



ConnectGroups  
helping support groups & individuals



Self Help & Support Groups  
National Awareness Day ~

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## Symposium & EXPO

8 September 2011

“Helping each other to help ourselves”

## Event Program

“Everything becomes a little  
different as soon as it is spoken  
out loud.”

~ Hermann Hesse





## Program

- 8:00 - 8:15 am Registration
- 8:15 - 8:55 am Entertainment - Folk Singer Nat Ripepi (WAMI Nominee 2011)
- 8:55 - 9:00 am Welcome- Karen Tighe (MC)
- 9:00 - 9:05 am Welcome to Country
- 9:05 - 9:10 am "Our journey so far" - Pearl Proud (ConnectGroups Chair)
- 9:10 - 9:15 am "From WISH to ConnectGroups" - Antonella Segre (ConnectGroups Executive Officer)
- 9:15 - 9:20 am Official Opening of the event - Hon. Minister Robyn McSweeney - Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests; Youth
- 9:20 - 9:30 am Testimonial - Amanda Young Foundation
- 9:30 - 10:30 am Panel Discussion  
Jenni Perkins (Director General—Department for Communities)  
Alison Xamon MLC (Member for the East Metropolitan Region)  
Myra Browne (Mental Health Commission Director Strategic Policy)  
Dr Simon Towler (Chief Medical Officer, WA Department of Health)  
Irina Cattalini (CEO—WACOSS)
- 10:30 - 10:50 am 'Voices from Within' Choir
- 10:50 - 11:00 am Testimonial - GenWhy Depression Support Group
- 11:00 - 1:00 pm Symposium " Self Help and Support Groups Discussions that Matter"
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm Light Lunch

# Biography Summaries



## MC ~ Karen Tighe Broadcaster ABC Sport

Karen has been a regular face and voice of ABC TV and radio sport since 1989. Karen co-hosted ABC Radio's coverage of the Sydney, Athens and Beijing Olympics, Kuala Lumpur and Manchester Commonwealth Games and has hosted five Paralympic Games with ABC TV. She was the Media Award winner at the 2000 and 2001 Australian Sports Awards.



## Hon. Minister Robyn McSweeney MLC, Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests; Youth

The Minister was elected as a Member of the Legislative Council for the South West Region in 2001. Robyn also chaired the Legislative Committee on the Adequacy of Foster Care Assessment Procedures in 2005 and served two terms on the Environment and Public Affairs Committee.

## Panel Members



## Jenni Perkins, Director General – Department for Communities

Ms Perkins was appointed the Director General of the Department for Communities in August 2010. She had extensive experience in social policy and community development across the non-government, local government and state government sectors.



## Alison Xamon, MLC Member for the East Metropolitan Region

Alison Xamon is the Greens Member for the East Metropolitan region and is the spokesperson for numerous organisations such as Mental Health, Disabilities, Education, Training, Employment, Women, Children & Youth, Public Service, Community Services and Volunteering.



## Myra Browne, Acting Director Strategic Policy – Mental Health Commission

Myra Browne has been with the Mental Health Commission for over a year and is the acting Director Policy, Strategy and Planning. She has worked in human services for over thirty years in policy, strategy, workforce development and counselling.



## Dr Simon Towler, Chief Medical Officer, WA Department of Health

Dr Simon Towler was appointed Chief Medical Officer for WA Health in 2005 and continues clinical practice as an intensivist at Royal Perth Hospital, St John of God Hospital and the Mount Hospital in Perth.



## Irina Cattalini, CEO - WACOSS

Irina joined WACOSS in 2005, where she is currently Chief Executive Officer, and has also held the position of Director, Social Policy leading the policy, research and advocacy work of WA's leading community service peak body.

## Stallholders

Amanda Young Foundation  
Angelhands Inc.  
Arafmi Mental Health Carers & Friends Association (WA) Inc.  
Arthritis WA  
Australian Breastfeeding Association  
Companion Animal Loss  
Compassionate Friends  
Department for Communities  
Drug Free Attention Difficulties Support (DFADS)  
Even Keel Bi-Polar Disorder Support Association Inc  
Fibromyalgia Support Network  
From The Heart WA  
Genwhy—Depression Support Group  
Grow WA  
Heart Support Australia

Kalparrin  
Leukaemia Foundation  
Linkwest  
ME/CFS Society of WA  
Meniere's Australia  
Myasthenia Gravis Friends and Support Group  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA)  
National Stroke Foundation  
Neurological Council of WA  
Prison Fellowship WA  
Prostate Cancer Support Group  
Samaritans Crisis Line  
Special Aussies Foundation  
Spina Bifida Association of WA  
WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH)  
Women's Healthworks

## Acknowledgements

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Lotterywest for supporting the event.  
Department for Communities for the Community Activity Grant which has allowed our Regional and Rural Members to attend.

The Panelists.

The Board of Management and Staff of ConnectGroups.

Supported by



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department for **Communities**

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