

Backgrounder

Women in Prison - Every woman AND CHILD

When: Friday 8 April 2016, 1pm – 4pm

Where: Uniting Church Hall, 146 Semaphore Road, Exeter

Themes

- The practice and policies of Corrections and inter-agency collaborations.
- The status of parenting courses/resources/information within the prison.
- The current status of children and families within the criminal justice system
- Intergenerational offending.
- Ways of encouraging pride, hope and opportunity.
- The impact of mother child separation (including geographical distance)
- The impact on mental health of children.
- The impact of security procedures on the mental well-being of children.

Details

The forum will discuss issues around women in prison, particularly their children. It will provide an opportunity to develop an action plan to raise awareness, inform policy makers and people in organisations that work at the grassroots level.

Forum Facilitator
Andrea Duff
Seeds of Affinity
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Media Liaison
Rachael Hakim
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Every woman AND CHILD *- Speaker Biographies*



Michael O'Connell - Commissioner for Victims' Rights South Australia

Michael O'Connell, Commissioner for Victims' Rights in South Australia, also lectures and writes on Victimology and Criminal Justice locally and internationally. Michael was previously appointed as South Australia's first Victims of Crime Coordinator and inaugural Victim Impact Statement Coordinator; and, served for over 20 years as a police officer. He is a life member, and since 2012 the Secretary-General, of the World Society of Victimology. In 1995 he was awarded the Australian Police Medal for his victimological work; in 2003 he was a finalist in Australian of the Year 2004 (South Australia);

and in 2010 Victim Support Australasia presented him with its national award for advancing Victimology and promoting victims' rights.



Malcolm Robinson - Director: Bower Place Complex Needs Clinic

Malcolm is a qualified Social Worker, Family Therapist and Mediator, and a Member of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators of Australia. He has 41 years clinical, therapeutic, and teaching and management experience across the mental health, welfare, education, disability, and justice systems.

Malcolm is a family and systemic therapist with a wide range of clinical and professional knowledge and skills. He works with whole families and complex systems. He has particular expertise in working with complex co-morbid mental health matters, therapy with fractured and fragmented families, and working with problems in the context of complex education, health and other service delivery systems. Malcolm has worked with children, adolescents and families in schools and the education system for the past 36 years. He works therapeutically with individuals and families with an acquired brain injury, intellectual disability, mental health issue, drug and alcohol problem, child abuse, or industrial injury.



***Bernie McGinnes - Principal
Advisor: Women Offenders
Department for Correctional
Services***

Bernie has a diverse professional background having worked for the past forty years in education, human service and policy areas in Victoria, the Northern Territory and South Australia. She has worked for the Department for Correctional Services for the past three years. In 2014, Bernie consulted with the judiciary, government and community service providers and a range of community interest groups, victim advocates and women in prison and under community correctional supervision. Consultation findings helped inform the development of the Department for Correctional Services, *Strong Foundations & Clear Pathways: Women Offender Framework and Action Plan 2014 to 2019* which was released in December 2015.



***Linda Fisk - Coordinator: Seeds of
Affinity: Pathways for Women
Incorporated***

Linda is a founding member of Seeds of Affinity and currently chair person. Linda has been a firm advocate for advancing meaningful programs and policies for women in prison in relation to their children. Linda has lived prison experience and has experienced, first hand, the traumas of giving birth while shackled; the trauma associated with mother and child separation and the systemic neglect around the most vulnerable members of society – the children of criminalized mothers.

Linda is in her final year of a Bachelor of Psychological Science at the University of South Australia and she is mentoring women making their way from prison to mainstream society through self-improvement and educational pathways.

In addition to her many achievements, Linda has three successful adult sons and now grandchildren.