



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN EDITION
April 2014

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CONVENOR'S REPORT

Faye's Second Convenor's Report

Hello and welcome to the Autumn ARMS newsletter. We are at the end of daylight saving and the end of those long lovely evenings.

In the last very busy few months so many important events have happened.

Unfortunately in early March, the day after our March support meeting, I managed to crash down my steps. I had just mopped them and was rushing back to my laundry with a bucket and mop wearing slippery wet thongs. I managed to break my right ankle in three places. So after an operation getting a metal plate and pins inserted, there is no walking and no driving for me for six weeks or until I get a leave pass from my ortho.

There was the gathering in the beautiful Botanical Gardens with Canadian Sandra Falconer Pace on Sunday March 9th.

We had the First Traralgon Support Group (for mothers only) meeting on March 15th. This was the beginning of meetings to be held regularly in Traralgon. The details will be on our website and further on in this newsletter.

The amazing March in March held in Melbourne attended by at least 50,000 people but with very little press coverage. Do we have freedom of the press in Australia?

The Celebration of the First Anniversary of the Federal Apology to the Victims of Past Adoption Practises was held in a café in North Melbourne.

And of course the March Committee Meeting,

..... I missed all of these as I am more or less housebound ..., so am unable to fill you in on anything much. I can tell you however that the Midday Movie is rarely any good, that I have excellent balance standing on my left foot as long as my eyes are open, that shower seats and toilet frames are extremely useful at times and that I can now read a novel in less than 24 hours. The most notable have been a small novel written in 1929 by Katherine Susannah Prichard, called "Coonardoo", an outstanding and beautiful story of life on an outback station wound around the unacknowledged love between a white man and an aboriginal woman, and "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker, a story of a young girl's experience of being taken on one of the trains from New York City out to the country with other orphans to be offered as farm labour, unpaid maids or, the lucky ones, to be adopted by couples looking for children.

I also caught the interview with Christine Cole on Channel 9's morning show. The interview was based on the show "Love Child". I thought Chris did a great job and managed to point out that the stuff they put in the show about the girls partying, getting out running around King's Cross, getting consent forms before the birth is not how it was. She also mentioned that there were no lovely midwives like the character in the show. Chris did say that the show will hopefully be the catalyst for more discussions in the general public arena. Well done Chris. This interview can still be seen on Facebook under Channel 9 Mornings and possibly on YouTube. It is a Must See.

I hope to be back in action within the next couple of weeks maybe even driving.

Remember to keep in mind our Mothers Day Meeting on Saturday 3rd May to be held at the Centre for Excellence in Market Street - the same venue as the 2013 AGM. This is our regular support group meeting date but because it is so close to Mother's Day we like to make it a bit of a special occasion. It is a day to acknowledge all of us as Mothers.

This newsletter is *your* newsletter. I would love to see more contributions from our members please.

Nothing is too unimportant or too small. This is a place to share our ideas, our pleasures and our pains. There is no judgment here. Any bit of feedback is greatly appreciated. Please become involved and let us know what you would like to see more of or less of in your very own ARMS newsletter. Just contact Dorothy or see her at the meetings.

So much for my long walks with my dogs on the beach enjoying the calm lovely evenings. I did get a few in. Oh well, next time. I do hope that you have all been able to make the most of the extended summer weather. I have to say there have been some amazing sunsets this last month. Keep your eyes to the west from 5.30pm. The deck off my living room faces west and the technicolour displays have been soul soothing almost every evening. Just lovely...

Faye Nyssen

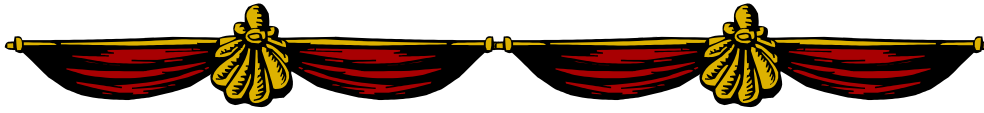


As well as the ARMS telephone number 03 9769 0232 the following committee members are happy to be contacted (between 9am and 9pm) on their personal phone numbers:

Faye Nyssen	0411 865 836	03 5985 8833
Jo Fraser	0409 442 701	03 9882 6319
Dorothy Kowalski	0411 098 773	03 9889 3583
Louise Watkins	03 9772 0094	



Sandra Falconer Pace, Vice President of the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers and Marie Meggitt with the ARMS banner - see article on page 7



Philomena Lee met his Holiness Pope Francis in the hope that he would join her in the fight to help thousands of mothers and children who need closure on their own stories.

As the film portrays, Philomena always put great faith in the church and the good will of its leaders to put the wrongs of the past right.

Ms Lee and her daughter Jane recently launched The Philomena Project to help reunite families separated by adoption.

Marilyn's comments:

Pope Francis blessed Philomena – why, pray tell, would anyone want a blessing from the head of an institution that was the perpetrator of the crime in the beginning !! This same institution, right now:

- is forcing victims to jump through hoops to secure compensation for their past suffering
- has conveniently lost medical and hospital records (in particular drug sheets) of mothers who had their sons and daughters taken from them
- withholds records that rightly belong to the person requesting them

The men and women who perpetrated such abhorrent crimes against Philomena and thousands of others have persecuted vulnerable woman and continue to do so – all in the name of Christianity.

Marilyn Murphy

I wasn't expecting to enjoy seeing *Philomena*, but it covered both difficult and emotional adoption issues with humour and some great acting. The film showed the Catholic Church in its true light, making money from the vulnerable by selling their babies to wealthy Americans and then making the defenceless mothers slave away in their laundries for years with little remuneration. I would be interested to read the book on Philomena's life for greater detail than a 90 minute film is able to portray.

Kate O'Dwyer

The most startling thing to emerge from the premiere last night of *Philomena* was the lack of any questioning around accountability for the theft of a child, in this instance Anthony Lee from his mother Philomena, who was incarcerated in Sean Ross Abbey for 4 yrs in the 1950s. The whole

issue of criminality was avoided throughout the entire film ...

... Anthony Lee was taken from his mother without informed consent and for over fifty odd years the Irish Catholic Church, Religious congregation and indeed the State itself, concealed the whereabouts of mother and son from each other. ...Nobody so far has been held to account for this practice; the whole reality of this film is sentimentalised through a naive catholic spiritualism. A lot of it is clichéd and it never really deals with the horrendous tragedy and evil of what was perpetrated on thousands of mothers and their abducted children to this day.

... Many mothers seeking to find their children and many children seeking to find their parents are still not being given access to their personal records, to their authenticity, to their origins.

...The myth that everybody was just trying their best in very difficult times continues to be perpetuated.

... What you have here is organised criminality on such a scale that it should really warrant a massive European, if not global investigation or tribunal, not dissimilar to that which is conducted by the United Nations into crimes against humanity because that is what this is.

... The story of Philomena Lee is essentially a political one involving a sovereign state and its inactions to protect its citizens and a global church that professes Christianity love, truth and respect, but is engaged, in this instance, in joint venture acts of appalling inhumanity and cruelty.

Don't let the Church or the State off the hook. What happened here was on an enormous scale and that enormity has not been reduced, but has been added to by the continuous refusal of the congregations of nuns at the centre of the Mother and Baby homes who were wilfully engaged with the theft, trafficking and sale of children to be held accountable, to hand over the many documents and files that they have in their possession. These documents need to be given to their rightful owners without any hindrance whatsoever. Everybody has the right to their own information. The lie that is about that these documents were lost through fire damage or floods etc. needs to stop. People have memory. The congregations duplicated many of its documents. Every child had a passport forged. People know. Including Aer Lingus, Pan

Am and emigration.

This story and the thousands of stories like it will one day escape from this place and find a place where their truth will be heard, understood and accepted. To avoid is to deny. To deny is further injustice. The struggle and the search for truth continues.

Mannix Flynn

Artist and New Independent Councillor Dublin South East Inner City, Ireland

I watched *Philomena* for the first time with a relative who was uncomfortable talking about the topic with me after the show. The next time I saw it with a friend who had lost a baby to adoption. It was far more comfortable.

I thought the movie was excellent. The characters were believable and sincere. I liked the way the character who was the journalist illustrated the angry point of view. His indignation and horror that Philomena and her son had received such evil treatment by a religious establishment is the way many of us feel, and the way we want those who care about us to feel. In contrast, Philomena's acceptance and excuse making for the nuns illustrated the submissive and downtrodden mental state that I think would have remained from her stay at the home all those years before. Later in the show she finds her anger.

I found the contrast between the characters and the banter that passed between them funny and touching. The story is real. The story is tragic. Philomena's ability to forgive is quite an amazing illustration of her strength of character. I would like to know how long it took her in real life to come to that forgiveness.

Faye Nyssen

I had the pleasure of seeing *Philomena* last night with Joy. I thank her for inviting me to see this movie with her. What a ride that was. *Philomena* is now my favourite movie of all time. Perhaps if some of our legislators sat and watched it they would think twice before they sent women down that path again. Although harrowing in places, I felt a real empathy with Philomena and true admiration for the fact that she was able to forgive those responsible for what they did to her.

Georgina

Yes I agree with Georgina on all counts but add - I can't forgive!! I have become very disillusioned since the Apology with the Government set on adoption becoming the norm, (like America). They will do it to another generation of women all over again!!

Shame on them.

Joy

I saw *Philomena* and thought it was very well resourced. It really got into her character, being that of a sinner and deserving of her lot, thus making her feel worthless. She felt herself to be unworthy of any help and was even submissive e.g. her loss was not the fault of the Nuns, and she forgave the most unforgivable.

The Nuns etc were sinners beyond redemption, and violated Philomena's rights as a human being. She was no sinner, but was reduced into self-doubt and low self-esteem. The Nuns lied and lied and denied Philomena and her son the chance to meet.

Philomena wouldn't allow the reporter to be angry, and even said "sorry" to the nun on his behalf. Again and again I saw myself in Philomena.

Sheryl Zeissler



MARCH IN MARCH

Mara Hyland was marching for her late sister, who lost a child and never recovered from that trauma. Mara is a psychologist who made a movie in the 1980s featuring Marie Meggitt and others. Mara gave ARMS a copy of her movie with a note that said "The people interviewed changed my life ... I learned so much from them". Mara's movie is now available for borrowing from the ARMS library.

DISCLAIMER:

All contributions are presented with the aim of sharing ideas. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by ARMS



***I would love to have a reunion with the girls who were in the St Joseph's nursery (home)
20 Gellibrand Street, Kew in the first six months of 1969.
St Joseph's was part of St Anthony's,
Corner of Gellibrand Street and Cotham Road, Kew, Victoria.
Sheryl Zeissler (née Fry) Mobile: 0419 897 302 Email sheryl36@bigpond.com***



ARMS members Dorothy, Maria, Dianne, Gail, Jo, Shirley, Louise, Sandra Falconer Pace (Vice President of the Canadian Council for Natural Mothers) and Marie at afternoon tea in the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

Beyond the Tears and Years [More tears than years]

36 years ago I relinquished my baby daughter, Renae Joy.

In January 2013 I finally took a leap of faith and contacted ARMS. I ended up talking with Jo. What an angel. If you look closely you may see her wings tucked in.



At my first ARMS meeting all I did was cry. Thank goodness there was a good supply of tissues handy, a warm arm around my shoulder and a friendly tap on my knee.

Words not always spoken out loud, but silent ones, obvious by the facial expressions, tears and the nodding of heads.

"You are one of us and we understand." Understand they did and still do.

They listen to my ramblings and don't judge me. THANK YOU EVERYONE AT ARMS. Without all your support I may have not been around to enjoy my 3 children. Depression can control ones thoughts and life.

In June 2013 I contacted "Connections". On my first appointment with a social worker I was pleased my sister was with me to give me support, otherwise I think I still would be hiding in the 'loo'.

I wrote a brief letter to my daughter so that she would receive it with an explanation and an "I'm sorry" when they contacted her.

Time seemed to go by very slowly.



Finally word came that they had found Renae Joy, now Natalie.

Natalie answered my letter and I replied. We sent our mail via the Social Worker – "The slow boat to China" way. Both of us found this frustrating, especially when her birthday mail was late. I was beside myself. The Social Worker said not to worry as she had told Natalie mail was on the way. My answer to this was "It has been 36 years and this is the first birthday card I have sent and you tell me not to worry" I went out and purchased a second lot and express posted them. Natalie and I both decided we had to step up and commenced emailing each other.

We have now met, falling into each others arms crying tears of love, relief and 'at last'. We are in contact daily by phone, sms or email. My sister, (Natalie calls her Aunty) and my other children are also in frequent contact. We have met for lunch and dinner and also done a zoo trek with my grandson - yes, I am a grandma.

What a beautiful person Natalie is. Not bragging but my genes, HA!!

My other children have a big sister and Natalie is delighted to have a sister and a baby bro!

Natalie's husband Daniel is a great guy, and very supportive, as my husband is to me.

My family and life are whole.



"My kids"

Gail (GAM)

Canadian Sisterhood

ARMS was delighted and honoured to host an afternoon tea in the Botanic Gardens for the Vice President of the Canadian Council for Natural Mothers, Sandra Falconer Pace, on a typically beautiful Melbourne Autumn Sunday in March. (perhaps a tad hot!)

Sandra & her husband Bob were flying from Canada to New Zealand to begin a cruise, and Sandra particularly asked if they could stop off in Melbourne to meet some ARMS members, as the mothers in Canada are so in awe of what has been accomplished here. It was wonderful that 8 members of ARMS came to meet Sandra, and we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

We had a fascinating discussion about adoption here and in Canada, and Sandra was particularly interested in hearing about Mr Abbott's recent announcement on intercountry adoption. She gave us heartbreaking accounts of adoptions that are still occurring in Canada, and of the problems that occur due to the different laws in different Provinces. Although we still have our problems, it is intriguing how much further Australia has come.



We look forward to a continued relationship with Sandra and the CCNM.



LOVE CHILD

ARMS will soon have a copy in its library of the eight episodes of this ground breaking series

Christine Cole was interviewed on 31/3/14 by Channel 9 and explained that her experience of giving birth at 16 years of age was far more barbaric than the *Love Child* series showed. However, in the interests of bringing the whole subject to public notice, Christine feels the directors needed to make the series into a "feel good" drama, especially with the way that

Joan, the good midwife is portrayed.

Christine worked during her pregnancy in the home of a married couple minding their three children and doing all of the housework for 60-70 hours each week. At the same time, she was being told that she was not competent to raise her own child and should give it up to a 'deserving' couple.

While researching "Releasing the Past: Mothers' Stories of their Stolen Babies" *Christine A. Cole, editor* Christine interviewed hundreds of young women who were incarcerated, often in places far removed from their home towns, and sometimes interstate. She never heard of a "home/refuge/haven" where the girls could nick out to Kings Cross or have secret cocktail parties!

Christine's memory of signing her Consent Form is that it was produced at the time she was to be discharged and she was told she couldn't leave the hospital until she had signed it.

DO LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ONCE YOU'VE SEEN THE WHOLE SERIES. ARMS WILL PUBLISH COMMENTS IN THE WINTER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Faye Nyssen I haven't caught every episode of *Love Child* but I have seen most of them. I have found it frustrating at times. I do think it is great to see this topic in the forefront on general Television.

There are however things I personally do not enjoy about the show. I thought the first birth scene was very well done and quite difficult to watch. But as the show has continued I think certain aspects are disappointing.

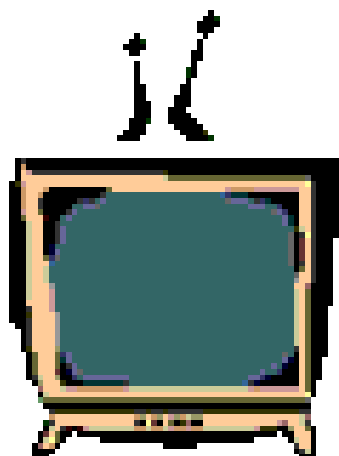
I don't like the frivolous way the girls are illustrated as uncaring fun seeking irresponsible kids. I was certainly not like that when I was pregnant. Pregnancy and birth are very sobering experiences. I am disappointed that they have not shown any of the reality of how I was treated by the social worker, being told that I was not good enough to be my child's mother and if I loved my child I would give her up and all of that coercion. The girls in the show are

running around with consent forms as if they are tickets to the movies. If only there had been a midwife like that who gave a darn. I have also heard the girls in the show discuss the 30 day revocation period as if it was general knowledge. I am disappointed that these untruths are part of the show. I am sceptical about why these points have been made this way. I am concerned that the mothers will continue to be judged as always. I know it is supposed to be fiction but I did expect a bit more truth in the simple but important things. I suppose it is "never let the truth get in the way of a good story."

My sister and her friends love the show and are hooked on it each week. So I suppose it is teaching someone a little. As it is a topic so close to me I find I cannot be objective.

Fae Cuff (Lovell) Geelong

Love Child, where to start? After months of seeing the clips for this show, I must admit the anticipation had built to almost fear by the time it aired! To watch or not to watch! I don't know about the rest of you but in the end it was like a car accident - you know it will upset you, but somehow you can't look away.



The very first episode, Annie's birth, I believe was a realistic portrayal of the harshness and cruelty we experienced firsthand. I felt my heart would break as the staff whisked the baby away from an hysterical Annie as she implored them to let her see her child.

Once again I sobbed when Annie went home to a family who pretended nothing had happened and proceeded to get her ready for the formal. Oh, and then of course "the boyfriend"

was a no show! Took me straight back to 1971!! Annie going back to get her baby was particularly difficult to watch as it brought back the pain I experienced when I attempted to recover my own child.

I'd have to say until recently Matron sent shivers down my spine. Dear old "Rhonda" has played her role well, although in the latest episodes the things she has done have left me sitting here going "Yeah, like that really happened!!!!"

Love Child has provided some accurate story lines, however, other parts are so far removed from the truth it left me feeling pretty empty and a little cross. Booze, parties, gambling, and absconding from the home was one thing, but it would have been unheard of to be allowed to return. The girls often seem quite happy, moving freely around the hospital and even have the confidence to speak up to Matron. The biggie for me has been Nurse Joan, or as we (the Geelong ARMS girls) have labelled her, Saint Joan!! I

have been involved with adoption for 30 years and unless I'm asking the wrong questions there were no Nurse Joans!

Taking into account *Love Child* was written for television audiences my disappointment with some of the story lines led me to contact the writer to ask where her information had come from. Sarah Lambert replied telling me of the lengthy research she had undertaken prior to writing *Love Child*, with part of it based on Christine Cole's story, and other mothers from that time.

In all I have enjoyed *Love Child* warts and all. Loved the clothes and music, even though some songs sent me back in a sad way. The series upset me in certain parts, however I am willing to endure that in order for "our story" to be brought out in to the open and discussed. It is certainly well overdue and for those of us that have been around in adoption for so long, it's been a long time coming! I have had so many positive emails from people who know of my story, but probably never thought about the reality of it before this series. Even nieces and nephews and my children's friends have made comments and all are surprised that these things happened in a country like Australia. For their generation where single mums are accepted it seems really unbelievable what happened to us.

So.....thank you Channel 9 and *Love Child* for having the initiative and guts to tell our story. It may not be perfect but anything that changes public perception and creates conversation is a good thing. Hopefully it may help take away some of that shame so may still feel.



Were you in one of the Mother and Baby Homes in England or Wales in the 1960s? Or do you know anyone who was?

The UK producers of "Who Do You Think You Are?" are planning a dramatised television series based around one of these homes and is interested in talking to women who spent time in any of them.

All contributions will be anonymous, however they will offer up an opportunity for an honest depiction of these experiences and raise an even greater awareness of this important piece of the past.

If you are interested please contact Rose Bell at oralherstorian@gmail.com If you do not have internet access please call ARMS on 9769 0232 and we can help you contact Rose.

TRARALGON SUPPORT

The first Mothers only support group was held in Traralgon on the 15th of March at the Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House, 11/13 Breed Street, Traralgon. VANISH set up a series of groups for 2014, some for adopted persons only, some for mothers only and some for mixed groups (mothers, fathers and adoptive parents).

ARMS will be running the mothers only programme with the support of a professional facilitator. Dates for these meetings will be listed on the back page of the newsletters, along with the dates for the city and Geelong groups

The 15th of March meeting was not widely advertised so there was quite a small turn out. ARMS will ensure that future meetings are widely advertised in Traralgon and surrounding areas.

Shirley Corin is happy to be the contact mother for Traralgon – phone chat, meet for coffee and possible help with transport arrangements to and from support groups.

Shirley Corin 0429 698 367 03 5174 4889



TRARALGON Support Groups

from 2pm to 4pm on the following Saturdays:-

ADOPTED PERSONS ONLY (VANISH)

(for adults over the age of 18)

15 February 21 June 20 September

MOTHERS ONLY (ARMS)

(also known as birth mothers or natural mothers)

15 March 19 July 18 October

MIXED GROUP (VANISH)

(adopted persons, mothers, fathers and adoptive parents)

17 May 16 August 15 November

Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House
11/13 Breed St, Traralgon, VIC, 3844

For more information call 1300 VANISH or 9328 8611
or visit VANISH at www.vanish.org.au or visit ARMS at www.armsvic.org.au



Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House
We make learning first

Supported by:-





March in March

A small but enthusiastic band of ARMS women joined the March in March in the Melbourne CBD last month. March in March was a series of marches held around Australia on 15th & 16th March, (capital cities and regional centres) and in Canberra on 17th March, a parliamentary sitting day, to voice opposition to many of the decisions Tony Abbott and the Liberal National Coalition have made since coming into Government in September last year. It was originally organised as a grass roots movement by a few people on social media and grew very quickly. The marches across Australia were attended by more than eighty thousand people, including individuals and organisations voicing a wide variety of issues: environmental issues, asylum seeker policy and treatment, animal rights, industrial relations, privatisation of public assets, public housing and many more. Obviously we marched in opposition to Mr Abbott's announcement that they intend to make adoption 'quicker and easier'. We made placards which read:

Get the stars out of your eyes Tony – say no to easier adoption

Children are not accessories

Babies are not commodities

Mothers' rights – NOT movie stars' rights



Origins was also represented in the march, and one member held a placard itemising the cost of adopting babies from different countries:

Babies from Nigeria	\$6,400
Babies from China	\$7,800
Babies from Indonesia	\$160 - \$250
Babies from Malaysia	\$6,588
Babies from Greece	\$4,100

So much for babies not being commodities!

Five ARMS members attended with our ARMS banner, placards and handouts, joined by family members and friends, making a good group. It was a peaceful march (apart from having a couple abuse me for not knowing what I was talking about, and telling me to go home and do some reading on the issue!) and there was a great feeling of camaraderie amongst the crowd.

Thank you to those members who were able to join us.

Jo Fraser

Congratulations Faye on being our new Convenor. Also the newsletter is great. Well done, all of you. Georgina

Congratulations Faye - you have a great understanding of the big picture and empathy for the many different aspects of adoption. You will be a wonderful leader of ARMS, ably supported by the committee. Joy

Thank you, everyone at ARMS. Without all your support, I may have not been around to enjoy my three children. Depression can control ones thoughts and life. Gail



Printed courtesy of the office of
 Senator Gavin Marshall
 Labor Senator for Victoria

Please let the Government know what you think

2014 is an election year for Victoria, so what better time to let your local member know how you feel about the Adoption Legislation Amendment that went through Parliament in May last year? Whether your MP is Liberal, National, Labor, Greens or Independent, it is important that they know that, whoever wins the election, we would like them to remove the contact statements from the legislation. And they need to know that now, so they can factor it into their policies.

Please also contact your Federal Member to let them know what an abomination it would be to make adoption quicker and easier, as Mr Abbott has announced. They promised they would not repeat the wrongs of the past - mothers of babies in other countries are no different from mothers of babies in Australia, and adoptees from other countries are no different from Australian adoptees. We have to let them know how we feel, and the more people who do that, the more likely they are to listen. If you feel you are just one small voice, you are wrong. No-one's voice is small! And we all know the squeaky wheel gets the oil. I was horrified to be told by my Federal Member, Josh Frydenberg, when I went to see him to discuss my concerns about Mr Abbott's announcement, that I was the first person to contact him with an opposing view!



There was a list of all Victorian MPs in the Summer newsletter, and below is a more comprehensive list of Federal MPs.

Please..... Call! Email! Write! Don't let them think we don't care!

Please let the Government know what you think - List of Federal MPs

Aston	alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9887 3890
Ballarat	Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 5338 8123
Batman	david.feeney.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9416 8690
Bendigo	lisa.chesters.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5443 9055
Bruce	alan.griffin.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9547 1444
Calwell	Maria.Vamvakinou.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9309 3655
Casey	Tony.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9727 0799
Chisholm	Anna.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9802 0566
Corangamite	sarah.henderson.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5243 1444
Corio	Richard.marles.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5221 3033
Deakin	Michael.sukkar.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9874 1711
Dunkley	B.Billson.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9781 2333
Flinders	Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 5979 3188
Gellibrand	tim.watts.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9317 7077
Gippsland	darren.chester.mp@aph.gov	(03) 5144 6744
Goldstein	andrew.robb.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9557 4644
Gorton	Brendan.oconnor.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 8390 6166
Higgins	Kelly.odwyer.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9822 4422
Holt	Anthony.Byrne.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9796 7533
Hotham	Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9545 6211

Indi	cathy.mcgowan.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5721 7077
Isaacs	mark.dreyfus.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9769 1955
Jagajaga	jenny.macklin.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9459 1411
Kooyong	josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov	(03) 9882 3677
Lalor	joanne.ryan.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9742 5800
Latrobe	Jason.wood.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9768 9164
Mallee	Andrew.broad@aph.gov.au	1300 131 620 (Mildura)
Maribyrnong	bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9326 1300
McEwen	rob.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5783 4880
Melb Ports	Michael.Danby.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9534 8126
Melbourne	adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9642 0922
Menzies	kevin.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9848 9900
Murray	sharman.stone.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5821 5371
Scullin	andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 9404 1911
Victoria	senator.fifield@aph.gov.au	(03) 9584 2455 (in Mentone)
Victoria	senator.ronaldson@aph.gov.au	(03) 9650 0255 (in Melbourne)
Victoria	senator.ryan@aph.gov.au	(03) 9326 1088 (Moonee Ponds)
Wannon	dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5572 1100 (Hamilton)
Wannon	dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au	(03) 5561 6405 (Warrnambool)
Wills	Kelvin.Thomson.MP@aph.gov.au	(03) 9350 5777

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world..."



- indeed it is the *only* thing that ever has."



ARMS SUPPORT GROUPS CALENDAR 2014

Melbourne and Geelong Meetings are both held on
the first Saturday of the month

3 rd May		MOTHERS' DAY - Level 5, 50 Market Street, Melbourne catered by ARMS committee
7 th June		SUPPORT GROUP
5 th July		SUPPORT GROUP
19 th July		TRARALGON MOTHERS ONLY SUPPORT GROUP
2 nd August		SUPPORT GROUP
6 th September		SUPPORT GROUP
4 th October		SUPPORT GROUP
18 th October		TRARALGON MOTHERS ONLY SUPPORT GROUP
1 st November		SUPPORT GROUP
6 th December		ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Level 5, 50 Market Street, Melbourne Followed by Christmas Party <i>Please bring a plate of food to share and a small gift Value approximately \$15</i>

**All Melbourne meetings (except May and December) are held at
Queen Victoria Women's Centre
210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne from 2.00 – 4.00pm**

**All Geelong meetings (except May and December) are held at
South Barwon Community Centre
33 Mt Pleasant Road, Belmont 3216
Contact *Thelma Adams* on 5243 8302 or 0430 948 923**

**All Traralgon meetings are held at Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House
11/13 Breed Street, Traralgon 3844
Contact *Shirley Corin* on 0429 698 367 or 03 5174 4889**

ALL MOTHERS WELCOME