

Building Bridges 2012 –

Aunty Daphne & Sue Gillett –

Back to the Future

Wednesday, 22 August 2012

Location:

**The Jubilee Room, Parramatta Town Hall
182 Church Street Mall**

The entrance to the Jubilee room is opposite St John's Cathedral - on the left side of the Town Hall building (when you are facing the building).

Parking: Council car park behind Town Hall and Library Enter from Macquarie St., turn left at Post Office. \$1 per hour.

By Train: The venue is about 5 minutes walk from Parramatta Station.

Free sessions every Wednesday in August in Parramatta Town Hall:

<http://www.reconciliation4westernsydney.org/index.php/building-bridges-2012>

For the sessions

<http://reconciliation4westernsydney.org/index.php/building-bridges-2012#sessions>

For the brochure to download/print:

http://reconciliation4westernsydney.org/images/downloads/building_bridges_2012.pdf

Sessions:

The sessions commence at 7.30 pm and finish around 9.30 with a break for supper in between the two presenters. Both presenters will engage in dialogue with the participants and are open to your questions.

For Information:

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Building Bridges 2012: Fourth session - 22. August 12

Aunty Daphne & Sue Gillett - *Back to the Future: NT Intervention & Income Management*

Shirley Blacklaws - *What Works & Doesn't in Urban Communities*

Background info on Aunty Daphne & Sue Gillett:

Aunty Daphne & Sue's submission to the Stronger Futures legislation

<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22committees/commsen/e99313e5-56b0-4d1c-83c5-0a6855e2539e/0000%22>

Stand for Freedom - Aunty Daphne – 28 February 2012 in Canberra

Parliament House protest against 'Stronger Futures', new NT Intervention legislation

<http://vimeo.com/37941468>

Sue at the Senate hearing on 6 March 2012 in Canberra

<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22committees/commsen/e99313e5-56b0-4d1c-83c5-0a6855e2539e/0000%22>

Sue's talk at the Press Conference on the STRONGER FUTURES LEGISLATION – Senate Courtyard - 18 June 2012:

(audio clip link)

http://concernedaustralians.com.au/media/Senate_Press_Conference_Statements_2012_06_18.pdf

Sue's paper “*Income Management and Child Protection workers*”

<http://www.stoptheintervention.org/>

Past Event:

Stop the Intervention Collective Sydney (STICS) Public Meeting

Can Income Management help with Child protection?

with speaker Sue Gillett, STICS member and former DOCS Aboriginal policy worker on 2 April 12 at Teacher Federation Conference Centre

[Income Management](#) is often promoted as being in the interests of children, particularly those at risk. Under the scheme that set commence in Bankstown and four other "trial sites" around Australia, Child protection workers will be granted the power to put people on the system against their will. 70 percent of Centrelink payments are income managed in child protection cases.

There are serious concerns amongst both workers in the sector and communities facing [income management](#) about the potential impact of this policy and confusion about how it will work in practice.

Child protection and others workers in the community sector are also in a strategic position to challenge this policy and fight for more just and effective solutions for families in crisis. Many of these workers recently demonstrated their passionate commitment to just solutions at a PSA rally and candle lit vigil on March 14 against the privatisation and cuts to child protection planned by NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell. More information about this campaign can be found at <http://safehands.org.au/>

Below is a short article by Sue Gillett, a STICS member and former Aboriginal policy officer at DOCS, who introduced the discussion. The article was first distributed at the PSA rally.

Income Management and Child Protection workers

Under the scheme that set commence in [Bankstown](#) and [four other "trial sites"](#) around Australia, along with that currently operating in the NT and WA, Child protection workers are on the front line of implementing income management, with the power to put people on the system against their will. 70 percent of Centrelink payments are income managed in child protection cases.

Many in the sector are concerned that this could seriously impact on relationships with clients. At a time when resources are being withdrawn from the sector by premier Barry O'Farrell, there is a real danger that income management will become a "band-aid" solution, replacing proper case-work.

Under '[Child protection income management](#)' Parent/s and/or carers can be placed on Income Management if there are child protection concerns and it is

considered that income management might contribute to improved outcomes for children at risk.

At the sole Bankstown community consultation session, the Commonwealth government officials did not demonstrate any understanding or show any regard about the NSW child protection landscape and the work of child protection caseworkers and specialists.

The session did not provide any detail about the referral process that underpins income management and whether it will reflect the current NSW legislative child protection framework. Key to this issue is whether parents will be informed that they are being referred and by whom; the reason for the referral and the outcome; and whether the parents are placed on compulsory income management and if so; will this confirm the grounds for the referral and result in the removal of their child/ren. This could have a massive impact on the caseload of Community Services caseworkers who may be required to deal with the aftermath of zealous referrals, inexperience, ill-informed and poor decision-making and increased removals and out-of-home-care placements.

Under '[Stronger Futures](#)' legislation, Minister Macklin has also given herself the power to nominate any government agency and/or employees as its agents with the power to place people on income management, though there has been no indication of processes that will be followed. These new powers dismiss the expertise, knowledge, capability and qualifications of Community Services caseworkers and seem to suggest that the work done by professional child protection workers is simplistic and can be done by any agency worker that has been nominated by Minister Macklin.

Compulsory income management can bypass the legislative framework and undermine the essential, complex and necessary work involved with working with children at risk and families in crisis.

Beating Income Management

A strong new coalition "[Say No to Government's Income Management Not in Bankstown Not Anywhere](#)" has initiated a moratorium on Income Management - demanding immediate amnesty for those already on the system and a halt to plans for expansion. Its founding statement has been endorsed by more than 50 organisations including unions, church and community groups.

Income Management was rolled out in the trial sites, and in Bankstown momentum has been gathering to find ways to beat the implementation.

Child protection workers and other community and public sector workers have a crucial role to play in this campaign.

Articles:

The Express -

Government defends income management trial -

27 March 2012 –

THE federal government has answered criticism of its impending income management trial on Bankstown residents, citing the local community as "doing it tough" compared with the average Australian. -

<http://express.wherelive.com.au/news/story/government-defends-income-management-trial/> [Scroll down on that page for more related articles]

The Greens -

END BANKSTOWN TRIAL OF INCOME MANAGEMENT AND CONSULT WITH LOCALS: GREENS -

15 March 2012 -

The Australian Greens have vowed to oppose the Bankstown trial of income management following last night's release of the Senate Inquiry into the Stronger Futures legislation report and evidence given to the committee questioning whether the government consulted with locals before announcing the Bankstown trial. Bankstown is one of five locations nationally where the government is set to trial compulsory income management from 1 July 2012. -

<http://wa.greens.org.au/content/end-bankstown-trial-income-management-and-consult-locals-greens>

For more on Income Management:

<http://stoptheintervention.org/facts/income-management>

Information from the F-Collective

Here is a basic summary of what income management is:

http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BN/2011-2012/IncomeManagement

A recent report by Equality Rights Alliance found that many women did not feel safer under the policy and that it often resulted in feelings of a loss of respect and dignity.

You can download the report here:

<http://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/projects/womens-experience-income-management-northern-territory>

Jane Bullen from the F Collective talks about why income management is a feminist issue:

<http://fcollective.wordpress.com/2012/07/29/manage-this-income-management-is-a-feminist-issue/>

The NSW ALP conference voted against the expansion of income management. Eva Cox asks why this major policy split between state and federal Labor went unnoticed:

<http://newmatilda.com/2012/07/18/alp-opponents-income-management>

and on the lack of evidence for the benefits of income management:

<http://stoptheintervention.org/facts/income-management/eva-cox>

Income Management has now been rolled out locally, in Bankstown. The 'Say No to Government's Income Management – Not in Bankstown, Not Anywhere!' campaign has huge community support:

<http://www.sayno2gim.info/index.php/get-involved>

Read the speech given by WEL NSW Convenor Melanie Fernandez at the "Say No to Government's Income Management: Not in Bankstown, Not Anywhere!" rally:

<http://www.wel.org.au/>

It cannot be denied that women's experience of income management needs to be central to the debates that currently surround the issue.

We would like to form an Income Management working group to look at the broader implications of this major policy change; a space to strategise about where we are at, what the gendered implications for this policy are and what we can do about it. We need to develop ideas for limiting the damage and supporting alternative policies, given the Opposition is promising to extend this type of control over payments to all on welfare.

This is a space to bring your questions and ideas and explore the possibilities of policy change. There is a need for clear feminist voices on important issues like welfare payments. Let's be creative and active on this important and timely issue. Let's be strategic and effective! Join us.

When: Wednesday 22 August 6pm

Where: Amnesty International Building, 1/79 Myrtle Street Chippendale.

We hope you will come to this first planned meeting. We can shape our activism together.