

OUR HISTORY

For over **40 years**, WIRE has been at the forefront of **creating possibilities** for women and gender diverse people.

1985 - 1990

- **Fighting for Funding Campaign** with VCOSS.
- Consultations on Law Reform Commission's **review of sexual offences law**.
- Joan Kirner AC becomes **Victoria's first female Premier**.
- Women and AIDS project holds national Phone In; **40,000 booklets distributed**.
- Successful campaign for CSV to fund **4% wage increase**.

1995 - 2000

- **Collaboration** with **Crisis Line** and **Volunteering Victoria** on volunteer telephone services research project.
- **Expansion** to include Women's Information Centre in Flinders Lane, **e-mail, online services**, and a **1300 number**.

WiRE

1980 - 1985

- First meeting to **establish women's phone line** with coalition of women's groups and Women's Policy and Coordination Unit.
- Australia signs the **Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**.
- **WIRE publicly opens** on International Women's Day, 8 March, 1984.
- New logo on 19 trams with the message "Women Phone WIRE".

1990 - 1995

- Formed the **Women's Services Coalition** with VCOSS.
- Gena Fawns initiated **reduced-rate counselling** sessions for low-income women.
- Victoria Equal Opportunity Act amended to **outlaw sexual harassment**.
- Ads challenging female stereotypes created with artists Brett Jones and Sarah Stubbs.

2000 - 2005

- Founding members **Janet Horn** and **Philomena Horsley** named on **Victorian Honour Roll**.
- Consulted on The Body Shop's **'Help Stop Violence in the Home'** global campaign.
- **Abolished law of provocation** in Victoria.

2005 - 2010

- Gambling research project '**Peril of the Pokies**'.
- **Relocated** to Queen Victoria Women's Centre.
- **Financial literacy report** and guide published.
- Trained **gambling support workers**.
- Conducted research on women and **problem gambling**.
- Victoria **decriminalises abortion**.
- Centenary of women's right to vote.

2015 - 2020

- Launched "**Women Talk Money**" website.
- Dr. Nilmini Fernando and Julie Harper win **STAAR Award for Purse Project**.
- Joined **Financial Inclusion Action Plan** (FIAP) as founding member.
- **Expanded services** to include **gender diverse people**.
- Developed **Financial Wellbeing Theory of Change**.

SPARKING REAL CHANGE

2010 - 2015

- WIRE **relocates** to 372 Spencer Street.
- **First women's legal clinic** launched.
- **Twelve recommendations** made to various government and legal bodies.
- Victorian **abortion buffer zone laws** enacted.
- Victorian **Royal Commission into Family Violence**.

2020 - 2024

- **STEP** pilot program begins.
- **Financial Capabilities Project** finishes.
- Launched "**Preventing and Responding to Family Violence**" guide.
- Issued "**Power to Prevent**" Joint Statement.
- **Lobbying** visit to Canberra with **Council of Single Mothers**.
- **Relocated** to Donkey Wheel House Building at 673 **Bourke Street**.
- Hosted "**Great Debate**" event on International Women's Day.



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