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Commonwealth People's Forum – WA Consultation Friday 11th March

WACOSS is commencing the process for engagement of the WA community and Civil Society to be involved in the development of the WA contribution to the national statement of the Commonwealth People's Forum. We are holding a full day consultation on **Friday 11th March (10am-4pm)**.

This is a fantastic opportunity for West Australian people in the civil society sector to contribute to the development of a policy statement which will be presented to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers during CHOGM 2011.

Civil Society includes people and/or organisations engaged with, but not limited to, the following issues: human rights, ethics, conservation, climate change, health, safety, environment, food security, gender issues, governance, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility.

Please feel free to distribute this information flyer far and wide to anyone you think might be interested in participating on March 11th. There is funding available for subsidised travel and accommodation costs for remote and regional West Australian to attend.

For further information on the Consultation and to book your place [click here](#).

To download an application for Remote and Regional Financial Subsidies form [click here](#)

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Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) – Perth October 2011

As you know from the last eNews WACOSS is the local host NGO supporting the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) one of the parallel events to be held in Perth in October 2011. The CPF opportunities were outlined last time, and in this eNews we would like to concentrate on the development of the Civil Society Statement.

Firstly what do we mean by Civil Society - Is it a genteel polite population or group of people?

It probably is but in the context of CPF "Civil Society includes people and/or organisations engaged with, but not limited to, the following issues: human rights, ethics, conservation, climate change, health, safety, environment, food security, gender issues, governance, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility."

At the Millennium Summit 2000, the UN Secretary General reaffirmed the centrality of civil society and its organisations to the mission of the United Nations in the twenty-first century: 'Not only do you (civil society organizations) bring to life the concept of 'We, the Peoples,' in whose name our Charter was written; you bring to us the promise that 'people power' can make the Charter work for all the world's peoples in the twenty-first century' (Article I.1 UNDP and Civil Society Organizations: A Policy Note on Engagement).

We are holding a full day consultation (booking and subsidy information in article above) as follows;

Date Friday 11th March

Time 9.30am for 10.00am start to 4.30pm.

Venue Tompkins on Swan, Crn Dunkley & Canning Highway, Alfred Cove.

We will provide an update about what is happening with CPF and the Statement in each eNews – so please watch this space!!

For information or clarification contact Ann White - cpf@wacoss.org.au

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WACOSS Media Release: Synergy Must Restore Consumer Confidence 18th February

WACOSS welcomes the release of the 2010 performance audit for Synergy's electrical retail licence by the independent regulator yesterday.

"Our main priority is to see Synergy rectify any outstanding breaches and to ensure customers get access to all of their entitlements and protections," says WACOSS CEO, Ms Sue Ash. "We know that inaccurate and infrequent bills caused great stress to thousands of families when Synergy changed billing systems."

"While many of the issues have been known to us and we are working with Synergy to address these, we were not aware of the scale of breaches around billing practices and the absence of proper checks and balances in internal processes revealed by the audit," says Ms Ash.

To read this media release in full [click here](#).

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WACOSS Procurement Reform Forum

On Thursday 17 February 2011, WACOSS conducted a Procurement Reform Forum to discuss the CCP and future directions.

Over 150 individuals representing service and funding providers attended the Forum. Guest Speaker at the Forum was Simone Spencer, Director – Economic Audit Implementation from the Department of Treasury and Finance. A panel comprising of Sue Ash, CEO, WACOSS; Debbie Karasinski CEO, Senses Foundation (Inc); Francis Lynch CEO, Ruah Community Services, Jeff Simper, WACOSS member and Simone Spencer, Director, DTF discussed procurement reform, the CCP and future directions.

WACOSS also conducted a Keypad survey exercise at the event to determine the sector's procurement reform priorities, their knowledge of the CCP and level of engagement in its development.

To download the WACOSS Presentation from the forum [click here](#)

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'Target 60' success reveals potential for greater water efficiency in Perth

Residents of the Perth metropolitan area have been praised by water Minister Bill Marmion for achieving the 13 billion litre total water saving target set by the Water Corporation's 'Target 60' campaign one month ahead of schedule.

Following the driest winter and spring on record, Perth residents were asked to make additional water savings between December 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

The Water Corporation's broader Climate Resilience Strategy, Water Forever, has adopted a future climate scenario which predicts a 40% decline in rainfall from 1990 to 2060. Such a decline would reduce yields from existing dams and ground water sources below the level required for these to be a reliable part of Perth's ongoing water supply.

To read this article in full [click here](#)

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Regulator Announces Consumer Consultative Committee Membership

The Economic Regulation Authority has appointed members to the ERA Consumer Consultative Committee ERACCC) for the next three years.

The following members have been appointed:

- Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA (Inc)
- Small Enterprise Network (Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA)
- Property Council of Australia
- Pastoralists & Graziers Association of WA (Inc)
- WA Council of Social Service
- Consumer Credit Legal Service (WA) Inc
- WA Local Government Association
- WA Farmers Federation
- Financial Counsellors Association of WA

The following observers have been confirmed:

- Department of Commerce
- Energy Ombudsman WA

To read the ERA notice regarding the ERACCC appointments [click here](#)

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ACOSS calls for action to deal with rising energy prices

A report released Monday 21 February on energy prices from the Australian Industry Group highlights the urgency of a political consensus on Australia's clean energy future, including a price on carbon and greater energy efficiency, but also adequate safeguards to prevent low-income households plunging further into poverty, according to the Australian Council of Social Service...

To continue reading this ACOSS media release [click here](#)

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National Consumer Fraud Week 2011

Scams: It's Personal
Fighting fraud on the home front

This year's National Consumer Fraud Week is all about you. Running from 7 to 13 March, Scams: It's Personal focuses on the personal side and impact of scams, and how we can fight fraud that occurs on the home front.

Scammers do not stop at anything to target victims, including adopting a personal touch. Increasingly scammers are finding ways to get information about your personal profile and use this to play on your relationships with people and organisations you know and trust.

For further information [click here](#)

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Jobseekers2Communities Update

The Jobseekers2Communities Program has two vacancies for very special people. We are looking for someone who is currently unemployed, lives in the southern coastal suburbs between Fremantle and Mandurah, who has skills in file and folder management particularly in computer drives, and can write policy and procedures as well. The position is for 16 weeks starting as soon as possible and will be based in Osborne Park.

We are also seeking someone with qualifications or relevant experience in Human Resource Management and who is currently unemployed, lives in the southern coastal suburbs between Fremantle and Mandurah. This position is also for 16 weeks and starts as soon as possible. The position is based at Fremantle but will require travel to parts of the Metropolitan area for short term placements in not for profit agencies.

For more details please go to the jobs@wacoss page.

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Book Now! Modern Award Information Session – Perth & Bunbury

ACOSS is coordinating a Modern Award Program around the country to provide information and support for community sector employers in transitioning to the modern award. The program is funded by the Fair Work Ombudsman and involves the development of written materials and the delivery of workshops across the country by Jobs Australia.

For further information and to register [click here](#)

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WACOSS Workshop: Developing Teams 10th March

Research clearly shows that when people cooperate and are empowered to act productivity increases, effectiveness is heightened and people become more satisfied in their work. At the heart of this is the leader's ability to develop and engage the team.

This one day workshop is highly interactive, utilising a variety of team tools and experiential learning techniques. The workshop is designed to provide leaders at all levels with some insights and practical ideas to develop their own work team.

For further details and to book your place [click here](#)

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WACOSS Workshop: So you think you can EXCEL?! 16th March

Using spread sheets can be tricky if you are not sure what you are doing!

This day-long workshop will teach you to navigate confidently around an Excel spread sheet, using basic functions to make some simple calculations, and change the sheet to look the way you want it to.

For further details and to book your place [click here](#)

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Social Policy Seminar: Making Sense of Concessions 17th March

The WA Community Services sector has been advocating for an improved policy framework to guide the administration of WA's concessions.

Concessions are a key element of a broader set of initiatives to enable people on low incomes to participate fully in society. Concessions across energy, water, rates, public transport and health play a crucial role to assist low income and vulnerable households to afford items that are critical to life.

There are opportunities to improve access to WA concessions and respond to the changing needs of people. Participate in 'Making Sense of Concessions' and help bring about the changes we need to improve the impact of WA concessions on low income and vulnerable households. The seminar will explore:

- Which State concessions are working well?
- Which concessions are hard to access?
- How can we improve the system for different client groups?
- How can we work together to achieve the change we want to see?

For further details [click here](#)

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WACOSS Workshop: Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) 22nd March

This course teaches adults how to assist other adults experiencing mental health problems or in a mental health crisis. Mental Health First Aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves.

For further details and to book your place [click here](#)

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WACOSS Workshop: HR for Not for Profits 29th March

This course was created by popular demand to help you manage your most valuable resource: people. Learn how good human resource practice can save your organisation time, money and staff. Learn how to keep up with changing legislation, different awards, employment conditions and contractual requirements

For further details and to book your place [click here](#)

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Street Soccer Game, Tuesday 8th March 2011

WACOSS and The Big Issue Street Soccer program invite all interested people to join in the fun and excitement of the first Street Soccer Community Cup match for 2011 between the WACOSS Community Sector workers and volunteers team and The Big Issue Street Soccer team!

Following the success of matches held throughout 2010, the rivalry is set to continue into 2011. The WACOSS Community team is always on the lookout for new talent, so dust off your boots, stretch out those legs and get kicking!!!

All interested players please contact Rory Ritchie at WACOSS: rory@wacoss.org.au or 9420 7222

Spectators are very welcome and encouraged to come along and cheer!

To view the event flyer please [click here](#)

The Big Issue Street Soccer program runs Tuesday 3:30pm to 5:30pm every week (see flyer for more details)

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Secondary Family Support Hubs Update

[Click here](#) for the latest news on the Secondary Family Support Hubs

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The Peet Op Shop Ball for Anglicare WA 2011

Anglicare are revving things up for another night of Op Shop Ball madness and we hope you're ready to join us once again for all the colour, dancing and laughter that is The Peet Op Shop Ball for Anglicare WA.

Date: Saturday 19th March 2011

Venue: Burswood Entertainment Complex, Grand Ballroom

Time: 7pm-12.30am

Dress: Op Shop Attire

For further information [click here](#)

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WA Citizen of the Year Awards

The Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards were first presented in 1973 by the Western Australia Week Council, later renamed Celebrate WA, to provide the community with an opportunity to honour the achievements and contribution of their fellow citizens.

Each year, the State's most prestigious Awards acknowledge remarkable individuals and organisations that motivate and inspire others through their vision, leadership, talent, humility and spirit of community service.

Talented and dedicated recipients of all the awards are positive role models and exemplary Western Australians who have worked tirelessly for the community in which they live. Through their achievements they have reached their goals, inspired others and promoted pride and confidence in Western Australia.

For further information [click here](#)

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Allies in Change

Allies in Change is a leadership development program for people involved with mental health services as Consumers, Carers or Professionals working in the sector. Hosted by Perth Home Care Services, and working in association with CoMHWA; MentalHealthMatters2; Richmond Fellowship and WAAMH, Allies in Change is a unique and exciting opportunity to create a dynamic shift in thinking about Mental Health.

For further information [click here](#)

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Sponsorship opportunity: National Men's Health Gathering 2011

Mens Advisory Network would like to invite you to consider supporting the 2011 National Men's Health Gathering. The 2011 Gathering will be held in Perth, Western Australia from 19 to 22 September 2011. This event is a fantastic opportunity to make

a difference in men's health and wellbeing by sharing knowledge, skills and practice in the area. A sponsorship pack is attached.

The Gathering can provide your organisation with excellent opportunities to promote your products and services and take advantage of an event that will have strong community interest and media coverage. International and key Australian speakers will lead the program, which will make this a week for the nation to focus on the key issues in the field of men's health. The marketing potential of involvement in these events starts from the time you sign up and can continue well beyond the conclusion of the Gathering.

The National Men's Health Gatherings are held biennially and bring together three conferences, each of significant importance. People from across Australia and overseas collaborate and progress issues which foster the well-being and health of men and boys. The 2009 National Men's Health Gathering was held in Newcastle, NSW, Australia from 6 to 9 October 2009 in the milestone year of the formation of the first National Men's Health Policy and attracted over 500 delegates.

This four day Gathering will give participants the opportunity to participate in strengthening the advancement of male health in the Australasian region and beyond through effective strategic planning and knowledge management. We welcome your participation in this unique opportunity. To demonstrate your involvement, commitment and support of improving men's health in Australia or if you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me on +61 2 4984 2554 or email:

menshealth@pco.com.au

For further information on this event and sponsorship [click here](#)

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Bushfire Legal Help WA

The WA legal sector has come together to form Bushfire Legal Help WA to assist victims of the recent bushfire disasters. Free legal assistance is being offered through a consortium of the Gosnells Community Legal Centre, Legal Aid WA, the WA Community Legal Centres Association, the Law Society of Western Australia and the WA Bar Association.

[Click here](#) to read the Media Release

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the Information Sheet

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International Women's Day- WA Women's Hall of Fame

Locally, the centrepiece of IWD 2011 will be the establishment of a WA Women's Hall of Fame.

This unique awards program will be dedicated to our unsung heroines from all walks of life, from all over our State.

Inaugural inductees to WA Women's Hall of Fame will be a mix of prominent contributors, past and present, living and no longer with us, young and old, high-profile and little known.

The criteria and electronic and pdf nomination forms are now available at the official website www.powerof100.com.au

The nomination process is designed to take no more than 3 minutes of your time and nominations are open until **5.00pm on Friday 25 February 2011**.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact event manager Anne-Maree Ferguson on 0439 820177

For further information on the nomination process and criteria [click here](#)

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Celebrating 100 Years International Women's Day

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence (WA) invites you to attend an interactive morning tea to celebrate 100 years of Women's Activism: Social Change and Challenges Ahead

Date: 8 March 2011

Venue: 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

City West Lotteries House (Conf Room)

Time: 9.30-11.00am (Morning Tea provided)

For further details [click here](#)

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Woman of Achievement Award

The Woman of Achievement Award is to recognize and honour a woman who personifies the spirit and humanitarianism of the founders of Zonta International, which was founded on 8 November 1919.

For selection guidelines [click here](#)

For a selection checklist [click here](#)

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Friends of Samaritans Launch 16th March

The Samaritans Crisis Line is delighted to be launching "Friends of Samaritans".

Generously supported by Mosmans Restaurant and Willoughby Park Wines the launch of Friends of Samaritans will be celebrated with an event on Wednesday the 16th of March.

Take in the breathtaking river views from the delightful Mosmans Restaurant while enjoying welcome drinks and canapés followed by a three course dinner. An exciting selection of wines will be served from Willoughby Park Winery, Denmark's newest winery.

As we celebrate the launch of Friends of Samaritans we will be officially welcoming our new Patron The Honourable Justice John McKechnie.

To join us on this very special evening and become a Friend of Samaritans please visit www.samaritanscrisisline.org.au or call 9381 5725

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Suicide Prevention Seminar; Prevalence, Prevention and Early Response to Suicide 31st March

Professionals and representatives of organisations providing services to address and respond to suicide are invited to attend this seminar which will:

- Offer latest evidence and knowledge in the area of prevention and early response to suicide
- Highlight current issues
- Provide new information on current data
- Highlight the latest strategies and service models which respond to suicide and aim to keep people safe
- Update resource information for organisations and communities
- Encourage individuals, organisations and communities to take on a renewed role in suicide prevention
- Provide information on accessing resources from the One Life Team through the WA Suicide Prevention Strategy

For further information [click here](#)

For the full program [click here](#)

To download a registration form [click here](#)

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Positions Vacant at Richmond Fellowship WA

Richmond Fellowship are currently recruiting for the following positions. For further details click on the position title.

[Senior Recovery Worker-Bassendean](#)

[Senior Recovery Worker – Ngulla Mia](#)

[Team Leader – Carer Respite](#)

All applications close **5:00 pm Monday 7 March 2011**

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Position Vacant at Swan Emergency Accommodation. Coordinator - Family Accommodation Support Service

Are you passionate about empowering and supporting young families? Would you like to contribute to solutions to homelessness? This is a rewarding opportunity to join an exciting team whose focus is to support young families to maintain secure accommodation, reduce homelessness and achieve their goals. You will have case management skills, be highly motivated, client centred and will use your excellent negotiation and communication skills to coordinate programs focusing on life skills, parenting and childhood development. The service is located at Transea, a 24/7 accommodation service supporting young families (15 to 25yrs). Applications are welcomed from Aboriginal people.

For further information on this position [click here](#)

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Position Vacant at YMCA Perth. Big Brothers Big Sisters Caseworker

The YMCA is the sole Program Delivery Partner of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in WA. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the leading Youth Mentoring program in Australia and is a unique preventative mentoring program for youth at-risk. The Program has been matching vulnerable young people with carefully selected, approved and trained volunteer mentors basis since 2003.

For further information on this position [click here](#)

Applications close 8th March 2011

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Positions Vacant at Australian Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross are currently recruiting for staff in the Youth Diversion Service.

For further information [click here](#).

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Positions Vacant at Mental Illness Fellowship of WA

The Mental Illness Fellowship of WA are currently recruiting for the following positions. Please click on the job title for further information on each position.

[Coordinator - Well Ways, MI Recovery Program](#)

[Bookkeeper - Full-Time](#)

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Position Vacant at Women's Health and Family Services. Mental Health Worker

Women's Health and Family Services is seeking a qualified health professional for their Perinatal Mental Health Program. You will be part of a multi-disciplinary team offering a range of services, including individual assessment and counselling and facilitating groups. Generous salary packaging and annual leave up to 6 weeks is offered within a family friendly and supportive work environment.

For further information on this position and the application process [click here](#).

To download a job description [click here](#)

Applications close 4th March

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Positions Vacant at Mosaic Community Care

Mosaic Community Care are currently recruiting for the following positions. Click on the position title for further information.

[Disability Support Workers - Community Program](#)

[Disability Support Workers - Residential Program](#)

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