



WOCS HAPPENING?

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE WHEATBELT ORGANISATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Issue 4 Dec 2007

"Achieving Access, Equity and Sustainability for Children's Services in the Wheatbelt"

WOCS WINS AT COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY AWARDS

WOCS capped off a productive year by taking out the award for Strengthening Rural and Remote Communities at the 2007 Community Services Industry Awards. The award recognises the contribution community services make to the lives of Western Australians. The award and the \$5000 LotteryWest

grant prize money was accepted by WOCS Committee members (pictured from left) Penny Curry, Christine Gorton, Andrea Folkard, Nicole Thompson, and Deborah Clune. WOCS was thrilled to have been recognised and thanks all supporters for their contributions. Terry Waldron MLA presented the finalist certificate in Narrogin at a morning tea provided by the Department for Child Protection on 4th December.



Regulation review on track

The Child Care Regulations Consultative Committee is currently processing more than 1000 submissions received during the public consultation process, which closed on 19th October.

Deborah Clune, the Regulation Review Rural Representative will be liaising closely with WOCS members to ensure that the rural issues you have all identified are given fair consideration in the Review. The committee has also resolved to examine additional issues unrelated to the regulations in a separate process.

Deborah would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that gave input into the Discussion Paper - your views are very important.

The Consultative Committee meets in Perth every month. At the November meeting a list of Recommendations were discussed by the group.

More information on the Regulation Review and the committees

recommendations will be updated on the website at www.community.wa.gov.au or contact Deborah Clune on 0417 741 471 or email her at Deborah.Clune@cyotafe.wa.edu.au

WOCS AGM

8th February 2008
10:30am

Government Offices
Park Street, Narrogin

Representatives from all
Wheatbelt Child Care Centres
Welcome

*Please attend and support the
organisation that is supporting
your service*



The Nationals WA leader Brendon Grylls with WOCS new project officer Nola Poland.

WOCS meet in Quairading

WOCS members met in Quairading for their October meeting, with WOCS patron and The Nationals WA leader Brendon Grylls filling in as chairman. The committee welcomed WOCS Project Officer Nola Poland to her new role, administered by the Resource Unit for Children with Special Needs (RUCSN).

The Nationals WA interviewed WOCS members about the issues faced by country communities in gaining access to child care.

Interested people can view the story on Brendon's website at www.brendongrylls.com

New Rural Models

The process of developing new models of rural child care continues within the government departments.

WOCS has been advised by the Department for Communities that the proposal for small rural models is progressing through the final stages.

This is a lengthy process. WOCS has been proactive in ensuring the department is aware of the key issues of importance and the feedback from families and child care providers in regional areas.

A key issue is making Child Care Benefit available to all families that use rural child care services, regardless of the type of service and the amount of days it operates.

These issues were identified during WOCS' meeting with former Minister Mal Brough in August this year.

WOCS will continue to monitor the progress of these small rural models up to their implementation.

For further information or to subscribe to the WOCS Newsletter contact:

Nola Poland

Email: WOCSProjectOfficer@westnet.com.au

Phone: 08 9883 6561



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New Project Officer for Wheatbelt

A successful application for LotteryWest funding by the WOCS committee in partnership with RUCSN has led to the appointment of Nola Poland as the new WOCS Project Officer. The grant of \$196,139 will fund the position over two years. Based in Cuballing, Nola will be working to identify the support needs of volunteer management committees and developing a resource manual to assist current and future volunteers. The grant is recognition of the large job undertaken by volunteers in rural areas who donate their time to establish, manage and fundraise to ensure their community has access to child care.



Project Officer Nola Poland

IN THE NEWS

Cycling duo for Yilgarn

Two enterprising volunteers from the Yilgarn Occasional Child Care Centre hopped on their bikes last month to help raise money for their child care centre.

Chris Stone and Dean Bottomley cycled the 450km return trip from Southern Cross to Kalgoorlie, raising \$2015 in the process.

The pair took four days to make the trip and the next fundraiser is already in the planning.

Goomalling Gumnuts news

The Goomalling Gumnuts Child Care Centre has faced some challenges recently after a fire started in the centre. Luckily the centre was closed but volunteers faced a big clean-up job. The cause of the fire is thought to be an electrical fault.

The good news for Goomalling is the success of two grant applications.

A LotteryWest grant of \$42,765 will upgrade the playground area including equipment, soft fall and fencing. A \$2400 Volunteer Small Equipment grant purchased a computer, and equipment for use at fundraising events.



Former Minister Mal Brough with (back left) Christine Gorton, Janie Gilmour, Andrea Folkard, and (front) Penny Curry and Deborah Clune.

Ministerial Committee News

WOCS' representative on the Ministerial Child Care Advisory Committee, Jackie Murray, says the committee has been hard at work determining the priorities for 2008.

Key priorities include a workforce development plan for child care, health issues in children's services, some management issues, the responsibilities of State Government, and Out of School Hours Care issues.

The Committee is made up of industry-based professionals who represent a wealth of knowledge on WA child care. The Committee directly advises the Minister, who also regularly attends Committee meetings.

Up to date information on the Child Care Advisory Committee can be obtained via the website www.mccacwa.com

Jackie said it was important to contact either WOCS or directly contact the Minister or your Government representatives with your concerns regarding child care. Jackie's role on the committee is to ensure that the concerns of rural child care services are put on the political agenda.

WOCS gets Federal support

Members of the WOCS committee met with former Minister for Families and Community Services Mal Brough in August to discuss concerns under the realm of the Federal Government.

Mr Brough heard the concerns which included the need for Child Care Benefit to extend to the new models of rural child care services – both single staff services and the new small rural service model.

Mr Brough pledged his support and, prior to the Federal election, he instructed the Department for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FACCSIA) to form a working group.

The working group, made up of staff from FACCSIA and the WA Department for Communities will work to address these issues.

WOCS WOULD LIKE

TO WISH YOU ALL A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A SAFE AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR