrante-Australia, a community-based Filipino organization. She spent many weeks educating the community to support the campaign for justice for Cornelia Rau, and with other organisations was involved in the successful action, which led to Vivian Solon Alvarez being found. In both her paid work [Executive Officer of Immigrant Women's Speakout Association] and volunteer capacity [Migrante-Australia, Philippines-Australia Women's Association and the Women's International League

for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)], Jane's work is a testimony to the commitment of women to support each other." This award was named in memory of Edna Ryan who campaigned and lobbied for women to have the same rate of minimum wage as men. Gertrude Kallir, Vice-President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-New South Wales Branch, had nominated Jane to this year's Edna Ryan Award.

As the Chairperson of IWSA for the year 2005/2006 of IWSA, I would like to congratulate the staff and Management of IWSA for their hard work and commitment to advancing NESB women's causes. Speakout is grateful to its members, volunteers, partners and funding organisations that have supported us throughout this year. We look forward to continue working with you all in the coming years to ensure good outcomes for our women and to manage Speakout effectively as a NESB women's association. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Executive Officer: JANE CORPUZ-BROCK



One of the biggest achievements for this year is the establishment of the Multicultural Women's Drop-in Centre in Harris Park. This project is an off-shoot of the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association's two – year community development project [NESB Women's Multicultural Access Project] started in 2004 with funding from DoCS Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme. Many CALD women come to the centre for English conversation sessions, Computer Literacy Classes, accessing emails, information on employment from websites, sharing information on employment issues, practicing line dancing, doing practice Driver's Tests for L license, karaoke singing time, group meetings, sharing food and culture and just having coffee and yarning of experiences and thoughts about current women and community issues. A piece of good news is two women from Sierra Leone who came to do practice exercise on the test for L license have passed the test. The two Sierra Leonean women have now their learner permits.

The other major achievement for this year is the production of the "Strong Families" Training Resource for the Pacific Communities. This project was implemented in partnership with Pacific Island Women's Advisory and Support Service (PIWASS). The identified communities by DoCS are Tongan, Fijian-Indian, Maori and Samoan. The training resource is a DVD on Domestic Violence and a generic training manual for community leaders. The Pacific Communities identified have sent community leaders to the training facilitated by PIWASS. The training participants gave very positive feedback on the training resource and the training module. PIWASS used the generic training manual in designing the training for community leaders, which they are running

It is also heartwarming to note that we were given recognition for our work on preventing domestic violence against women. The New South Wales Violence Against Women Prevention Unit at DoCS gave us an award on 25 November 2005 at the Parliament House. The award read, "In recognition of an outstanding contribution to the prevention of Violence Against Women" and the project specified is the Audio CDs on Domestic Violence and AVOs in Community Languages. We thank the Asian Women at Work for having nominated us and the NSW Government for granting us the award.

IWSA participated and provided input to policy meetings, forums and consultations such as:

- Policy change in NSW public housing, convened by the Department of Housing. IWSA input on impact for CALD communities in particular CALD women experiencing DV.
- Ethnic Affairs Advisory Group – DoCS (Department of Community Services): IWSA input on various issues affecting CALD families
- Transport Summit: Sydney Town Hall
- Housing Accord (Ashfield): discussion on draft proposed by the Department of Housing and other partner government agencies, eg DoCS, etc. This move is very positive because there will be a "whole of government" approach in provision of services whatever service pathway a client may enter.
- WomenSpeak Meeting (Melbourne): Input on Recommendations to the Federal Office for Women meeting. The IWSA input focused on needs of marital rape victims and need for appropriate service.
- Labour Party Consultation on Women, Bankstown: The IWSA input made the following recommendations: free childcare for newly arrived women who need to upgrade their qualifications and their experience be recognised, for Australian government to ratify CEDAW Protocol and DIMA to cancel all DVP changes introduced in July 2005.
- International Women's Development Agency (Canberra): Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming in Government and Non-Government Services. The IWSA input at the symposium: for the Australian Foreign Aid to put more funding for women in development especially in developing countries where many trafficked women and children originate.

IWSA is fortunate to have very committed and relatively skilled volunteers who provided support in doing many tasks that we have to do this year. We thank the following volunteers: Cherry Tayco for researching, collating and packaging key



Afghan women's group at IWSA Drop-in Centre

information for the Rural CALD Women's Conference, Sandra Radmanovic for helping in admin work and organising the reference materials at the Drop-in Centre, Girly Barangan for arranging the audio visual resources at the Drop-in Centre and helping in information and referral and Jagoda Milosevic who updated our reference materials in migration.

This year we welcomed a new staff member, Tenneh Kpaka, Community Development Project Officer (NESB Women's Multicultural Access Project – WSAAS). On the other hand, we farewelled Mitra Khaleghian, Community Development Project Officer (NESB Women's Multicultural Access Project -WSAAS and Amela Polovina, Caseworker (Multicultural Family Support Service -Early Intervention).

For most part of this year, IWSA had put its efforts in mentoring volunteers and students on placements in community work and helping them recover their self-esteem and build confidence. Many of the women came to IWSA to gain work experience. They tried to seek work experience in other agencies and businesses but those organisations did not provide enough activity that will help them get employment. Others were not able to get any opportunity at all to become a volunteer because their education background and overseas work

experience does not match the needs of the agency. IWSA and the potential volunteers had a session on cursory assessment of their education and overseas skills. This process helped all of us in matching them to the project and staff whom they could work with. All of the volunteers IWSA mentored got paid employment after gaining work experience at IWSA.

The Immigrant Women's Speakout Association wishes to thank the following for their support: Bernice Redman Community Projects Officer (CPO) Department of Community Services (DoCS), Marilyn Fischer (CPO) Families First-DoCS, Mark Drury (Senior Project Officer) Multicultural Services Unit (MSU) DoCS, David Poulter (CPO) DoCS and Peter Prants, CPO – Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (WSAAS) - DoCS

Most of all, we thank the IWSA Management Committee members for their dedication work and commitment, to staff members for their efforts in achieving effective project outcomes, our community partners and our service recipients who have put their trust on us to make representations on their behalf. We all look forward to a fabulous and fantastic celebration of IWSA's 25th Foundation Anniversary next year.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NESB PROJECT

Domestic Violence Project Officers: Rukhshana Sarwar (from September 2005- the present), Amela Polovina (Locum, April 2006 to June 2006), Mariam James (from September 2005 to March 2006, on maternity leave) and Maria Eva Tingson (Casual, July, October, 2005 & April, May, 2006)

Domestic Violence Policy Officer: Kyungja Jung (from June 2005- the present)

Another busy year for the Domestic Violence Team! The DV team was actively involved with responding to policy issues regarding domestic violence provisions, family law and detention issues. New training was developed which were tailored by the needs of relevant community workers and clients. The DV Team also conducted more consultations and information sessions to identify the needs of our clients and women from CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities. There were many achievements, some of which are summarised below:

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Family Law

Speakout with other women's organisations endorsed the Women's Legal Services Australia submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Inquiry into the Provisions of the *Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill*. In May 2006, family law changes passed in 30 years. The impact of family law upon women who experience domestic violence and in particular women from CALD backgrounds will be continuously monitored.

Speakout monitored, analysed and responded to government submissions, policy initiatives and programs. This included:

- Responded to the inquiry into women's representation in rural and regional area
- Responded to Australia-wide survey of people who work with CALD victims/ survivors of sexual assault conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology

Policy Forum on the Domestic Violence Provisions

There has been an increasing concern about Domestic Violence Provision (DVP) and the role of the Centrelink as the assessing body for Domestic Violence claims with "insufficient information". Speakout published a fact sheet on the domestic violence provision in November. Speakout organised two workshops in February and June 2006 to clarify this issue and to have a dialogue among DV case workers, Centrelink Social workers and DIMA.

Through three workshops, a number of points were clarified:

- Within Centrelink there is a National Social Work Team that is tasked to allocate assessment of DVP cases, based on where an applicant resides.
- Centrelink DV assessors are nominated by each Area (region)
- The coordinator of each Area, contacts the applicant or

their agent where applicable, to arrange a face to face interview.

- The assessor will have access to the Statutory Declarations 1040 on the applicant's file, and will interview the applicant in order to obtain further information. The assessing Social Worker forwards a detailed report to DIMA with a recommendation following the interview.
- Not all applicants under DPV provisions are referred to Centrelink for an assessment. Only those cases where DIMA consider there is insufficient information to make an informed decision will be referred, such as when there is conflicting information on the 1040's, or where there is a counter claim of DV (often in the case of male applicants).
- There have been 38 claims referred by DIMA to Centrelink nationally since implementation on July 1 2005.
- The majority of applicants referred to Centrelink have been male.

Speakout and other community organisations which support those who experience domestic violence will continue to monitor DVP assessment cases.

The Politics of 'Speaking Out': NESB Women and the Discourse of Violence Against Women in Australia

At the *Refocusing Experiences of Violence* conference (14-16 September), DV Policy Officer presented a paper which explored discourses about the violence against NESB women, focusing on the underlying reasons and meanings of the women's silence. In order to prevent violence against NESB women, a few suggestions have been put forward to raise awareness of the issues involved:

- Empowering NESB women requires them to 'speak out';
- More qualified or specially trained translators for violence issues are needed;
- Alternative ways of dealing with clients, besides Western counselling techniques, will be needed; and
- Considering the importance of religion in NESB women's lives, training for religious leaders on VAW issues will be needed in diverse communities.

Issues of North Korean Women raised at the 8th International Women in Asia Conference (26 -28 September 2005)

DV Policy Officer with Dr Bronwen Dalton (Lecturer of University of Technology, Sydney) presented a paper titled *Mothers of the Revolution: Rhetoric Versus Reality for the Women of North Korea*. Given that this was the first research

paper in Australia to address the status of North Korean women, the paper had received a great deal of attention. The paper sought to explore the role and status of women and how gender and gender relations may have changed since the food and economic crisis in the mid 1990s. The paper argued that since the famine, women have become both victims and agents in a process of transition. Many have suffered a great deal particularly due to the impact of starvation and famine-related disease, infant mortality and morbidity, family breakdown and an increase in sex trafficking and prostitution. However, the paper also suggested that women, more so than men, have become active players in emerging capitalist processes, particularly those centred on local markets, thus creating new opportunities for themselves and new challenges for the regime. This paper will be a valuable resource in understanding the nature of women's experiences in crisis situations across the globe.

Australian Women Condemn Howard's 10 Years of Playing the Race Card

In partnership with the WARM (Women and Reform of Migration) network, Speakout actively participated in the campaign. Three hundred Australian women from diverse cultural backgrounds have come together to condemn the Howard Government's prejudice, most recently displayed in John Howard and Peter Costello's comments about Australian Muslims. The women expressed a serious concern about the Prime Minister's remark that the Muslim community's attitudes towards women are "out of line with mainstream Australian society". Through the statement, the group challenged the Prime Minister to show his concern for the countless Muslim Australian women and girls who have been attacked and abused, including having their scarves pulled off, by 'mainstream' Anglo Celtic Australians: "Why doesn't this extreme form of violence against women and girls warrant his special attention?" In addition to the 300 individuals, the group represents 30 community organisations, including women's refuges and health centres, the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition, the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW, and the Western Sydney Community Forum. The WARM Network called on all Australian women MPs to support the statement.

CASE WORK

During this period there were 103 ongoing clients and 329 one-off clients from different ethnic backgrounds. The origin of the country of the client group is demonstrated in the following table (table 1). Almost all of the ongoing clients were not permanent residents, and visa status was an issue for many of them (table 3). Therefore the majority of women were given information on what the DVP is and how to apply for it to get the permanent residency in the situation of domestic violence.

The supports for the clients include assisting with statutory declarations, form filling, statements, referrals to counselling, legal services, accommodation, health services, Centrelink, employment support services, education and training services (table 2). Most of the clients required intensive support, because they were in crisis situations. Most of the clients whom

Speakout assisted in applying for permanent residency on the grounds of DVP were granted permanent visa.

Speakout has taken 329 one-off calls during this period. Most of these calls are from the service providers (Legal Aid, DV Line, refugees, Centrelink, community organizations, Barnardo's, women's health centres, Migrant Resource Centres, hospitals and so on) requesting specific information about DV issues, DVP and clients were referred to our service to get assistance. These clients have been given relevant information, referral, face to face interviews and practical support. One third of these calls were direct calls from clients experiencing DV. They were provided support, crisis counselling, information and assistance or appropriate referral with a number of issues including: applying for Apprehended Violence Orders, applying for permanent residency, court support, accommodation and legal issues (table 2). The one-off clients also came from many different backgrounds (table 1). The majority was from Chinese, and others were Afghan, Iranian, Arabic, Latin American, and Indian backgrounds.

Emerging Issues from the Case Work

- Most of the clients facing DV also suffer from sexual and emotional abuse.
- Some DV clients experienced difficulties accessing Apprehended Violence Orders due to a lack of physical evidence. The police and the courts are not likely to recognise the verbal, emotional or psychological abuse is as serious as damaging as physical abuse and often ask for evidence and witness.
- DV Cases of the women from Muslim countries and other countries such as Fiji India and general NESB women are not taken seriously by the police. It is often thought by police that violence is part of their culture and they had to cope with it in Australia as well.
- Women holding fiancée, tourist, student and bridging visas who are married to an Australian citizen tend to suffer more and remain in the DV situation because they are not entitled to apply for DVP. They are mostly not eligible to access the refuge/accommodation; financial support/ legal cost. They are often forced to return to their country of origin by the perpetrators.
- Women with older children tend to be hard to get crisis accommodation for. Few refuges take women with son aged 16 years over.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Participation in community development projects, networks and advisory/steering committees assist the team to keep abreast of issues affecting migrant and refugee women in domestic violence situations. The team has collaborated with many organisations in the development and implementation of many community development projects. DV team conducted many consultations to identify communities in need of support:

- Meeting with the deputy director of Centre for Australian Community Organisations Management from University of Technology
- Meeting with the project worker of Australian and Korean Welfare Centre
- Meeting with Paul Harkin (Barnardo's Auburn) to identify the communities which need most bilingual resources and discuss about the possibility of joint projects
- Meeting with Indonesian women's group
- Meeting with Korean women's group: women's forum

Launch of Community Education Audio CDs on Family Harmony and Safety

Audio CDs on domestic violence and domestic violence provisions were launched by Geoff Mulherin (Director, Law and Justice Foundation) at the Blacktown City Council on 27th of July 2005. With financial support from the Law and Justice Foundation, the audio CDs were developed to provide information on domestic violence and in particular on apprehended domestic violence orders for new and emerging communities. The Sudanese, Somali, Sierra Leonean and Afghani communities were identified as emerging communities with little resources and vast illiteracy issues due to the war in their respective countries, as well as the lack of education, especially for women. Approximately 80 people from the community, women's and government organisations attended. SBS radio and community radios have been broadcasting the CDs to raise awareness in targeted communities.

350 People Attended the Korean Women's Workshop

With support from the Speakout, a Korean Women's Workshop was held at the Australian Korean Community Centre in Campsie on the 1st of October 2005 where three hundred and fifty people gathered, with one third of the audience being male. This event attracted one of the biggest audiences ever received for a Korean event in Sydney. Many Korean community media such as SBS radio were also present on the day to broadcast the workshop. The Australian Korean Women's Forum, which consists of professional Korean women based in Sydney, had invited a well known feminist writer, broadcaster and activist Suk-Hee Oh Han from South Korea.

Her talk centred on issues relating to family relationships in a migrant society. The workshop had aimed to raise awareness of gender inequality in the Korean community in Sydney and encourage women to more actively participate in all aspects of social life. The forum also provided a good opportunity for men to consider the evolving climate of family relationships amidst the social change. Given that there is always going to be a language barrier in outreach efforts towards ethnic minority groups, this idea of inviting speakers from their own country and delivering workshops or lectures in their native languages has proven to be a very effective strategy in getting the message across.

There was a high demand for Cross cultural DV training and Domestic Violence Provision training. In particular, we have conducted two DV trainings on refugee communities entitled *From Horror to Hope* with Centre for Refugee Research, UNSW. Trainings included:

- *Cross cultural DV training (26th July 2005, 25th May 2006)*
- Blue Mountains CCDV training (1st November 2005)
- Domestic Violence provision training (17th Nov 2005)
- From Horror to Hope training: DV training on refugee communities for Afghan communities (29th November 2005), Training for workers (8th December 2005)
- DV training session with the Afghan women at Parramatta MRC, Domestic Violence Provision (DVP),
- 7 DV information sessions with ACL Auburn (May, June 2006)
- Providing the Conversational English Language program for Afghan group for drop in centre (from
- Basic computer training for the drop in centre group
- DV workshop for 32 Pacific Islanders
- DV session with 11 African Refugees with children at Auburn
- DVP Training for Community Workers and Service Providers from Government, Wollongong, NSW (May 2006)
- Working Cross-culturally in DV for Service Providers: Taree and Port Macquarie, NSW (February 2006)

Training sessions attended:

- Smart 1 NGO training programs DOCs
- Responding to Women Legal Needs in Situation of DV, AVO, Immigration and Family Law
- SAAP Training in Client Risk Assessment, Safety and Security Tool
- Referral Workshop
- Child protection training in Telopea

Conference/Seminar and Forum Presentations

Speakout has attended a number of conferences to present a paper on various issues in relation to migrant and refugee women and addressed major issues in a wide range of forums and seminars. This includes:

- Rural CALD Women (1 and 2 September 2005)
- Refocusing Women's Experience of Violence (14-16 September 2005)
- Women in Asia (26-28 September 2005)
- International conference: Generational Policy change in Australia and Korea (Research of Asia Pacific, University of Sydney)
- Seminar on Women's Services in Australia and other countries at University of Technology Sydney
- Talk at SWR Radio Station
- Presented at National Settlement Teleconference on DV and refugee communities organised by Refugee Council of Australia

- Attended Women's Settlement Conference organised by DIMA

Distribution of information about NESB women's experience and DV issues: Resourcing

The DV team translated DV brochure into Dari, Kriol, Indonesian, Korean, Spanish and these were widely distributed through information sessions, interagency meetings and other interagency meetings. Yellow cards in 9 different languages were also sent out to service providers and community groups. Audio CDs on DV and AVO were continuously sent to the requested agencies, about 50 copies of CDs were sent to different agencies. The Bulletin entitled Revisiting CALD Women's Issues were also widely distributed as well.

MAJOR COMMITTEES, FORUMS AND NETWORKS

DV team participated in a wide range of networks and meetings to keep abreast of issues affecting NESB women in domestic violence situations and to address related issues for women from CALD backgrounds. We have attended and participated in relevant forums to maintain strong links with government and non-government stakeholders. Some included:

- Women's Speak (11th of Nov)
- VAW Award day (25th of Nov)
- SAAC Meetings
- Cumberland SAAP meetings
- Multicultural Advisory Forums
- Apprehended Violence and Legal Issues Coordinating Committee
- Violence Against Women Regional Reference Group, Western Sydney
- Fairfield Immigrant and Refugee Women's Refugee Women's Network
- Parramatta Interagency meeting
- Canterbury Bankstown DV committee
- Cumberland DoCS CPOs
- Parramatta Holroyd Domestic Violence Committee
- NGO Consultations on the NSW Housing & Human Services Accord
- Cumberland Women's Health Centre AGM
- DV Senior Officers Meeting
- SAAC Bilateral Agreement
- Meeting with NSW Department of Corrective Services, Community Offender Services regarding DV and Offender issues
- Participated in DOCS Ethnic Advisory Committee
- Attended 'Engaging Muslim Communities and Police' Project-Key Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting NSW
- Attended Edna Ryan Award night
- Meeting with NSW Ombudsman regarding DV and Policing issues

Table 1: Country of Origin of Clients

Country of Origin	Number of Clients	
	Ongoing	One Off
Afghan	1	4
Australia	2	8
Albania	3	1
Arab	2	
Bangladeshi	3	
Bosnia	1	3
Brazil	3	3
Bulgaria		1
Cambodia		3
Canada	2	
Chile		3
China	9	19
Columbia		3
England		3
Egypt	3	4
Fiji	9	13
France	1	
Germany	1	
India	11	11
Indonesia	5	7
Iran	2	9
Iraq	1	4
Italy		1
Japan	5	5
Latvia		1
Lebanon	5	1
Macedonia	1	1
New Zealand	1	
Pakistan		6
Philippines	12	18
Poland	2	
Russia	1	4
Serbia	1	
Sierra Leone		1
Sri Lanka	1	
Somalia		1
South Africa	1	
South Korea	3	3
Spain		1
Sudan		5
Turkey	1	2
Thailand		1
Uruguay	1	
Vietnam	2	8
Zambia	1	
Not Stated	6	171
TOTAL	103	329

- Organised and participated in *International Women's Day* and *Reclaim the Night* March in the city and Bankstown
- Attended SBS Radio forums on Multiculturalism
- Attended the ceremony for Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- STARTTS opening day
- Afghan Australian Noor Association Women's gathering
- Arrangement of a tour for Afghan women to the art exhibition "*Inside Out*" in Auburn

Table 3: Residency Visa Status of On-going Clients

Type of Visa	Number
Bridging Visa	2
Temporary Spouse/Partner Visa/ Fiancée Visa	70
TPV (Temporary Protection Visa)	0
Student Visa	1
Tourist visa	1
Permanent Residency	10
Citizen	4
Not Stated	15
TOTAL	103

International Networking

Speakout has established partnership with international organisations such as Hong Kong Council of Social Services and presentation was made on the services for migrant and refugee women and its related policies for the Korean delegation from Asian Centre for Women's Studies, South Korea.

Table 2: Types of Assistance to Clients

Assistance	Number of Session		One off	Subtotal
	Ongoing			
	Face to Face	Telephone		
Counseling	228	384	160	994
Immigration	69		124	193
Accommodation	32		55	87
Legal	45		64	109
Income Support	13		11	24
Employment			10	10
Education and Training			5	5
Other			4	4

FAMILIES FIRST-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Families First Community Development Project - Auburn: RAHILE CAKIR

Project Officer, Rahile Cakir, commenced work at IWSA on the 24th October 2005 continuing the work already put in place by the previous Families First Project Officer, Fatema Hasan. Rahile concentrated on getting new project participants while sustaining the existing ones. The project aims to link together families, with an emphasis on families from a CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) background. Also a priority is facilitating channels of exchange and cooperation among agencies and organisations providing services for children.

Within the timeframe of the project the Project Officer had organised a variety of different activities with various organisations and groups as stated below:

PLAY GROUPS

Tuesday - Blooming Mums and Bubs Group: Muslim mothers from various ethnic backgrounds got together to socialise and break their isolation. In one of their meetings they expressed their needs: more knowledge and understanding of services available for them, personal development such as further education, information on health and child development, better communication with their children and people around them. The Muslim mothers decided to form the *Blooming Mums and Bubs* in partnership with Auburn Turkish Islamic Cultural Centre Inc and IWSA (Immigrant Women Speakout Association) at the Gallipoli Mosque in Auburn.

Thursday - Playgroup: A mixed group of mothers from across the community not only of CALD background. This group was formed to eliminate the isolation of women. Women who bring their children said that their children tend to interact very well with each other. The mothers take time to share experiences while the children play. Their experience with the group provided them with a sense of belonging, recognition, understanding and learning of various cultures, religions and languages. The group members have been encouraged to make connections with each other to develop self-esteem and a sense of belonging. All mothers attend this group every week. This playgroup is an on-going in partnership with Playgroup Association, Auburn Council Children's Services, Auburn Council and IWSA.

Fridays - Turkish Mother's Playgroup: An on-going partnership with Playgroup Association, Auburn North Public School and IWSA at Auburn North Public School. Some of the parents were born or have grown-up in Australia. They are very keen in having their children speak the Turkish language. This group get together to speak and teach their children in Turkish. They aim to bring up well educated children; at the same time they are using educational opportunities offered by service providers.

Wednesdays - DROP-IN CENTRE: This is set-up for Turkish and Kurdish speaking women. The aim of the project is to provide a space where women can get together, have a chat and get information on how to access services. Some of the women who are using the centre asked for English conversation classes to improve their English in a social setting. It was not possible to get a teacher from TAFE because some of these women are TPV (Temporary Protection Visa) holders. The centre had been organised in partnership with the Auburn Turkish and Kurdish Community Services Co-op and IWSA.

ENGLISH CLASS

A volunteer teacher had been recruited to teach English language for mothers who have permanent and temporary visas at Auburn Turkish and Kurdish Community

Co-op (ANA Kindergarten) on Fridays. It is running with varying number of participants, between three and seven women every week.

COMPUTER LITERACY CLASS

This class was organised by the IWSA Families First Project Officer, for women of Indian and Pakistani background at Auburn Library on Fridays in the beginning of the year 2006. At the end of semester one, the class had split into two groups. These two groups requested to continue with various courses such as; Child Care and Advanced Computer course. The Lidcombe TAFE agreed to continue with the Computer course for the second term of the year 2006. Granville TAFE will provide Child Care Course for those who opted to do this course.

FAMILY DAY CARE COURSE

This Outreach for Child Care Course was organised in a partnership between IWSA, Granville TAFE and the Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre Co-op. The Project Officer introduced the students (mothers) and made arrangements with Granville-TAFE to provide a venue for the course and train the participants. The Bhanin Association provided the venue for childcare. The course started on the 25th of July 2006; there are 20 students in this class.

IWSA initiated the running of this course when a need was voiced by the Turkish and Kurdish mothers in the area. The women wanted to educate themselves, integrate well into the general community and gain employment to help their families economically; as well as wanting to be actively involved in the process of helping their children achieve academically at school.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Blooming Mums and Bubs Group – information sessions organised on:

- 1) Solid and baby nutrition, 2) Play development, 3) Bed

wetting and toilet training, 4) Importance of literacy and introducing the right educational resources for Bubs, 5) Developing important communication skills: listening and talking.

These sessions are still continuing at the end of each month.

Auburn West Public School's Parents Group –

1) How to use medicine through Medicine Information Person of Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association (CPSA) of NSW Inc. 2) Dental health been organised through Colgate- Professional Dental Educator. The IWSA Families First Project Officer attends the parents' group whenever time permits on Thursday mornings to continue building strong connections and work together to achieve better outcomes for the target group.

Turkish and Kurdish Community Drop-in Centre and ANA Kindergarten-

Dental health information sessions organised through Colgate.

Auburn North Public School's Playgroup- information sessions for parents on:

1) Who is a parent, 2) Choosing different ways of parenting, 3) Establishing good rules, 4) Communicating well by listening each other, 5) Keeping up your energies and maintaining your sense of well being.

Parents were encouraged to participate in these educational sessions as it was a tool to gain an understanding of the issues they face and gave information about how to deal with these issues. Information sessions stressed that the well-being of families play a crucial role in the development and socialisation of children.

Child carers were provided by the Mobile Minders for these sessions and for the English classes. Each group had one person on duty for borrowing and returning toys from Auburn Toy Library.

AUBURN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Workers from the NSW Early Bird, Auburn Migrant Resource Centre and Western Sydney Health and the Families First Project Officer from IWSA organised the International Children's Day. There was a book display for children at Auburn Library for the event called "Book Garden". About 300 hundred people attended the occasion which was well received by the community. Auburn Mayor, Pat Curtin, and Barbara Perry (MP) were present and spoke to emphasise the importance of the day. Even after the closing announcement, parents and children stayed behind to socialise with other parents and guests.

Other partners are the Love and Care Child Care Centre, ANA Kindergarten's children for singing and Tiny Feet Child Care Centre and Bosnian Folkloric Group for dancing performances.

FAMILY EXCURSIONS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Five school holiday activities have been organised for children under eight years old: 1) *Movies*, 2) *Picnic* for families, 3) *Darling Harbour Cruise*, 4) *Homebush Olympic Park* – Park Patrol (Summer Frog Fun), 5) *The Art Gallery*

The Community Bus had been hired from Auburn City Coun-

cil for excursions. For most of the excursions the voluntary driver, the Canterbury Youth Services Worker provided the much needed help in transporting participants, especially the outings to the Olympic Park. The Canterbury Youth Services Worker also arranged voluntary drivers among community members for other activities of the project. We are deeply grateful for the help she provided to the families.

These activities encourage children to listen, ask questions and interact with each other. They enable children to learn how to: start conversations, interact socially and relate to other people while they are learning about nature and animals in a safe environment. The excursions encouraged children to play outside while raising awareness of caring for the environment. These activities encourage newly arrived families to develop their self-confidence and motivate them to participate and interact more fully in their host country.

Research confirms that children who are equipped with the capacity for good communication and healthy relationships with their parents and other people around them achieve better developmental outcomes. The activities were provided in a safe and welcoming environment that aimed to equip children with valuable life skills such as trust and the ability to socialise.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The project worker attended 11 short-term training sessions which have enhanced the worker's knowledge and ability to work with children and their families.

MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS

The Project Officer had 14 consultation sessions over the phone and face-to-face consultations and participated in 13 various meetings. All these are geared towards creating and maintaining strong links with parents, community service providers and organisations. Information sharing and networking is vital in this field in order to provide better service to target groups. The Project Officer worked closely with the community and service providers in achieving better outcomes for target groups.

PROMOTIONS

Families First Project Officer was interviewed by SBS at the **Assyrian Radio Talk** program in Auburn and **Sudanese Community Radio Talk** in Padstow (MFB Radio Stereo 100.9- www.2bfm.com). The presentation focused on general information on Families First Project in Auburn. The interview also included the importance of information and knowledge that are being handed down to children and its effect on a person's mental development and well-being. At the conclusion of the interview the Project Officer emphasised the importance of interaction among people, having safe and harmonious relationship within communities in order to promote a happier and healthier society.

THE NESB WOMEN'S MULTICULTURAL ACCESS PROJECT

Auburn, Parramatta and Blacktown

Community Development Project Officers: MITRA KHALEGHIAN (until April 2006) TENNEH KPAKA (from June 2006)

After 18 months of implementation, IWSA and the participating groups and individuals in this project had formed a mechanism for its continuity by establishing the Multicultural Women's Drop-In Centre in Harris Park. The concept of a "women drop-in centre" came from the community development activities we have held with the target groups and individuals. The purpose of this centre is to facilitate the coming together of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women to bond with each other and share learning processes by having classes on computer literacy, accessing email, driving knowledge test, English conversation and sharing food and ideas on relevant information. We are running the program alternately because of limitation in space, computers and other equipments. At present the women from various ethnic backgrounds are participating such as Afghan, Sri Lankan, Sierra Leonean, Filipino, Chinese and Fijian. The centre runs on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am –12:30 pm and sometimes on Saturdays.



Women using IWSA Drop – in centre computers

The new Project Officer commenced in June 2006. As a starter activity the Project Officer, on behalf of the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association, participated in the launching ceremony of the Sierra Leone Wanword Women's Association at Granville Town Hall on 17th June 2006. In this event she had been introduced to other service providers and community leaders from new and emerging communities. She took this opportunity to promote the community development activities of this project by distributing brochures and IWSA membership form. She also held a consultation with Anglicare Resettlement Officer for rural areas. She negotiated to have the IWSA brochures be included into the package for newly-arrived refugees. The purpose is to promote and raise awareness about services for CALD women from new and emerging communities.

The former Project Officer, Mitra Khaleghian had done the following activities:

Co-ordinated and publicised story-time at the Auburn Public Library for mothers and children under 5 years of age from new and emerging communities. Mothers take an active role in the story-telling and craft sessions and become familiar with the services provided by the library. The Reading Time has been established in response to the illiteracy levels within these communities as well as the limited English skills of the women. The women have realised the importance of reading and singing with their children while becoming comfortable of the library setting and are now aware of the services that are available to them from the Auburn Public Library. Through this ongoing program women are also able to socialise and build support networks with other women who have children of a similar age group. Twenty-one (21) women and twenty-three (23) children attended the first week, with numbers dropping only slightly in the second week. The high number of attendance is from the Afghan community. More women will be referred and taken to these as childcare arrangements are being made.

IWSA had formed partnership with the community development team at STARTTS (The NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) Carramar to provide support, information and activities to the ongoing English classes provided by them with a focus on new and emerging communities and Temporary Protection Visa holders.

We joined the interagency group led by the Blacktown City Council in implementing BECAP (Blacktown Emerging Communities Action Plan) focusing on the launch and activities of Africa House, a drop-in centre for people from African background – with information sessions and activities for African communities in Blacktown. The Launch was a great success as was the Sudanese Awareness Night and Dinner held on the 10th of March at Bowman Hall. IWSA will be more involved in projects with the Blacktown City Council and other members of BECAP in future activities.

IWSA helped and continue to support the work of the Steering Committee of Women Offering Wellbeing to Women. We help in co-ordinating and providing craft and beauty services to the female detainees at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre. This involves spending time in the Detention Centre with the women and designing policy for the continuation of this service. The direct experience helped the Project Officer in providing in-put to WARM (Women and Reform of Migration – an alliance of women advocates) and in accessing the detainees upon their release.

The Reference Group for the Project and for IWSA has been established with membership to grow at the next meeting. On the Reference group are community workers and leaders from Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, and an African Generalist Worker. The Reference Group has had its first meeting and all are committed to working with the project. The outcomes of this meeting were that the project will be running a weekly story-time at the IWSA Drop-in Centre, similar to that at the Auburn Library and therefore we established the Multicultural Women's Drop-in Centre and offer free training and information sessions and bonding activities e.g.: information session on parenting and other topics depending on group needs and dynamics.

The former Project Officer was interviewed, with the DV Policy Officer, on a live radio program on Sudanese Radio covering topics such as domestic violence, apprehended violence orders, the services of Immigrant Women's Speakout Association and invited listeners to participate in the activities of the NESB Multicultural Access Project.

IWSA also responded to the needs of individual clients in accessing services when they are referred or contacted IWSA. These have included referrals to employment training courses, English classes, health services and cultural development projects, specifically on fine arts and filmmaking.

Training was conducted in "Consultation and Conflict Resolution" with the members of the Management Committee of the Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association (ABWCA) as part of the leadership training aspect of the project. The Chairperson of the Management Committee was consulted on the needs of the organization and the training was developed out of this. While members of the Management Committee attended the training, it seems more clarification is required regarding the roles and responsibilities of Immigrant Women's Speakout Association as the organisation that auspices them, and visa versa.

Our IWSA NESB Women's Multicultural Access Project co-organised and celebrated the International Women's Day activities in Fairfield. This is one of the hub places for many women from Auburn and Parramatta. The event was held on the 7th of March 2006 and is titled "Strong Women, Strong Communities". Women shared their stories by wearing their traditional attire and dance. The celebration provided a forum for women to access service providers and share their strength and stories through their traditional attire. There were other cultural performances presented, inspirational speakers from the CALD communities and lunch was provided. Service providers such as Australian Centre for Languages (ACL) and schools brought their clients to join the celebration

IWSA held 3 Focus Groups with TPV Holders

- Iraqi women on TPV's (Immigrant Women's Health Service)
- Hazara women on TPV's (Auburn STARTTS English classes)
- Iranian women

The topic that the women most wanted to discuss was health

care, and while some raised issues around their visa status and DIMA correspondence the most obvious was the lack of translated material provided to them. The major issues presented were those of access to health care, lack of cultural sensitivity of many doctors, lack of awareness of services available to them, and incidents of cancellation of Medicare cards between the rolling over of their TPV. The women also shared the various ailments they are now suffering, both physically and mentally. They requested that more information should be provided to them regarding details of female doctors and languages spoken in the Local Government Area where they live. The women shared their experience of travelling outside their own areas to visit a female doctor they had heard. This had happened due to lack of information about female doctors in places of their residence. Because of the relationship built with these groups through this process, particularly those in Auburn as the former Project Officer spoke the language and sessions were conducted in Dari/Farsi, IWSA had been asked to have an ongoing involvement in those classes in the form of regular visits in order to provide information and organize social activities for the women. The Hazara women have now been enrolled in the FICT (Families in Cultural Transition) Course that was discussed with the reference group of this project (NESB MAP) and are looking to establish themselves as a women's organization with the help of IWSA.

IWSA presented a paper delivered by the former Project Officer at the Women's Health NSW Conference. This paper focused on the topic of TPV holders and Asylum Seekers: Health and Medicare: Issues and Access. The presentation drew on review of literature as well as what had come out of the focus groups and discussions with service providers such as Asylum seekers interagency, House of Welcome, STARTTS, Refugee Health Service, and Transcultural Mental Health. The session was attended by approximately 50 women from women's health centres around NSW and, health care providers. The paper focused on the questions of who are TPV holders and asylum seekers. What are the various visa types and their entitlements? What systemic challenges do they face in accessing health care services? What are some of the physical and mental health issues they may present? Issues arising and what can health care workers do through their work to help TPV holders? The session got positive feedback and discussion. IWSA had been requested by organisations to provide the same presentation and some in-house training to other organisations.

IWSA staff and Management Committee members thank all organisations who worked with us in providing services for women from new and emerging communities and most of all to all CALD women who participated in this project. Thank you also goes to Mitra Khaleghian, our former Project Officer had done most of the output and outcomes this year. We send her our good wishes for her new job.

THE NESB WOMEN'S MULTICULTURAL ACCESS PROJECT - INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Auburn, Parramatta and Blacktown

Information and Referral Officer: YANI MARIYANI-SQUIRE

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The NESB Women's Multicultural Access Project funded by The Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (WSAAS) commenced in October 2004 and has been running for two years. The identified service recipients are non-English speaking background (NESB) and/or culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women from small, new and emerging communities residing in Auburn, Parramatta and Blacktown Local Government Areas.

The goal of the project is to undertake community development activities to assist and resource NESB/CALD women in developing their support networks. The groups identified are NESB/CALD women living in Auburn, Parramatta and Blacktown. It is hoped that this support network of women will provide a channel for self-help projects designed to empower them, develop their skills and train them to participate in strengthening the communities where they live.

As Project Information and Referral Officer, my role includes research development of a resource package containing all information on services available for immigrant and refugee women of CALD background and from new emerging community, archives IWSA publications and deposit them at organisations such as the NSW State Library and Jessie Street Library, work closely with other community service providers such as legal, health, housing, education, training, childcare and general services to obtain up-to-date information and all written publicity material and publish and promote the IWSA services.

PROJECT OUTCOMES 2005-2006

Compiling information on NESB / CALD women

A compilation of information on NESB/CALD and new and emerging communities in NSW was developed. This resource includes background information on the CALD/NESB and new and emerging communities, local area statistics, and profiles the Sierra Leonean, Ethiopian, Afghani, Liberian, Somali and other communities in NSW.

Developing General Information and Referral Protocol Orientation Kit

The General Information and Referral Protocol Orientation Kit has been researched and compiled to assist new staff members and volunteers in handling phone calls, walk-in cli-

ents and client referring process. The aim of this kit is to develop a common understanding and standard approach to practices, protocols, processes and systems to support improved and integrated service coordination.

The expectation is that the kit will provide information on how a client can have quick access, reduce referral duplication and unnecessary procedures for both clients and service providers alike and also to improve the practice of sharing client information.

Developing Service Directory for NESB/CALD Women

A Service Directory that aims to resource and support NESB/CALD women from new and emerging communities has been developed. It is hoped that the target groups of this project will benefit from this resource. By having a copy of this directory, they can plan their community development activities and have easier access to mainstream services. The contents of this Service Directory includes a list of service providers such as services for Women, Children, Family, Job seekers, English Classes etc. We are also in the process of developing further the Government Department and Agencies section that consists of lists of government departments and agencies commonly accessed by NESB/CALD communities. Additional Sections on CALD Women is being compiled including:

- List of women organisations and groups in New South Wales, especially the ones from CALD background.
- List of CALD community organizations and their contact details.
- Compilation of brochures and flyers of service providers and/or organisations received and collected by IWSA. The compilation is to resource CALD women and IWSA staff with an easier way to find service providers and to enable simple update procedures if there are changes to service details.
- Miscellaneous folder comprise of CALD community profiles, NSW schools, NSW local Councils, Australian Postcodes, Australian Immigration Offices overseas and country profiles

PROMOTION OF IWSA ACTIVITIES

Celebrating International Women's Day in Hyde Park, Sydney

IWSA participated in the 2006 International Women's Day on the 11th March. IWSA staff and members joined the rally at Sydney Town Hall and marched to Hyde Park. A stall was set

up in Hyde Park and information on the various projects and services offered by IWSA was provided. There was much interest in IWSA and its services from the women at the march. Some of the organisations who visited the IWSA stall included Women in Black, Office for Women, Dymphna House, Amnesty International, Philippine-Australia Women's Association, Clearing House and Spanish Broadcast. We shared the information stall with the Asian Women at Work.



Speakout Staff at IWD 2006

Introducing IWSA at the Indonesian Festival, Darling Harbour

IWSA flyers were displayed at the information stall and distributed to Indonesian community and to wider Australian community who attended the Indonesian Festival at Darling Harbour on 18 March 2006.



Yani at IWD in St George MRC

Marking International Women's Day in St. George

IWSA members participated in the International Women's Day celebration in the St. George area. We presented an Indonesian traditional wedding dress at the Multicultural Fashion parade. The aim of the day was to showcase the richness of cultural diversity, particularly through women's activi-

ties and their contributions to Australian culture and society.

Domestic Violence Information Session for Indonesian Women

A Domestic Violence (DV) Information Session was jointly organised by the Community Settlement Project of Indonesian community and Immigrant Women's Speakout Association to provide Indonesian women with information on domestic violence. The session was held on 11 May 2006 at the Canterbury-Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre in Campsie.

IWSA DV Policy Officer, Kyungja Jung, provided information about domestic violence such as definition of domestic violence, causes of domestic violence, impact of domestic violence on women and children, action need to be taken, information on service available relating to domestic violence such as translation, police and other domestic violence support services.

We had a good discussion on topics and issues raised by Indonesian women who came to the session. The majority of them has had experiences of domestic violence in their marriage, either physically, verbally or financially. The participants shared their experiences and participated in discussions on how to solve domestic violence-related problems.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL FOR SERVICE RECIPIENTS (WALK-IN CLIENTS AND PHONES CALLS RECEIVED)

Client intake record from January 2006 to June 2006 showed that we provided information and referral to a large number of clients according to their needs. Records show that we provided 340 intakes including phone calls, walk-in information and referrals.

From the figure below it shows that a significant number of community members are aware of IWSA Domestic Violence service and followed by General Information on services available in the community. In this period, we have 55 clients who requested IWSA services. It showed that community is interested in IWSA services and activities. Other enquiries numbers are small but if IWSA would develop these services, the community will surely benefit and will be assisted to solve their problems.

IWSA Client Intake for January 2005 – June 2006

Issues	No of enquiries
Domestic Violence	130
General Information	70
IWSA Services	55
Employment	38
Service providers	13
Immigration	12
Education	5
Accommodation/housing	5
Counseling	4
Women's Organisations	4
Legal	4

MULTICULTURAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE (MFSS) - EARLY INTERVENTION

Project Officer: AMELA POLOVINA

The Multicultural Family Support Services (MFSS) [Early Intervention] is a pilot project designed and funded by the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS)- Early Intervention Program, to improve outcomes for families who are vulnerable and for this particular project, it focused on families who are at risk of domestic violence or have child protection issues. The 18 - month project commenced in September 2004 and was completed at the end of April 2006.

The primary focus of the project was to provide intensive flexible support tailored to the specific needs of the each family, including: culturally appropriate casework; counselling; crisis counselling; ongoing support through centre based, home visiting and outreach service delivery; out-of-hours service; provision of information, options and referrals relating to family and parenting support services as well as referring clients on issues related to settlement (housing, financial assistance, legal issues, etc.).

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

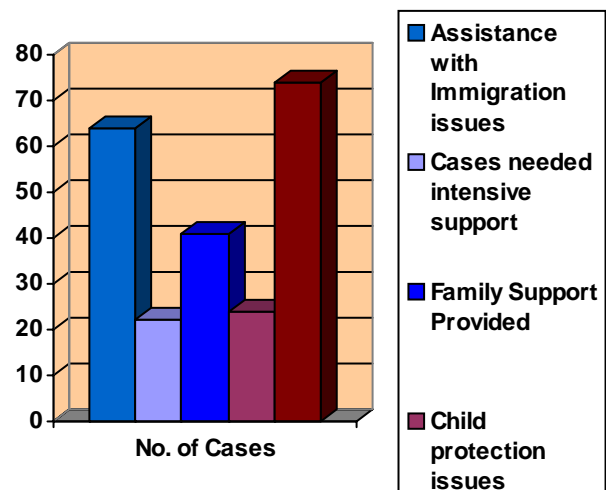
1. The Project had assisted women and families from various cultural backgrounds (*See Table: 'Client Profile'*) who are facing a range of very complex issues.

2. The project provided services to 92 on-going clients. Services provided included counselling and support in domestic violence situation. 41 of these were provided with family support, including child protection and child safety, advocacy, information, advice and referral to relevant support services such as playgroups, women and family support groups, health and legal services that are located near their residence. 19 of the families were provided with home visits and support (see Graph 2). 180 face-to-face interviews and 418 telephone consultations were conducted (see Graph 3). In addition, there were other services that were provided such as: information, referral, advice and consultations regarding client needs.

Table: Client Profile

Country	Number of Clients	Country	Number of Clients
Afghanistan	3	Ukraine	1
Bosnia	2	Lebanon	2
Czech Republic	2	Pakistan	3
Chile	3	Peru	1
China	9	Philippines	9
Croatia	1	Poland	2
Egypt	4	Romania	1
Fiji	3	Russia	1
France	1	Somalia	1
Hong Kong	2	Serbia	1
India	10	Sri Lanka	5
Iran	5	Sudan	6
Indonesia	5	Tonga	2
Japan	1	Turkey	3
Malaysia	1	Vietnam	1
Montenegro	1		
Total Clients: 92			

Graph 1: Profile



OUTCOMES

1. By providing counselling and advice, families especially women have been made aware of other options and choices available to them in regard to support services regarding family health, education, employment, children, parenting classes, child development, hygiene and safety. Women have been provided with information on the impact of domestic violence (DV) on them as well on their children. Fact sheets and other topical information were provided to the each client during counselling session.

2. Casework and case management provided families with information and initial guidance in regard to parental and family functioning through provision of the appropriate information and referrals to parenting classes and family counselling.

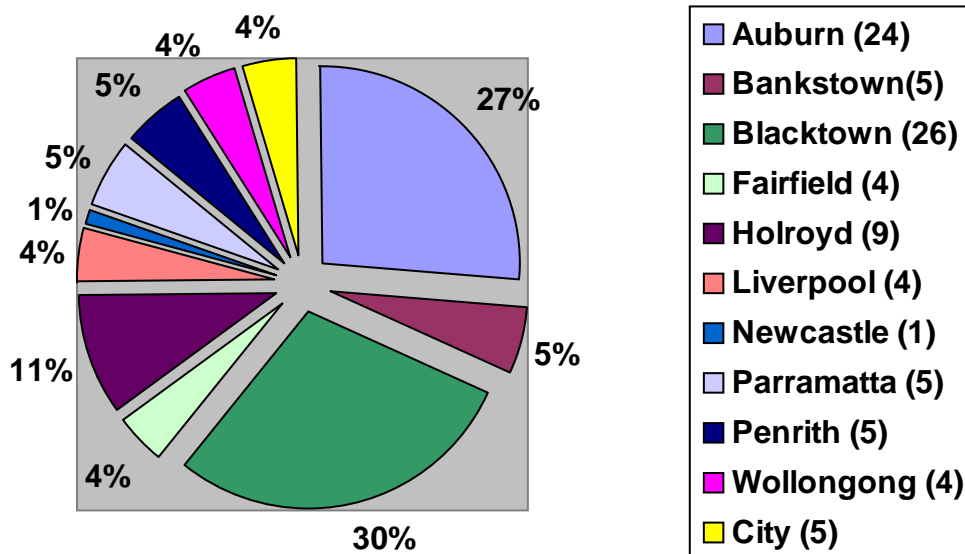
3. Families were presented with opportunities and different options to seek support and identify skills to deal with their issues and cope with life events and strive to achieve their goal by providing them with case plan (that was developed with their input) and strategies how to empower themselves and raise their children in safe and healthy environments. To be able to follow through plan families were reporting increased use of health, community, and government services.

4. Home visiting is designed to provide support and assistance to the families with smaller children and who are not mobile or able to access services on their own, done by visiting them at their homes. Assessing the family situation, safety of the home environment regarding children, providing information, advice, support, group work is a frequent task of the worker.

LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Finding appropriate venue for outreach service, which can provide space for confidential interviews, as well as accepts male clients over 14 or 16 years old, was very difficult. Venues that we used are not able to accommodate family sessions because of service polices and were not convenient to our service, since we are servicing whole families not only women. However, home visits and less official meetings in public places as well as hospitals, schools, playgroups etc. were solution for many cases.
- Only 30% of clients are Blacktown LGA residents. Due to the lack of the clients from Blacktown, we began accepting cases that are not from Blacktown LGA.

Graph 2: Clients Cases from LGA's2



- Despite high number of the clients there are still not many from new and merging communities and refugees being the target group of this project. Many of the new and emerging communities are still in their settling stage and it will take time for them to trust the service and seek help in family matters especially on domestic violence and child protection issues. There was a slight increase in of client in-take from Blacktown LGA after the Project Officer participated at the Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre's Information Sessions and visited Support Groups Blacktown Local Government Area.
- Most clients have had difficulty in travelling to venues for group work activities. This one of the reasons why the strategy of providing group work activities for clients did not materialise. Clients and their families were from various areas and at the different points of support needs. We found that referrals to the appropriate group activities in the area are more practical for the clients.

- Many of the project clients with domestic violence and child protection issues are in transition stages of their life. They tend to move often, change address and contact details that make it difficult to keep track of updated database and statistics. There are those who were residents in LGA Blacktown at the time of the intake, but because DV of situation we moved them to another area or vice versa.
- Reaching clients for the feedback survey had been difficult because of nature of their issues on safety. Many moved without forwarding new address, some even to another states.
- Difficulties in referring children younger than 5 years old who witnessed violent attacks in domestic environment to counselling therapy. There are services available to adults and children over 5 years old, but not for younger children.
- It was difficult to refer the clients who were in very sensitive stage and difficult situation where trust had just developed and referring them to other services put them few steps back in the recovery. We were supported them as long as possible to prepare clients for transition and worked together with the service that will take over in assisting the clients after this project had been completed.

The Early Intervention Program as a service scheme has many potentials in helping families that are vulnerable to many social problems and in this project the vulnerability is the cycle of domestic violence and child abuse. The clients served by this project have expressed very positive comments about the nature of the service and services provided.

During the post-service delivery survey, a few clients whose case files have been closed, continued to ask for support, for example on-going counselling. This proved the point that clients with domestic violence and child abuse issues need long-term support and guidance, which this short term and one-off project could not provide. The clients, IWSA staff and Management Committee wish to thank the New South Wales Department of Community Services for giving us the opportunity to implement this project and for providing funding to IWSA to deliver services for families experiencing domestic violence and those with child protection issues.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON STRONGER FAMILIES [PRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCES]

Resources Production Project Officer: ELEANOR CHANG

The need to raise awareness of domestic violence issues and the profile of domestic violence services within Pacific communities, led to the inception of the "Strong Families" project. The targeted communities were the Fijian, Samoan, Maori and Tongan.

The two-phase project was a partnership between Immigrant Women's Speakout Association (IWSA) and Pacific Island Women's Advisory and Support Services (PIWASS) and it was funded by the Department of Community Services (DOCS). The aim of the project was to raise awareness in Pacific communities of the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families and communities and to educate them about the services available to the victims of violence. In implementing the project, it became evident that the establishment of an educated, enabling environment is a long-term and continuing process which cannot be achieved within the scope of a twelve month project. However, the successful outcomes achieved with the targeted communities, pioneered the groundwork for future projects to build on.

PHASE ONE

Phase-one of the Strong Families project commenced in September 2005 with research and development of the resource kit. As there were no comparable projects to guide the process, three key strategies were used to ensure the success of the project:



'Strong Families' DVD filming

Strategy 1- Involvement of the targeted communities.

Consultation was the key to determining from the outset, the current level of understanding of domestic violence by the

Communities, the most appropriate means of developing the educational/information/ material and to engage and give ownership of the project to the communities. A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from IWSA, PIWASS, DOCS, Pacific community workers and interested persons, became the backbone of the project. Focus groups and one-on-one interviews with targeted community members played a strategic role in the development of the project. As the project progressed, it became evident that the consultation process was in itself, an exercise in capacity building for the communities.

Strategy 2- Utilise good practice in cultural appropriateness and relevance.

It was imperative that the elements of cultural appropriateness and relevance had to be clearly evident not only in the material of the resource kit, but in the consultation process and the delivery of the education sessions. The project needed to gain the confidence of the communities involved by demonstrating that the motivation driving the project was the same as their own. This enabled relationships to begin and networks to grow which ultimately led to the fulfilment of the first strategy. By gaining an understanding of the targeted communities' relevant experiences, knowledge, beliefs and attitudes to the issues of domestic violence, their confidence and participation in the project was obtained.

Strategy 3- Effectively and resolutely address domestic violence from a strengths-based framework.

It was evident that Pacific communities' value family unity and spirituality as a lifestyle priority and this was the foundation principle of the project. How to achieve that unity and spirituality (in the context of a new Australian society, expectations and the legal system) was the focal point of the project. Statistics, real-life stories, and experiential activities helped show how domestic violence is damaging the Pacific culture of family unity and spirituality in Australia.

STRONG FAMILIES RESOURCE KIT

The Resource Kit consists of a DVD of five discussion starters, a user manual and a series of radio scripts which reinforce the main messages of the DVD while simultaneously publicising emergency services for victims of domestic violence. Commu-

nity educators used the Resource Kit to conduct information sessions in their own communities. They had to be confident that they were well informed about the issues surrounding domestic violence as well as having a variety of learning techniques available to reflect the different groups within each community. It was an enormous challenge to interconnect the DVD discussion starters, with the information in the user manual and to also incorporate different learning techniques. Lesson plans had to be informative and focused through stories, reading material and statistics to lift the confusion and deliberate misinformation surrounding domestic violence issues. The questions of who, what, why, when and how in relation to domestic violence had to be dealt with. To keep sessions relevant and captivating, interactivity was encouraged through brainstorming, role-play and discussions. It was anticipated that the holistic learning experience delivered by the "Strong Families" Resource Kit accommodates the wide and diverse target service users.

PHASE TWO

Phase two of the project was implemented by the Pacific Island Women's Advisory and Support Service (PIWASS). Their role was to assist in the production of the resources, to train community educators and provide support to the educators to deliver the resources throughout the Pacific communities in NSW. The first group of 18 community educators was trained at the Granville Multicultural and Youth Centre over three days in May 2006 and the feedback from participants and others involved in the training was outstanding. The Pacific Island Women's Advisory Support Service did an exceptional job of planning and implementing the training sessions and the three days ran efficiently. Their successes are a testament to the partnership model as their understanding of the Pacific community was intrinsic and was one of the points indicated with the overall rating "excellent" on the training feedback. Some

fine-tuning was made to the Resource Kit and the final launch was on July 5th 2006, in Bidwill (Blacktown Local Government Area), NSW. The Department of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FACSIA) funded PIWASS to deliver the "Strong Families" Resource Kit to more communities throughout NSW.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the many organisations and individuals who helped achieve the production of the "Strong Families" Resource Kit. PIWASS, DOCS, Mt. Druitt Family Violence Team, Violence Against Women Specialist Unit, Art Resistance Production Company, NSW Council for Pacific Communities, Pacific Youth Network Committee. Project Steering Committee Members- Mark Drury, Jane Corpuz-Brock, Rugmini Venkatraman, Kiri Hata, Maherau Arona, Vaoliko Pesamino, Arnold Mano, Amanda Kami, Bernadette Enosi, Eleanor White, Mere Siganiucu, and Ngangatu Fifita, the PIWASS staff members Joanna Loko and Kuntamari Crofts, IWSA Staff and Management Committee Members.

A special thank you to the guidance and expertise to Jane Corpuz-Brock, Executive Officer of IWSA, Rugmini Venkatraman of the Violence Against Women Specialist Unit, Maherau Arona of the Mt. Druitt Family Violence Team and Mark Drury – Community Project Officer of the Department of Community Services Multicultural Unit for their guidance and expertise.

Last but not least, thank you to the diverse Pacific communities who gave their time, energy, spirit and minds throughout different stages of the project. An abundance and assortment of talent was discovered and your dedication was an inspiration.



Eleanor at Pasifika Day



CP Training

ABWCA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Project Worker: Vahida Kovacevic

Duration: 12 Months

Funding Organisation: Office for Women, NSW Premier's Department

Auspice Organisation: Immigrant Women's Speakout Association (IWSA)

Managed by: ABWCA

Coordination of Project: Behka Custovic, President-ABWCA

Community Workers (2 days/week): Samira Jupic (3.5 months), Nihada Alemic(3.5 months) and Vahida Kovacevic (5 months)

The Immigrant Women Speakout Association of NSW Inc. has auspiced the Women's Leadership Project of ABWCA. The project was developed and implemented by the Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association Inc. (ABWCA). This was completed at the end of September this year.

The ABWCA's Women's Leadership Project aimed to identify potential women's leaders in the Bosnian Community in Sydney, to undertake community education among them and encourage the establishment of women's support groups in Local Government Area where the majority of Bosnian women reside.

Based on social research undertaken prior to ABWCA being established, it was found that women from the Bosnian community suffered from various issues, associated with, as well as result of, torture and trauma that they were suffered during the recent war in their homeland Bosnia. To a name a few, these issues are: social isolation, depression, poor English skills, unemployment, and relationship difficulties which could lead to domestic violence and relationship breakdown. Majority of these women are still suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS). Therefore, this in itself has made it even harder for them to learn new skills, let alone to learn the English language.

The above mentioned difficulties and also a lack of tradition of leadership and volunteer work for the community among Bosnian women appeared to be a great challenge for the Members of Management Committee of ABWCA and the Project Worker in realising the project. On top of this situation is the limited financial resource in employing a Project Worker. The amount of funding grant can only employ a Project Worker for 2 days per week. This made it hard for ABWCA to respond to all the needs of Bosnian women.

Working on the Project, we have experienced that the main issue was to get the women together. We motivated them to join any community gathering in order that their isolation could be addressed. The Management Committee of ABWCA was

aware that programs have to be organised which they were interested in. The community art and craft program (funded by the AMES), supported ABWCA Women's Leadership Project in such a way that this generated the initial Bosnian women's participation in community activities. These programs were developed and implemented in Liverpool, Auburn and Bankstown. ABWCA's experience showed that once women are engaged in community activities and have experienced the benefits, it is more likely that they will have on-going participation.



Vahida Kovacevic held exhibition of Bosnian Women's art items

Art and craft programs helped us to establish women's groups in Liverpool, Auburn and Bankstown LGA. With this program, the participants formed their own groups that are suitable for them. Majority of the members in each LGA joined the group in their locality. The following are the groups they formed:

Auburn: ABWCA Women's Dancing Group "Silk and Velvet"

Liverpool: ABWCA Outings and Home Visiting Women's Group

Bankstown: ABWCA Art Women's Group.

All throughout the project implementation, Bosnian women from the all these local areas have initiated and participated in undertaking the following activities:

- **Outings:**
 - o Merrylands Central Garden,
 - o The Blue Mountains,
 - o Auburn Botany Garden
 - o Brighton Le-Sands
 - o Visiting Sydney Art Gallery
- **Cultural events:**
 - o Celebrating Bosnian Culture and Tradition
 - o Auburn Street Festival – Celebration of the Cultures
- **Home Visiting - to women who live alone**
- **Women's Dancing Program**
- **Women's Art & Craft Program**



Some members of ABWCA Dancing Group "Silk and Velvet": Ifeta, Safura, Rifa, Aida and Sedika

- **10 Health Information Sessions** (in partnership with Fairfield Multicultural Health Service)
- **LEADERSHIP TRAININGS:**
 - o **"Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women's Leadership Project"** (1 member): TAFE Lidcombe & Bankstown and Canterbury City Councils
 - o **"Pay it forward" – Community Leadership Project** (1 member): Department of Community Services (DoCS)
 - o **"How to recruit volunteers"** (2 members): Liverpool Volunteer Resource Centre
 - o **"Community Consultation and Dispute Resolution"** (7 members of MC ABWCA): IWSA
 - o **"Training for Members of Management Committee"** (7 members of MC ABWCA): New South Wales Council of Social Services (NCOSS) – Community Management Support Unit
 - o **ATO (Australian Taxation Office) Training for Members of ABWCA MC** (how to apply rules and policy of Australian Taxation Office in small non-profit community organisation)
 - o **"Community Bilingual Women's Health Educators"** (2 members): South West Sydney Area Health Service
 - o **"Community Leaders and Workers from Small, Emerging and/or Refugee Communities"** (3 members): Fairfield City Council

- o **"Mentoring and Mastery"** (3 members): Fairfield City Council - Dr Tony Webb
- o **"Measuring Community Strengths"** (3 members): Fairfield City Council - Dr Tony Webb
- o **"Action Conversations – Action for Community Change"** (3 members): Fairfield City Council – Dr. Tony Webb
- o **"Community Development – Photo Voices"** (3 members): Fairfield City Council – Dr Tony Webb
- o **"Community Leadership - Community Development and Community Capacity Building , 12 weeks training course"** (3 members), current course: Fairfield City Council – Dr Tony Webb

I would like to add that ABWCA Women's Leadership Project means the turning point for women in the Bosnian Community: the Project initiated women's community engagement. ABWCA will continue to work hard to reinforce the position of Bosnian women: "from being community service recipients to being community participants".

Finally, we would like to express that we are very proud of the outcomes of the project. I would like to emphasise that, without the enthusiastic engagement of all members of Management Committee of ABWCA, especially the President, Ms. Behka Custovic in the project implementation, and the support of Immigrant Women's Speakout Association, we would not have such impressive results!



ABWCA Women's Dancing Group "Silk and Velvet" performance at Auburn Street Festival – Celebrating of Cultures

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer: Izeta Zecevic



Another very busy year for the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association (IWSA) and our third year in our new premises. We continued to refurbish and upgrade our new premises so that our staff, volunteers and visitors could benefit from a more functional and efficient space with added comfort.

IWSA without a doubt has a great team of workers and a great team indeed they are, professional and very efficient. Spearheading this team of course is Jane Corpuz-Brock, IWSA's Executive Officer. Staff turn over was not as high as last year, with most terminations being due to completion of projects and some sea change on job opportunities. Once again everyone put in a magnificent effort, well done and a great big thank you from the Management Committee.

We would like to mention once more for the purpose of this financial report that in September 2005, IWSA held its first Rural CALD Women's Conference in Coffs Harbour. This event was a great success and we hope to build on the outcomes and host a bigger and improved event.

IWSA acknowledges our valuable partnerships with all the government agencies we work with both at State and Local Government levels. These partnerships are important to us in delivering our community programs. It enables us to continue to provide services and resources to immigrant and refugee women, children and families.

During the Financial Year 2005-2006 IWSA completed the following projects:-

- Pacific Communities – Community Education on Domestic Violence Project – funded by the Department of community Services (DoCS)
- Multicultural Family Support Service (Early Intervention Project Blacktown Local Government Area) - funded by DoCS
- Rural CALD Women's Project
- Establishing the Multicultural Women's Drop-in Centre at IWSA premises.

At the same time we continued with our ongoing and other short-term projects:

- Immigrant Women's Resource Centre funded by DoCS
- Domestic Violence NESB Women Project – funded by DoCS.
- Families First Community Development Project (Auburn Local Government Area) - funded by DoCS

- NESB Women's Multicultural Access Project (Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme: Auburn, Blacktown and Parramatta) and IWSA also auspiced the Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association funded by the New South Wales Premier's Office for Women.

IWSA continues its work in the community as a peak organisation and is further committed to seeking funding for new projects. We successfully managed our funds again for the Financial Year Ended 2006 and ended the year with a small surplus. While having spent some of our provisions in 2006 on staff training, OH & S issues and the CALD Conference we continue to maintain provisions for these important programs.

Of course all our achievements are possible due not only to a great team of staff but also to sound management and support from a hardworking and dedicated Management Committee. We extend a grateful thank you to all members of the Management Committee for their support to the Treasurer.

Most of all, we say our big thank you to Camille Moldrich, our accountant and bookkeeper. Camille's skills in accounting and extensive knowledge of the community sector have helped us in managing our finances. Her hard work and dedication have pulled us up in our financial responsibilities. We also thank Sandra Grollmus, our Auditor for examining and verifying IWSA's financial inflows and outflows this year.

So it gives me great pleasure to report that the statements of financial performance on the following pages are a true and accurate view of IWSA's financial position. I further state that IWSA is a sound organisation financially and will have no problem paying its debts as and when they fall due. I present these short form Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2006.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SPEAKOUT ASSOCIATION INC

SCOPE

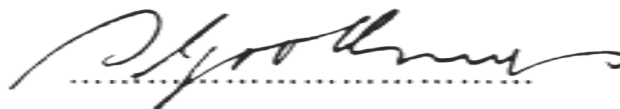
I have audited the attached financial report of IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SPEAKOUT ASSOCIATION INC., comprising Balance sheet as at 30 June 2006 and Income and Expenditure Statements for the year then ended. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view of the Organisation which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion the financial report of IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SPEAKOUT ASSOCIATION INC., presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position as at 30 June 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



SANDRA GROUHMUS
Registered Company Auditor
Registered No. 1254

Dated at Allawah this 31 day of October 2006

**IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SPEAKOUT ASSOCIATION OF NSW INCCONSOLIDATED
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Unutilised Funds Brought Forward	\$ 123,209	\$ 128,173
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants Received	\$ 523,771	\$ 510,499
Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,050
Interest Received	\$ 11,201	\$ 9,007
Membership Fees	\$ 861	\$ 1,074
Rent & Admin support	\$ 13,180	\$ -
Reimbursements-Insurance	\$ -	\$ 21,589
CALD - Conference	\$ 8,955	
Sundry Income	\$ 275	\$ -
Workshop Collections	\$ 1,301	\$ 3,154
Total Income	\$ 682,753	\$ 674,546
Less		
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Staff Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	\$ 364,280	\$ 331,591
Superannuation	\$ 31,467	\$ 25,781
Allowances & Reimbursements	\$ 3,264	
Professional Development, Conferences	\$ 9,661	\$ 7,170
Provisions-Annual Leave	\$ 13,271	-\$ 17,554
Long Service Leave	\$ 3,667	-\$ 7,245
Maternity Leave	\$ -	\$ -
Time-in-lieu	\$ 839	-\$ 1,295
Relief Staff - DV Project	\$ -	\$ 15,551
Devl & Training Rural Areas	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Devl & Training - DV Project	\$ -	\$ 9,200
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 11,228	\$ 16,071
Other Expenses		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	\$ 8,385	\$ 8,423
Advertising-Staff	\$ 4,251	\$ 6,175
AGM, MC, Expenses	\$ 2,925	\$ 3,324
Amenities, Hospitality, Sundries	\$ 3,119	\$ 1,736
Audit & Legal Fees	\$ 5,352	\$ 3,174
Bank Charges	\$ 828	\$ 852
Computer Support, Service & Equipment	\$ 9,827	\$ 8,844
Electricity	\$ 1,331	\$ 650
General Insurance	\$ 1,378	\$ 2,885
Memberships & Subscriptions	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,939
Newsletter/Publications	\$ 5,306	\$ 4,439
Postage	\$ 1,947	\$ 2,789
Printing & Photocopying	\$ 5,655	\$ 3,917
Project Expenditure	\$ 43,282	\$ 30,586
Promotion	\$ 1,578	\$ -
Relocation to New Premises	\$ -	\$ 1,874
Refurbishment New Premises	\$ 2,413	\$ 12,254
Rent	\$ 33,885	\$ 23,855
Repairs & Maintenance & Security	\$ 4,092	\$ 2,438
Stationery	\$ 9,461	\$ 3,714
Telephone, Fax, Internet	\$ 17,195	\$ 15,845
Travel	\$ 15,950	\$ 4,977
Total Expenses	\$ 616,867	\$ 538,960
Unutilised Funds Carried Forward	\$ 57,144	\$ 123,209
Statement of Accumulated Funds		
Surplus for The Year	\$ 8,742	\$ 12,375
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	\$ 42,833	\$ 30,458
Accumulated Funds As At Year End 2006	\$ 51,575	\$ 42,833

IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SPEAKOUT ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

	2006	2005
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Petty Cash On Hand	\$ 400	\$ 300
Commonwealth Bank Operating Account	\$ 239,213	\$ 96,647
Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit	\$ -	\$ 207,817
Rental Bond	\$ 6,672	\$ 6,672
Prepayments	\$ 3,802	\$ 2,618
Sundry Debtors & Income Receivable	\$ 1,501	\$ 13,569
Income Receivable -Work Cover	\$ 13,372	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$ 264,960	\$ 327,623
<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Equipment at cost	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,150
Furniture at cost	\$ 757	\$ 757
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$ 3,907	-\$ 3,907
Total Non-Current Assets	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 264,960	\$ 327,623
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Accrued Expenses - General	\$ 9,967.00	\$ 7,503.00
- GST	-\$ 13,292.00	\$ 2,347.00
- Payroll Expenses	\$ 19,362.00	\$ 6,162.00
Total Accrued Expenses	\$ 16,037.00	\$ 16,012.00
Provisions		
Employment - Annual Leave/Sick Leave	\$ 45,068	\$ 29,545
- Long Service Leave	\$ 8,917	\$ 5,250
- Maternity Leave	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
- Time-In-Lieu	\$ 3,427	\$ 1,730
- Workcover	\$ 2,597	\$ 2,033
Total Employment Provisions	\$ 70,009	\$ 53,558
Other		
- Project Development	\$ 2,871	\$ 5,000
- Equipment Replacement	\$ 7,013	\$ 12,000
- OH&S Compliance	\$ 8,499	\$ 10,000
- Provisions for Expns EIP	\$ 5,042.00	\$ 11,900.00
- Provisions for Expns - WSASS	\$ 1,708.00	\$ 7,549.00
- Relief Staff - DV Project	\$ 10,550	\$ 15,551
- Training & Devl - Rural Areas	\$ -	\$ 15,000
- Staff Training & Devl - DV Proj	\$ 9,200	\$ 9,200
- Staff Training & Development	\$ 5,312	\$ 5,811
- DoCs One off grant - programs	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Total Other Provision	\$ 70,195	\$ 92,011
Unutilised Funds		
- ABWCA	\$ 6,379	\$ 16,600
- Pacific Communities	\$ -	\$ 30,000
- CALD Conference	(\$896)	(\$3,047)
- NWMAP-WSASS	\$ 20,805	\$ 27,349
- CDSE (Other)	\$ -	\$ 4,725
- Early Intervention Project	\$ -	\$ 31,261
- Families First Project	\$ 30,856	\$ 16,174
- Families First Start Up	\$ -	\$ 147
Total Grants & Projects	\$ 57,144	\$ 123,209
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 213,385	\$ 284,790
NET ASSETS	\$ 51,575	\$ 42,833
Accumulated Funds B/F	\$ 42,833	\$ 30,458
Surplus for the Year 2004	\$ 8,742	\$ 12,375
Accumulated Funds C/F	\$ 51,575	\$ 42,833

CURRENT SPEAKOUT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND STAFF

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Rugmini Venkatraman
Vice Chairperson: Lina Cabaero
Treasurer: Izeta Zecevic
Deputy Treasurer: Myra Hechanova
Secretary: Nalika Padmasena
Rural Representative: Jorgette Sontor
Office Bearers: Vivi Germanos - Koutsounadis
Juliana Nkrumah
Behka Custovic
Maryam Popal

STAFF

Executive Officer: Jane Corpuz - Brock
DV Policy Officer: Kyungja Jung
DV Project Officers: Rukhshana Sarwar
Mariam James
Casual DV Project Officer: Maria Eva Tingson

Families First CD Officer: Rahile Cakir
CD Officer: Tenneh Kpaka
Information and Referral Officer: Yani Mariyani-Squire
MFSS-EIP Project Officer: Amela Polovina
Resources Production Officer: Eleanor Chang
Bookkeeper: Camille Moldrich
Admin Officer: Emina Kovac
Caretaker: Kawkab Jida

FAREWELLED DURING THE YEAR:

MFSS-EIP Project Officer: Amela Polovina
CD Officer: Mitra Khaleghian

CONTACT US:

Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW Inc
PO Box 9031, HARRIS PARK NSW 2150
Ph: (02) 9635 8022 Fax: (02) 9635 8176
women@speakout.org.au
www.speakout.org.au

All photos by Speakout staff.

Title Page: Staff day out at Manly Beach NSW to celebrate IWSA receiving Award from VAW Unit, November, 2005.

Design and layout by Emina Kovac.



Speakout Staff at IWD 2006



2006 – 2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/Organisation:.....

.....

Contact Person:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:

(h).....(w).....(m).....

Fax:.....Email:.....

Language/s Spoken.....

Enclose is a cheque / money order for \$.....being payment for membership.

Individual membership:

• Unwaged, students and volunteers Free

Individual membership (waged)

- Annual Income less than \$35 000pa \$11.00 (Incl GST)
- Annual Income \$35 000 – \$50 000pa \$16.50 (Incl GST)
- Annual Income more than \$50 000pa \$27.50 (Incl GST)

Organisation membership

- 5 full time equivalent staff or less \$22.00 (Incl GST)
- More than 5 full time equivalent staff \$44.00 (Incl GST)

I agree to abide by the aims and objectives of Immigrant Women's Speakout Association Inc.

Signed:.....Date:.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

