

## **Table 12: WEL Northern Territory Submission, 1979 – 1982**

The WEL History Project has copies of four submissions from WEL Groups in the Northern Territory.

The first is “A Submission by Darwin Women’s Electoral Lobby to The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory The Hon. Paul Everingham, M.L.A. concerning the establishment of an Office of Women’s Affairs”. This was forwarded to the Chief Minister on 7 September 1979 to Ann Rebgetz, Convenor, Women’s Electoral Lobby, Darwin. This was a very detailed twenty-nine page submission with a number of attachments including a proposed budget, supporting letters from the Alice Springs Women’s Centre Collective and the Northern Territory Teachers’ Federation and a ‘Report on the Status of Aboriginal Women with Regard to Rape’.

In a letter dated 12 October 1979 the Chief Minister replied, “After careful consideration, I have decided against appointing a Women’s Advisor or establishing an Office of Women’s Affairs.”

The second submission in the WEL History Project collection is a “Submission for Funding as a Joint Venture between the Northern Territory Government, Nabalco and the Women of Nhulumbuy” for the establishment of a “Women’s Centre in Nhulumbuy”. It was prepared in 1979 by Denise Fincham for the Women’s Electoral Lobby, Nhulumbuy, with the assistance of the Women’s Electoral Lobby of New South Wales.

The third is a “Submission on Draft Criminal Code Bill Division 4 – Sexual and Related Offences” dated 5 June 1981. In this WEL Darwin ‘welcomes the clear intention to reform the law relating to rape and other sexual offences contained in the draft Criminal Code and commends the Government for its intention in this area.’ WEL Darwin also stated that it intended “to follow this submission with a further one on “Subdivision B – Proceedings in Respect of Sexual Offences” in the near future.”

The fourth submission concerned “Child Care” and was sent to the National Women’s Advisory Council by WEL Darwin in July 1982. A copy was forwarded to Yvonne Carnahan, the WEL National Co-ordinator, in August 1982.