

How does the program work?

WAM's aim is to offer support to women at their first point of contact with the criminal justice system

- Police can refer the woman to the WAM at the time that she is being charged
- A worker in a community support agency can refer her to the program
- Contact can be direct from the woman herself
- All discussions are completely confidential but the mentor must report risk issues

We thank our funders for their generous support



How to contact us

Women and Mentoring

phone: 9417 2210

mobile: 0428 205 095 call or text

email: admin@womenandmentoring.org.au

The Two of Us:

A Women and Mentoring Case Study

Julie*

I was in a violent relationship and I just didn't know where to go. I had no one I could ask for help. I had a very minor shoplifting charge, which was the result of my family dramas. I got involved with the mentoring program with Susan. She's like a friend, a big sister. She makes me feel mentally more equipped to deal with everything.

Susan*

I see my role as filling a gap in Julie's life. She doesn't seem to have friends who haven't fallen into the same traps that she has, so I go to court with her. I'm the only person there supporting her. So I think that's my role –just to let her know that she's not alone going through all these dreadful things that she has to go through.

*Not her real name.



WAM
WomenAndMentoring





WomenAndMentoring

What is it?

WAM is based in Collingwood and provides support for women in the City of Yarra who are being charged with an offence.

This program operates completely separately from the police, the court, government and other community agencies.

What can a mentor do?

1. Give support at court
2. Help to find and use community resources
3. Offer personal and practical assistance
4. Help to look at options for now and the future

Who are the mentors?

- They are very good listeners
- They are carefully selected and trained to support and assist in practical ways
- They are concerned women who have some understanding of the criminal justice environment
- They are trained to know the local community and can help with referrals to professional services