



# informed

Issue 402

April 2010

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Next WEL members' meeting

Monday

3 May at 6pm

66A Albion Street

Surry Hills

ALL WELCOME

## F: THE BIGGEST FEMINIST CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY FOR 15 YEARS - BY MELANIE FERNANDEZ

Feminism is alive, well and important to women today. Over 500 attendees demonstrated this over the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April at the biggest feminist

conference to be held in Sydney in the last 15 years. The *F Conference* sold out the Monday before

and there was a queue of people on the first morning hoping to grab a last minute ticket.

The diversity of the crowd present was evident just from looking around the auditorium. Different generations came together to discuss the important issues for

women today and the important fights that have been fought and those still needing to be waged.

Aged 12 to 84, participants included daughters, mothers and

grandmothers attending together, and even a few fathers were present with their daughters. There was a range of viewpoints and types of feminism represented by attendees, including feminists

who have been involved in activism, service delivery, lobbying and academia. There were established feminists who had been activists for decades and others who were just starting out or who did not identify as feminists. Many of the

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**FINAL REMINDER FOR THE 2010 EDNA RYAN AWARDS**

**6.00PM FOR 6.30PM— FRIDAY 14 MAY  
280 PITT STREET, SYDNEY**

**See Page 11 for details**

WEL NSW Inc is a member of WEL Australia and is dedicated to creating a society where women's participation and potential are unrestricted, acknowledged and respected, where women and men share equally in society's responsibilities and rewards.

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All members are invited and encouraged to contribute or comment. Ideas, comments, articles or clippings from other media all gratefully accepted. Content may be edited.

The editor(s) happily read emails sent to [welnsw@comcen.com.au](mailto:welnsw@comcen.com.au) and hard copy articles or letters can be posted to the WEL office.

Deadlines for contributions to the next editions: 21 May and 18 June. There is no newsletter in December.

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Editor for this edition: Lorraine Slade, Advice/Mailout Team: Ardyce Harris, Josefa Green.

Join the national WEL email list, email your name, email address and your WEL group (eg NSW) to [owner-wel-members@lists.nwjc.org.au](mailto:owner-wel-members@lists.nwjc.org.au)

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## ASU MEMBERS LODGE CASE FOR EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN WORKERS

On March 11 the Australian Services Union kicked off its historic campaign to achieve pay equity for Social and Community Service workers.

These workers support, and advocate for, marginalised members of our community, including children at risk, people with disabilities, elderly people and homeless people. 87% of social and community service workers are women. Despite the crucial nature of this work, these workers are among the lowest paid workers in Australia, largely because their work has been historically viewed as "women's work" or "voluntary work".

The Equal Pay case seeks to rectify the fact that these workers are severely underpaid for the important work that they do, because they do work that is considered "women's work". Our case is not about men and women getting paid the same to do the same job, it is about the undervaluation of feminised industries. The new laws allow us to compare the value of our work rather than prove it's exactly the same. Across Australia social, community and disability workers get paid on average 30% less than workers who do exactly the same job but are directly employed by the Government.

The ASU has lodged an "Equal Remuneration Order" with Fair Work Australia (FWA), we are asking FWA to alter the Industrial Award that dictates wages in the Commu-

nity Sector, bringing wages up approximately 30% across the board.

While this case is being heard by FWA, the ASU is also undertaking a community-based campaign which is putting pressure on the Federal and State Governments to fund the outcome of the case. Most community work is funded by the government, so we are encouraging the governments to PAY UP – and commit to funding equal pay.

It's vital that we raise the profile of our campaign and help our communities understand the cold and hard facts around gender pay inequity in Australia. The campaign will talk about the gender pay gap, and the chronic undervaluation of feminised industries.

This case will make a historic step toward rectifying the gender pay gap in Australia. We need the support of all workers to do this. Social and Community Service workers cannot win this fight alone.

WEL members are invited to come along to our Equal Pay Day: June 10, 2010 – 11am Sydney Town Hall (there are events in regional centres also). We really need a big presence to prove to the Government we are serious about Equal Pay. If you can't make it on the day, then please get involved in the online campaign at [www.payup.org.au](http://www.payup.org.au).

If you have any questions, or can support the ASU's campaign for Pay Equity, please call Gabe Kavanagh at the ASU on 02 9310 4000 or email, [gabe@asu.org.au](mailto:gabe@asu.org.au).

## WHO SAYS FEMINISM IS DEAD?

**NINA FUNNELL**  
*The Age* April 13, 2010

**illustration: Robin Cowcher**

In 1994, feminist Anne Summers penned an open letter to the next generation of women asking them why they feel so alienated from the women's liberation movement. In it, she asks why young women do not fully appreciate the battles that have been fought on their behalf by older feminists. Summers writes; "Wouldn't [a young woman] acknowledge this? Wouldn't she feel something- gratitude? A debt? A responsibility to keep widening those choices for herself and her generation?"

Since then, a throng of feminists have remarked on the generation of young women who have thrived off the gains of feminism, while disowning the movement in the process.

On first blush it would appear that part of the answer to Summers' query lies in her own rhetoric. After all, when established feminists begin talking down to young women and painting them as apathetic, indebted ingrates, then young women who do identify with feminist aims and principles begin to feel increasingly alienated and reluctant to engage with the movement.

In the past two decades a type of elitism has crept into the ranks of feminism, with numerous senior feminists tut-tutting young women's motives, attitudes, dress and behaviour.

From where some young women now sit, the "old guard" has begun to look suspiciously like the patriarchal order

it once opposed. And this intergenerational distrust has cut both ways.

On the one hand, old-guard feminists have questioned the political sincerity of young women who appropriate the feminist tenets of "choice" and "empowerment" to lend justification to their smutty "raunch culture" lifestyles. On the other side of the fence, many young women continue to resent being patronised and policed by an older generation of feminists.

Several months ago, fellow gen Y feminist Gabe Kavanagh and I spoke at a conference about the generational schism within the Australian feminist movement.

Kavanagh argued that while feminism needs to be made more accessible to young women, many of "us" already do identify as feminists, but our work and politics are seldom recognised by more established feminists, and in many ways we are invisible to them.

According to Kavanagh, feminist ideals have remained somewhat consistent over time but

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Robin Cowcher

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our methods have changed considerably and this has produced a generational disconnect. Instead of protesting on the streets, as in the 1970s, today's young feminists campaign online. Instead of storming Parliament House, we go for jobs there.

Most importantly, Kavanagh concluded by stating that if the Australian feminist movement is ever to expand then new channels of communication need to be established to promote and consolidate understanding and respect between the various generations of Australian feminists.

The response to this speech was overwhelming and there was unanimous agreement that a forum needed to be set up to promote this intergenerational dialogue.

Kavanagh, now 24, and Rosa Campbell, 23, at the weekend co-convoked the biggest feminist conference to be held in Sydney in 15 years. The conference was booked out with more than 500 people from all over the country attending - with others lining up outside.

My mother and I were not the only mother-daughter duo in attendance and there were grandmothers who attended with their granddaughters. Participants age ranged from 12 to 84 and a significant number of pro-feminist men also attended and spoke at the conference.

And they say feminism is dead.

Throughout the two-day conference it became apparent that it is highly simplistic to assume that attitudes unpack neatly along generational (or gender) lines. We also realised that while feminism is a movement marked by diversity and complexity, it is the commitment to examining the contradictions

and nuances of argument found within feminism that makes for such a robust movement.

Anne Summers also presented at the conference. Interviewing her afterwards, I realised that I'd had her all wrong. Summers is not interested in patronising young women in the slightest. She is one of our greatest advocates.

Summers also pointed out that "there are more male and female feminists today than at any other time in Australian history". This fact flies in the face of every recent media article that claims that Australian feminism is in decline; the reality is just the opposite.

Summers reminded us that feminism is just as relevant today as at any other time in history (if not more so). We still have yet to achieve equal pay for equal work (with women receiving 84 cents in the dollar compared with male counterparts) and our reproductive rights have yet to be secured.

Similarly, the rights we have achieved continue to come under threat from the likes of Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and other conservatives. Most of all Summers urged us to ignore the predictable, transparent media mockery directed at feminists, and to "just get on with things".

So while there is work ahead, it seems that feminism is in a far better state of affairs than what many in the media would have us believe.

*Nina Funnell is a media researcher at the University of New South Wales.*

## CONVENOR'S REPORT

Your WEL Executive attended the **F-Conference** and some members were part of the organizing committee. Material prepared on WEL and lobbying appeared in the conference folder. Eva Cox, Melanie Fernandez and Gabe Kavanagh were deeply involved in the conference organisation and they, with the other committee members, deserve congratulations. The conference was a joy to attend. Its ambitious program aimed for diversity and inclusiveness and I think succeeded in this as well as stimulating serious discussion, debate and questioning. It flushed out differences and many common critiques and perspectives on a huge range of issues.

Applications for the WEL Coordinator position have been reviewed and a panel of three executive members will be interviewing seven applicants from the many who applied. It was a competitive and impressive field. We hope to be able to announce the appointment by early May.

The Treasurer has made a series of recommendations regarding our finances and a set of guidelines is being prepared about the use of interest from funds, as well as

protection of capital investments, for Executive consideration and future reference to a Special General Meeting.

We have met with Jodi McKay, Minister for Women (See report) and also with a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs.

A teleconference was held with WELA's National Coordinating Committee discussing the new women's alliance- **Equal Rights Australia** which is replacing **Womenspeak**. Governance and policy briefings were key issues. The NCC agreed to make a contribution to amending the briefings, but would await decisions on funding before commenting on the structure for the future operation of this alliance. Gail Radford and Elizabeth Kentwell were monitoring these national developments with other state representatives maintaining online monitoring.

**Jozefa Sobski**

## CHILDCARE PROMISE DUMPED—COMMENT FROM JOZEFA SOBSKI

In a day swamped by Melbourne Storm turmoil, the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, Kate Ellis, releases a media statement entitled: **Vacancy data gives first true picture of child care landscape**, announcing that 222 childcare centres promised, would not be built. The excuse: these might threaten the viability of existing centres. Apparently, the childcare landscape has changed significantly since 2006. Thirty eight centres will go ahead. How heartening! This is so far short of the number promised, it is simply an outrage. A major broken promise and there is no public discussion or consultation with the sector. Women's organisations see it in a media release.

The vacancy data formed the bulk of the release. The Child Care Vacancies Quarterly Snapshot is just that – a snapshot. It does not tell the full story.

The SMH quoting Prue Warrilow, the national convener of Australian Community Children's Services, which represents not-for-profit childcare centres, said the data used to justify the decision was "superficial" because it was not clear what days or hours vacancies were available.

The Minister claims that the data from two reports tells us that the child care market is strong as a consequence of the Rudd Government's investment. Over the next four years, the Government will allocate over \$16 billion to support child care. Will this be enough? WEL Australia and other women's organisations and associations from the sector will be doing their own analysis and coming to their own conclusions.

"With Labor, the early years will be a national priority!" This has a somewhat hollow ring to it when there is such gigantic backflip!

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## REFUELING FEMINIST ACTIVISM—MORE ON THE *F*-CONFERENCE

There were seventies women's liberationists greeting each other after many years, grey sages and elder stateswomen! There were socialists and anarchists and students and community workers as well as academics and women from suburbs and other states. Overwhelmingly, however, this was a new, young generation of feminists at the *F-Conference* held at the NSW Teachers Federation auditorium on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April. It was cross-generational, cross cultural and across sexualities. There were men present and this was unremarked upon and unremarkable.

There were mothers and daughters and, in some cases, grandmothers. The conference was sold out. Adele Horin gave it the media profile it needed in the SMH on the Saturday morning. She captured its diversity and its brave attempt to bridge the generational divide and give feminist activism its boost for the next two decades.

The organisation was impeccable and the respect shown for diversity and difference was evident in all aspects of the conference program. There were workshops on the traditional areas of struggle like abortion rights, domestic violence, sexism in education, feminist healthcare and pay equity. But, there were also topics which reflected the focus of the new generation: feminism and plastic surgery, colour politics, veiling, birth reality, introduction to trans, feminist publications and blogging, erasure of butch women, sex work and refiguring femme-inist futures.

There were spaces provided for caucusing and chilling out and open spaces for raising issues which had emerged during the course of the conference sessions.

The conference "zine" publication: *F* provides an in-

sight into the preoccupations, preferences and politics of the organizers and participants. There is coverage of the Northern Territory intervention, transgender realities, environmental justice, a masturbation manifesto, feminist cyberspace, sex trafficking from a sex worker's perspective, disabled women in a globalised world, women's rights in Honduras, children's books

and a piece by Eva Cox on the feminist project for change.

The editorial in *F* stresses that it contests the sexed and gendered status quo in its myriad forms. It also demonstrates how "this status quo intersects with social positions such as age, race, ability, sexuality, class, culture, recognized profession, the environment and physical location."

There is a lot of new language, the critiques are sophisticated and sometimes refreshingly naïve, but the passion and commitment to addressing inequality and injustice are deeply rooted and the need for action or activism readily accepted at national and international levels. New media is at the core of this activism.

Gabe Kavanagh's hope for the conference that "it helps feminists find out how they fit in with the changes made before and how to continue the fight to achieve real equality" was surely realized for those attending. It was inspiring and heartening for a seventies feminist. Mine was just one experience. There were hundreds of others!

**Jozefa Sobski**



## **STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN CHINA - WEL NSW MEETING WITH CHINESE DELEGATION**

At the request of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) met with Anne Barber and Josefa Green, representing WEL NSW, in March.

Since 1997, Australia and China have agreed on a program of co-operation aimed at "strengthening the administration, promotion and protection of human rights in China". Study visits such as this one are a typical activity under this program and the group was scheduled to meet with a range of organisations apart from WEL, including other NGOs, social welfare agencies and government departments.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs registers and administers Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) in China, and also delivers social welfare and relief programs for groups such as orphans, the elderly, people with disabilities, the destitute and victims of natural disasters. As such, they have a role in encouraging and strengthening the NPO sector in China. On the other hand, tight control is exercised over this sector. All NPOs have to be approved and registered with the Ministry, their activities and membership disclosed. Social welfare activities by NPOs are encouraged, but advocacy and policy work is another matter altogether. Though there has been limited toler-

ance for the work of unofficial NPOs, their existence remains tenuous and under threat.

The AHRC has commented that, in its participation to date with this Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program, the MCA has displayed some cautious openness to exploring different approaches to NPOs.

Certainly, at our meeting, members of the delegation seemed fascinated by the fact that WEL currently receives no government funding, is run entirely by volunteers and is openly critical of government policy. They were interested in exploring in detail how we lobbied, and also challenged us to give them a working definition of feminism and what this meant in practical terms. They loved our stickers, posters and badges. There was also general conversation on the issue of abortion, the ageing population and China's one child policy (of which they expressed criticism and which is currently being watered down).

Our session ended with the usual photograph session, in the rather pleasant courtyard of WEL NSW premises. It will be interesting to get some feedback over time from the AHRC about the benefits of such visits.

***Josefa Green & Anne Barber***

## **MORE COMMENTS ON DUMPED CHILDCARE PROMISES FROM EVA COX**

This cut of capital funding for 200 plus child care needs to be strongly opposed as it is more than just a cut in the funding. It was important because it put the community based centre back on the agenda. The loss of capital funding has been a major factor in expanding the commercial sector.

The extra ex-ABC child care services going to the NFP consortium does not replace this as a signal about choices and balance in the sector between community, small privates and big chains, because these are only in rented premises, and their future is not necessarily community based.

The data is also dicey, it is collected on days but produced as though these were weekly vacancies, it ignores the lack of places in particular areas and assumes child care is a bland interchangeable product so location, cost and quality, let alone age, are irrelevant.

## MEETING THE NEW MINISTER

The new Minister for Women, Jodi McKay met with four members (Helen L'Orange, Eva Cox, Melanie Fernandez and Jozefa Sobski) of WEL NSW Executive on 15<sup>th</sup> April. She was astute and alert to the issues we raised. She readily absorbed complexities and seemed generally across her brief. She spoke proudly of the success of the IWD initiative of an annual lecture and keenly listened to any suggestions we offered for reaching a younger audience of women.

Her difficulty in building too high a profile was apparent since NSW is now led by women. She seemed sensitive to the balancing act she faced in pushing an agenda and her achievements, without wishing to detract from that of her female colleagues, who bore the great weight of responsibility for the entire state.

WEL presented its credentials stressing our intention to review our Policy Proposals of 2006 prior to the next state election in light of developments and reforms and party policies. We were keen to congratulate the government on its revised State Plan which has included a section on: Delivering Opportunities for Women and a range of gender performance measures in the Targets section of the Plan. We noted that a new Women's Plan for NSW was being prepared. We urged the development of a more comprehensive set of gender measures so that each of the sections of the Plan: Better Transport and Liveable Cities, Supporting Business and Jobs, Clever State, Healthy Communities, Green State, Stronger Communities and Keeping People Safe, could be monitored for its impact on women.

The National Performance Indicators which had been presented at the Ministerial Council meeting by NSW were not yet finalized. We requested that information on these be circulated to the peak women's organisations when available.

The Minister accepted that some issues were beyond her responsibility belonging as they did to the Federal jurisdiction. The Pay Equity case was an instance. The NSW position on the Equal Remuneration case had not been determined as yet. The Office of Industrial Relations was currently examining its implications for workers in the not-for-profit sector, many of whom were paid from state government grants.

The Office for Women representative present at the meeting, Sarah Squires, reported on the research and data analysis project on women in the NSW Workforce. It would provide a snapshot of women's status. The Office had circulated a brief to various University women's research units. It hoped that it would be completed in four months.

There was discussion on women's leadership and women on Boards initiatives and the Minister asked for feedback on these and how we might advance women's representation, particularly in the private sector.

WEL raised the need for regular updates on progress with programs or policies to come from the Minister to the network of women's organisations. We requested postings on the website and a Facebook site to reach a younger audience. The success of the **F-Conference** in using new media was highlighted by Melanie Fernandez from the Conference organising committee.

WEL also sought support for the IWD Centenary celebration in March, 2010. The Minister referred to the group being convened by Helen Westwood, MLC to plan the activities for the celebration. She made no commitment about allocating resources since all funds were tied up in local council grants. The need for a more coordinated publicity campaign around IWD was reiterated.

We offered the Minister our support and she agreed that we should meet on a bi-monthly basis. Our impression was favourable, but then the Minister was once a journalist and readily discerned that we were just on a familiarization mission.

**Jozefa Sobski**

*(Continued from page 1)*

women who began the weekend not identifying as feminist, left commenting to F Collective members that they would now call themselves a feminist.

The conference dealt with issues of the relevance of feminism today, the power inequities that women still face and how we address these issues and move forward together. Speakers including Anne Summers, Larissa Behrendt, Liz Broderick, Candy Bowers, Zora Simic, and WEL's own Eva Cox discussed questions of what are the key battles, how we fight them and where to from here. An array of workshops dealt with a huge range of issues from feminism and the environment to women and education, reproductive rights, pay equity, women and the arts, female genital mutilation and the list goes on.

It was an amazing, positive experience and left many participants inspired and reinvigorated in regards to the feminist movement and their place in it. One woman wrote on her comments slip 'I am more hopeful than before that change is possible' and this is exactly what we wished to achieve from this event. The conference provided pathways for women to connect and now it is up to all of us to maintain that momentum and create a strong and sustainable movement.

## **PROBLEMS FOR WOMEN IF INCOME MANAGEMENT IS EXTENDED TO A WIDER POPULATION**

The income quarantining program has consistently been justified by Minister Macklin by claiming it is supported by women and protects them from violence. This is echoed in the majority (ALP Senators) report on the senate inquiry released last week. However, the evidence does not support these claims and both the original actions against prescribed communities and the proposed extension to the NT, and then to the rest of Australia, have serious implications for women.

- The evidence for any benefits is very limited despite the beliefs and perceptions of the NPY women's groups who are the main group supporting retaining and extending the program. It may well have had some short term benefits for the women in their communities but these could be continued by community based decisions to retain the program and not impose it coercively elsewhere.
- The benefits that are claimed, albeit often on contradictory and limited data, are mainly for better physical well being due to changed purchasing, nutrition and other spending. These are generally based on opinion and not hard data and no comparable data of prior expenditure is available. Sunrise Health data and some from the Menzies School of Health Research suggest no such improvements and even deterioration, and court statistics do not support the decreased violence assumptions.
- The possible detrimental effects, already observed by many, are about to be confirmed in a careful Health Impact Assessment (HIA) report by the Indigenous Doctors Association, (AIDA), include social and psychological: shame, distress and a lack of the sense of control over their lives that is crucial to good health.
- AIDA recommends compulsory income management be stopped immediately because of its "profound long-term negative impacts". It says welfare payments should be quarantined only in cases of proven abuse or neglect, or if people volunteered for it.
- This control factor is the key to wellbeing which has been consistently identified by research on the social determinants of health (Marmot et al WHO) and the more recent work on the toxic effects of inequality

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(Wilkinson and Pickett.).

- Most other so-called evidence has no professional acceptance of its validity and no attempt was made to measure the effects on social and emotional well being of those affected. Anecdotal evidence suggests that shaming is causing immense damage to women and men who have to line up in Basicscard queues, are denied goods and cannot control their own money despite no evidence of their past mis-spending.

Since when did feminism support imposing losses of rights for categories of women even as parts of a wider group of people, because some within them were seen as needing 'protection'? This is a return to paternalistic (maternalistic) protection that undermines the idea that women are full citizens with equal rights to others. Those women who are in need of protection have both the right and obligation to make their own decisions, maybe collectively, to ask for their rights to be removed. The use by the Minister of the needs of the NPY women to excuse this extension will result in hundreds of thousands of other women, both in the prescribed communities and the wider Australian society, suffering the consequences of a badly designed program.

On the basis of this lack of evidence for the proposal and the harm that the process could be doing to the current and future target populations, the use of compulsory income management needs to be strongly opposed by feminists because:

- It is primarily a women's issue because women do the household shopping and control the money, especially in low income households, and are most likely to be on benefits as single parents.
- It will impact on the lives of the mass of sole parents who rely on parenting payments and Newstart by making them either accept half their income being controlled or proving they are good mothers.
- It will similarly impact on others on Newstart who are also under pressure to find part time work and on inadequate income.
- It will affect the unemployed whose income support is already very low and how they will manage their finances.
- It will limit spending to big chains and other approved shops and so undermine bargain hunting and use of markets and second hand goods.
- It will seriously distress women from ethnic backgrounds, particularly those recently arrived as refugees, as it will increase the complications of, and bureaucratic barriers to, settlement.
- It will be very hard for those with disabilities on Newstart, who may have many difficulties with literacy or authority.
- It implies always that women are incompetent money managers who have to prove they are not.
- It is absurdly tied to the reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act, as making the targets general would allow the RDA to be reinstated and get the government off the UN rapporteur's accusation of discriminatory legislations.

The complexities, particularly for those seeking to justify their removal from the card, are many. It is initially shaming to be assumed to be guilty, ie a bad money manager, and, then, it is quite hard to prove you are not. It involves dealing with Centrelink staff and that is often problematic and proving by letters from others eg schools and medicos, that you are a responsible parent. Seeking this evidence is also going to be embarrassing and often difficult for those not used to dealing with authorities.

***Eva Cox for WEL Australia and Jumbunna UTS.***



# connected

## EDNA RYAN AWARDS NIGHT 14 May 2010

**The Nominations are in so now is the time to book your place to attend this very special night. Bookings must be received by 7 May so that we can make this a truly memorable occasion.**

The EDNAs are awards made to women who have made a feminist difference, ie whose activity advances the status of women; the troublemakers, the stirrers, the battlers, who show extraordinary commitment and determination.

Join Women's Electoral Lobby in celebrating Edna's political life and an affirmation of feminist activists in 2010. Come along and hear about the feminist activity that is happening and the wonderful women who are working towards making a better world – especially for women. You will be INSPIRED.

**When:** Friday 14 May 2010

**Time:** 6.00pm snacks and mingle, 6.30pm presentations

**Where:** Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

**Cost:** \$25 wages / \$15 concession – includes snacks

Making a *feminist* difference seems more possible in 2010 – so let's keep at it!

Booking forms as well as information about the awards night can be downloaded from the website: <http://welnsw.org.au> or by contacting the WEL office phone/fax: 9212 4374. Email: [welnsw@comcen.com.au](mailto:welnsw@comcen.com.au)

**Volunteers to help with the catering and/or setting up would be very welcome. Give Ardyce Harris a call on 041 767 9416.**

### WEL Executive/ Members' Meeting

Monday

3rd May

66 Albion St  
Surry Hills

**ALL WELCOME**

### NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

A special welcome to new members, and many thanks to all members who renewed their membership in the past month, and especially to those who gave so generously to WEL.

### Consider a Bequest to WEL NSW

A bequest enables you to perpetuate your ideas and make a difference far into the future. Please remember WEL in your will.

The following wording is recommended:

I bequeath the sum of (amount written in words and figures) free of all debts, duties and taxes, to the Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Inc (ABN 50 242 525 012) for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Inc shall be complete discharge to my executors for this gift, and that my executor shall not be bound to see to the application of it.

If 'RENEWAL' is stamped in your newsletter and/or a renewal form is enclosed or attached to your email copy, your membership renewal is now due. Please renew your membership of WEL NSW

**Don't forget to let WEL know if you change address.**

**WEL NSW Executive**

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Treasurer: Tabitha Ponnambalam  
Members: Josefa Green, Helen L'Orange,  
Eva Cox, Melanie Fernandez, Gabe  
Kavanagh, Lorraine Slade

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4374) for a membership package

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