

PATHWAYS INTO OUR SECTOR

Growing the domestic and family violence, sexual assault, women's health and wellbeing workforce.



Gillian, Acting Manager,
WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.
Bachelor of Visual Arts,
Masters in Social Work Studies

Harnessing creative skills in working with women with disabilities.

WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association is a not-for-profit organisation that supports people with intellectual or learning disabilities. It focuses on women who experience sexual violence or are victims of crime. Gillian's career started with a degree in Visual Arts and she used her creative skills in community and cultural development for social change. In the Philippines working with social workers, Gillian felt drawn to this work. She returned to Australia to complete a Masters in Social Work Studies. Her industry placements during these studies after Social Work developed her interest in working with people with a disability.

This led Gillian to work with WWILD as a Victims of Crime Support Worker, working with women with disabilities

who had been impacted by violence. After eight years in this role, Gillian moved into her current role of Acting Manager.

"A highlight of my work is seeing women with disability gain confidence to speak up and advocate for better systems and responses to support other women with disability who disclose violence," Gillian said.

Gillian shares two examples of women with disability making a difference. One has contributed

"A highlight of my work is seeing women empowered to have their voices heard."

to the design of the Sunny app for 1800 respect for use by women with disabilities. The other has taken on a role in a consultative working group that advises the government on strategies responding to domestic violence against people with disability.

Gillian advises anyone interested in working in this area to be open to learning from people with disabilities and to be thoughtful and reflective in all aspects of your work.

"Look for a workplace with a supportive culture to help you develop and cope with the stress, because the risks of trauma and burnout are real. It's an extremely busy area of work but it's essential to work at the client's pace —this can be challenging at times."

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