



SHINE for Kids

support-hope-inspire-nurture-empower

MEDIA RELEASE

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6 November 2014

CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF 'HIDDEN CHILDREN'

SHINE for Kids says it is time for governments to recognise and include the children of prisoners in their policies.

The Chair of SHINE for Kids, Helen Wiseman, said that around 40,000 children across Australia were currently suffering the devastating impact of a parent's incarceration.

"We call these the Hidden Children," Ms Wiseman said.

"They simply do not figure in the justice and corrections policies of governments—yet they have to endure humiliation and stigma, despite the fact they have done nothing wrong."

Ms Wiseman will be a speaker at a breakfast at the NSW Parliament in Sydney today.

She said that in her speech she would be calling for more community and financial support for the children of prisoners.

"SHINE for Kids has been operating for thirty years and we have achieved a lot with support and mentoring for these children.

"However, we need more corporate support so that we can reduce the long-term impact on these children," she said.

The breakfast function today is aimed at promoting improvements to education and employment opportunities for women in prison.

*Held jointly by The Sydney Community Foundation's **Sydney Women's Fund**, **The Zonta Club of Sydney** and **SHINE for Kids**, funds raised will go to WIPAN – Women in Prison Advocacy Network.*

SHINE for Kids Co-operative Ltd ABN 60 662 072 775

Helping children with a parent in the criminal justice system and their families throughout New South Wales, ACT and Victoria
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Locations at Silverwater, Parklea, Winulser, Bathurst, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee, Kempsey, Kariong, Canberra, Footscray, Lara and Ravenhall

www.shineforkids.org.au

For three decades **SHINE for Kids**, a non-profit organisation supported by governments and other benefactors and stakeholders, has worked with and for young Australians affected by family member involvement in the criminal justice system. The organisation has supported them, helped create hope and inspired them to reach their potential.

In NSW, **SHINE for Kids** centres are located at Silverwater, Parklea, Windsor, Kariong, Bathurst, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee and Kempsey. In Victoria, there is an office at Footscray and programs operating at Lara (Barwon) and Ravenhall. There is also a program operating in Canberra at the Alexander Maconochie facility.

More information on SHINE for Kids can be found at www.shineforkids.org.au

EVENT DETAILS: *Empowering Women - Changing Lives. Advocacy Breakfast at Parliament House for Women in Prison*

Thursday, 6 November 2014 - 7:30am to 9:00am

Where: Strangers Dining Room

CONTACT: For media inquiries regarding SHINE for Kids, please contact Jim Maher, Leading Edge Public Affairs on 0403 044 216 or email jmaher@leadingedgepa.com