AVP WA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

Upcoming Workshops

October 31 – November 2: Acacia (M) T4F
November 10 – 12: Bunbury Prison Advanced
November 17 – 19: Bunbury Prison PRU Advanced
November 24 – 26: Karnet Prison Farm T4F
Nov 30 – Dec 2: Wooroloo Prison Farm Advanced
December 12 – 14: Acacia (M) Basic

End of Year Gathering in Mount Lawley – 5th December

Saturday 5th December from 10.00 – 2.30

Quaker Meeting House – 35 Clifton Street, Mount Lawley

The day will be devoted to celebration, sharing and AVP-style fun and games.

Everyone is welcome.

We will supply morning tea.

Please bring a plate to share for lunch.

Please let Selene know if you are coming to help with planning. avp.wa1@gmail.com

Facilitator Day 3rd October

At the facilitator day we considered some recent workshop recommendations. A summary of the responses is below:

How do we keep the right balance between serious and fun?

- Sometimes the fun part seems to get out of hand.
- We thought maybe we could drop a light and lively.
- Talk to group and ask how they feel about the depth of the workshop.
- Remind of the guidelines and remind them that although we are having fun, we are here to examine a serious issue.

Should we try to do Unit 2 workshops separately? How else can we handle the prejudice?

- In Karnet and Bunbury there is sometimes discernible prejudice between participants because of their crimes, or perceived crimes.
- It's difficult to know how to deal with this.
- The facilitators can model appropriate behaviours.
- We can ask the transitional manager to make sure there are a few prisoners there who might be targeted to offer each other support.
- We thought if we try to run segregated workshops, we will perhaps be reinforcing the stereotypes.

Is it appropriate for us to run a workshop for three people?

- There is considerable time and expense involved in running a three-day workshop.
- Sometimes we don't know until we arrive that some participants have pulled out.
- They don't get the full community building group experience in a small group. However, we thought that certainly for a T4F and maybe an advanced, that we would proceed with a small number of participants. We could reduce the length of the workshop.

Sometimes the prison does not seem to appreciate our time and effort. Eg no biscuits, lack of information, being kept waiting. Do we just grin and bear it?

- It can be really annoying when these sorts of things happen. However, it also gives us some insight to the issues experienced by prison inmates.
- We should assess how important the issue is. If it is major and recurrent then we should make a formal approach to the prison administration. Minor issues we should just grit our teeth and let it pass. However, if in the future we need to reduce our workload then these things will come into play when we decide where to facilitate.

What are the risks and advantages involved in letting a participant facilitate activities. Should we do it?

- We decided we should not let a participant lead an exercise without first checking with the team. Then we ask for details of the exercise and set a time limit.
- It is good to be flexible and good to encourage participants but we must be careful to keep on topic and not them take over.

From time to time in the prison environment a workshop is cut short due to lock downs. Is it valid to occasionally shorten a workshop?

- It depends on how short the workshop has been and if the essential topics have been covered. Also, on how much notice we have of the lock down.
- If we lose a whole day, it is good to try to reschedule the final day soon as possible.
- If we have warning that things are going to close down at lunch we can perhaps abbreviate some of the processes.

The Future of AVPWA

We had a brainstorm on the features of AVPWA in the past and the features we'd like to emphasise for the future of AVPWA.

We distilled this down to five main categories that we would like to concentrate on.

MARKETING

FUNDING

MORE FACILITATORS

A STRONGER COMMUNITY

TRY DIFFERENT THINGS

Editor's note

An AVP WA newsletter is published monthly. If you have any news, photos, inmate contributions or new things you've tried in workshops, please send them to our newsletter editor Selene.

selenemoonbeams@gmail.com

Need more information?

For details of upcoming workshops or facilitator days, to volunteer to help facilitate a workshop, or just to find out more about AVP, please contact our Coordinator Selene.

avp.wa1@gmail.com