

CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET DECISION

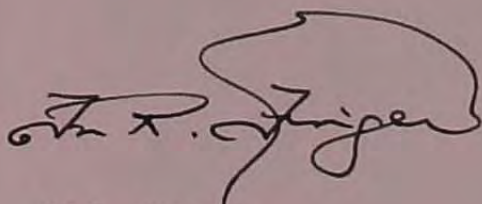
No. 3591

Submission No.: 3071

Title: WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT INFORMATION SERVICE

Cabinet decided that -

- (a) Women's Shopfront Information Services be established in Darwin and Alice Springs;
- (b) the Department of Community Development be given responsibility for general administration and functioning of the Women's Shopfront Information Service;
- (c) the Women's Shopfront Information Service should have its own identity and should be located away from government offices;
- (d) the Women's Shopfront Information Service be operational as soon as practicable;
- (e) the Department of Community Development should consult with the Office of Women's Affairs in the Department of the Chief Minister in the selection of suitable premises and the facilities required; and
- (f) a total of four staff would be adequate.



(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.

8 June 1984

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 3071

Title:	Women's Shopfront Information Service
Minister	The Hon. P.A.E. Everingham, M.L.A.
Purpose:	To approve the establishment of Women's Shopfront Information Service
Relation to existing policy:	Announced government policy
Timing/ legislative priority:	Nil
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	Nil
Action required before announcement:	Nil
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	7 staff - Darwin and Alice Springs inclusive
Total cost:	\$317,297

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Department/Authority OFFICE OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT INFORMATION SERVICE

COMMENTS:

My comments on the Draft Cabinet Submission are as follows. Some suggested amendments in line with these comments are attached.

1. Paragraph 8. Interstate experience suggests that it is unlikely that the establishment of this service will relieve the pressure on existing agencies. However, I believe many more women are likely to feel comfortable approaching the shopfront for information than presently are prepared to approach existing Government services labelled "health" or "welfare", etc.
2. I suggest that a further function of the Shopfront would be to facilitate the development of self-help groups and skill development groups by providing women having similar needs and interests with the means to contact each other.
3. Paragraph 11.1 The third sentence is not quite accurate. The current Community Welfare legislation is quite specific in section 4(2) in defining when a child is in need of care and it includes no reference to a child being in "moral danger".
4. Paragraph 13 I suggest that the cost estimates be rounded off (e.g. \$318,000 instead of \$317,297) and that a more detailed breakdown of establishment costs be provided including: salaries, administration, capital and other services.
5. Paragraph 14 If the service is to be operational by 1 July 1984, a firm proposal regarding staff establishment should be forwarded to Cabinet. I understand that the levels originally under consideration for the co-ordinator contact staff and clerical support were A9, A5 and A3 respectively. I would therefore suggest that the establishment be:-

Darwin	-	A9, A5 x 2, A3
Alice Springs	-	A9 or A8, A5, A3
6. Paragraph 15 I suggest the addition of a sentence outlining the proposed relationship of the service with the information services provided through Local Government council libraries.

SIGNED:

M. L. 1077

DESIGNATION:

Secretary

DATE:

23/5/84

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DRAFT CABINET SUBMISSION ON WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT INFORMATION CENTRES

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

Paragraph 8

I suggest the following substitution for the first sentence.

"The shopfront will reach many women who do not have the confidence or knowledge required to use existing services; women will save timetheir particular need".

I also suggest the addition of:-

"The shopfront will be able to facilitate the development of self-help groups and skill development groups by providing women who have similar needs and interests with the means to contact each other.

I suggest the following substitution for the last three sentences:-

"There are some problems with this option. Many women are intimidated by large bureaucracies. Many women may also feel intimidated if the Shopfront Service was publicly identified with the statutory welfare functions performed by the Community Welfare Division. If this option is adopted the service should have its own identity and operate from facilities physically separate from the Community Welfare Division's existing services."

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Department/AuthorityHEALTH.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:WOMENS SHOPFRONT INFORMATION SERVICE.....

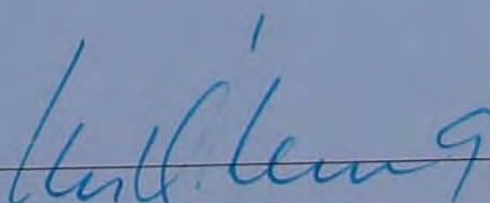
COMMENTS:

The submission is supported, however, it is considered that 2 points require expansion.

The functions of the Shopfront Service should be more clearly specified. Details on the type of services to be provided, and the way they will be linked to services provided by other agencies are required.

The proposed staff numbers also require further consideration. While the staff numbers will depend on the type of services to be provided, it should be noted that the Disabled Persons Bureau operates effectively with 3 staff members in Darwin and 1 in Alice Springs.

SIGNED:



KEITH FLEMING
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

DESIGNATION:

DATE:

21/5/84

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Department/Authority EDUCATION

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

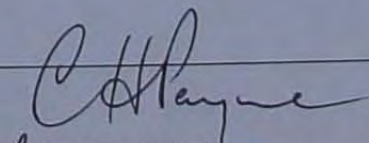
TITLE: ...TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT.....
..... INFORMATION SERVICE

COMMENTS:

The Department has no objection to the proposal as outlined in the submission.

There does, however, appear to be an inconsistency between paragraphs 11.1, which highlights the disadvantages of this option, and 17 (b) which supports the same option.

SIGNED:



DESIGNATION: *for* SECRETARY

DATE: 1984-05-17

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Department/Authority **LAW**

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: **WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT INFORMATION SERVICE**

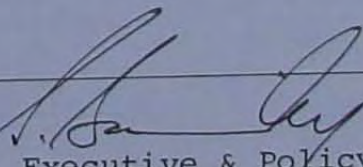
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COMMENTS:

There appear to be no constitutional or legal barriers to the proposal.

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SIGNED: S. R. Bailey 

DESIGNATION: Director, Executive & Policy Unit, for Solicitor-General

DATE: 14 May 1984

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Department/~~Authority~~.....**TREASURY**.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:**WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT INFORMATION SERVICE**.....

COMMENTS:

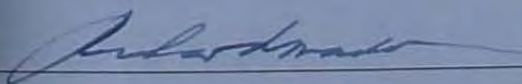
Support is recommended subject to consideration in the context of the Final Budget Cabinet, in July, of final provision of funds.

The proposal was not submitted by Community Development in time to be included in papers to be considered in May Budget Cabinet.

No proposals relating to staffing have been put to the Public Service Commissioner as yet. On the information available, Treasury would not support the staffing level proposed, (7), but would prefer to staff with, say, 2 staff in each of Darwin and Alice Springs.

Two other matters are of note :

- . there is no particular mention of the special needs of Aboriginal women;
- . the proposal for administration by Community Development is surprising in light of the comments in the Submission (paragraph 11), and does not seem appropriate.



SIGNED: R.C. MADDEN

DESIGNATION: UNDER TREASURER

DATE: 23/5/85

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Department/Authority PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

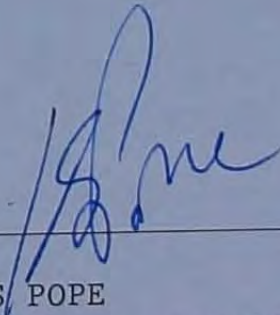
TITLE: WOMEN'S SHOPFRONT - CABINET SUBMISSION

COMMENTS:

This Office supports in principle the establishment of a Women's Shopfront Information Service, however, I cannot support the proposed staffing requirements contained in the submission.

It is suggested that a more appropriate initial staffing level would be two employees in Darwin and two in Alice Springs.

Detailed statistics should be kept to enable the actual case load to be valued, and adjustments made to staffing levels, if necessary, on the basis of a quantifiable workload.



SIGNED: K S POPE
DESIGNATION: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER
DATE: 17 MAY 1984

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ISSUES

1. The establishment of a women's shopfront information service in Darwin and in Alice Springs.
2. The functions and services to be provided.

BACKGROUND

3. During the 1983 elections the Chief Minister announced that the government would establish a women's shopfront information service in Darwin and Alice Springs.
4. Women, particularly those who are in the home full time, are often not aware of the services that are available to them in the community. Women need information about the availability of these services and this information will make these services more accessible.
5. In the past women have not been seen to need specialist services and consequently the services that do exist are usually part of a large and multi-purpose bureaucracy. However, there is an increasing awareness that some services are almost exclusively needed by women, such as those pertaining to domestic violence, rape, etc. In many cases more than one type of service is needed and it is appropriate that information about the services available is co-ordinated through a central and easily accessible system.

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CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

6. The Chief Minister has indicated that Women's Information Shopfront services will be established both in Darwin and Alice Springs.
7. The Shopfront will act as a central point for women in the Territory to learn about and then contact the complete range of services that are available to them.
8. The Shopfront will relieve some of the pressure on statutory agencies such as the Community Welfare Division to provide information and referral to other agencies and Departments; women will save time by not having to do the rounds of the various services trying to find the one that best suits their particular need. This informal counselling service will be the main work of the Shopfront Information Service.
9. Other services to be provided by the Shopfront result from its being a contact centre in a central location:
 - (i) There is a need for a central service to collate and/or circulate material on issues that concern women, for example articles on family law, women's health, pamphlets for victims of domestic violence.
 - (ii) The Shopfront will be in an ideal position to monitor the needs of women in the community and to forward information about these

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- needs to the Women's Advisory Council, other women's groups, and government agencies where appropriate.
10. The Shopfront Information service will need to be located in a central shopping area with easy access for the public and for disabled persons.

OPTIONS

- 11.1 That the administration of the Women's Shopfront Information service be the responsibility of the Department of Community Development.

There are considerable problems with this option. Many women are overawed by the bureaucracy of large departments and the Welfare branch in particular, which is the agency which can determine who is a fit mother, who is in moral danger etc. In no other State are information services for women conducted by or connected with welfare agencies.

- 11.2 That the administration and function of the Women's Shopfront Information service be the responsibility of the Department of the Chief Minister through the Office of Women's Affairs. This office is a small policy unit to advise the Chief Minister on a range of policy and legislation matters, and to conduct research.

THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

12. It is anticipated that the announcement of the

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establishment of the Women's Shopfront Information service will be well received in the community. In the longer term it will be seen as a positive step by the government towards recognising the importance and necessity of women's services and will consequently improve the government's image with women in the community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. Establishment Cost:	\$317,297
Running Costs after first year:	\$251,107

EMPLOYMENT AND STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

14. Details of establishment to be determined. It is envisaged that the Darwin Shopfront would be staffed by 4 people and the Alice Springs Shopfront by 3 people.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

15. The Commonwealth government has funded through C.E.P. the employment of two women to operate a Women's Telephone Information service for a nine month period to inform women of those Commonwealth schemes from which they will derive benefit. The Office of Women's Affairs has liaised with these women since the inception of the program.

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