

BRISSC NEWS

Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre

Issue 3

October 2004

BRISSC is a woman's only space, offering information and support in a safe, friendly and empowering environment, free of charge. The support we provide is based on the belief that you have the right to

- Be listened to, believed and supported
- Be treated with respect, dignity and understanding
- Deal with your life, in your own way and at your own pace
- Choose who and what you tell and when
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Receive practical information including reporting, legal and medical options
- Interpreter support and disability support.

October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month...



Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM) is here!!!

Every year sexual assault services and other organisations across Australia organize events to raise awareness within the community around the existence and prevalence of sexual violence.

This month provides all members of the community with an ideal opportunity to become involved and demonstrate concern about sexual violence.

The theme of Sexual Violence awareness month is: 'Sexual Violence: now is the time to draw the line'.

You can get involved in raising awareness of sexual violence and attending some of the great events being organised in the local community. Why not wear a teal ribbon!!!

BRISSC and other sexual assault services throughout QLD including Centre Against Violence at Logan, provide teal ribbons that can be worn throughout October in recognition of those who have experienced sexual violence and as a way of breaking the silence in the community.

~~Sexual Violence~~
NOW IS THE TIME TO DRAW THE LINE

Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre

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Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 4th of October 2004

Centre Against Sexual Violence
Candle Lighting Event from 11.30 am
4/21 Station Road Woodridge
Ph: 38383299

Friday 15th of October 2004

Centre Against Sexual Violence
'Make a Patch' Workshop
Women are invited to make a special patch to reflect their own unique message around sexual violence. The patches will contribute to a wall hanging to be displayed.
Time: 10am - 1pm
Free event, morning tea supplied.
Entry via: 21 Blackwood Rd, Woodridge. Queries: 3808 3299

Saturday 16th of October 2004

'Come on all you tidda's mum's granny's, great granny's and aunts...'

BRISSC and the Tiddas Reference Group

Invites all Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander women and children to come and take part in the celebration of our strong courage, strengthening up, moving on.

Community Gathering for Sexual Violence Awareness Month

Free BBQ provided
Where: Jagera Hall, beside Musgrave Park.

Time: 2pm-4pm

Elders present, Aunty Ella Gordon, Inspirational Speakers, Poetry, Face Painting, Song and Dance, Yarnin up circle

For more info, and to RSVP contact 3391 2573

Together we can help end sexual Violence

Wednesday 20th October 2004

BRISSC

Invites you to an evening of reflection, inspiration and celebration of women's activism. This will be an opportunity to hear a range of women share their experiences of creative, radical community activism that has addressed issues of sexual violence. Come and share your own ideas with other women who are passionate about promoting change and stopping sexual violence!!

A free women's only event:

'Healing in Action'

Time: 5.30- 8.30 pm

Where: South's Leagues Club, Davies Park, Jane Street, West End.

A light supper, tea and coffee provided. Child minding on request. Please RSVP by Oct 13 on 33912573.

Friday 29th of October 2004

BRISBANE

Reclaim the Night Collective

Reclaim the Night 2004

Annual Rally, March and Festival

'Get violence out of the dark: Violence against women and children is unacceptable'

A free women and children only event to stop violence.

Gather @ King George Square

At 6pm for Rally, then march through Brisbane CBD, to the

Ukrainian Hall for festival celebration, 70 Cordeilia Street, South Brisbane.

RSVP for childcare by Tuesday 26th October. For more info call 3391 2573.

Redlands Reclaim the Night Event

Rally 5.30, March from 6.50pm, Celebration Event 7.20- 10 pm
Phone 0403 774 119 for details.

What's Happening: *Groups, Workshops and Courses*

Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre

Understanding Incest: Two supportive workshops to brainstorm ideas for resource development.

Tuesday 16th November
9.30 am—12.30

Tuesday 23rd of November
5.30pm– 8.30 pm

Child minding available on request
Light lunch/supper provided
Please RSVP for either/both of these workshops by Mon 15th November
Ph: 3391 2573

Holiday Season Workshop

Preparing for the holiday season, exploring strategies for managing holiday and Christmas season stress.

Tuesday 7th December
9.30– 1 pm

Child minding available on request
Lunch Provided

RSVP by Thursday 2nd December 3391 2573

Redlands Groups

(Collaborative projects of Recovery After Sexual abuse: Life Line, Redland Community Centre and Queensland Health.)

MONTAGE GROUP

For women recovering from childhood sexual abuse 9am-12 noon, 10 weeks starting in October. FREE group held in Cleveland. Ph: Samantha 3893 8111 or Jasmine on 3488 4222

CHRYSALIS GROUP

Program for non-offending parents of children recovering from sexual abuse. 2hrs per week for 6 weeks. FREE at Bayside.

Phone Christine on 3245 2117 or 3823 2555

Breaking the Silence

A new non therapeutic self help support group for women who have experienced rape/sexual assault. This group is ongoing and allows new members to join at any time. No bookings required, gold coin donations.

When: 11am– 12.30 pm, Once a month, first Friday of the month.

Where: Womenspace, 12/14 Homebush Road Kedron

Contact Trish at Self Help QLD for more info 07 3344 6919

Logan Women's Health Centre

For information on any of these groups/courses please contact LWHC on 38089233

Coping with Anxiety and Panic Group

4 weeks from Thurs 14th October.\$12

Women and Anger Course

7th October– 11th November \$10/ \$20

Women's Development Course

8 week course, 18th October to 6th of December. Monday 9am-2.30pm

Self Help for Depression Course

9.30am– 12noon, 5th November
\$10 member or \$20 non-members

Living Large– group for large size women

1pm—3pm Monday, \$2 per meeting

OWN– Older Women's Network

9.00 am– 12 noon Tuesday

Belly dancing Classes

10am-11am Tuesday, \$5 member or \$7

De stress/relax and Yoga courses

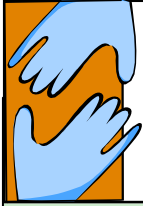
Thursday Mornings

Lesbian Support Group

7th October, 4th November \$2/meeting

WISE group

(Women Informing, Sharing and Empowering.) 10 am - 12.30 Fridays



Social Action Campaigns - opportunities to get involved!!

Reclaim the Night (RTN)

The annual Reclaim the Night Rally, march and festival are an important statement in the campaign to stop all forms of sexual violence against women. They're also a validation of women's strength, survival and solidarity.

RTN is a public demonstration that aims to raise community awareness about sexual violence against women and children. This event is organized by a voluntary collective which is formed each year by committed and hardworking women from the community.

The Reclaim the Night Collective meets at Women's house, 15 Morrisey street Woolloongabba from 6pm-8pm Thursday Nights. **New women are welcome so please support this event by joining the organising team or volunteering on the night for jobs such as marshaling, helper at the bar or with the cleanup. Call 3391 2573 for info.**

National Abuse Free Contact Campaign

This campaign was initiated because of concerns relating to the exposure of children to abuse and domestic violence following separation as a result of unsafe contact arrangements, usually ordered by the family court.

The campaign aims to make the government listen, and to prioritise the safety of victims of violence.

Children who have been sexually abused by a parent are currently the only category of rape victim who can be compelled by a court order to have

a continuing relationship with the person who has offended against them. If you are interested in being part of this campaign please call Amanda at BRISSC 3391 2573.

Stop Violence Against Women Global Campaign,

Through this campaign Amnesty International Australia will call on worldwide leaders, organisations and individuals to publicly make the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protection for all a reality for women.

Amnesty International will demand:

- The abolition of laws and practices around the world which discriminate against women and perpetuate violence.
- Effective laws, policies and programs to stop violence in the family.
- Effective enforcement of laws which criminalise rape and other forms of sexual violence, in wartime and in peace.

The campaign will seek to end discrimination against women everywhere. It will seek the solidarity of men with women in recognition that violence against women affects everyone in our community.

You can find out more by visiting: www.amnesty.org.au or calling 1300 300 920.





NEWS and Service Updates

Renovations

This year has seen Women's House 15 Morrisey St Woolloongabba, BRISSC's current home, experience a major makeover and renovations. A Jupiter's grant has enabled us to build a large downstairs group and meeting area and kids space, all of which will all be wheelchair accessible. The upstairs renovations, made possible by the Gambling Benefit Fund, have included refurbishment of the BRISSC office spaces, support room and a new computer and phone system and it is amazing what a difference a little paint, carpet and custom built desks can make! Our former unsightly shoe box has been transformed into a comfortable and spacially economical working environment. (With up to 4 workers working in the one space this makes a huge difference to our stress levels! :-)

Although we have attempted to provide as much of our usual services as possible during the renovations, despite being relocated for four months, we are aware that there may have been some unavoidable lost phone calls and disappointments for women during this time. We apologise for any inconvenience

the renovations have caused women seeking support and hope women will ultimately benefit from these changes. Whilst the upstairs space is nearing completion the downstairs area will not be completed until early next year which will coincide nicely with our 30th Birthday celebrations.

30th Birthday Celebrations

Plans are well and truly afoot to open our new space with a big show of community support for the work done by Women's House over the past 30 years on Saturday March 26, 2005. Women who would like to be involved in some way with the organizing of this event are welcome to contact us on 3391 2573 for more information. There will also be an Art Competition for women wanting to create a t-shirt logo for this event, with a great prize of \$100 going to the chosen design. Entries may be submitted up until the end of January and must be labeled clearly with contact details.

News

Some of you will recall our relief worker Sara, a former social work student at BRISSC. Sara recently gave birth to a healthy boy Bede. Both mum and babe are doing well.

Upcoming Conferences

Challenge, Change and Cha Cha Cha...

A Conference on Women, Feminism and the Law. Women's Legal Service 20th Anniversary of challenging and changing the legal system
27-29 October 2004
Hilton, Brisbane.
Contact: (07) 3392 0644

Interesting Websites

Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre www.brissc.com.au

Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault www.aifs.gov.au/acssa

WEAVIN- Women Educating Against Violence Information Network
www.weavin.org.au

Women's Safety after Separation
<http://wsas.here.ws>

Contacts for Services:

Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline:
(24 hrs)

1800 010 120

Domestic Violence Telephone Service
(24 hrs)

1800 811 811

Lifeline (24 hrs)

131 114

Kids Help Line- for people up to 18yrs (24 hrs)

1800 551 800

Parentline

1300 301 300

Salvo Care (24 hrs)

3831 9016

Sexual Crimes Investigations Unit

3364 6430

Thanks for your feedback:

In the last issue, BRISSC sought feedback from you about our newsletter. Thank you to everyone who sent in their ideas/feedback.

The feedback we have received so far has been positive with the upcoming events and resources and information identified as very helpful.

Ideas for future newsletters included putting information onto the back page and making room for personal letters/questions, positive stories or good news. If anyone would like to contribute to our newsletter in this way, please let us know.

If you would like to give us further feedback on our services, including our newsletters, events, workshops, website, telephone/face to face support or groups, please phone us on 3391 2573 or email info@brissc.com.au, or write to us at 15 Morrisey Street Woolloongabba 4102.

Exciting New Resource

Surviving the Legal System:

***A Handbook for Adult and Child Sexual Assault Survivors and Their Supporters
Dr S Caroline Taylor, 2004***

This is a new handbook that provides information about survivors rights in the legal system, information on reporting and proceeding with the legal process, explanations of different courts as well as tips to help prepare for the procedures, strategies and tactics of defense barristers.

\$27.95 each, plus \$5.00 Postage

To order, Contact Coulomb Communications
enquires@coulomb.com.au
or Phone: 03 9523 8091

THIS RESOURCE WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FROM OUR FREE BORROWING LIBRARY!!

If your contact details change or you no longer want to be on our mailing list to receive this newsletter please let us know.