

Leadership Portfolio:



Mary Ronayne

Community and Culture Manager (WSH)

Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM)

Mary was born in Brewarrina and comes from the Kamilaroi nation. She has been the Manager of the [Wilcannia Safe House](#) since 2013.

Over the last 18 years she has worked in a range of coordination and management positions within the Domestic and Family Violence sector in rural NSW. Her focus has always been to support women and children to realise their potential and help them understand that they are important and can reach their dreams. She has a wealth of experience of working with Aboriginal women and is aware of the complexities and disadvantage that comes with being an Aboriginal person. As such she is concerned with improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal women and children, families and communities.

Mary's expertise is in listening to others, building relationships and connections with people and supporting people to come together and understand each other's view point to reach a common goal. She is passionate about seeing people's lives change for the better.

Mary holds a Diploma of Community Services Coordination and has Certificates in multiple other areas including Social Housing and Aboriginal Health.

Mary is currently studying (online) a Diploma in Business.

Mary Ronayne

Community and Culture Manager

Base: Wilcannia Safe House

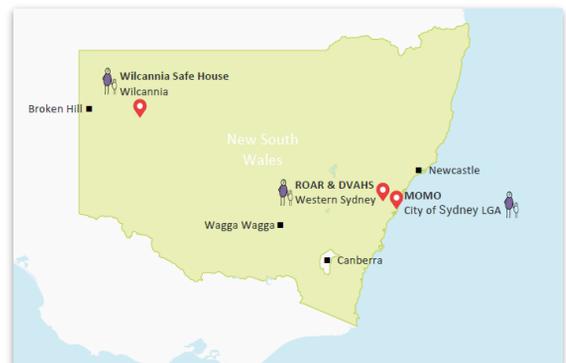
Domestic Violence Service Management

T: (08) 8091 5739

E: mary.ronayne@dvnswsm.org.au

W: <http://www.dvnswsm.org.au>

PO Box 90, Wilcannia NSW 2836



Wilcannia Safe House (WSH) provides overnight, short and medium term accommodation for women with or without children who are escaping or experiencing Domestic and Family Violence. The accommodation available at the WSH are independent units, however, with agreement from all individuals residing there and those seeking accommodation these units can be shared with separately presenting groups or individuals. The service also provides outreach support for people in the community who are escaping or experiencing Domestic and Family Violence, are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

The Wilcannia Safe House predominantly supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The service prioritises work with;

- Young People between 16 and 25
- Women over 25
- Families with children including those escaping Domestic and Family Violence.

The WSH also serves as a community hub, offering a safe and supportive location where women and children can meet; a space where local and visiting services can hold information sessions, events and one-on-one meetings.

Key achievements and influence

Mary has been instrumental in the development of...

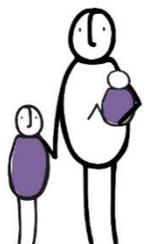
- DVSM Resources: [Practitioner Toolkit](#) | Project - [Concept of Safety](#) | [Follow My Lead](#) | Welcome Book & Staying Here Guide
- WSH RRR's - Recognise, React, Report Program to increase children and young persons' safety
- WSH Women's Wellbeing Event – Supporting young Aboriginal Women and Elders
- Community Calendar for all services in the area
- Domestic and Family Violence awareness raising through Wilcannia Football League
- Wilcannia Community Fashion Parade celebrating and upholding children's rights

Mary has built up working relationship with 25 services and holds roles of leadership and influence within...

- Wilcannia Community Working Party
- Wilcannia Local Suicide Prevention Group
- Central School Reference group
- Central Darling Shire Independent Living Units working group
- Local Domestic Violence Consultative group
- Primary Health Council

Mary is sought after by children, young people, individuals, families and services for...

- Local knowledge of and trust from families and services within Wilcannia
- Ethical and culturally safe practices in supporting families working through judicial processes, far restoration, family breakdown and loss, conflict and mediation
- Safe practices in safeguarding children and young people
- Supporting children and young people who are (or at risk of) disengaging from school





People in the Wilcannia community describe Mary as:

Aunty Mary is a very nice woman she does a lot of things for us kids like she did the modelling show for us kids and she is very kind.

Myeisha

Mary's collaborators describe her as:

I am the team leader at the wings youth centre, I found Mary to be very committed to her work. Working with Mary to get the fashion show together all the work she put into that event to make it a great night, every person that attended the night spoke about what a great night it was. And also how she works with women and children through Domestic Violence. Mary listens to the women that are in crisis and in need of help. On the occasions that I went to the Safe House Mary always made me welcome.

Mary is well liked and respected in this community.

Wings Youth Centre

Mary has given the people of Wilcannia safety, comfort and has been a major factor in helping prevention of Youth Suicide, Domestic Violence and in particular for the women a place they can go to and feel safe.

Mary has also assisted and given guidance for the Wilcannia Men's Group to establish their own role in the Community.

Mary is one of the most beautiful person I have met and I am humble and honoured to work along side of her for this community.

Mary has given respect and in return has our (Wilcannia Men) respect.

Brendon Adams
Wilcannia Men's Service

Mary's colleagues describe her as:

Mary always hold the whole of person front of mind when she makes decisions and her commitment to the community which she serves is so inspiring.

Service Delivery Colleague

Mary has a deep understanding of violence and the harm it causes to women, children and families. Mary works with integrity, openness and an unwavering commitment to treating all people with respect and dignity. Mary's approach to tackling family violence is focused on supporting the immediate safety of women, children and families; while never losing sight of the long term goal of building active engaged and healthy communities. Mary is a visionary who leads the way in whole of community responses to violence.

Sightlines Colleague

Mary is a genuinely sincere and generous leader, who is passionate about supporting individuals, families and communities to achieve positive changes.

Organisational Services Colleague

Mary is warm and inviting, she seeks to form relationships that will benefit the whole community through her work at the Safe House. Her calm strong focus on everyone's well-being and belief in themselves is firmly based on safety and respect.

Lizette Twisleton
**NSW Sector Development Manager
No to Violence (NTV)**

