



Press Release – Women of Worth

Key Points:

- The Women of Worth (WoW) program is being defunded on 28 February 2021.
- A rally is being held at Parliament House at 10:00 am 17 February 2021.
- The program is the only one of its kind in Darwin, supporting female prisoners to re-engage and reconnect with community.
- Programs like Women of Worth are critical in ensuring female prisoners are connected with the right supports to reintegrate into community post release.
- Top End Women's Legal Service, which provides the only face to face civil and family law service to women incarcerated in Darwin, will be attending the rally to show their support for the much needed WoW program.

Overview

The Women of Worth (WoW) program, delivered by YWCA Australia, provides pre and post-release support to female prisoners in the Darwin Correctional Centre. The program is the only one of its kind in Darwin, supporting women to re-engage and reconnect with community.

"My case worker helped me to believe in myself and made me feel human."

Rocket, former prisoner

The WoW program helps connect women with education and employment opportunities, safe and secure housing and supports them through case management to stay drug free for 12 months post release. A 2017 evaluation found that 75 per cent of program participants remained in their community post release and did not re-offend.

Vanessa Lethlean, TEWLS Managing Solicitor, says 'TEWLS is concerned the already high rates of female incarceration in Darwin will further increase without WoW.'

The program has won two national awards including the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Gold Community Award (2019) and the prestigious Fitzgerald Justice Award for contributing significantly to the protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights in the area of law and justice (2018).

The Federal Government will cease funding for the WoW program at the end of February 2021. A rally is being held at the Northern Territory Parliament House at 10:00 am on 17 February 2021 to protest the funding cuts.