



KAIROS OUTSIDE FOR WOMEN (KOW)

Kairos Outside for Women (KOW) was developed as a related ministry of Kairos Prison Ministry Australia which provides a special pastoral ministry to those *in* prisons. Kairos Outside for Women was especially set up to provide loving and unconditional support for any female relative or friend of a current or former prison inmate. The ministry is therefore for women on the *outside* of prison who are affected by the incarceration of a loved one and the logo above was designed to indicate this situation. It is often the case that close female relatives and friends of those who have been imprisoned in correctional centres or juvenile offender programs feel that they also are 'doing time' along with the inmates. It is thus important for them to know that they are not alone and that there is a community of Christian people who understand their situation and care about them.

Kairos is a Greek word meaning 'special time'. Kairos Outside for Women begins with a no-cost-to-guests weekend designed to create for them a special time and place where there is a safe, caring and supportive environment and where they can meet with other women who have been or who are going through 'life on the outside'. It is a place where unconditional love, acceptance and support are given in large measure and spiritual growth is fostered. It is also designed to promote ongoing participation in support groups and regular get togethers. It differs from other Christian-based times away in that it is designed for both Christian *and* non-Christian guests. It is particularly aimed to provide ample opportunities for the guests to be open about themselves and see what life can be like in a loving, caring Christian community. Importantly, anything that occurs on this special weekend stays there as matters of confidentiality are fiercely protected.

KOW is now operating in 13 regions of Australia and Kairos Outside for Women New England (KOWNE) is one of these regional operations which organises its special Weekend away in October each year. There are a number of folk in the Armidale churches (including our own church) and other New England Christian organisations who are involved in this interdenominational ministry. If anyone is seeking any more information about this ministry or knows someone who might benefit from being involved, please contact the Armidale Uniting Church office on weekday mornings between 10.00-12.00 (Ph: 02 67 72 3233) or email the office (admin@armidaleunitingchurch.org.au).

As a registered not-for-profit charity, Kairos Prison Ministry Australia is not government funded and thus depends greatly on the generosity of volunteers, friends and other charitable organisations. For more information on Kairos Outside for Women Australia see their website: <http://kairos.org.au/what-we-do/kairos-outside/>