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## Groups mentioned in the articles include:

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**Abstract**

Wollongong Women's Information Centre Wollongong Working Women's Charter Committee Combined Miners Women's Auxiliaries The Union of Australian Women The International Women's Day Committee Women's Abortion Action Campaign Illawarra Non-Sexist Resources Centre Wollongong Feminist Street Theatre Group The Wollongong Women's Collective (Day and Evening)

## Groups mentioned in the articles include:

### **Wollongong Women's Information Centre**

An information, referral and resource centre. The Centre (WWIC) provides advocacy, support and advice for women through one-to-one services and group programs, has an extensive women's non-fiction, fiction and resources library, and provides a valuable bi-monthly newsletter/journal. The Centre offers meeting space for women and runs training workshops, organises seminars and produces educational material and information on issues consistent with the aims of the organisation. The aims of the centre are to promote feminism, work towards the elimination of sexism and to provide a centre which is accessible, which provides a safe space for migrant women, for Koori women, for lesbians, for differently-abled women, or working class women, for feminists and all women who are disadvantaged in our community (*WWIC Newsletter*, September/October 2001; *WWIC Annual Report 2000-2001*).

### **Wollongong Working Women's Charter Committee**

The Working Women's Charter was published in Australia in 1977. The Wollongong Working Women's Charter Committee (WWWCC), was set up under the auspices of the South Coast Labour Council, and was just one of a network of groups throughout Australia who were working for the demands of the Charter which included childcare centres, equal pay, more education and training, parental leave, flexible working time, migrant women workers and more trade union training for women (*WWIC Submission to Council*, 1978). The WWWCC focused on improvements for women workers, either at home or on the job. Charter members were influenced by socialist feminist politics, and saw working with women in trade unions as a key strategy to achieve change (Watson, 1998:529)

In 1979 there were thirty (30) members of WWCC who represented fourteen (14) Unions. The Unions included: Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association (ACOA), Australian Journalists' Association, Australian Postal and

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Telegraphists' Union, Australian Workers' Union Electrical Trade Union (ETU), Federated Clerks' Union, Federated Ironworkers' Association (FIA), Meat and Allied Trades Union, Miscellaneous Workers' Union, Municipal Employees' Union, Professional Officers' Association, Public Servants Association (PSA), Teachers' Federation, Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association (ATAEA) (*Minutes of WWCC*, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1978)

### **Combined Miners Women's Auxiliaries**

Formed in 1938, the groups met regularly on an individual local basis; with combined groups meeting quarterly. This organisation was concerned with social and community issues, and was campaigning for the provision of public nursing homes and adequate care for the aged of this district in 1979 (WWIC, *Submission to Council* 1978).

### **The Union of Australian Women**

The Union of Australian Women (UAW) dates from 1950 and has branches in all States. Through its affiliation to the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), it had Status A with the UN (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations) and all its subsidiaries; Status B - UCESCO: was on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Special List and was represented on the Food Agricultural Organisation. Affiliation to the WIDF linked UAW women with the Socialist and Third World countries and they conduct many exchanges with women overseas. (Note, WIDF was the group that moved 1975 be declared International Women's Year at the UN) They worked closely with the trade union movement as it had enrolled within it by far the largest number of female members of any organisation in Australia (WWIC, *Submission to Council* 1978). Curthoys (1998) claims that the group focused on working class women and had affiliations with the Miners' Women's Auxiliaries, the Waterside Workers; and Seamen's Women's Committees and the Building Trades Union Women's committees. The Union of Australian Women was strongly committed to working for a world without war and for disarmament. In Wollongong the UAW emerged from the Progressive Women's League (Arrowsmith, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2001).

### **The International Women's Day Committee**

The IWD Committee was strongly supported by the UAW. Operative in the local area since 1938, the group met monthly throughout the year with more frequent meetings in the months

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before International Women's Day. The Committee worked for the emancipation of women, both in Australia and overseas. The IWD has been responsible for bringing to the City of Greater Wollongong many distinguished visitors prominent in the women's rights movement, both nationally and internationally (*WWIC Submission to Council*, 1978).

### **Women's Abortion Action Campaign**

This local group was concerned with disseminating information on abortion, contraception and other aspects of women's health (*WWIC Submission to Council*, 1978).

### **Illawarra Non-Sexist Resources Centre**

The Non-Sexist Resources Centre was established by the Illawarra Non-Sexist Education Committee (INSEC) through a Schools Commission Grant. It had been operating successfully for twelve (12) months, but were at the time at risk of losing funding (*WWIC Submission to Council*, 1978).

### **Wollongong Feminist Street Theatre Group**

The Wollongong Feminist Street Theatre Group was a relatively newly formed group that had so far made two public performances. It was a drama group which interpreted current situations in the light of how they specifically affected women (*WWIC Submission to Council*, 1978).

### **The Wollongong Women's Collective (Day and Evening)**

The Wollongong Women's Collective (WWC) was a development from the Free Judith Mitchell Committee, which achieved the release from goal of a wrongfully imprisoned woman in July 1978. The group was concerned with discriminatory practice in bureaucratic and legal structures and were committed to the concept of women's liberation and the elimination of sexism. The Collective was concerned with all aspects of Women's liberation, including problems connected with rape, abortion and contraception at both the grassroots and political levels (*WWIC Submission to Council*, 1978).