



# Miranda Matters

A PROJECT OF THE COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE.

July 2016

## **The Miranda Project offers an innovative, gender specific approach to crime prevention through the establishment of a holistic inclusive support service.**

- In April 2016, NSW had 944 women in custody
- 32% of the female prison population were Aboriginal. Aboriginal women make up 2% of the general population in NSW
- Around 42% of the female prison population were being held on remand

### **LET THE PROGRAM BEGIN**

The Miranda Program is the core pillar in the Miranda Project. It is a therapeutic and practical program for women at risk of offending or re-offending. The Program aims to fill an acknowledged gap in program provision for women offenders in the community.

The Program will be trialled in five sites in NSW commencing in August - Leichhardt and Penrith Women's Health Centres, Waminda (Nowra), Central West Women's Health Centre (Bathurst) and Lou's Place in Kings Cross. Referral and other procedures are being developed for the Program pilot. The Program is evidence based, builds on established treatment programs and is structured for flexible delivery.

The Miranda Program aims to assist women offenders gain resilience to break

from a cycle of re-offending, make positive connections, and engage in activity to become productive members of the community.

The work of Sarah Howard, Miranda Program Developer, is acknowledged. Sarah, a Senior Services and Programs Officer with Corrective Services NSW, has used her skills and experience to deliver an impressive Program on time and within budget and we thank her as she returns to her substantive position.

## **FUNDING UPDATE**

The Community Restorative Centre has recently made a substantial contribution to the Project which will enable the full-time employment of a Coordinator to manage the implementation of the pilot Program and evaluation as well as establish a process for the roll out of the Program across NSW.

Project staff are seeking funding opportunities to enable the Project to employ an aboriginal coordinator as well as achieve its goals of opening a drop-in centre as well as a service to facilitate employment opportunities for clients as well as all women in the criminal justice system who are experiencing difficulties in securing employment.

## **COULD YOU MANAGE THE PROGRAM? AN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Community Restorative Centre is currently looking for a Program Coordinator for the Miranda Project. This is a full time position for a period of 1 year.

The position is also live on the [Community Restorative Centre](http://www.crcnsw.org.au) website.

[www.crcnsw.org.au](http://www.crcnsw.org.au)

## **MEET THE WOMAN WHO STARTED IT**

The Rt Hon. the Baroness Corston is a Labour Life peer sitting in the House of Lords since 29 June 2005. She previously sat in the House of Commons as MP for Bristol East.

Baroness Corston was commissioned by the Home Office to conduct a report, known as the Corston Report, into vulnerable women in the criminal justice system of the UK which was published in March 2007. The Report outlines “the need for a distinct radically different, visible-led, strategic, proportionate, holistic, woman-centred, integrated approach” which has largely informed government policy on the matter.

The model for the Miranda Project is based on the some of the recommendations of the Corston Report and the subsequent achievements being made by community centres in providing an holistic set of services to women in the criminal justice system.

Baroness Corston is visiting Sydney from 12 to 15 September 2016 at the invitation of the Sydney Community Foundation and partners SHINE for KIDS and the Zonta Club of Sydney. In recognition of the strong links between the Miranda Project and the recommendations of the Corston Report , the Miranda Project has joined as a financial partner in the visit.

The Miranda Program will be officially launched by Her Honour Judge Dina Yehia SC of the District Court of NSW at an event being organised by the School of Social Sciences at UNSW on 15 September.

On Tuesday, 13 September Baroness Corston will speak as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series at the Institute of Criminology at Sydney University at 6pm. On Wednesday, 14 September a breakfast event - Empowering Women- Changing Lives - will be held at NSW Parliament House in support of the Women in Prison Advocacy Network. Details and

registrations will be available for those events shortly.

The Baroness will meet with NSW Government ministers and senior NSW Public Sector officers and key stakeholders involved in supporting women in the criminal justice system during her visit to Sydney.

Deirdre Hyslop  
Director, Miranda Project

Megan Etheridge  
Manager, Miranda Project

CONTACT THE MIRANDA PROJECT at [miranda.project@crcnsw.org.au](mailto:miranda.project@crcnsw.org.au)

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