

## AVP-WA Chairperson's Report 2010

As Chairperson of the AVP-WA Committee in 2010 it gives me very great pleasure in delivering this report. 2010 has been another very productive and successful year for AVP-WA. We have continued to grow and expand throughout the state.

### **Workshops**

The number and range of workshops and 'tasters' or promotions have continued to increase in 2010.

There were a total of 51 AVP workshops run in WA in 2010. 22 were basic workshops, 11 were advanced and 7 were training for facilitators. They included 22 workshops in 4 prisons—14 in Acacia, 3 in Wooroloo, 3 in Karnet and 2 in Broome Prison.

Community Workshops were many and varied this year with 9 general ones and 4 for special groups including one for Muslim women, several with Noongar groups and 9 in Broome. Three tasters were offered, 11 half hour sessions on team building and conflict resolution for midnight basketball indigenous groups, 3 information sessions presented to indigenous groups, and 2 all day promotions were set up for a prison and an indigenous youth football final. Community workshops continue to happen primarily in response to personal connections from AVP facilitators. Tasters are often as a result of an approach from an interested group who are not quite sure if they are ready for a full-scale workshop – or an invitation to present at a community event.

Five AVP workshops were conducted for Warnbro senior High School students this year with 12 young facilitators being trained and 3 at two other schools. Unfortunately only a few of our facilitators are available during the week which limits our ability to promote and deliver workshops in schools.

Special thanks to Sally, Michelle, Amy, Jo, Peter, Olwyn and the Broome Committee for the very competent organisation that has gone into arranging all of these workshops. This is often a huge and always complex job without which they could not be so successful. The increasing number and complexity of workshops makes this aspect of our AVP work very demanding.

### **Facilitators**

We have over 60 community facilitators on our books and nearly half of those were active in some way in delivering workshops during 2010. 45 new facilitators were trained this past year. 22 are men in prisons. 8 new facilitators are from Broome of whom 4 are indigenous. There are another 4 facilitators of other different ethnicities. It is very encouraging to see this broadening of our ethnic base after many years of effort.

### **Training**

Monthly training sessions continued to be held, two of which were offered at Acacia Prison and led by inmates. Another one was held at Karnet. The sessions are also attended by outmate facilitators. Jim Thom ably coordinated training this year— thank you very much Jim. And a number of facilitators volunteered to lead sessions and share their knowledge and skills. Thank

you to everyone who so enthusiastically participated and made them worthwhile. We also used some scheduled training nights to review our plans for the year and our activities. Training nights are not only about skill development; they are also about staying in touch with AVP and its ethos. They are always thought provoking – and fun.

A weekend away was again held at Guilderton providing the opportunity for those who attended to engage in peer appraisal, share good company, food and skills. Thank you to Jo and Peter for the use of their beach house for this event.

### **The Committee**

While we started the year with a relatively large number of committee members, during the year that number has dwindled. However the committee has continued to operate effectively and I want to personally, and on behalf of all AVP-WA members and participants, thank those who have contributed to this important (though often under-appreciated) aspect of AVP-WA's work. Without the hard work of committee members we would not be able to continue to operate effectively and efficiently. To improve the operations of the committee, during the year we conducted a Total Activities Analysis (TAA) to identify all the work we do and ensure that there were people doing each of those tasks. We will continue to refine this in the coming year. I do urge anyone who would like to contribute to the effective operations of AVP-WA to offer their time and expertise to serve on the committee or pick up one of the many tasks identified in the TAA. These are ways that people who perhaps are unable to spend much time doing workshops can continue to actively contribute to AVP-WA. The role of the committee is to ensure that all required work is done – not necessarily to do it all themselves.

A separate sub-committee has been established in Broome to support and promote operations there.

Three general meetings were held at Acacia this year and resulted in valuable contributions by inmates to our discussions. These were well attended by outmates as well. An Acacia prison sub-committee has now been established – a most welcome development.

Both sub-committees report regularly to the Perth committee.

Three issues of the Newsletter were also produced during the year. These are a useful way of informing others as well as members about AVP operations. Thanks to Debbi for her valuable work on these.

### **Social Events**

An end of the year gathering was held at Acacia prison when all inmates who have facilitated or participated in workshops are invited to celebrate with visiting community AVP facilitators. A second gathering was held in the community and was attended by community facilitators and their families. These events enable the AVP community to gather, relax and enjoy fellowship together.

### **AVP Nationally and Internationally**

This past year has seen active participation from several AVP-WA members in both national and international committees. These groups meet on Skype and enable us all to stay in touch with the wider developments and operations of AVP. These meetings are open to all AVP

facilitators everywhere in Australia so there is no reason why others should not be involved if they wish to do so.

Two of our members are prominent in the group planning the next AVP international gathering in Guatemala in late 2011. Sally is Clerk and Michelle is clerk of the finance committee. The next AVP national gathering is to be held in Perth in January 2012. It will be important for our local committee to provide appropriate support for these upcoming events.

Two facilitators from Perth went to Nepal in September/October even when the planned International Gathering there was cancelled and took the opportunity to meet with Fellow AVPers there.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The year 2010 has been successful one for AVP-WA in terms of:

- our workshop delivery in which we are increasing the diversity of participants, facilitators, and venues in both the community and in prisons
- our finances which were well used (thanks to Sally)
- and organisationally as we continue to grow

Thank you and much gratitude to all involved in AVP-WA. It's great to be a part of this little organisation that makes a big difference to participants and facilitators alike.

Anna Alderson  
Chairperson  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2010