

Archive No. 68

Marie Rowan (15 December 1944 –)

Marie was born Marie Gorman in Moe, Victoria, educated at Yallourn High School, Burwood Teachers College and Monash Uni and in later years with Gestalt Therapy Australia. She married in 1968, had a daughter, Elizabeth Virginia Reale, who was born in 1970 and was divorced in 1977.

Marie's involvement with the Women's Liberation Movement started in 1972 when she joined the Aspendale Consciousness Raising Group as well as the Oakleigh C-R Group. From 1974 – 1985 she was an active member of the Women's Liberation Halfway House collective. She was a founding member of the Women's Refuge Referral Service, worked at Matilda Women's Refuge and worked towards the establishment of the women's refuge program in Victoria. She also set up the incest support services at the Domestic Violence and Incest resource Centre (DVIRC).

Marie's other activities included managing a community mental health service from 1989 during the move towards deinstitutionalisation. She was the President of VICSERV.

Marie lived in several collective households from 1976 to 1986. And by 2004 was working as a psychotherapist and counsellor.