

# WOMEN'S INFORMATION SERVICE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## Transcript of Interview with Tanya Hosch

**Interviewee: Tanya Hosch**

**Interviewer: Liz Ahern**

**Date: 22nd March 2018**

**[00:00:06]**

**LIZ AHERN:** This is an interview with Tanya Hosch as part of the Women's History Project recorded at the Port Adelaide Football Club in 22nd March 2018.

Thank you. Tanya would you please provide your name a brief interview of when and where you were born and grew up.

**TANYA HOSCH:** So I was born in Adelaide the Queen Victoria Hospital in 1970. I grew up in the suburbs of Gilles Plains, Fairview Park and Clearview.

**LIZ AHERN:** Where did you start working with at the Women's Information Switchboard? Was it Switchboard in your day?

**TANYA HOSCH:** It was Switchboard. Well what year would it have been? Would have been the earlier nineties, so I think I was about twenty three, twenty two actually I think I was twenty two. So I think it was nineteen ninety three I started working there or it might have been a bit longer. I can't quite remember. It --- I'd only ever had an administrative roles before that time. I came in originally as a temporary person to be like the Indigenous worker after Joanne Willmot had left after many years of service at the Switchboard. So I went in temporarily and then ended up applying for the job and winning it.

**LIZ AHERN:** Excellent. So how long were you there altogether do you think.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Ah that's a good question. Not sure, I think I was there for a couple of years, at least two years, maybe three and then I ---- one day out of

absolute exasperation and frustration when taking yet another call from a woman who was trying to escape a violent relationship; couldn't understand why there weren't more services available for women in that situation; couldn't understand that there weren't more safe housing options; couldn't --- like I just --- I was young and I was naive and I had --- I was just frustrated. I couldn't understand that I was trying to find somewhere for this woman to go and I couldn't find anywhere that had a vacancy. And I had an opportunity to speak to the Office for Women or the Status of Women at the time (cough) who I guess in the structure was like our parent company (cough) sorry. And I said 'what are you doing I don't understand why, why is it so hard' and I don't know what possessed me but I said 'I really think that you should let me come and work up here for a few months and get a sense of what you do because you're obviously talking to decision makers' (cough). Now when I think back it was a very brave thing for someone with my lack of experience to do but I did it. The words came out of my mouth. I didn't give it a lot of thought. Anyway they said yes and you know really both at the Women's Switchboard but also in the Office for Women I was surrounded by fantastic women who really supported me and nurtured me and I think believed that I had potential. So it was at the Women's Switchboard that I went to University, never occurred to me that that was something I could possibly do but it was the women you know the volunteers and paid staff who said you know you're quite capable like you should give it a go. So when people talk to me about my career and how I got here I do think of my time at the Women's Information Switchboard as the turning point for me in terms of actually having genuine support to try and to pursue what I wanted to pursue.

**[00:03:58]**

**LIZ AHERN:** So it encouraged you to follow your dreams.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh absolutely. Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Or even discover if you had any, I guess.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah just, you know encouraged me to, to just you know take opportunities and to, to try new things which you know I really didn't expect

to have much or a career I hadn't, I had no career plans that were achievable. The only things that I wanted to do weren't really options for me so you know going to WIS was a real turning point.

**LIZ AHERN:** That's good. So what did you like about working there apart from the frustration dealing with domestic violence which I share.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** And feel is not sadly resolved today.

**TANYA HOSCH:** No

**LIZ AHERN:** Although there are better coordinated services now than there used to be.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes definitely. Um look I liked helping people. Even now some of my family members say to me you know they think I was my happiest working there. I really enjoyed working with people enjoyed helping people from quite simple things to quite complex things. I really enjoyed the history of the organisation. I'd, I'd loved what it stood for its where I discovered feminism and you know became a feminist and understood the inter-sectionality between being a woman and being an Indigenous woman and it really --- it was a important place for me to grow up and in that I was surrounded by you know staff and volunteers and you know it wasn't always a happy marriage between the staff and the volunteers and that, that was challenging. But I learned a lot through that too. I enjoyed working with the volunteers, enjoyed working with the paid staff. I enjoyed being around women I could learn from. I enjoyed being in an all female organisation it's probably the only time I ever have been. I just learnt so much but it came at a time where I was still quite young and so I was a big sponge in any case. But I learnt about things that I don't think I would have probably in any other job. Yeah.

**[00:06:11]**

**LIZ AHERN:** And so what did you, what did you go off to study when you ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Bachelor of Social Work.

**LIZ AHERN:** Did you study part-time.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah study part-time, worked full-time. So I studied a Bachelor of Social Work. I didn't end up completing that because of the part-time study with full-time work and my jobs just became increasingly more demanding and I just couldn't get to lectures and then I started moving around the country, it just got too hard unfortunately. But --- that was a great degree to do in the context of WIS and I suppose it was working there that made me realize that's the work I really enjoyed. And you know interacting with the women's community health sector and the women's library that Doon Hayman use to run what was it called.

**LIZ AHERN:** Woman's Studies Resource Centre

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah the Woman's Studies Resource Centre and all these women's organisations that probably weren't very well supported or funded but were such important institutions and it, it became obvious to me very quickly how important all of that was and it just helped me to understand the history and the work that had gone into getting these things established and I had enormous respect for that and I guess I was lucky to be a recipient of all the good things that came from that work.

**LIZ AHERN:** And it was a good time when we had all those things.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes it was.

**LIZ AHERN:** Because Women's Health has now evaporated

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** There's only --- that Women's Studies Resource Centre has disappeared.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** We now only have the Women's Working Centre and WIS really.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah. And I spent a stint at the Working Women's Centre too. I mean it was --- yeah look it was --- I'm so grateful for it and I talk about that in public quite frequently when I did the International Women's Day Breakfast. A couple of weeks ago I talked about WIS being an important part of my development and my feminist journey and I --- you know it is an important time in my life absolutely.

**LIZ AHERN:** Okay so did you work in the phone room the shopfront.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Phone room, mostly. So you know at the time I was at WIS we did have walk-ins as well. So sometimes you would be dealing with someone in front of you but I guess largely your on the phone but also you know going and speaking to groups. I feel like that was probably the first time actually I had to speak in public which I was terrified by and now I find myself doing it on a regular basis. Yeah so the organisation put me out of my comfort zone but it did it in a pretty supportive way and yeah I enjoyed, I enjoyed all of it really.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah, have you got any names of people you would like to mention of people you would particularly enjoyed working with?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Well Sarah Marshall who came in very similar time to me as one of the Information Officers and she and I are still very good friends. In fact I spent last night with her and we've had our children at the same time. We've both got one daughter and we had them within weeks of each another and we lived on opposites sides of town but that's where that friendship developed. It very important. Obviously Doone Hayman. You were a great source of support Liz from the Legal Services Commission. So you were someone that use to support us a lot and we use to use your resources a lot.

**[00:09:29]**

**LIZ AHERN:** I use to be the email queen ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes

**LIZ AHERN:** Sending people them emails whether they wanted them or not.  
(laugh).

**TANYA HOSCH:** Well, I don't even think we had email when I was at WIS.

**LIZ AHERN:** When did --- well that's may be true, yeah.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Might have been later.

**TANYA HOSCH:** I don't --- we didn't even have the Internet.

**LIZ AHERN:** Because I didn't go to the Commission till the nineties.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** And we did have computers but I'm not sure if we had emails. I think you might be right.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah. Who else, Vaia Proios.

**LIZ AHERN:** So was she the Coordinator then Vaia?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah for a period when I was there and then she was at the Office for Women when I went up there. Patricia May ---

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh yes I remember.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Became a close personal friend and a great support. Mention also Barbara Kempnich who was at the Office for Women who I've got to know there.

**LIZ AHERN:** So who was the Director?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Stella Hellander.

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh yeah, I remember --- I've interviewed Stella.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah Stella, Lien Nguyen-Navas, she was, she was the Vietnamese worker. There was a great woman who was the Spanish worker who --- Renae

**LIZ AHERN:** Renae Whele.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah I couldn't remember her last name. So yeah, Jenny Adams started exactly the same time as I did and you know she was great fun and a lot more experienced than I was but she you know really took me under her wing as well, so --- there were so many great women --- there was a volunteer who had a big impact on me. There were a number of those. But Heidi, whose last name I can't remember

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh I remember Heidi.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Heidi.

**LIZ AHERN:** What about the Tuesday Group were they still going then?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah I think so. Yeah the Tuesday Group. Rita.

**LIZ AHERN:** Merle?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Heather, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Heather. Wonderful. Who was the Director of the Office for Women?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Carmel O'Loughlin.

**LIZ AHERN:** That was Carmel O'Loughlin at the time.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Did Switchboard change during the time you were there? Where were you located when you first went, were you still in Kintore Avenue?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, Kintore Avenue. Yeah

**LIZ AHERN:** And the whole time you were there. Okay. So it moved later.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Okay. Do you think there is still a need for an Information Service for women?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh I couldn't imagine there wouldn't be. I don't know how many women know about, about it. I don't know how much the Service is used these days or anything like that. But you know I think there would always be a need for information. I guess a lot of us now have smart phones and the Internet and so it's probably a bit easier for people to find information themselves but you have to know what your looking for as well and I think that service of being able to pick up the phone and talk to a person, talk to another woman who will listen to what your trying to deal with and help you understand what might be available I just can't imagine that would ever not be an entirely valuable thing to have.

**[00:12:23]**

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah, the question of options.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Giving people options is just always empowering women.

**TANYA HOSCH:** And also just listening

**LIZ AHERN:** And listening, yes, so important.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Listening to women. Even if they can find the information themselves, sometimes just having a confidential conversation with someone else who's not judging you and is only interest and only agenda is not trying to sell you anything just trying to make sure that you're okay.

**LIZ AHERN:** So what sort of people were using Switchboard at the time you were involved?



**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh look I think, you know certainly there was a lot of domestic violence, family violence related work that came through. Quite a lot of sexual assault which was something that I was really quite passionate about at that time and really concerned because I was aware at just how much --- how difficult it would be for a women to peruse a sexual assault case and became more aware of that. Certainly just general women's health issues in the main. I remember one night being on a shift on a Friday night I think it was and getting a call when it was a woman from Kangaroo Island and I will never forget it cos she just said in one breath 'now do know how I can tell if my cow is in calf and where I can buy popping corn in bulk'.

**LIZ AHERN:** (laugh)

**TANYA HOSCH:** I will never forget that call I was astounded and I thought mmm that's really interesting. But how great is that that someone can pick up that phone and ask that question. And then I remember there was a regular caller who'd ring up several times a day to ask what time it was. Because clearly she was lonely and didn't get to talk to many people and yeah I just think the fact that we were able to be there for everybody was very special.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah. And I think it still is. What about working with people like the Renaes and the Lys and the Stellas.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Stellas

**LIZ AHERN:** What did you --- did you find that useful working with women from all different backgrounds, because for me having come from a sheltered background that was really, really important to me.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, look it was. It was very enriching I suppose because I sort of had a lot of diversity in my general life I suppose. But I mean there were also communities I had no insight into and you know that mix of women definitely were very important. I suppose one thing though on reflection there were different times where the services were being reviewed and there did tend to be this sort of competitive thing about you know well why does the Indigenous work get this when they're not doing a radio program in language. There were also

some unhelpful conversations I think and ways of dealing with that. So I think while the organisation really genuinely strived to be a service that could service all women and I think it should have done that to. I don't think we always had our house in order in terms of how we internally dealt with some of the conflicts that would you know would be --- would come up you know just because of the reduction and resources and what that meant. And I feel like that was probably quite a difficult part of that but you know I don't think that was one individuals fault I thought it was just under pressure and a system that didn't always value the work we did.

**[00:15:58]**

**LIZ AHERN:** And a lot of passionate women.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes, absolutely.

**LIZ AHERN:** Trying to do the best for their particularly group.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, absolutely.

**LIZ AHERN:** When you were there were there lots of contact with Aboriginal women?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Well not really. I think when Joanne Willmot was there she'd been in the role for a long time, she's well known in the Aboriginal Community. You know she'd obviously done a great deal of work in a lot of places and so she had a much bigger network. Where I was still finding my place in the Indigenous Community in South Australia so I didn't get a lot of support from Indigenous women. I did sometimes, but not always and it was one of the things that I felt inadequate about while I was there. I mean I definitely --- there were trips that I was able to be involved with to sort of go out and talk to Aboriginal Communities and they were great. But to be honest I was too inexperienced to know how to fix that. But I did do a portion of sort of community consultation in partnership with the Indigenous worker at the Working Women's Centre for a while and that allowed us to sort of travel around South Australia and go out to different communities and talk about what we did. So definitely---

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh that would have been wonderful. So who was that?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh her name was Ella, I can remember her last name.

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh I remember, yeah.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah but I --- yeah no it was, it was good and I think ---

**LIZ AHERN:** And to get to those Communities is a real privilege isn't it.

**TANYA HOSCH:** It is, yeah. But the other thing I did as I sort of started to learn what I really enjoyed about the work and what I was interested in. I remember going to seeing Vicki Toovey who was running Adelaide Women's Community Health Centre at the time and told her what my interest was. And she offered me an opportunity to sit on their Board of Management which was a sort of first committee I'd ever joined. And again you know sitting in under the, under the tutelage of these really experienced, passionate women, that was really where my world opened up as well because I realised that there were lots of ways I could make a contribution and I was just hungry to learn and be effective. So the engagement I had through the women's service there was also good in terms of helping me really get to know what some of the specific issues for Indigenous women were.

**LIZ AHERN:** That would have been wonderful. So the Internet ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes.

**LIZ AHERN:** You must have --- the internet was still fairly infant --- in its infant condition.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh it wasn't --- we didn't have it --- we didn't have it when I was there.

**LIZ AHERN:** No Internet at all.

**TANYA HOSCH:** No.

**LIZ AHERN:** You did have computer though.

**TANYA HOSCH:** We did have computers with that that information system.

**LIZ AHERN:** With that, with that CISSA Information System.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes, we did the Community Information System, yep.

**[00:18:38]**

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah.

**TANYA HOSCH:** That was the only computer that we really had, yeah. In my time, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah, so there was a little network ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes.

**LIZ AHERN:** Of, of computers that were ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes there was.

**LIZ AHERN:** Where you could access ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** But it was pretty simple ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes it was.

**LIZ AHERN:** Stuff, wasn't it.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah it was, compared to now, definitely.

**LIZ AHERN:** And people really stum --- some of them really clung to the old GLO book, didn't they.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes they did, that's true they didn't like to use a computer and then I remember when we had the first TTY set up. [TTY - text telephone for hearing impaired].

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh yes.

**TANYA HOSCH:** So that we could communicate with people who couldn't hear and you know learning how to use that, that was pretty exciting as that was seen as amazing technology at the time.

**LIZ AHERN:** And it hasn't changed that much the TTY.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes that's right, yeah, yeah I guess it doesn't need to

**LIZ AHERN:** From what I've observed. Yeah, it's really affects then and it still is.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Okay what about outreach services did you go to field days and you said you went out and gave talks.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes.

**LIZ AHERN:** Can remember and particular examples of places you went or ----

**TANYA HOSCH:** No not really, nothing specific.

**LIZ AHERN:** Nothing stands out.

**TANYA HOSCH:** No not really.

**LIZ AHERN:** What about the support group was that still active in your time?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Support Group.

**LIZ AHERN:** The support group. The umbrella organisation that sits around Switchboard of all the different women's organisations that I use to meet once

every two months or something and get a report on WIS, was that really operational then.

**TANYA HOSCH:** I don't remember Liz there may --- that does ring a bell but I don't know the --- I don't really recall it.

**LIZ AHERN:** Cos one of the other people I have interviewed said at a time of threat.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Someone alerted the support group.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes.

**LIZ AHERN:** To the fact that the State Government were thinking of cutting the Switchboard.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** And all of a sudden these women's organisations got around and started ringing up the Minister and ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, no I do recall ---

**LIZ AHERN:** Galvanizing action.

**TANYA HOSCH:** I do recall something like that happening.

**LIZ AHERN:** So you think something like that happened in your time.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah I do. I, I think Switchboard survived a number of threats.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** When you were talking about Jo and your role in my observation of when I was there we always seemed to have a lot more Aboriginal women coming

to the organisation or ringing the organisation when there was an Aboriginal worker.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Do you think that would still be true today or do you think ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, would be. Yeah you know so long as that person was able to promote the fact that they were there and people knew that they were there. I mean I enjoyed that I was able to work with women from all background you know I did feel like it was my responsibility to be, be there. I know that when I left and I wasn't replaced as an Indigenous worker there were a few Aboriginal women who made a point of going in and asking to speak to an Indigenous worker, so they could be officially told there wasn't one. And I remember I think I might have even threatened, cos I was so outraged they didn't replace me, that I, I think I might have threatened I'd get some women to make a fuss and I never actually did that but it happened all of its own accord. Now it's probably because I very stupidly you know said that I might make that happen no one was ever going to believe it wasn't --- I wasn't behind it but I know that I wasn't and you know that was , that was good that women would actual went in and you know made a big statement in the building.

**[00:22:10]**

**LIZ AHERN:** Excellent.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah. So that was, that was good and I think it does show that people might not always need something themselves but they know that their community needs it and they want to make sure that it's there.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yes because I've been raising of late because apparently there are some Aboriginal women in the Office for Women but no one, no volunteers or staff in the actual Switchboard itself. So I've been asking questions.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh well perhaps I could go back and volunteer, in all my free time.

**LIZ AHERN:** Well you've got so much free time haven't you. What are there any phone in or things happen while you were there. Cos phone ins were a big deal when I was there. We had phone ins on domestic violence and family law and goodness knows what.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, well when I was there I think Friday night fortnightly there was a thing called lesbian line.

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh yeah, yeah.

**TANYA HOSCH:** So lesbian women who predominately seemed to come out of community health and women's health would volunteer I think from seven to nine p.m. every other Friday night to take calls from lesbian women. And if you worked on shifts for the non-lesbian line calls, cos in the evenings you'd be there on your own, these women --- I learnt a lot from them that they educated me a lot about issues for lesbian women. So I'm very, today I'm still very grateful for that grounding, because it came from a very informed place so really great expertise that was being shared through the service. And then a couple of Mother's Days I was rostered on and there was a --- always a call in line for a relinquishing mothers.

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh yes ARMS, that's right.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Mother's yes, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** I remember them abandoning relinquishing mothers

**TANYA HOSCH:** As someone who was adopted I had my own perception on the other side of that and so that was great for me too, to listen to these women and I think it help me to resolve a lot of my own grief about being adopted and understanding the perspective of women who had felt like they had to give their child up.

**LIZ AHERN:** And the pressure they were often under.



**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah and so to be someone who was listening to those calls was very --- a huge privilege really. Yeah and I always thought it was ironic that I would end up getting roster on that day every year.

(Both laugh)

**LIZ AHERN:** It is funny isn't it. So other things about, other things about Switchboard in general, are there other comments you want to make about things you've talked about, or things you learnt, or the kind of training you had.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah well we did have regular training it you know people with particular expertise would come in and you know talk us through what services they were offering and you know I remember STTARS [Survivors of Torture and Trauma and Rehabilitation Services] was a big one. It was quite new at the time. So learning about them. I always was very impressed with Yarrow Place and what they did and also, what's it called, the abortion clinic ---

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh yeah I can't think of their name either, yeah whatever the name is

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah and going and have a tour to see how that worked. Because you were referring women to, to those clinics and to go to the places you were referring women to was very, very helpful because you got a bit of a sense of what they were going to be experiencing when they arrived and you could comfort people by having said well I've been there and I've you know ---

[00:25:46]

**LIZ AHERN:** You could prepare them.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah a little bit.

**LIZ AHERN:** For the experience

**TANYA HOSCH:** and you had a greater sense of confidence about where you were sending women too. I used to hate it when someone would be looking for a counselling service and you'd know that there'd be a long waiting list to get an appointment and you know often you would kind of referring in the dark a bit

because you just had to give the broadest brush approach because you knew that there were long waiting lists. And people usually at that point are pretty --- there's a sense of urgency by the time they have picked up the phone, often, and then have to say well I can make a referral that's going to take six to eight weeks minimum and --- to not know what the quality of the service might be depending on where you sent them and you know you'd hear rumours about different experiences and things like that. You know I had some scary experiences too. Where especially on a Friday night you'd be there on your own working and you know some bloke would ring up and you know, threaten and give you abuse because you were working in a women's service and you know I remember one night actually being really fearful about leaving the building because I wondered if he was going to be outside. So there were definitely some of those sorts of horrible things that happened. But overall I suppose you know that strong network of incredibly dedicated volunteers who turned up every week, sometimes twice a week or even more just so dedicated to the place and they I think instilled in me a real sense of responsibility to do the best I could for the time I was there.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yes occupational health and safety was in its infancy.

**TANYA HOSCH:** It was

**LIZ AHERN:** In those days because I remember being at real risk when I was there some --- one weekend on my own.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** And a violent man came in saying 'where's my wife'?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** And I had to persuade him to leave somehow. And I was the only one there, so I know exactly what you're saying. We hadn't sort of --- those aspects had not really been thought through had they?

**[00:27:47]**

**TANYA HOSCH:** No probably not, no no.

**LIZ AHERN:** And we were lucky that nothing serious happened.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Probably, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** People managed.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah they did.

**LIZ AHERN:** The circumstances.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah absolutely.

**LIZ AHERN:** So what hours was Switchboard still working? Was it still ----

**TANYA HOSCH:** Nine to nine.

**LIZ AHERN:** Still nine to nine ---

**TANYA HOSCH:** Seven days a week

**LIZ AHERN:** Seven days a week

**TANYA HOSCH:** When I was there.

**LIZ AHERN:** Cos now of course its nine to five, five days a week.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** It's a bit different the way it operates now.

**TANYA HOSCH:** And I always use to think the most interesting calls came in at night and on the weekends.

**LIZ AHERN:** Oh well you're on your own too and they were the most challenging, weren't they. Yeah.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, they were, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** What about things like the Women's Legal Service

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Were they still doing that on a Saturday afternoon, when you were there?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh yeah they were yeah actually forgotten about that yes.

**LIZ AHERN:** With Lawyers coming in.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes absolutely. There was the Women's Legal Service coming in and being able to offer that advice from that network of volunteers who were lawyers. Because the Women's Legal Service didn't exist at that time.

**LIZ AHERN:** No I think it started about ninety five, ninety six is my recollection. That --- they were the precursor really weren't they?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah, yeah. So I remember the manual with all the lawyers, the female lawyers in the folder, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah and all those women services. Like the women mechanics and the women plumbers and the women carpenters and all these things. I wonder if they get asked those questions any more.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yeah I would be fascinated, yeah.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah it would be interesting to ask, wouldn't it.

**TANYA HOSCH:** We'll have to go and do a shift Liz.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yeah

**TANYA HOSCH:** See what we get.

**LIZ AHERN:** Maybe we'll get invited to the, to the celebration and we can ask all our questions then.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Yes when is that.

**LIZ AHERN:** It will be sometime in June, I think June or July because that's my recollection of when it started. Cos the original staff were employed on a Red Scheme Unemployment Program.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Ah okay, yeah

**LIZ AHERN:** And that's--- and that was started around June. I think would have been end of June beginning of July.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Ah okay

**LIZ AHERN:** And that's sort of when it started as far as I can remember. Is there anything else you would like to make a point of talking about, reflecting on your time at Switchboard anything else you would like to have on the record.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Oh look just emphasis again just how grateful I am for that time and those women.

**LIZ AHERN:** Thank you Tanya Hosch for your time

**TANYA HOSCH:** Your welcome is that it.

**LIZ AHERN:** Yep.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Wow, okay well we did well.

**LIZ AHERN:** We did, that was ....

**[00:30:14]**

**END OF INTERVIEW**