

Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW

Leaflet published by the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW Inc.

Speakout objectives:

- to identify key issues and areas of concern of immigrant and refugee women.
- to resource and support emerging women's groups.
- to provide information and referral services to non-English speaking background women.
- to advocate and lobby on issues affecting women of culturally diverse backgrounds.
- to increase employment, education and training opportunities for women of non-English speaking background.
- to monitor and evaluate access to and equity in the provision of services.
- to resource non-English speaking background women in regional and rural areas.
- to respond to policy ensuring that the diverse needs of women are addressed.
- to undertake community based research in key areas.
- to act on outcomes and recommendations of research relevant to non-English speaking background women.

The speakout is committed to:

- achieving equity for women of non-English speaking background regardless of race, ethnicity or cultural background, age, ability, religion, sexuality or socioeconomic background.

- addressing the diverse needs of immigrant and refugee women in NSW.
- ensuring that non-English speaking background women participate fully in decision making structures and processes.
- advocating and lobbying on social justice issues.
- ensuring that women of non-English speaking background have equal access to resources and opportunities.
- actively promoting social justice issues within a culturally diverse society.

Speakout activities and projects:

- Grant in Aid Community Development Project
- Domestic Violence Project
- Specialist Migrant Placement Officer Program
- Establishment of the NSW Working Women's Centre
- "You are not the only one" - video production on Domestic Violence (1993)
- "Non-English Speaking Background Women's Mental Health: A Community Based Study" (Schofield, Nasser and Kambouris, 1993)
- "The Politics of Speaking Out: Immigrant Women Ten Years On" (Conference Proceedings, 1992)

Background

In March 1982, 300 women gathered in Sydney to speak out publicly on issues affecting women of non-English speaking background. As a result of this landmark meeting, a working party was convened which led to the establishment of the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW in 1985.

Since then, the Speakout has focussed on key areas including education, employment and training, domestic violence, immigration, industrial issues, child care, health, housing, legal issues, anti-discrimination, and issues of access and equity.

The Immigrant Women's Speakout Association is the peak advocacy, information and lobby body representing the issues and ideas of women of non-English speaking backgrounds in NSW.

The Speakout is a community based organisation and is managed by women of non-English speaking background.

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