



Australian Women's Coalition Inc

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MEMO: Sexual Violence Consultation Report enclosed for your information

Dear Friends

On behalf of the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC), I am pleased to enclose a copy of the AWC report 'Happy Health Women, Not Just Survivors' which was formally launched in Sydney and Melbourne in late September 2010. In brief, the Report:

- (1) advocates for a **long-term model of care** for survivors of sexual violence.
- (2) acknowledges the Australian Government's strong commitment to the prevention of violence against women and seeks to build on this commitment by addressing a **gap in the national agenda** relating to the **long-term health and welfare needs** of the one in three Australian women who are survivors of sexual violence.
- (3) makes recommendations about **reforms to the legal process**, aimed at supporting women to disclose, while **preventing re-traumatisation**.
- (4) advocates for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary foundation or Centre of Excellence (including referral pathways to strengthen access to care) in order to drive the **twenty-five (25) recommendations** in the report forward.
- (5) is under-pinned by an extensive **national consultation process** and a timely review of the academic literature and tertiary teaching curricula in this important area.
- (6) includes **messages of support** from Professor Afua Hesse (President, Medical Women's International Association); Libby Lloyd AM (Chair VAWAG); and Dr Michael Steiner (President AMA NSW).

Our hope is that this consultation report and related advocacy activities will lead to greater awareness and much needed change in this important area of reform for Australian women and girls.

Yours sincerely

Sharyl Scott
President
Australian Women's Coalition

31 October 2010

ENCLOSED: copy of the consultation report

ATTACHMENT FOLLOWS: About the Australian Women's Coalition Inc



ATTACHMENT

About the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC)

The Australian Women's Coalition Inc (AWC) is a national collective of women's organisations working cooperatively to establish priorities for women and to increase communication between Government and the women of Australia. The AWC consists of 18 member organisations representing a broad and diverse cross-section of Australian women. The AWC's democratic governance model ensures that all projects have significant input from members at all decision-making stages.

AWC Member Organisations

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association Inc
Australian Church Women Inc
Australian Federation of Medical Women
Catholic Women's League Australia
Conflict Resolving Women's Network Australia Inc
Council on the Ageing Australia
Girl Guides Australia Inc
Hindu Women's Council of Australia
Mothers Union Australia
Muslim Women's National Network Australia Inc
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia Ltd
Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association Australia Inc
Soroptimist International of Australia Inc
The Salvation Army
VIEW Clubs of Australia
Zonta International District 24 Inc
Zonta International District 23 Inc

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