



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Women's Abortion Action Campaign
ACCESSION NO	2000.0222, VWLLFA No. 39
CATEGORY	Community and Political, organisations
ACTIVITY	Feminist
DATE RANGE	1970-1980
SIZE OF COLLECTION	40 cm. (2 archives boxes, badges and textiles)
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>The Women's Abortion Action Campaign (WAAC) was founded in 1972 to campaign for the right for women to have an abortion on demand and the repeal of the anti-abortion laws. WAAC organised dozens of public meetings and demonstrations, several conferences, fundraisers and tours and published a newsletter, 'Right to Choose'. One of WAAC's most publicised demonstrations was held on June 30, 1973 in the Melbourne city square with a march to the Russell Street Police Station where several women presented sworn affidavits stating they had had abortions and demanding to be arrested. WAAC disbanded in 1981.</p> <p>This collection is No.39 of the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archive</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	2000
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>Accounts; articles regarding abortion; correspondence; leaflets; WAAC National Conference papers; WAAC Newsletter; WAAC Conference Abortion Conference papers; minutes; contact lists; monographs; periodicals including 'Alternative News Service', 'Civil Liberty', 'WAAC Newsletter', 'Women's Abortion Action Campaign Melbourne Newsletter', 'WEL Newsletter', 'Right to Choose', 'Women's News Service'; submissions; ALRA correspondence, leaflets, press releases; ALRA periodicals including 'Sisters WLM', 'ALRA Bi-Monthly Newsletter', 'ALRA Newsletter', subject files regarding civil liberties, law, parliamentary proceedings, Queensland; badges, textiles and posters.</p>

NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	<p>Formats from this collection needing special preservation have been removed to alternative storage. Formats relocated from this collection include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badges • Banners, T-Shirts, Textiles, and Memorabilia <p>Banners, T-Shirts, Textiles, and Memorabilia are fully detailed on a master list attached to the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archive catalogue Registration Number 2010.0011. Please search this number for full details.</p> <p>Badges are not listed in detail. A summary list of collections with this format is attached to the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archive catalogue Registration Number 2010.0011. Please search this number for details.</p>
NOTE ON LISTING	<p>Data converted from a FilemakerPro Database in 2008. Series and Item numbers follow the original numbering system established for the VWLLFA. For boxes, the Collection Number precedes the box number. For item identifiers, the Collection Number precedes a classification number and an item number. Originally organized and listed by Jean Taylor, this collection was re organized, boxed and listed by A. Tibby and B. Clarke in November 2011.</p>
LISTED BY	Shirin Heinrich A. Tibby and B. Clarke
DATE	October 2010 November & December 2011, January & February 2012

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Biography	
1	1/1	Minutes book 5 January-2September 1980, Newsletter list book, Pledges book 1975, Right to Choose account book 2, Conference account book 3	1975-1980
	1/2	Sponsorship forms, Photos of WAAC barbeque 1975, Correspondence 1979-1980	1975-1980
	1/3	Right to choose 2 Receipt book April 1975-April 1976, Right to Choose Deposit Book November 1975-February 1976, Right to Choose Deposit book October 1977	1975-1977
	1/4	2 copies each of two booklets in different languages	1978
	1/5	Miscellaneous Publications: 'Bluestocking' double issue 9-10 September 1977, 'The Menstrual Cycle' (2 copies), 'Newsletter of Disability Resources Centre' 26 September 1983, Perth Gay Liberations' change of address notice	1977-1983
	1/6	Parliamentary correspondence; Hansard on 'ACT Termination of Pregnancy Ordinance'	1978
	1/7	Articles, papers, and information with authorship and/or hand-done copies: Song sheet 'The March of the Women' words by Cicely Hamilton, music by Ethel Smyth (but to the tune of 'Jerusalem by Parry); 'Fighting for Abortion Rights Today' (2 copies), by Rebecca Albury, Wollongong, New South Wales, 1979; 'Abortion...Whose Right to Decide', Melbourne, Victoria, c 1970; 'The Women's Abortion Action Coalition', Melbourne, Victoria 1974; 'Melbourne Women's Health Collective'(MWHC) Speech by Bon Hull, (3 copies) Melbourne, Victoria, c.1970; 'Recent Moves on Abortion', Melbourne, Victoria, c. 1978; 'Who Decides? Perspectives on the Abortion Campaign', by Glenda Ballantyne, in 'Scarlet Woman' No. 8, 1979; 'Gisele Halimi', National U, Australia, c. 1970; 'Abortion a Political Issue' by Fran Jelley, Sydney, New South Wales, c. 1970; 'Abortion in New South Wales - Legal or Illegal?', by Brian Lucas, Australia, 1978; 'Film Review: A Matter of Fact' by Sheila Taylor in 'Scarlet Woman', No. 9, Sep 1979; 'Building the Abortion Campaign: A Discussion' by Rebecca Albury (3 copies) Sydney, New South Wales, 1979; 'The Women's Abortion Action Coalition' for 'Vashti's Voice' (2 copies) by Mary Merkenich, Victoria 22 Dec 1974; 'To the Moral Anti-Abortionists', poem and letter from author Wilma Hedley, 1975; letter of reply regarding 'Medical Practice Clarification Bill', 1975 'Abortion: A Question of Political Power, Not Morality' (3 copies) IWD leaflet, 1980; list of sponsors for the Campaign to Repeal All Abortion Laws	1970-1980
1	1/8	Articles and clippings: National Abortion Rights Action Group (NARAL) 'Violence Against the Right to Choose', NARAL, Washington DC, 1978;	1975-1978

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		<p>'Abortion and the "Right to Life" – Facts, Fallacies, and Fraud' by James W. Prescott in 'The Humanist' (2 copies); 'Report on Defence Efforts for Dr Edelin' by Linda Jenness (USA); flyer for rally, Melbourne; tri-lingual information sheet, 'Abortion and You', WAAC, Melbourne; 'Morality and Politics: Abortion and the New South Wales Election – Information for Candidates from the Women's Abortion Action Campaign', NSW; 'Abortion Rights Under Attack! Women Demand the Right to Choose' WAAC Melbourne; 'A Brief Guide to Contraception'; 'Tribunal on Crimes Against Women', Women's National Abortion Action Campaign (WONAAC) (2 flyers); 'A Priest's Viewpoint' Reprint of an article by Fr Robert F Drinan S.J. in 'The Commonweal' Apr 17, 1970 and a reply in 'The Age', 16 Oct 1971, Melbourne; 'The Birth Control Industry'; 'Abortion and Women's Rights' text of a submission by the Women's National Abortion Action Campaign (WONAAC) to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Women's Rights, Apr 9, 1974; Point of View No. 16, 'The Population Problem' by Robert Birrell in 'Victoria's Resources' Sep 1975; clippings</p>	
1	1/9	<p>Items regarding abortion and women's health: 'Why the Need for Feminist Controlled Abortion Services' by Women's Pregnancy Advisory and Abortion Referral Centre; 'View From the Fringe An Interview with Gisele Halimi', Melbourne c 1970; 'Aims and Development of the Melbourne Women's Health Collective'; paper to be presented by Melbourne Women's Health Collective (MWHC) for Sydney WAAC Conference, NSW, 14-16 Jun 1975; 'Melbourne Women's Health Collective' Jun 1975; 'Children for all the Wrong Reasons', by Robert Gould, Zero Population Growth, Melbourne Branch, 1970; 'Enemies of Abortion' by Marion Sanders, Zero Population Growth, Melbourne Branch, 1974; 'Abortion a Political Issue' by Fran Jelley, Sydney c 1970 (2 copies); 'The Right to Abortion' by F.W. Stella Browne et al, reprinted from 'Abortion' London (UK) 1935; '25,000 March in Britain to Defend Right to Abortion', by Maureen Blackburn, in Intercontinental Press, NY, 1975; monograph, 'A Woman's Guide to Abortion Why, How, Where', Sydney c 1970; 'The Free Choice of Abortion' International Association For the Free Choice of Abortion, Geneva, Switzerland, Vol 1, No 4, Mar 1977; 'Teenage Pregnancy', by Cynthia Green and Susan Lowe, Melbourne, 1975; information sheet 'Pre-operative Facts you Should Know', Australia; 'A Woman's Right to Choose' by D.C. Bradley in 'The Modern Law Review' Vol 41, No. 4, Jul 1978; 'Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose' by the Australian Union of Students, Carlton; pamphlet on 'Abortion: Straightening Out Some Misconceptions' by Community Research Action Centre, Vic, Aug 1980; circular 'D.E.S. Action Group' by Union of</p>	1935-1980

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Australian Women (UAW) Melbourne	
1	1/10	Originals for WAAC posters and flyers	
	1/11	Advertising material for meetings, rallies, demos, events, fundraisers and conferences – dated and undated	1970-1980
	1/12	Sponsorships – forms, letters, ideas and sales	1974-1976
1	1/13	'House of Representatives Weekly Hansard' No 20 and 21, 7-17 Nov, 1978; 'Senate Weekly Hansard' No 21 14-17 Nov, 1978; 'Parliamentary Debates Hansard, House of Representative' 10 May, 1973; 'House of Representatives Legislation Committees Hansard – Reference: Trade Marks Amendment Bill 1978, 27 Sep, 1978; 'La Cause des Femmes' (France) by Giselle Halimi, 1972	1972-1978
2	2/1	Queensland abortion campaign: Handwritten notes for speech at Queensland demonstration, May 1980; letter requesting support 'Women's Campaign for Abortion'; 'Recent Moves on Abortion'; Children by Choice Association Newsletters No. 40, May 1977 and No. 41, Sep 1977; Flyer 'Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose'; 'One Struggle, Many Fronts' request for support by the Liaison Committee of Women's Campaign for Abortion and the A.C.T.U. Women's Charter Committee; flyer for rally 'Defend Women's Right to Abortion'; 'The Political Context'; 'Abortion: A Matter of Necessity, Not Morality', 1980; flyers; Memorandum to Members of the Sexism Committee from Margaret Vandeleur 'Recent Moves on Abortion, summarising the legal situation in Queensland and Victoria, * May 1980 (2 copies); 'Pregnancy Termination Control Bill' 1980 (2 copies); 'Pregnancy Termination Control Act, 1980 – Precis of Contents' (3 copies); Union of Australian Women Newsletter 'Stop Queensland's Anti-Abortion Act', June 1980; 'Queensland Pro-Abortion Resource Kit – A Kit Produced in Opposition to Anti-Abortion Legislation and the Proposed Queensland abortion Bill', 12 May 1980;	1977-1980
	2/2	Newsletters I – 'Civil Liberty – Newsletter of the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties' Nos 47, 48, 49, Jun-Dec 1979	1979
	2/3	Newsletters II – 'Women's News Service' Nos 4,5,6 1975; no 51 1975; No 21 1978; 'WAAC Newsletter' Jan and Aug, 1975 and 'National Conference Bulletin Newsletter' Nov 1974; 'Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) Broadsheet' Sep 1975	1974-1978
2	2/4	Newsletters III – Abortion Law Reform Associations of ACT, NSW, SA and Vic (ALRA) – Newsletters No 4-9 1970-1972; 'England's Lane Report' by Victorian Association for repeal of Abortion Laws', Melbourne; 'Medical Practice Clarification Bill' from the Bills and Papers Office, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia, 1973 including correspondence from Minister; Fact sheet 'Abortion: What are Your Rights?'; 'Abortion and Federal Parliament: Round 11' –	1970-1972

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		a list of MPs who voted for/against abortion Bill by Melbourne University Children by Choice (3 copies); 'A Priest's Viewpoint' Reprint of an article by Fr Robert F Drinan S.J. in 'The Commonweal' Apr 17, 1970 and a reply in 'The Age', 16 Oct 1971, Melbourne; List of Family Planning Clinics in Victoria; 'Anti-Abortionist Groups in Australia', 1980; factsheet 'Abortion: What are Your Rights?' (2 copies); 'Counselling Aspects of Pregnancy Termination'(2 copies); 'Agenda for Annual General Meeting' held at Monash Medical School Conference Room, 18 Mar 1974; 'The Present Law Concerning Abortion', Victoria; list of publications by Abortion Law repeal Association (Victoria); flyer re repeated trials of one abortionist and membership form for the Abortion Law Reform Society of Victoria; Synopsis of Submission to Human Relations Commission' by Beatrice Faust	
2	2/5	Materials from ALRA were donated, in 1976, by Robyn Duke Newsletters IV – Abortion Law Repeal Association (Vic) (ALRA) bi-monthly newsletter, Winter, 1972; Jan/Feb ?1972, Aug, 1972 (2 copies); Jan/Feb 1973, Mar/Apr 1973, May/June 1973, Jul/Aug 1973, Sep/Oct 1973, Nov/Dec 1973, May/June 1974, Nov/Dec 1975; open letter to 'The Age' and 'The Australian' (?date) by the Abortion Law repeal Association; 'Sisters' Vol 1, No. 2; ALRA requests for support; 'Postcoital Contraception: A paper prepared for the triennial conference of the Australian and New Zealand Health Association, Canberra, January 22-26, 1973' by Margaret Sparrow; 'Hon Secretary's report to Annual General Meeting, May 28 th , 1975' by Denise White, Abortion Law Repeal Association of W.A.; 'Getting an Abortion in Victoria Today' by Beatrice Faust, President, ALRA (Vic) (3 copies); ALRA letterhead; ALRA petition; information and correspondence on 'McKenzie-Lamb Bill/Medical Practice Clarification Bill, 1973, including Second Reading Hansard of speech by Race Mathews, M.P., 10 May, 1973 (2 copies); 'Background to High Court Case in Adelaide'; Report of ALRA AGM 1974	1972-1975
	2/6	Surveys and questionnaires	1975-1979
	2/7	Clippings	1973-1978
	2/8	Victorian Council for Civil Liberties Newsletter Jun 1980; handwritten minutes, 28 Mar 1979	1979-1980
	2/9	Australian Labor Party, Victorian Branch – List of Branch Secretaries, Feb 1975; Victorian Hansard on 'Rape', 31 Oct 1979; parliamentary correspondence; WAAC correspondence; WAAC survey of parliamentary members, 5 th Mar 1976; Senate Hansard of 'Questions Without Notice' regarding abortion, 16 Nov 1978; list of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council	1975-1980
2	2/10	'Abortion is a Woman's Right to Choose: repeal the NSW Abortion Laws!' by WAAC, NSW, No 14, Autumn 1977	1977

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
2	2/11	Abortion law and policies on abortion, contraception and sterilisation, including parliamentary correspondence	1980
	2/12	'Submission to the Australian Government for Funds to Mark the Occasion of the United Nations International Women's Year, 1975, for the Purpose of Convening a Conference on Abortion and Contraception in March, 1975' WAAC, Victoria and NSW; WAAC Victoria submission to Australian Union of Students, 13 Nov, 1974	1974
	2/13	Council of Self-Help Groups (COSHG) flyers; 'Employment Initiatives Program News Exchange' No 1, Mar 1983 and No 4, Aug 1983 by VCOSS/COSHG; 'Self Help Collective News' (Vic) Mar 1983; 'Self Help Collective News'; S.E.C. Action Group Newsletter, Sep 1982; 'Building Links for Change, Forum for Self Help Groups 1983 – Post Forum Bulletin' by COSHG, Mar 1984; 'Pre-budget Submission to the Victorian Government regarding Funding Priorities for 1984' by Tina Nightingale for COSHG, mar 1984; 'Self Help News', by COSHG, Jun 1984; Victorian Council of Social Service Support Unit – Information Kit for Voluntary Associations' by VCOSS; 'Insurance Handbook for Voluntary Groups' Support Unit Information VCOSS (Vic), Oct 1982; VCOSS correspondence	1982-1984
2	2/14	Correspondence from State Law Offices regarding 'Freedom of Information Act'; Women for Women in Treatment correspondence; pamphlet on 'Human Services Program Report Consultation' by Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria; 'Law Reform Bulletin' Feb 1983 by Victorian Council of Social Service Law and Welfare Project; correspondence from Little Blue Book Collective, Youth Affairs Council of Victoria re health and sexuality resources directory for girls, Feb 1983; 'Wordworks – About People and Employment: Retrenchment: The New Joblessness' Issue 4, Nov 1983 by Employ-Wordworks; letter of introduction and survey by Women's Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE), Aug 1983	1983

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