

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: PR00071

Unemployed Women's Union

(1980 - 1981)

Born 1 January, 1980, Adelaide South Australia Australia

Died 31 December, 1981, Adelaide Adelaide South Australia Australia

Occupation Feminist organisation, Social action organisation

Summary

The Unemployed Women's Union was a response to the economic downturn of 1980. The members wanted to debunk the myth of married women who were working as the cause of unemployment, to defend the right for all women to work, and to act as a support group for unemployed women. They picketed employers, published a newsletter, spoke at rallies, wrote letters to newspapers and politicians, and applied for jobs en masse.

Details

The Unemployed Women's Union was a response to the economic downturn of 1980. They wanted to debunk the myth of married women working as the cause of unemployment, defend the right for all women to work, and as a support group for unemployed women. The picketed employers laying off women and published a newsletter called 'Fury'. They provided speakers at rallies, wrote letters to newspapers and politicians, and applied for jobs en masse. They formed the Unemployed Women's Union Support Group. The union liaised with the Working Women's Centre on issues of discrimination, unfair dismissal. Unemployed Women's Union produced stickers, badges, pamphlets and made a banner for marches. They participated in the Beef March of 1980. This was a reference to a famous march of unemployed in Adelaide during the Great Depression. Some of the women involved included Silver Moon, Betty Fisher, Jillinda Thompson, Anne Farrer, Chris Wijesinha, Lyz Holdsworth, Claire Groves, Evelyn Dent and Dale Bacon.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Newsletter

Liberation, 1970

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

[Adelaide Women's Liberation Movement Archives Collection](#)

[Unemployed Women's Union : SUMMARY RECORD](#)

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