



Auckland
**Women's
Centre**

G O S S I P

4 Warnock Street
Grey Lynn
Ph 376 3227
info@womens.org.nz

P.O. Box 78 271
Grey Lynn
www.awc.org.nz
Spring 2006

Centre Hours

Mon to Fri
9am - 4pm

Library also

Sat, 11am - 1.30pm
Wed, 9am - 7.30pm

Collective 2006

Abigael Vogt

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Annalise Myers

Leonie Morris

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Viki

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Thanks

to the South Auckland Charitable Trust for funding Gossip and the community education brochure.

Kia ora koutou wahine ma! Greetings from the Women's Centre.

As we move in to the warmer weather, the Centre is looking forward to another term and to offering a wide variety of activities and services. We hope to receive funding to continue with our extremely successful SKIP project, celebrating and promoting **positive parenting amongst teen mothers**.

Self-defence workshops are a big part of the community education programme this term. In November we have age-appropriate self-defence workshops for women, teenagers (13-15 years) and 7-12 year old girls. Now is your chance to arm yourself and your daughter with expert information, attitudes and skills before the summer holidays. Other programmes on offer this term include: our free **Solo Mothers Support Group**, **The Art of Happiness**, a **Coming Out Group** for women questioning their sexuality, a **Fairplay DJ workshop**, and **Building a New Life After Separation**. For more information about these courses and all our activities visit our new website www.awc.org.nz which is updated regularly.

Women are welcome to ring our **information, advice and referral service** between Monday to Friday 9am-4pm. We have excellent information on women's health, pregnancy and parenting, legal and employment rights, counselling and family support services, support for victims of domestic or sexual violence, and women's community support and crisis networks. Lists of recommended lawyers, doctors, counsellors and other professionals who work with women in supportive ways are also available.

The **Auckland Women's Library** is well-stocked ready for your summer reading. The library is open every Wednesday until 7.30pm and every Saturday from 11am-1.30pm. Thank you to those that returned overdue library books over the last three months. It is great to have the books back so that they are available for other readers. The amnesty on overdue books continues. If you can only come after hours, then please just put them in the library returns box on the deck.

Appointments are available with professionally trained and supervised **counsellors** at the Centre. The fee is on a sliding scale of \$30 to \$80. Please ring the Centre for an appointment. **Massage** for beneficiaries and other women on low incomes is available on Mondays between 9.30am and 1.30pm for an hour long session. Cost is \$25 for beneficiaries and \$40 for non-beneficiaries.



International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women

25 November



known as

White Ribbon Day

White Ribbon Day is the international day when men wear a white ribbon to show they don't tolerate or condone men's violence towards women.

It was started by a men's movement in Canada in 1991 and has been officially adopted by the United Nations as its International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

New Zealand has a high rate of men's violence towards women. More than half of all murders in New Zealand each year are committed by male partners. One in three women experience at least one act of physical and/or sexual violence by a male partner in their lifetime. One in 16 women in New Zealand is sexually assaulted each year. Much violence against women goes unreported. Police estimate that they record less than 5% of all domestic violence.

This year in New Zealand, for the first time, dozens of government, local government, social service and voluntary agencies, as well as UNIFEM NZ (the UN Development Fund for Women), are working together to raise awareness of White Ribbon Day and the week leading up to it.

We want men to encourage other men to challenge each other on attitudes and behaviour that condone/support/tolerate violence towards women.

White ribbons will be worn by both men and women to show their opposition to violence against women and their commitment to equality between women and men.

The Auckland Women's Centre has long campaigned about violence against women and many of our programmes and services have a violence prevention aspect. Women often contact our information, advice and referral service about domestic violence when they are not yet ready to contact a women's refuge. Our teen mothers' support programme aims to prevent the (re)occurrence of domestic violence and our self-defence workshops are designed to enhance the personal safety of women and girls.

What you can do

- ?? wear a white ribbon to show your support
- ?? challenge attitudes and behaviour which condone/support/tolerate violence
- ?? encourage others in your organisation/family/whanau/community/workplace to wear a white ribbon
- ?? The Coalition for the Safety of Women and Children, of which the Auckland Women's Centre is a member, is distributing white ribbons on Saturday 25 November. If you would like to help, contact the Women's Centre ph 376 3227.

Please keep wearing your white ribbon throughout the

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence - Nov 25 to Dec 10

Domestic Violence

Accountability, Safety and Protection Orders

Alison Towns and Hazel Scott

Are we doing enough for women who experience violence from their male partners?

A recent study of Protection Orders issued through the Family Court suggests we are not.

The study commissioned by the Inner City Group for Women was designed to find out why there have been fewer Temporary Protection Orders issued in recent years.

Temporary Orders are the Orders issued with urgency under the Domestic Violence Act 1995 (DVA) and are the Orders most women apply for. More than 90% of applicants for Protection Orders are women and most respondents are men.

The application for Temporary Protection Orders is filed without notice to the man, offering the woman an opportunity to be in a safe place when the Orders are served.

Less Orders granted

In 1997 there were 7395 applications for Protection Orders, but in the period 2004/05 the number of applications had reduced to 4560. In the period 1998/99, 75% of all Protection Order applications were successfully granted as Temporary Protection Orders. But in the period 2003/04, only 68% were successful. In this study, we asked senior practitioners working in two Family Court areas, about what they thought had impacted on the provision of Protection Orders. Participants were two Family Court judges, two family lawyers, a Police Family Violence Coordinator, a Family Court Coordinator, two men's group providers and two women's advocates.

Lack of accountability

Women's advocates considered that the lack of action on breaches of Protection Orders by the Police and the Courts was highly significant in

the reduction of women seeking Protection Orders.

Women's advocates consider that women must be able to make an informed choice about whether they take out Protection Orders. If women's advocates are themselves disillusioned about the way the Act is implemented, they are unable to routinely advise women to apply for Protection Orders.

One men's programme provider said that for some Courts breaches of Protection Orders were not considered a priority, and in some Courts had not been processed for a period of two years.

When programme providers and the Courts do not hold the man accountable, the woman is left to enforce breaches, and this puts her at greater risk. Women's advocates said that when the breaches are not acted on, women just give up, or lose hope.

Valuing women's safety

Another important finding of the study was the concern the judiciary held over the man's right to "natural justice", or the provision of all legal

importance of the principle of natural justice as a fundamental right for anyone coming under the scrutiny of the law. The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) recognises natural justice as a basic right of all New Zealanders.

Natural justice appeared to be given more emphasis by participants than the safety of the woman, although such safety and the right to life are also considered to be a basic right under the NZBORA.

One lawyer stated that women's right to safety was a fundamental right and that in a civilised society women should not have to pay to be safe. Currently those women who do not qualify for legal aid must pay for a lawyer.

Insufficient resources

Judges described the lack of Court resources as problematic. One judge said that decisions about Temporary Protection Orders sometimes had to be made during a 15 minute tea break.

The conclusion was that greater priority needed to be given to women's and children's safety when

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Judges and lawyers emphasised the

issuing Protection Orders, if human rights obligations were to be fulfilled and confidence was to be maintained in the Justice system.

(The full research report will be published in the New Zealand Family Law Journal)

WELL WOMEN'S CLINIC

Free

Cervical smear tests for women:

- ?? who are due for a smear test and are Community Service Card holders
- ?? who have not had a test in 5 years.

Advice

On managing periods, PMS, menopause, stress incontinence using natural remedies, diet & lifestyle Consultations \$45.00 (½ hour)

Clinics at Auckland Women's Centre
Ph: 376 3227
once a month and all Auckland areas

For more information ph: 523 0263



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Health Promotion Services*

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BANK OF NEW ZEALAND getorganised

AUCKLAND

Massive Garage Sale raising funds for Preventing Violence in the Home

Auckland Showgrounds, Greenlane

Preview Day (\$25 pre-sale, \$35 on the door)
1pm – 7pm Friday 17th November

Free to the Public
8am – 4pm Saturday 18th November
8am – 3pm Sunday 19th November

Fire Sale (\$10 entry)
4pm Sunday 19th November



For further information visit
www.getorganisedauckland.co.nz, OR
phone Alex (09) 303 3938 ext. 706

Stop and Smell the Flowers

Joan Prairie

With like-minded women you will melt away the stress, connect to yourself, reflect on your life, laugh, have fun and stop the busyness. We will use art, creative movement and meditative methods in this series of Saturday workshops at the Auckland Women's Centre.

Saturday Oct 28, 10am – 4pm
Cost: \$80 to \$100 for the day
Contact: Joan Prairie 832 2848
or jprairie@free.net.nz