

## **Archive No. 38**

### **Women Against Rape (WAR)**

The Rape Crisis Action Group, which later became known as Women Against Rape (WAR), was formed at a meeting on 12 November 1973, to initially hold discussions around all the issues to do with rape in order to put the guilt and pain into a feminist framework and so enable women to get a more affirming perspective on rape and its affect on women. The collective aimed to eventually set up a rape crisis counselling and support service with a feminist perspective for women who had been raped.

WAR opened the Rape Crisis Centre on 25 November 1974 at the Women's Health Centre at 85 Johnston Street, Collingwood. The collective operated a phone information, referral and support service between 6pm – 10pm every evening for women who'd been raped. Members were also available to provide personal support for women who'd been raped by accompanying them to police stations, hospitals and courts when necessary. WAR also provided speakers and information about rape for community groups and schools and facilitated group discussions for women and their families.

WAR also organised the first Reclaim the Night rally and march in Melbourne on 16 November 1979, which continued as an annual rallying point for women for the next couple of decades. WAR also wrote and published *War On Rape* in 1977 the first book for Victorian women about rape which included relevant information about resources and support. After the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) Houses had been set up with government funding from 1986 onwards, the WAR collective folded through lack of energy and interest in 1988.