WA Centre for Research for Women  
Final report on closure  
June 15, 2007

The centre was established under the University's Guidelines for the Establishment and Review of UWA Research and Training Centres. Section 5 of these guidelines outlines the reporting procedures required by the University, namely:

5.2.1 The director of a centre must submit a final report to Research Services, through the Dean responsible for the centre... including the following information:
  • a brief summary of the centre’s key achievements
  • an outline of the centre’s progress in relation to the goals, objectives and performance indicators specified at the time of its establishment
  • where applicable, a statement of any impediments encountered
  • in cases where the centre will close, where applicable, a statement addressing issues such as disposal of assets owned by the centre and entitlement to income from intellectual property

Summary of the Centre’s key achievements since coming to UWA in April 2006

Progress on goals, objectives and performance indicators specified at the time of its establishment.

In 2006 the Centre’s main objective was to establish the WACRW Fund and attract donations. Due to the magnitude of the task and limited resources, the WACRW Board, in consultation with its Advisory Council, directed that all resources should be devoted to the fund raising program. Existing research projects were to be managed to completion but no new projects initiated. Achievements to this end were:

Fund raising

The Centre did not achieve its fund raising target but went extremely close to doing so. Details are:

1. March 2006, WACRW engaged its new Advisory Council to actively guide and work on the fund raising task.
2. April 2006, Emeritus Professor Fay Gale accepted the role of WACRW’s inaugural Honorary Patron, undertaking to assist with fund raising.
3. June 2006, won a $58,000 seed funding grant from the WA Health Department, to establish the WACRW Fund.
4. July 2006 when the Centre moved into its UWA office, the campaign proper began with approaches to major donors and community.
5. August 2006, the WACRW Fund was established within, and managed by the Hackett Foundation. It attracted tax deductible donations in cash and bequests ($10,000 to date).
6. October 2006, the official opening of WACRW’s UWA office affirmed WACRW’s very strong standing within the WA community and government and boosted fund-raising prospects.
7. In October 2006 the Centre attracted a commitment for financial partnership from LotteryWest, who offered to join with state government Departments in funding the Centre for two years while it completed its philanthropy campaign. UWA office of development predicted the Centre would attract its $3.8 million target, or a major part of it, for the WACRW Fund with two years.
8. In March 2007, drawing on its Advisory Council and large, supportive network, WACRW submitted a proposal to the WA Premier to either provide this required two year’s of funding to achieve the philanthropy target, or to make a large donation to the WACRW Fund itself. The proposal went to the Premier through and with the full support of the Office of Premier and Cabinet and with eight positive letters of support from senior women in WA government and government departments, including the new Minister for
Women's Interests. The Premier did not approve the proposal and advised the Centre to seek Commonwealth Government funding. The Commonwealth Minister had already been approached in 2006 and responded that the Centre was a state government responsibility. And so the Centre fell short, somewhere in between state and commonwealth funding baskets.

Project completion

Three projects, which were commenced while WACRW as at Curtin, were then completed while at UWA. A fourth project is continuing. These were:

1. **WA State Perinatal Mental Health Research Program**: four projects:
   
   1.1 **Tuned in parenting: for parenting of young children**. Dr Lyn Priddis, Curtin University.
   
   1.2 **The development of a culturally sensitive group intervention for culturally and linguistically diverse postpartum women**. Dr Rosie Rooney, Curtin University.
   
   1.3 **Managing work and motherhood: implications for perinatal mental health**. Dr Danielle Gallegos, Murdoch University.
   
   1.4 **Strategic Service Planning for Perinatal Health in Western Australia**. Dr Katie Thomas, Curtin University.


3. **Advancing organisational culture: executive women leading women**, WA Department of Education and Training. Eight projects resulting in eight publications on the DET Women in Leadership web page:

   3.1 **Integrating a specialist function (Intellectual Property) into a broader Department framework**. Delys Bird, Senior Honorary Research Fellow, University of Western Australia Sue Lapham, Director Corporate Development, WestOne Services, Western Australia Department of Education and Training

   3.2 **Supporting and enhancing the aspirations of Aboriginal women principals in DET**. Delys Bird, Senior Honorary Research Fellow, University of Western Australia and Rosa Lincoln, District Director, WA Department of Education and Training.

   3.3 **Mentoring at a distance**. Dr Jane Pearce, Murdoch University and Margaret Collins, District Director, WA Department of Education and Training.

   3.4 **Diversity in women's leadership**. Dr Susan Hall, Curtin University and Janine Milton, District Director, WA Department of Education and Training.

   3.5 **Enhancing culture and leadership through the Aspirant Program**. Dr Susan Hall, Curtin University and Lesley Street, District Director, WA Department of Education and Training.

   3.6 **An on-the-job training program**. Dr Kathryn Dixon, Curtin University and Leila Botham, District Director, WA Department of Education and Training.

   3.7 **Enabling leadership**. Dr Bridget Leggett, Edith Cowan University and Lois Joll, Director, Senior Schooling Academic Standards and Support, Curriculum Standards Directorate

   3.8 **Primary teachers' career day**. Dr Angela Fielding, Curtin University and Jan Workman, District Director, WA Department of Education and Training.

4. **Sustaining families and communities: extended shift workers in the Goldfields**.

   This project is continuing through the chief researcher, Associate Professor Bev Thiele, at Murdoch University.

One other project commenced at UWA, was completed in 2006 and extended by client request. This was, **Updating information publications for medical practitioners counsellors, women and the community**, WA Department of Health. Dr Carol Thorogood, Edith Cowan University. This project contributed two government publications for the Department of Health. Dr Thorogood will submit the final ethics report on this project to UWA in June 2007.
All projects intended for 2007 were held off to await the March funding submission to the state government and then stopped when the proposal was not successful.

**Statement of any impediments encountered**
The Centre’s need to earn a large part of its own core funding, as it operated, and having no office to work from for seven months in 2006 were serious impediments to fund raising.

**Disposal of assets and intellectual property**
The Centre has no registered assets (non-consumable assets over $5000).

However, it has one lease agreement for a lap-top computer and port replicator and projector. This leasing agreement has been paid out in full and copy of payments lodged with Graham Moyle of financial services, who is assisting the Centre with close down procedures. This leasing agreement is held with the Centre’s previous host university (Curtin) and the assets will be returned there when the lease expires in February 2008. In the interim the asset will be held in the Faculty of Art, under the care of the UWA Board chair, Delys Bird.

Other assets, valued below $5000 and purchased with WACRW funds will remain in the office. They are:

1. Three in one – HP fax, copy, scanner.
2. HP coloured printer
3. 3 double door, document cupboards
4. 1 x small round meeting table
5. 1 x computer chairs
6. 2 x white boards
7. 1 x projector screen
8. 1 x screen divider
9. 1 x Compaq computer
10. 1 x mobile pedestal cupboard
11. 1 x oblong work station cupboard
12. 2 x footrests
13. 1 x office fridge
14. 1 x coat stand
15. 1 x umbrella holder
16. 1 x small magazine table
17. 1 x large outdoor mat

Other equipment was provided for the office by the University and this also remains in the office, namely:

1. 2 x large tables
2. 10 x regular chairs
3. 2 x computer chairs
4. 2 x mobile pedestal cupboards
5. 2 x workstations
6. 1 x bookshelf
7. 3 x double door, upright document cupboards

Donations to the WACRW Fund are held in the Hackett Foundation and will be returned to donors by the Office of University Development. Cheryl Mariner is overseeing this process.