

WHAT'S HEALTH GOT TO DO WITH IT?




Reflecting Gender & Women's Lives in Health Policy & Practice

19 May 2016

NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills NSW

PROGRAM

To register please go to whnsw.eventbrite.com.au

08.00		Venue open
09.00	Ms Donna Ingram	Welcome to Country
09.15 – 09.30	Women's Health NSW	Opening Address
09.30 – 10.00	 <p>Professor Helen Keleher Keleher Consulting</p>	<p>Public Policy and Gender Analysis</p> <p>It is almost 30 years since reports about Australian women's health gave voice to women's experiences with the health system. In 1989, the first National Women's Health Policy was launched in a celebratory atmosphere. Gender analysis was launched onto an unsuspecting health system and its failures were systematically exposed as research demonstrated that the health system was not just meeting women's health needs but was often hostile to those needs. It seemed that the 'gender agenda' could not be ignored. Or so we thought. While there have been gains there is also evidence that gender in public policy is still a long road for us to travel.</p>
10.00 – 10.30	 <p>Dixie Link-Gordon Women's Legal Service NSW</p>	<p>Dixie Link-Gordon is a Goreng Goreng woman from (South East QLD)</p> <p>A Very Personal Journey of Self Determination</p> <p>I am a 2nd Generation City born Aboriginal Australian Assimilation a lived experience in my 7yr old mind: The 'Harold Blair Holiday Schemes', which was basically run by Mr Killoran in Brisbane through the Queensland Aboriginal Affairs Department, would organise holiday homes over the Christmas holidays in Melbourne [for Queensland children]. After three weeks ... the couple would say, 'I'd love to keep little Mary for a little longer'. 'Sure you can keep Mary for a little longer.' No reference to the parents. Within a few months the next question, 'Could I adopt Mary?' 'Yeah, you can adopt Mary.' This was not an AWB [Aborigines Welfare Board] Victorian adoption. It was done through the Queensland Native Affairs Department, direct adoption kind of by mail order and by phone call...</p>
10.30 - 11.00	 <p>Mariam Veiszadeh Lawyer Writer Advocate</p>	<p>An Empowered Women's Story</p> <p>For too long, Australian Muslim women were the topic of political controversy - much was said about them but we rarely heard from them. The one-dimensional voiceless image of the typical Muslim woman portrayed by mainstream media didn't represent me or anyone I knew for that matter. This was one of the main reasons that galvanized me into action. Social media offered me an opportunity to speak directly to the masses, bypassing the media and any potential sensationalising or editorialising of my views. Speaking out as an Australian Muslim woman does come with a high personal cost however, as I suddenly discovered. The months of cyber bullying that I endured was incredibly harrowing – the impact extending to my family, friends and my work. I suffered from prolonged anxiety that manifested itself in several physical illnesses that lasted approximately 6 weeks. It had a disabling effect on my life.</p>
11.00		BREAK

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11.30 – 13.00	Violence Against Women Panel Discussion – Chaired by Karen Willis	
	<div>       </div> <div> <p>Karen Willis is the Executive Officer of Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia Chair</p> <p>Jackie Burke is the Clinical Director of Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia The Trauma Model</p> <p>Dixie Link-Gordon Community Access Women's Legal Service NSW Advocacy for Aboriginal Women</p> <p>Rochelle Zats Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service NSW It Stops Here: Safer Pathways Reform</p> <p>Fiona Davies is the CEO of the Australian Medical Association (NSW) Violence Tool Kits for GPs and AMA Share Your Story Campaign</p> <p>Meredith Lea is working for People with Disability Australia Royal Commission Project Advocacy for Women With Disability</p> </div>	
13.00 – 13.10	Performance	Bankstown Youth Development Service presents a performance by Bass Hill Public School
13.10		BREAK
14.15	 <p>Emily Howie Director of Advocacy and Research Human Rights Law Centre</p>	<p>Safe access to abortion: Balancing women's rights to safety, dignity and privacy with peoples' rights to oppose abortion</p> <p>Women around Australia continue to be harassed and intimidated as they enter clinics that provide abortions. In response, in the last few years, governments in ACT, Victoria and Tasmania have passed laws creating safe access zones around abortion clinics. Opponents of these laws claim that they violate their rights to free speech, protest and to religion. But what about women's rights to safety, dignity and privacy when they see their doctor? Drawing on the Victorian experience, this presentation will consider the civil liberties and human rights arguments raised by safe access zones and how women's rights can prevail.</p>

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14.45	 <p>Rita Butera EO Women's Health Victoria</p>	Gender Transformative Health Promotion & Practice <p>Having specialised in training health professionals to apply a gender analysis to health promotion, health programs, media and printed resource materials for more than 30 years, Women's Health Victoria has worked to unpack the nuances of gender representation, particularly in advertising, to understand the negative, neutral and positive manifestations of gender role stereotyping. Gender transformative health promotion and practice is about using positive images in program and resource development, and organisational structure, to promote health and wellbeing in an empowering and motivating way.</p>
15.10	 <p>Dr Matthew Fisher Research Fellow Flinders University</p>	Social Determinants of Health in Australian Health Policy <p>Public health advocates have called on the health sector to lead policy action on social determinants of health and health equity (SDH-HE). This research gathered all strategic health policy documents of all 9 Australian governments, current in early 2013. We analysed these 266 policies to ask, how and to what extent do Australian governments' health policies address SDH-HE? Significant lessons emerge for health policy makers. Evidence on SDH/HE was widely recognised in policies, and some areas of good practice identified that can be strengthened. However, we also found significant limitations. Many policies displayed 'drift'; meaning they recognised SDH-HE but in the end proposed strategies focused more narrowly on health care and individualised behaviour change. No strategies were identified to engage other sectors to reduce systemic socio-economic inequalities – the underlying causes of health inequities.</p>
15.30		BREAK
15.50	 <p>Tracy Howe CEO NCOSS</p>	Poverty is Sexist <p>Women experience poverty by virtue of being women. They are paid less because of their gender. They have lower superannuation balances because of the career breaks they take to look after children and older family members. And as they age, women face increased risks of homelessness because of the precarious nature of their employment history and their consequent lack of superannuation. These economic disadvantages accrue to women because they are women. The poverty women are experiencing is sexist. What women need is economic empowerment. Women and girls need solid financial literacy skills so they can navigate their finances and know how to protect themselves from homelessness. They need to know what a sound financial plan for their retirement looks like and how to work towards that in light of the career breaks they are likely to experience. And they need workplace gender equality so that they are paid the same as men and have the same opportunities that men do. Women's economic empowerment along with structural change will stop the sexist nature of poverty.</p>

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16.10	 <p>Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine CEO National Centre for Health Justice Partnerships</p>	<p>Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs)</p> <p>Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs) are an exciting model of providing access to justice, where lawyers and health professionals collaborate to provide better health outcomes and access to justice for patients with legal issues. Tessa was appointed to set up this new national centre which will be an advocate for the partnership model, highlight best practice and support existing and new HJPs. Tessa's background spans health, justice and human rights. She was previously Deputy CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service and has worked for international human rights organisations around the world.</p>
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09.00	Welcome to Country	Ms Donna Ingram	09.00
09.15	Open Address	Women's Health NSW	09.15
09.30	Public Policy & Gender Analysis	Professor Helen Keleher	09.30
10.00	A Very Personal Journey of Self Determination	Dixie Link-Gordon Women's Legal Service NSW	10.00
10.30	An Empowered Women's Story	Mariam Veiszadeh	10.30
11.00	BREAK		11.00
11.30	Violence Against Women Panel	Chaired by Karen Willis	11.30
13.00	Bankstown Youth Development Service presents a performance by Bass Hill Public School		13.00
13.10	BREAK		13.10
14.15	Safe Access to Abortion: Balancing Women's Rights to Safety, Dignity and Privacy with Peoples Rights to Oppose Abortion	Emily Howie Human Rights Law Centre	14.15
14.45	Gender Transformative Health Promotion & Practice	Rita Butera CEO Women's Health Victoria	14.45
15.10	Social Determinants of Health in Australian Health Policy	Dr Matt Fisher Flinders University	15.10
15.30	BREAK		15.30
15.50	Poverty Is Sexist	Tracy Howe CEO NCSS	15.50
16.10	Health Justice Partnerships	Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine CEO National Centre for Health Justice Partnerships	16.10
16.30	CLOSE		16.30

We take the opportunity to thank the Organising Committee - women from the organisations whose logos appear below and to thank our keynote speakers who have shared their knowledge and experience to improve public health, policy and practice

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